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**Availability:** Pastoral staff are available at all times except for their days off which are:  
Eric— Friday;

#### Ministry Leaders:

*Children's Church:* Sarah Kyte 464 0240  
*St John's Mini Musicmakers:* Sarah Kyte 464 0240  
*AAW Afternoon Group:* Verna Rutherford 476 3975  
*AAW Evening Group Sec:* Bev Aitken 476 3807  
*Mission Motivator:* Vin Maffey 476 2231  
*Organist/Choir Director:* Alan Edwards 477 2865  
*Parish Recorder:* Sue Cathro 4554604  
*Verger:* Brian Tegg 476 4505

#### Vestry 2017/2018

*Vicar's Warden:* Fraser Richardson 466 7046  
*People's Warden:* Jane Musgrave 484 7179  
*Treasurer:* Heidi Schwellnus 464 0113  
*Other Members* Alan Firth 464 0272 Verna Rutherford 476 3975  
A.J. Visagie 027 412 8113 Phil White 467 6120  
Lorraine Young 473 9130  
*Synod Reps:* Trish Franklin 021 279-8343 and Paul Tankard 479 2869  
*Secretary:* Margaret McLanachan 453 0131

#### Dates for Your Diary

**10th February** - Parish Lunch  
**17th February** - Parish Breakfast  
**6th March** - Ash Wednesday



THE PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

ROSLYN

News February 2019

#### Vicar:

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#### *The Vicar Writes . . .*

#### 'The Challenge of Church in these days'

As I sit and write these words, I am a little under the weather. I'm blessed in that I only very infrequently get a cold, but when I do, every symptom which might fall under that description decides to go to work! I feel pretty rough - I awoke last night feeling as if someone had taken a knife to the inside of my throat - not nice! Yet there is a certain gift in this momentary affliction - it reminds me, that I am not the author of my own existence - and perhaps in this day and age that is a good a lesson as any.

One of the great gifts of the entirety of Scripture is its blunt assessment of human nature. The story the Bible tells is told through the lens of the history of relationships within the people of God, and its often not very pretty. Belonging to the people of God is often in some respects like having a bad cold! It can be very inconvenient, and very often, not what we would choose for ourselves.

It is interesting to note that both the children of Israel in being rescued from Egypt, and the disciples seem to have no choice or agency in whether or not they are caught up in this story. Jesus doesn't give Peter, James and John chapter and verse about 'what it means to be a member of my body' and then ask them to make their now minds up, he just commands them to follow him, and they go.

None can sing lustily, 'I have decided to follow Jesus!' None can talk about faith in terms of 'it seemed to make sense to me' (Of all the miracles of Jesus, the way the disciples drop their nets and set off after him at his word of command, is perhaps the most unremarked and the most extraordinary miracle of all! Not least to us, who are so used to 'being in charge of our own lives' and making our own choices)

Soon we shall approach the season of Lent - not one perhaps to which we look forward with eager anticipation? Lent is a season almost designed to instruct us in the truth that this isn't about us, or how we feel, or what we want, or what we choose.

As folk will probably be aware I am at a distance, an admirer of certain aspects of the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition, and its differences from our own 'way off being church'. Lent in the Orthodox Church is much more something you do together - as a community. There are pretty rigorous fasting rules, not always carefully followed, but they are

## Sunday Services at St John's

February	3	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist, Youth, Children's Church
February	10	8.00am	Holy Communion (NZPB)
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist, Youth, Children's Church
February	17	8.00am	Holy Communion (NZPB)
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist, Youth, Children's Church
		7.00pm	Choral Evensong
February	24	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist, Youth, Children's Church
		7.00pm	

## During the Week at St John's

### Wednesdays

- 7.45am Meditation Group meets in the Hettie Robinson Lounge
- 10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea in the Lounge

### Thursdays

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

## Association of Anglican Women (AAW)

**Tuesday 12th February** - Evening AAW Group meets. Speaker Rev Joy Hamilton-Jones

**Thursday 14th February** - Afternoon AAW Group meets. Holy Communion followed by programme planning



## Afternoon AAW

On 13<sup>th</sup> December St Barnabas Home brought enough of the two course dinner for the 18 of us who had signed up for it as our way of having our usual end of year dinner, but without having to find somewhere with very close and plentiful parking! As well as the group members who attended we also invited Vicar Eric and Sarah, and our Parish Administrator Margaret. Our menu included lamb and ham, roast vegetables, peas and baby carrots. Dessert was pavlova, cream, and fruit salad. It was all very beautifully prepared, and well received.

This concluded our program for the year until we begin again on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019, with Vicar Eric celebrating Holy Communion. Following this we will have a planning session for the rest of our 2019 programme.

If our programmes appeal to you, come and see if you like us. If you are free on the second Thursday of each month at 2.00 pm, please feel free to join us. For further information my phone number is 476 3975.

