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Vicar's Warden: Ethan Evans 021 081 38059
People's Warden: Jane Musgrave 484 7179
Treasurer: Heidi Schwellnus 464 0113
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 David Finlay 021 145 4065 Alan Firth 4640272
Secretary: Margaret McLanachan 453 0131 Verna Rutherford 476 3975
 Phil White 467 6120
Synod Reps: Melanie Cornish 0272 390 501 and Paul Tankard 479 2869

Dates for your Diary

11th December JaM
13th December Parish shared Lunch
24th December 5.00pm - Children's Christingle service - dress the crib
 11.00pm - Readings and Carols for Christmas
 11.30pm - First Communion of Christmas
25th December 9.30am - Family Christmas Communion



THE PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
 ROSLYN
News December 2020

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The Vicar writes:

Preoccupied?

Just this last week I attended a meeting of the Diocesan Council. Before entering the room, I made a bet with myself, that within two minutes of my entering the room someone would mention the US Election. I won my bet.

Whilst we may ask ourselves 'why is "everyone talking about this"?', this raises a significant problem for us as Christians. This problem is nothing to do with either of the candidates, or "what is going on in America at the moment". These problems are not ours. Our problem to put it simply is this; we are pre-occupied.

Pre-occupation is the theme of one of my favourite stories in Scripture, that of Martha and Mary. Martha 'welcomed Jesus into her house'. If we understand her house as a figure of speech for her Life, the place where she lives, then there is no room for Jesus there. The space is taken up - she is pre-occupied with many things.

Pre-occupation is a theme I find myself returning to at this time of year especially, for we are in the season of Advent. This season is the time of year when we remind ourself of the year round task of 'preparing a place' for Christ to dwell, but it is also the time when all of a sudden our already over full diaries take on an almost (?) de-ranged busyness. Ironically, what passes for Christmas fills Advent, and pre-occupies the space, the space given to us to prepare the place of our life, that he might be born in us. 'Let every heart prepare him room'

There is no work more fundamental to our faith that this preparing our being to receive Christ, and to continue in that welcome. In this Mary the mother of our Lord is the exemplar disciple. In her saying 'yes' to being the place of our Lord's habitation, she shows us the way.

St Paul as he writes one of his most pained letters to the infant churches says to the Galatians 'My little children, for whom I am **again** in the pain of childbirth until Christ

Sunday Services at St John's

Dec	6	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist, Children's Church
		4.00pm	Ordination of Lisa Barlow
		6.00pm	No service
Dec	13	8.00am	Holy Communion (NZPB)
		10.00am	'Making Space' - no communion
		6.00pm	Christmas Reflection
Dec	20	8.00am	Holy Communion (NZPB)
		10.00am	All Age Eucharist
		7.00pm	Choral Evensong
Dec	24	5.00pm	Children's Christingle service. Dress the crib
		11.00pm	Readings and Carols for Christmas
		11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas
Dec	25	9.30pm	Family Christmas Communion
Dec	27	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		10.00am	Parish Communion
January	All services are at 8.am and 10am		

During the Week at St John's

Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea in the Lounge
(NO service on 30th December)

Thursdays

9.15am St John's Church Mini Musicmakers (during term time)
7.30pm Choir practice

Association of Anglican Women (AAW)

10th December 1pm - Afternoon Groups Christmas Lunch



LESLIE GROVES SOCIETY UPDATE



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Members of the Leslie Groves Board and Senior Staff participated in an Orientation workshop and inspection of the Wakari and Sheen Street facilities on Saturday 7th November. This was followed by a shared luncheon at the Luna Café.-
- ◆ A most welcome grant of \$8,000 has been made by the Diocesan Council from the Homes for the Aged Fund towards the purchase of a Tovertafel (Magic Table) Projector. This exciting activity projector will hopefully be installed before Christmas. To date a further \$700 from Staff raffles and donations has also been received towards the total cost of some \$16,000.
- ◆ Facility Manager Sean Kelly and I attended the recent NZ Aged Care Association Conference in Wellington. The prime focus of this Conference was on the response of Aged Care facilities to the arrival of COVID virus and should there be any future outbreaks. The efforts made by management and staff at Leslie Groves during February – May were shown in light of comments by the Key-note Speakers and reviews undertaken since then to have been prudent and best practice.
- ◆ By National Standards Leslie Groves is a "mid range: Not for Profit provider of Aged Care. Currently there are some 37,000 Aged Care beds throughout New Zealand. Leslie Groves currently provides 104.
- ◆ The two vans purchased last year have been commissioned, named and blessed by Chaplain Barbara Dineen. The larger van named Kereru (Native Wood Pigeon) and the smaller vehicle Tui (The Parson Bird)



Eleven members of the **Evening AAW Group** met for the last time this year on Tuesday 10th November 2020. We began the evening with a Communion service led by Vicar Rev Eric Kyte. This was followed by our AGM conducted by Eric.

