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Eric— Friday;

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AAW Evening Group Sec: Margaret McLanachan 453 0131
Mission Motivator: Vin Maffey 476 2231
Organist/Choir Director: Alan Edwards 477 2865
Parish Recorder: Sue Cathro 4554604
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Vicar's Warden: Ethan Evans 021 081 38059
People's Warden: Jane Musgrave 484 7179
Treasurer: Heidi Schwellnus 464 0113
Other Members Rev Lisa Barlow 02772 14120
David Finlay 021 145 4065
Alan Firth 464 0272
Margaret McLanachan 021 216 9640
Verna Rutherford 476 3975
Phil White 467 6120
Synod Reps: Melanie Cornish 0272 390 501 Dr Paul Tankard 479 2869

Dates for Your Diary

9th February 7.30pm Evening AAW meets
11th February 2.00pm Afternoon AAW meets
13th February Parish Shared Lunch



THE PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

ROSLYN

News February 2021

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Sweeping the Drive . . .

I had made three of four attempts to write something for this month's magazine, and seen several ideas come to nought, when I finally gave up. And went to sweep the drive.

It had been on my list of Good Intentions for some time and was going to be easier than trying to write a coherent article.

You notice a lot when you sweep the drive. For example the fabulous quality of soil that had accumulated in the drain across the drive by the footpath. Digging that out and popping it onto our vegetable garden was a joy, if a muddy one. Then you notice how the prevailing wind must be from the South more than the North, The accumulation of leaf mould on the mossy side of the path also covered over some fertile looking loam. In addition it provided the better rooting for weeds. Roots, now there's a thought.

What's taken root in our lives? In what have we rooted our lives, mores the point?

This past year has been a testing one with more dark clouds on the horizon. Jesus in different ways warns about this. Life is like this, trials, temptations, famine, plague, wars and rumours of wars. Jesus is a realist. Life can be really trying (in the literal sense). But what is the result of the testing and trials?

'The outcome depends on our foundations or our roots. What have we built our lives upon? Or what are they rooted in? Have the past few months of testing and trials caused us to root our lives ever deeper into the fertile soil of the Kingdom of God, or have we become distracted by many things? I have spoken with so many people these past months whose lives seem consumed by the ever changing diet of 'news'. 'Unsettled' would be a fair adjective to describe their state, and nothing takes root in unsettled soil. What has this testing revealed of the soil or foundations of our lives?' So go my thoughts.

And then, as I sweep and carefully lift the new soil into the barrow, along

Sunday Services at St John's

Feb	7	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist,
Feb	14	8.00am	Holy Communion (NZPB)
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist, Youth, Children's Church
Feb	21	8.00am	Holy Communion (NZPB)
		10.00am	All Age Eucharist
		7.00pm	Choral Evensong
Feb	28	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist, Youth, Children's Church
		6.00pm	Lent Evening service

During the Week at St John's

Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea in the Lounge

Thursdays

7.30pm Choir practice

Association of Anglican Women (AAW)

9th February Evening AAW Group meet at 7.30pm. Holy Communion and speaker Rev Lisa Barlow

11th February Afternoon AAW Group meet at 2.00pm. Holy communion followed by programme planning



LESLIE GROVES SOCIETY UPDATE



An increasing challenge for providers of aged care, especially those managing Rest Homes is that of the drop in numbers of persons presenting for this form of care.

The prime causes of this diminution are those of the provision of additional support to enable older persons to continue living in their own homes and a significant uptake in residency in Retirement Villages.

However, a net outcome of this is that of the increasing numbers of District Health Board placements of persons requiring Hospital level and Dementia Care.

Over recent months we have been near to and now at full capacity at the Wakari site. As well we have not been able to accommodate all who would wish to participate in our Day Care programme for those with early onset of dementia.