Verna Rutherford [Leader]



## Evening AAW

The Evening group of AAW are beginning their meetings for 2019 on Tuesday February 12, in the Lounge at 7.30pm  
We are looking forward to seeing everyone back to join us and share their experiences of the Christmas Season.

Our first speaker will be one of our own parishioners, Joy Hamilton-Jones who is working as a Chaplain in the public Hospital. Some people may know Joy, who was involved with St Hilda's, when previously living in Dunedin.  
Her topic "The Emmaus Walk" sounds very thought provoking.

Do come along and begin the year with enthusiasm, and bring along any one you think may enjoy sharing the love of God.

Blessings  
Bev Aitken



## Lent Study

Bishop Steven has said that he desires that we be a people who 'read the Scriptures and pray'. To that end, in consultation with Vestry, I have ordered 30 copies of 'Echoes of Exodus', a lovely recent book by Alastair Roberts which explores the fascinating echoes of the story of the Exodus, which is of course the foreshadowing of Lent Holy Week and Easter, throughout the entirety of the Scriptures. A good way to think about the Scriptures as a whole.

We have managed to secure a significant discount, and so they will be available soon at the price of \$20 a copy. I warmly commend it to home groups. For those who wish to study in a group but are not in a home group, I will as usual put on one or two groups to study and pray around the material, according to need. (Although you could always ask to join an existing group for a season - they are all very welcoming!)

I expect the books to arrive in plenty of time for Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th.

Eric

## Leslie Groves Home and Hospital

Leslie Groves Rest Home and Hospital has a new management team, replacing Lynetta Russell, who resigned after some fifteen years in the role in October last year. The Leslie Groves Board has decided to allocate the clinical and non-clinical functions across two new management roles – a Clinical Manager (Tina Owens, who was previously Quality Manager at Leslie Groves), reporting to an overall Facility Manager. Max Reid has been appointed to the new Facility Manager position and commenced in the role in early January.

Previously a Presbyterian Parish Minister, Max has held a variety of senior management positions in social services and health sectors over the past twenty years. He has managed aged residential care facilities in Wellington and Christchurch, and most recently was Chief Executive Officer with Kidney Health New Zealand. In the late '90s, Max was Public Relations Director with Presbyterian Support Otago and later Superintendent of the Dunedin Methodist Mission. Max holds degrees in business and theology, and MA in Social Policy, and is a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Management. He is married to Lorraine Ritchie, and their 'blended' family includes five adult children, two young grandchildren, and a disobedient Jack Russell cross called Brian.

there. Lent is inconvenient, not least because it isn't about 'what works for my personal spirituality', a phrase we are most accustomed to in our way of doing things. (And I suggest one which the Christian Tradition would consider incredibly perilous)

You and I may choose to observe a discipline for Lent; you or I may not. My discipline might be the same as someone else's, but that would be no more than a coincidence. (I seem to recall that in my youth, giving up cream cakes was in vogue, and friends still lament loudly on social media about the trauma of abstaining from chocolate for 7 weeks.) Orthodox fasting rules lead the whole community into what is in essence a Vegan diet, often uncooked, and it is something that is shared. Every time you meet a fellow member of the body of Christ, you might ask, 'how is the fast going?', and perhaps have a bit of a grumble about it, but it is something in which you share and thus of itself not something which one might say, 'this is My way'.

Almost entirely in the Western Church, Catholics aside, Lent if it is observed at all is not a shared discipline - which is one aspect of the challenge of being the church in these days.

Perhaps this Lent, we might seek to share a simple discipline with those around us. House-groups might decide on something, and take time when meeting to ask how is it going? And as a body all commit at the very least to worship weekly so as to make the journey in some sense together

The point? Well, Lent prepares us of course for the great mystery of faith, the Passion of Christ leading to his Resurrection. Where Jesus takes responsibility for the Sin of the whole people of God, takes it down into death, so as to destroy Death, and raise God's people to New Life on Easter morning. Something of which we have no inkling, something which can only be done for us, which places God at the very centre. We wouldn't choose the way of the Cross, we have to be taken there, together, and the Way of the Cross, but it is only in this being taken the way 'we do not want to go', that we discover the Way to Life.

*Eric*

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## Association of Anglican Women

### Diocesan Annual General Meeting

St John's, Roslyn

10.00am

This meeting will go all day - please see notice on board as what to bring.

**50th Anniversary Meal**

**5.30pm for pre dinner drinks**

**6.00pm Meal**

**Guest Speaker Rev Canon Garry Griffith-Smith**

**Cost \$25.00**

## Wardens' Report

For the first magazine article of the year something different. This poem, by David Whyte, reminds us of the words of Jesus about how the Kingdom of God lies close to hand. About how everything we spend so much energy pursuing is already ours and only requires us to pause, and recognise, and be grateful.