Officers elected for 2021 are:-

Leader Margaret McLanachan

Secretary Bev Aitken, assisted by Elisabeth Cunningham as a recorder for speakers.

Treasurer Christine Aitken

Members for reading, prayers and supper duty were also recorded.

We voted to change to internet banking with arrangements being made.

A collection of new clothes for children between 0-5 years was taken for Christmas. We were given a number of attractively decorated bags to deliver the clothing to families. The clothing was delivered to AFC who were very appreciative of the gift.

Christine mentioned a few events – Advent Service and Luncheon in Riverton on 28th November, The AAW AGM in Gore in March and the NZ AAW Conference, 9-11th April at St Margaret's College, Christchurch.

AAW members are invited to meet for a Christmas afternoon tea on 5th December at 2pm at the Botanic Gardens café.

The first meeting for 2021 will be on Tuesday 9th February at 7.30pm. Season's Greetings and Peace to all families



A Note from the Recorder

Although it is more than halfway through the financial year, it is never too late to join the regular donating system. All donations are receipted at the end of March and can be used for the rebate.

If you are new to the Parish, or if you would like to be a part of the regular donors by envelope, or direct credit, please let me know. I am happy to answer any questions you might have, and any discussions are confidential.

My contact details are below:

Sue Cathro, Parish Recorder

Phone: 455 4604

Mobile: 022 171 5513

Email: b.s.cathro@xtra.co.nz

is formed in you' They had been full of Christ, but now they have become full of other things, and Paul finds himself 'back to square one' on their behalf, that they might be full of Christ.

This is what we prepare for when we 'prepare' for Christmas. Let us make every effort not to fill our lives, but empty them that the Lord of heaven and Earth may find in us a dwelling place in these days. For as Mary shows us, that to which we are called is not simply to make a space for Christ, but to be the space for Christ, the dwelling place of God.

Eric

From The Vicarage

As we draw towards the end of a year unlike few if any we have known, we wish you a blessed Christmas Season. May we together know the Peace that surpasses all knowledge in Beholding God amongst us to the end of the age, in Christ Jesus.

Eric, Sarah and family

Do you enjoy singing?

St John's Choir needs more voices of all parts. We rehearse on Thursdays for no more than an hour, from 7.30pm. We sing for one service each Sunday, February to December and a few special events. Ability to read music is an advantage.

We sing a wide range of styles of music and are a convivial bunch.

If interested, please contact Alan Edwards, phone 44772865 or email:

aedwards1947@gmail.com

From the Registers

Baptism: 8th November Wyndelyn Grace Evans

Wardens Report

The History of Advent and Advent Customs

No one is really sure when Advent was first celebrated but it seems to date back to at least 567 when monks were ordered to fast during December leading up to Christmas. Some people fast during advent to help them concentrate on preparing to celebrate Jesus's coming. In many Orthodox and Eastern Catholics Churches, Advent lasts for 40 days and starts on November 15th and is also called the Nativity Fast. (Advent also starts on November 15th in Celtic Christianity.) Orthodox Christians often don't eat meat and dairy during Advent, and depending on the day, also olive oil, wine and fish.

Advent calendars first became popular in Germany in the early 1900s. When they were first made, the paper windows opened to show scenes from the Christmas Story and other related images, such as snowmen and robins. The first record of an Advent calendar in the UK was in 1956. The first chocolate Advent calendar was made in 1958; and in the UK Cadbury's made their first chocolate calendar in 1971. However, they didn't sell very many to start with. Chocolate calendars really only became popular in the 1980s. Some European countries such as Germany use a wreath of fir with 24 bags or boxes hanging from it. In each box or bag there is a little present for each day.

There are two types of Advent candles that are used to count down to Christmas Day in Advent. There's the single candle that has the days up to Christmas Day marked in lines down the candle. On each day in December the candle is lit and burnt down to the next line. Lutheran Churches in Scandinavia used 24 little candles to count down through December from the 1700s.