As a result of these changing circumstances the Leslie Groves Board is currently exploring ways that we might increase our flexibility and facilitate an increase in resident numbers. Over the month of December our residents participated in a number of Christmas themed activities and services. Both Sheen Street and Wakari had their "halls" most brightly decked with Christmas decorations and were entertained with carols sung by members of St Johns and our Choir.

The provision of a Sluice facility in the Taieri Ward, the Tovertafel Projector unit and some 40 new chairs and tables in our lounges has been appreciated by residents and staff.

AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED THE LESLIE GROVES FETE WAKARI SITE SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 11.00 – 2.00P.M.

We would very much appreciate and welcome the support of Parishioners by your presence that day, in the provision of goods for sale, assistance on stalls, selling raffle tickets etc

Ingredients for Baking, Items for the Grocery Hamper, Chocolate etc for the Chocolate Wheel, Items for the Silent Auction, and all the usual "stuff"

Sign up forms on the St John's Lounge Tables.

A sort of mini St. John's Fair! We are looking for Gazebos to Borrow for the Day? You can drop off items at St John's for transference to Wakari

Contact me if you have any questions" Brian Tegg Chairman 027 413 5400



The New Tables and Chairs

Report from Lisa

Greetings to you all,

Firstly, a huge thank you to all those who supported me at my ordination service in December. It was a tricky time of year but so many friends and whanau turned up to celebrate this special occasion with me. I am grateful to you all. I received many lovely cards and gifts, most of which I do not know which gifts came with what cards? Please accept my sincere thanks to those who were so generous to me.

I was offered the part time role of Spiritual Care Coordinator at the Otago Community Hospice at the end of 2020. I accepted this with joy and started there mid January. It is a privilege to serve God there being salt and light to those facing their mortality along with their whanau and friends. I have sensed the presence of Jesus with me profoundly as I listen to, talk with and support those in pain and grief.

Next week I start as Curate here at St John's. I am grateful also for this wonderful opportunity to serve God in this place. Do pray for me as I seek to follow Jesus by loving and serving you and the community that God loves that surrounds us. There is a deep peace that comes when you know that you are in the place where God would have you be. This peace is a gift from the One who is the Prince of Peace, the living God who chooses to dwell within us and among us. Let us together look to Jesus, choose to follow him no matter how uncomfortable that may be so that together we may be witnesses to the life that He brings in and through us.
Bless you all.

Rev Lisa Barlow.

From the Registers:

**Congratulations to
Rest in Peace:**

comes a neighbour. 'What of the state of the world? A spiritual crisis, eh?' I shrug. 'of such is history made up. I guess it's what we're rooted in that counts when the winds come'

He pauses a minute, but he is in a hurry. He's moving house, not sure why. Up-rooting.

'You know' he says, 'I always meant to come to church . . .'. 'Yes, I do know' I reply, as I have on so many occasions previously. The sentence like so many hangs unfinished in the air, away from the soil. He moves on.

I look at his retreating figure, and the soil and wonder. 'How rooted am I in God? I too have had 'Good Intentions', yet there are so many things that try to get in the way. The work of rooting deeper and deeper into God like sweeping the drive is always there . . . close at hand, yet have I picked up the brush?

Jesus tells us that The Kingdom of God is near. It's not far away. When all things are revealed it will be shown to have been closer to us than we thought. A pearl of great price in a draw in a neglected room, a treasure hidden in the field of our existence, under our noses. Yet like soil and sweeping perhaps of little account in 'the state of the world today'.

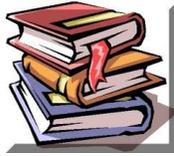
The year turns. Lent comes around. The Church offers us possibilities to nourish our roots in the Kingdom. We can make space for God's work on our heart. We can fast, turn our attention from food, to the Living Bread. We can pray, we can always pray. We can give to feed the poor and hungry, to turn our attention away from the screens to those in front of us. We can attend. We can look to the soil of our lives.

Or we can once more perhaps, intend to . . . and move on.