### Everything Is Waiting For You

Your great mistake is to act the drama  
as if you were alone. As if life  
were a progressive and cunning crime  
with no witness to the tiny hidden  
transgressions. To feel abandoned is to deny  
the intimacy of your surroundings. Surely,  
even you, at times, have felt the grand array;  
the swelling presence, and the chorus, crowding  
out your solo voice You must note  
the way the soap dish enables you,  
or the window latch grants you freedom.  
Alertness is the hidden discipline of familiarity.  
The stairs are your mentor of things  
to come, the doors have always been there  
to frighten you and invite you,  
and the tiny speaker in the phone  
is your dream-ladder to divinity.

Put down the weight of your aloneness and ease into the conversation. The kettle is singing  
even as it pours you a drink, the cooking pots  
have left their arrogant aloofness and  
seen the good in you at last. All the birds  
and creatures of the world are unutterably themselves. Everything is waiting for you

Blessings

Fraser & Jane

Vicar's and People's Wardens

## Parish Breakfast, 17th February

### 3rd Sunday of each month

Breakfast is served! **9am** in the lounge, leave your  
dressing gown and slippers at home.

Food provided but Koha appreciated.



## E 3 Camp

In December I went on the E3 scripture union camp which was a fantastic experience. Unlike other Christian camps I had been on, E3 was an adventurous and spiritual journey where we tramped, mountain biked, and rafted for 12 days in Lewis Pass covering 290km. Never had I experienced such a journey but through the friends I made and my faith, I feel like my perspective of God and the world around me has changed. I also learned a fair bit about myself and others; positivity (always being optimistic and encouraging even when I wanted to go home), awareness (being conscious of others and the way they respond to certain situations), and connection (talking to different types of people and learning about their lives).

Cameron Moran

## From the Registers

### *Rest in Peace*

12th December 2018

Graham Charles Barnett

4th January 2019

Barbara Patricia Keyse



### *Congratulations to*

26th January 2019 Claire Elizabeth Mitchell and Kurt William Purdon



## Children's Church

I hope everyone has had a good Summer holiday :-)

Advent and Christmas seem quite a while ago now, though casting my mind back, it was good to see so many folks ( of all ages!) at our Advent celebration - a Journey through Advent - at the end of November, several people commented on how meaningful they found it. And then the Pageant! Thankyou to all our young people for doing their bit :-) We didn't give out presents this year, instead we've bought some more Action bibles for children to look at / read during church services if they wish, they're very popular - so we now have 4 rather than 2 :-)

Children's church begins again on February 3rd, we will continue to have 2 groups, Trekkers for the younger ones and Pathfinders for the older....we will be taking up where we left off, working through the Old Testament, so in February we will be looking at Saul and then David.

A big Thankyou to all our leaders, Children's Church wouldn't happen without you! It's good fun and rewarding working with our young people - if you would like to be a part of it then please speak to me :-)

Sarah Kyte

## Parish Shared Lunch, 10th February

A reminder that the 2nd Sunday of each month is the Parish Shared Lunch following the 10am service. Please bring along something to share and join us in the Lounge.



## Third Thursday at Three Thirty . . .

Our small group for Silent Prayer will meet again on  
**21st February 2019**  
In the Hettie Robinson Lounge

We have a short reflection followed by about 45 minutes of silence

Everyone most welcome

## A Reminder Note from the Recorder

During the month of February I need to update the information re any address changes so that I can run off up-to-date address labels for sending out donation receipts for the financial year 2018-2019. If you have moved to a new address since last year, and suspect that I haven't caught up with this, please let me know.

February is also the month when I order envelopes for the coming financial year. If you are new to the Parish and would like to be a part of the regular donors by envelope or direct credit, please contact me.

For you, who are already part of the system, this is also the time to change the timing of your donation for the new financial year, eg to change from weekly or monthly envelopes, or if you would like to move to direct crediting now is the time to tell me, so that I can send you the form to do this.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have, and any discussions are completely confidential.

My contact details are:

Sue Cathro, Parish Recorder

Phone: 455 4604

Mobile: 0221715513

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

**PS: to all those who put cheques or cash into their envelope, please ensure that they are folded so that they do not intrude on the end of the envelope with the dotted line. This is especially important with cheques as it is very easy to tear them at the same time as the end of the envelope is torn off when opening it.**

## Stewardship Sunday

As always we give thanks to God for richly supplying our needs in and through all things

Whenever asked about Stewardship in the church, I always reply 'It is good to take time each year to consider all our ways of being Church together and how we contribute to its life and ministry, in every way, not purely financial'

Further, it may be that circumstances mean you are blessed to be able to increase your contribution, or it may be that you need to reduce your contribution' The important thing is to take time to consider the matter, as Sarah and I do, each year. As St Paul tells us, we contribute according to what we have, not what we do not have

Stewardship Sunday is on March 3rd this year. Response forms are included in this magazine.