An Advent Crown is the other form of candles used to count down Advent, often in churches. The crown is a wreath of greenery and has four candles round the outside and one in the middle or in a separate place. One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent, two are lit on the second Sunday and so on. Different churches have given different meanings to each candle.

One version is;

- The first candle represents Isaiah and other prophets in the Bible that predicted the coming of Jesus
- The second represents the Bible
- The third represents Mary, the mother of Jesus
- ◆ The fourth represents John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who told the people in Israel to get ready for Jesus' teaching

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 3rd

8am Holy Communion (1662)

10am Holy Communion

EPIPHANY

Wednesday January 6th

10am Holy Communion (1662)

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Sunday January 10th

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Mum Heart Group

Being a mum is hard, often isolating work. At times we can feel overwhelmed with options and questions, and conflicting information. But motherhood wasn't designed to be this way! We're starting a group geared towards mums who want a fresh vision of motherhood. Together we'll seek to understand what it looks like to engage our children intentionally as disciples being led towards Christ.

This isn't another "how-to" or behavior management-oriented program but a chance to consider what it means to love our families intentionally and craft life giving space in our homes. Over food, drink, and a good book, we'll build a community of mums who are creating Gospel-oriented life in their homes for an eternal purpose.

Join us for an informal get together, January 14th to find out more and decide if this group is for you! In order to adequately provide space and refreshments, please let us know you're coming! Questions? Get in touch with Sara Evans:

st.johns.roslyn@xtra.org.nz

Details

When: Fortnightly Thursday Evenings, (2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month) 7:30pm

Where: St. John's Anglican Church in Roslyn

What to bring: Yourself! We will also be reading *Life Giving Parent* by Clay and Sally Clarkson as a jumping off point for discussion.

Who: Mums of all ages and stages

Services for December and into the New Year at St John's

ADVENT 2

Sunday December 6th

8am Holy Communion (1662)

10am Holy Communion

4pm ORDINATION of Lisa Barlow to the Diaconate

No evening service

ADVENT 3

Sunday December 13th

8am Holy Communion

10am 'Making Space' A service of prayer, scripture and song (Non Eucharistic)
(Followed by Shared Parish Lunch)

6pm Christmas Reflection on St John's Gospel, followed by night prayer

ADVENT 4

Sunday December 20th

8am Holy Communion

10am Family Service

7pm Choral Evensong (To be confirmed)

CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Children's CHRISTINGLE service as we dress the Crib to welcome the Christ Light

11pm Readings and Carols for Christmas

11:30pm First Communion of Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am (Note Time) Family Christmas Communion

FEAST OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Sunday December 27th

8am Holy Communion (1662)

10am Holy Communion

(No service on Wednesday 30th December)

The middle or separate candle is lit on Christmas Day and represents Jesus, the light of the world. In Germany this fifth candle is known as the 'Heiligabend' and is lit on Christmas Eve.

The Nine Lessons and Carols Service was first created and performed on Christmas Eve in 1880 by Edward Benson, the then newly appointed Bishop of Truro in Cornwall. Bishop Benson later became the Archbishop of Canterbury. The idea travelled around the UK and became quite a popular service to hold on Christmas Eve. However, it was made famous by the choir from King's College, Cambridge, which was reckoned to be the best Church choir in the world at the time.

The Service was first performed at King's College, Cambridge, in 1918 as a way of the college celebrating the end of the First World War. The new college Dean, Eric Milner-White, who had been an Army Chaplain in WWI, wanted a different and more positive way of celebrating Christmas for the choir and people in the college. In 1919 he changed the opening hymn/carol to be 'Once in Royal David's City' and set the main order and structure of the lessons/readings as it still is today. The service takes place at 3.00pm (UK Time) on Christmas Eve and is broadcast live on BBC Radio (and all over the world).

However you are spending it, we pray that you will have a reflective Advent and Blessed Christmas. Gift yourself some time and peace to enjoy Summer!

Ethan & Jane

Vicar's & People's Wardens

Afternoon AAW

Our November meeting, on November 12th at 2pm, began with a Service of Holy Communion followed by our AGM, chaired by Vicar Eric. Marjorie Brown is still our secretary, Bev Reid is still our treasurer, and our Committee is Heather Andrews, Bev Rowlands, Rosemary Dorey, and Deirdre Wilson. As Leader, I thanked them all for their help and support this year, and also thanked Vicar Eric and Margaret McLanachan for what they have done during the year also.