Grace and Peace

Eric

Parish Library Report



It has been a while since I have had anything to write about your Church Library. I can see from our record book that books have continued to trickle out as they do. I know from some comments that some have been enjoying the variety of the inventory. We have something for everyone it seems, from beginner to scholar. Please remember I am always keen to hear about books we can add to our library that you may find elsewhere. I have found some very good reads in charity stores at very good prices. Sometimes it almost seems they find me, but maybe I am imagining things? One such book is So You Don't Want to Go To Church Anymore - an unexpected journey by Wayne Jacobsen and Dave Coleman. This isn't your usual Christian read as it seeks to stretch our minds to accept that a key figure of the New Testament is indeed still with us and quietly influencing human affairs today. I have to say I enjoyed reading this book twice, because so much of it resonated with me through the messages it imparts. Maybe not for everyone but I encourage you to try it. I finish by wishing you all a happy and successful 2021.

Craig McLanachan,
Librarian of sorts,
St John's Church, Roslyn.=

House Blessing

There is a tradition in some parts of the Church to bless parishioners homes in the New Year, usually associated with Epiphany. Our antipodean calendar being a little out of step with a church calendar from the North, Epiphany finds many of us away.

So I wondered about during Lent.

Our homes – rather than our houses, are important to us. They are places of rooting, they are ikons of heaven, or should be. Certainly they are spaces of spiritual significance second only to the church building itself. If you would like your home blessed this Lent, do ask!

Eric

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 2020-2021. 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.

As you will be aware, cheques are being phased out, so your donations will need to be **in cash or by Direct Credit**. For those who wish to continue with envelopes please let me know as soon as possible as 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 with your unique number and details of the Parish bank account so that you can 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 – although cheques are coming to and end this year - to all those who put cheques or cash into their envelope, please ensure that they are folded so that they do not intrude into the end of the envelope within 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 along that dotted line!

Warden's Report

Have you noticed how there aren't enough opportunities to slow down?

When I was at school, and I was stuck on a problem, a kindly teacher would tell me to "take your time". That little statement freed me up to work calmly and thoughtfully. I didn't worry about how long I was taking or even about anybody who was waiting for me to get it right. I took my time, dropped my worries and often solved the problem before me.

When we leave school, demands from work and personal life soon take time from us. In the adult world, we no longer have someone prompting us to "take your time", even though we have a greater need than ever to do so.

Lent is the perfect chance to take some of that time back. Lent is a season with reflection in its DNA. For six weeks, through this reflection, Christians around the world keep in mind what Christ's death and resurrection mean. This year, Lent begins on 17th February.

If you are feeling physically, emotionally or spiritually spent, Lent studies are a chance for you to ease off the accelerator and take your time in God's presence. This Lent, We encourage you to consider a Lent Bible study that offers the chance to calmly explore faith and life. You may wish to study as a group or individually, but however you study you will discover something new to fuel you for the coming year.

Blessings

Ethan & Jane

Vicar's & People's Wardens

Mum Heart Group

Being a mum is hard, often isolating work. Are you looking for some camaraderie and the chance to develop a fresh vision for your mothering journey? Then join us on the second Thursday of each month at 730pm, at St. John's Roslyn, for food, drink and discussion. All ages and stages welcome. Next meeting on February 11. Questions? Contact Sara Evans at sarabibb@gmail.com.

Lent Individual and Group Study

Over the summer I've been preparing material for Lent.

Entitled 'Following Jesus – Finding the Space for God' it is an invitation to 'Seek (and find) God's Kingdom', to discover hidden treasure.

Finding our life in God and God's Life in us is the beginning and the end of our Christian Faith. Everything else flows from this. As we journey towards Jesus' Death and Resurrection I invite everyone to take part and discover for themselves more of what this means for our existence in the world.

It is intended that it can be used singly or in a group. Different benefits accrue from either approach. On the one hand, ice breaking questions aside, it's not designed to be an opportunity for 'sharing opinions'. Silence is fruitful soil for much of the material. Yet there are questions within it that might cause us to want to share with one or two trusted friends.