(If you are in a position to make a special contribution this year, you may like to consider something towards the work needed to repair the foundations to the Hettie Robinson lounge. The woodwork is exposed at the time of writing)  
Eric

## Mission News

**NZCMS asked some families how they've taught their children to be missional. Kesh Sabey and his family moved to Christchurch in 2017. He is studying a Masters in Social Work and attends the Presbyterian Church where his wife, Esther, is an ordained Minister.**

To the Sabey family, mission is simply shining God's light through our words and actions. While we have always encouraged our children to share their faith verbally, we place more emphasis on living in a way that attracts others to the light of Christ. Here are some practical ways in which our family aims to be missional:

**Share Christ with your actions:** Being kind, helpful, sharing a smile, encouraging others, playing with a lonely child at school and standing up to bullies are not just 'good deeds'. They are powerful ways in which others are attracted to the "different" in us.

**Be natural when talking about your faith:** Look for natural conversations and circumstances to share the Good News. Try to avoid churchy jargon and religious lingo that an unchurched, primary-aged child would not understand. Simply put, "Don't be weird".

**Don't be discouraged when you don't see any fruit:** Being patient with those we are influencing is a powerful fruit of the Spirit. Every sincere, Christ-like word or action we share with others is a seed which has the potential to sprout in due season. The "due season" may be tomorrow or twenty years away.

**Listen first:** In a culture where everyone wants to "have their say", there are a great number of people who simply want to be heard, understood and accepted. Simply listening and empathising, rather than leaping to provide answers, makes others feel cared for. When someone feels cared for, they will take you and your message seriously.

We hope that you find these tips helpful. We will leave you with a little "Sabeyism" we say to our kids before they leave for school: "Be kind, be respectful and shine like a light!!"

### Mission Partner News and Prayer Points:

**Jonathan and Tess HICKS and children** spent Christmas and New Year with Tess' extended family and have just left Boston, where Jonathan's parents live, to return to the Solomons in the last week in January.

**Margaret POYNTON:** (Papua, New Guinea): Give thanks for a fruitful time of deputation throughout NZ over the past four and a half months. I was able to have a family time over Christmas and New Year and am heading back to Papua, New Guinea at the end of January. Please pray for swift processing and the necessary visas.

**Anthony and Anne McCORMICK (Cambodia):** Anne and Anthony have both had an extremely busy schedule since mid-October with Anne having a large team of American volunteers from World Race working in her programme. Anthony has just concluded two weeks of training an NGO in Battambang. He is thankful for the success of the program and that the Phnom Penh staff of this NGO have asked him to return. They ask for prayer for their work in the New Year.

**Judith: (South Asia):** Give thanks for very motivated student leaders in the Mirpurjhas hostel in this new academic year. Please pray for their development for all the students and give thanks for the Christmas Drama which the students write and perform. Please also pray for

the management of the Khirpro Hostel as they continue to learn the local culture. Give thanks for a new youth leadership training initiative the diocese has introduced this year and for the recent listening skills' workshops which were very well received. Lastly please pray for security for the Christian community in this month of celebrations and worship services.

### Mirian TILLMAN (Pharmaceutical Work, Togo)

She writes: "Pray that we're able to share the reason we celebrate at this time of the year with our Muslim friends and that they will be interested in learning more. Thank God for the continual growth (in number and depth) that we have seen in the small Bible Studies in the surrounding villages. Pray that our six-month order of medicines arrives from Holland and England in a timely manner and are able to be processed through Customs quickly and cost-effectively.

**Mission Work:** Please pray that God will continue to raise more workers for the harvest in 2019 and that NZCMS will continue to support the Church in New Zealand to receive the gifts of the global Church.

Pray also that God will continue to call those from other countries to embark on missions work in New Zealand.

Vin Maffey, **Missions Motivator.**

## St Matthews

Folk will be aware that St Matt's is going through a very difficult time at present, following the decision of its Vicar to leave the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, with about half of the congregation. Your prayers for those left behind are coveted as they seek to rebuild their shared life as The Body of Christ in that place.

We have for several years now, shared in ministry with St Matt's in particular with respect to JaM, our intermediate youth group - mainly consisting of our youngsters and largely run by St Matt's folk. I am happy to say that JaM is still in good health and continuing into 2019.

At a recent gathering, I was asked to put one particular need of the ongoing congregation before you. As you may be aware, St Matts occupies a particular place in the city geographically and has had a longstanding ministry to those for whom life is very very difficult, especially due to mental health issues. They have a 5.30pm service on the first Sunday evening of the month - especially for these folk. They would be very appreciative of any offers to find out what it's like and to help share the load. For more information, please speak with me. E

Eric