We finished our meeting with a Christmas Quiz and a delectable afternoon tea.

On December 10th, at 1pm we will have our Christmas Lunch at Equinox, and that will finish the year for us. It has been a different year from all the previous ones but we have all so far survived the covid19 restrictions and changes to life as we usually experience it.

For further information my phone number is 476 3975, or text me on 027 238 6893.

Verna Rutherford [Leader]



Mission News

Snap shot of Mirpurkhas: The Boys' Hostel in Sindh, Pakistan:

Both grandfathers were deeply concerned. What were we thinking taking our four young children to Pakistan? 'Do you realise how close it is to Russia?' my father asked. This was 1980 and we felt strangely motivated to consider spending my for-ester husband's three months of long service leave somewhere overseas. Very shortly afterwards came a plea from CMS to relieve managers Soren and Valerie Bruhn at the Mirpurkhas Boys Hostel in Sindh, Pakistan. In 1968 I had been a nurse at Sukkur Women's Hospital and had to return to NZ suddenly after 2 ½ years for surgery. My intention had been to return but instead, marriage and four children intervened! This opportunity to revisit Pakistan was a wonderful gift to complete unfinished emotional business. We were able to see first-hand how valuable the hostel was to boys from the tribal area of that dry desert part of Sindh. They were receiving life-changing education and rich experiences of Christian community with cooperative endeavours such as putting on dramas and singing opportunities. My husband, Peter Allan was able to help with the book-keeping and general supervision, but the hostel was well run by Pakistani staff. Our kids loved interacting with the hostel boys, gaining worthwhile changes to their somewhat isolated West Coast world view. When the recent appeal for funds to allow this steady work of over 50 years to continue, we had no hesitation in contributing. We know that the money will be wisely used and much appreciated by the current young boys and their families. New Zealanders for many years have been vital to the vision, establishment and ongoing work of the Mirpurkhas Hostel. I'm delighted that yet again we are taking up the challenge to help continue this worthwhile ministry.

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allan. 3 September 2020

Rosie Fyfe, National Director of NZCMS writes:

A daily practice I'm cultivation at the moment is when I wake up each morning I consciously remember that God is on His throne. In amongst the turbulence of these times, I find I need to remind myself constantly that our Lord has the whole world in His hands. In many difference ways the global pandemic has brought into stark relief that we are not ultimately in control of our lives. It is difficult for us here in New Zealand to plan or look ahead; and it is also challenging for our Mission Partners around the world. However as we come to pray, we have the assurance that God has each of our Mission Partners, and each of us, in the cradle of His hands. We know that we are held in the hands of the God who created the world and is sovereign over all things. We know that God is conducting God's mission and that the spirit of God continues to work in transforming the world. May the Lord bless you as you join in

prayer for the work of the glorious mission.

Rosie

The National Director and staff of NZCMS have pleasure in wishing CMS members all the blessings of Christmas and joy for the holiday season. May you have happy times and safe travel.

Vin Maffey, Parish Mission Motivator

Greetings all,

Can those of you who zoomed in during lockdown on a Sunday for a catch up remember me sharing the mental health struggles of a young man who I was working with in my other role? If so let me share with you how much has changed for him. Your prayers and concern for him were answered! Thank you for praying for him. God bless you for praying for him.

I meet with him regularly and last week he looked different.

His smile was wide as he greeted me. He seemed calm yet energized. He shared with me how much better he was feeling. He was sleeping well most nights. Although he lost his employment after the wage subsidy ended he has been offered another position within the same workplace for next year.

I had offered a while back to talk about spirituality with him if he ever wanted that. He knows I am a Christian. As I left he said 'I think I am ready to talk about God although I am an agnostic.' I said 'well fortunately God is not bothered by that so lets meet up again and have a chat.' How wonderful!

I have known all the time I have been working with this young man that his true healing would come through knowing how much Jesus loves him.

I feel the joy and excitement of watching someone open up to God in the most real and raw way. Let us never forget the joy of that first Love. Jesus is at work within this young man and I am privileged to be present to see.

For those who prayed for him please keep praying that his heart, mind and spirit will be softened to God and that he will enter into a new life fully aware that he is a beloved child of God.

As I enter into a new life as an ordained person on December 6th please pray for me also that I too will know how deep, wide, never forsaking and beautiful is the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. I pray this for you also.

Bless you.

Lisa Barlow.