I won't be 'leading a group' this year, but for everyone, Lisa and myself will make time to meet up with any who want guidance or help along the way. Also some Sunday evenings will be given to further exploration.

The material will be available from Church on the Sunday before Lent, 14th February.

Koha appreciated to offset printing costs J

More details to follow!

Afternoon AAW

We will begin our year with a service of Holy Communion followed by a brain storming session planning for our programme for this year at 2 pm on Thursday 11th February, so do join us if you would like to. Please bring some ideas for speakers or activities of interest. Hopefully 2021 will be a better year than last year. However, please stay safe, stay well, and stay in contact with one another.

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, or text me on 027 238 6893.

Verna Rutherford [Leader]



Mission News

Rosie Fyfe, National Director of NZCMS writes:

‘One of the original mission principles from the foundation of the Church Missionary Society in 1799 is to ‘rely on the Spirit of God.’ A life of mission is always fuelled by prayer. We do not strive in our own strength to rely on ourselves – we rely on God, who raises the dead. The Holy Spirit is the main actor in mission. It is through the power of the Spirit that Jesus was raised from the dead and we are empowered by the same Spirit to live out and proclaim God’s love in a broken world. My prayer for each of our Mission Partners, for us at the NZCMS office, and for the whole NZCMS community, is that we would each know God’s resurrection power as we serve where-ever God has placed us. May the Lord bless you as you pray for our Mission Partners serving around the world. *Shalom, Rosie’*

Jonathan & Tess (Avalyn, Cohen, Caeii, Judah, Immanuel & Moses) Theological Education, Solomon Islands)

*Pray for us as we arrive back in the States to begin a year of Home/Ministry Assignment. We have begun at Christmas with Jon’s family in Montana and then fly to Alabama where we will serve with our home parish ‘Christ the King Anglican Church.’

Praise God for Tess’s pregnancy. We look forward to welcoming baby #7 in April.

*Pray for our mission friends that we have left behind in Malaita.

*We praise God for deepening relationships and discipleship at Trinity School of Theology and Ministry. We also thank God that students who underwent recent discipline responded with repentance and graciousness. We really sensed God’s work in softening hearts and bringing people closer to himself.

* We praise God for opportunities to speak to large youth groups about Malaita. Tess spoke to over 150 girls about sexual purity and our identity as children of God.. John spoke to a whole village in the centre of Malaiti about how to grow as disciples. We pray that these opportunities will create lasting fruit for the kingdom.

Prayer Points:

* **Pray** for the New Zealand Church, that it would know God’s purpose for this nation;

* **Pray** for leaders around New Zealand, that they would hear His call to draw closer to Him in purpose, love and power.

* **Praise** God for how he has helped the NZCMS Communications’ Team in all the

way they needed in the past year. Give thanks for good team work and incredible support from some key team people.

* **Pray** for our communications’ team at NZCMS as they roll out their plans for 2021, that God will inspire, empower and encourage them.

***Pray** for the NZCMS Board as they continue to hold, lead and pray into the vision and mission for NZCMS. Pray for Spirit-led discussions, unity and confidence to commit to the directions God is leading the society into.

***Please pray** for NZCMS staff as they launch into the work that is before them for 2021. Pray for a great sense of ‘team’ and a clear vision to be at the forefront of all that they do.

***Praise God** for our staff, for their passion, their commitment and their desire to see God’s Gospel transformation impact the globe.

Vin Maffey, Parish Mission Motivator

Evening AAW

We start 2021 on Tuesday 9th February. We are to have Holy Communion and then Rev Lisa Barlow will speak to us about her jobs.

The meeting is to include planning for the next few months so please come along with your ideas of what we could do.

Thanks.

See you at 7,30pm on Tuesday 9th February.

Margaret McLanachan
Leader

