



# **St Paul's Presbyterian Church**

**"Partners in God's Mission of Love"**

## **NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2020**



**"This do in remembrance of Me."**

### **Services of Holy Communion**

**We look forward to sharing communion together again when we return to Level 1 from the Coronavirus Pandemic.**



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## **From the Minister's Desk**

Partners in God's Mission of Love

*Reverend Sally Carter*



What a time we have experienced these past couple of months. Words have entered the Oxford Dictionary with greater rapidity than usual... words like self-isolate, social distancing, unprecedented times, flattening the curve, alert level, ZOOM ....

There was much to be grateful for - our autumn weather, especially here in Hawke's Bay was kind. Families got on their bikes and scooters and found places to explore. Teddy Bears graced our windows and our yards. Many of us were grateful that we were living through this with a range of technology which would have astounded our ancestors. I took a break from writing this to be part of Jitterbugs via Facebook Live.... We have ZOOMed in for a cuppa on Sundays,...many of us have been on a steep learning curve with YouTube, websites, ordering groceries online. As time goes by, let us not forget the kindness, the time to reflect, the cleaner air, the regular walks which have shaped our lives in this moment of history.

If you are anything like me, you have experienced a whole range of feelings - many of us have had travel plans cancelled, some of us may have had people die and been unable to mourn them, some of us will be anxious as we leave the relative security of levels 4 and 3 for the more risky space of level 2. Things like social distancing that in February did not attract our notice, that in March seemed restrictive, now seem slightly stressful. As some of the ads on TV remind us, how we are feeling is OK. So you didn't manage to learn Spanish, autumn clean your cupboards, learn a new piece on the piano, bake casseroles for the entire neighbourhood..... well, that's OK.

Now we have reached level 2, perhaps the most difficult for many of us. Trying to make our way in a 'new normal'. While

many of us are enjoying new freedoms, we also face difficult decisions about when we can gather together for worship, when/whether we can safely welcome people back into our buildings. There are many different voices claiming Christian 'authority'. How do we listen rightly?

While society as a whole seemed at the time to accept the restrictions of level 4 and 3, now in level 2 some fractiousness is starting to emerge. A colleague has been reflecting on the church's voice in these times and asks: What does the Church look and sound like when getting all grouchy and demanding our rights? Civil disobedience can be noble, and has been part of campaigns by Christians for standing up for what is right, but whose interests are we protecting? If we are witnesses to Christ, our actions will align with the interests of the least powerful and influential; we will demonstrate Christ's love for those who may be otherwise overlooked by society.

One of the most helpful things I came across was a way of praying from a friend. She reminded us that one aspect of Jesus' full humanity is that he is able to enter into our experience whatever that experience is. And we can say 'Welcome, Jesus'. The key is that it is not just 'Welcome, Jesus' into our clean houses, our orderly lives, our courageous decisions. But it is 'welcome, Jesus' into our anxiety, 'welcome, Jesus' into our grumpiness, 'welcome Jesus' into our grief, our boredom, our loneliness, our disappointment, our envy, our confusion, our anger. Welcome, Jesus, into our relief, our joy at seeing our friends and family, into our wonder.

So, however you are at the moment, take a few deep breaths and say 'Welcome, Jesus' as we navigate this new normal, guided by Jesus and in the company of one another.

All blessings

*Sally*

## **Editorial**

*Rae Wildbore & Pam Clare*

On Sunday, 22 March our morning worship was live streamed from St Paul's, an unprecedented event in itself, before the doors were closed and our strange new lives began. Except for the epidemiologists, who would ever have expected to experience a total lockdown with everything that that has meant for our country, our communities, our families, and our parish? We have entered new territory where we have become instant experts on the terminology of pandemics, of stages and bubbles, the difference between eradication and elimination, and why churches are more dangerous places than movie theatres. Who knew that the joyful act of singing can contribute to transmission through emission of aerosols?

Although we have grieved for the loss of Sunday worship where we can affirm our faith together in familiar surroundings, and have missed the routines of our parish activities, in other ways we have had the opportunity to grow closer through frequent phone calls and emails. Those on line have been able to join in virtual Sunday worship thanks to Sally's rapid upskilling supported by Kerry's technology expertise, preceded by morning tea and a chat via Zoom (another new word and skill acquired).

Happily, now in Stage 2, we can deliver weekly updates and readings with the Sunday service sheet into the letter boxes of those in the congregation who do not have internet access.

Fortunately, we have been blessed with glorious autumn weather. We have baked and pickled and preserved and walked along streets carpeted in red and gold. While out dog walking, we have engaged in conversations with people we used to pass by and had the time and quiet to see and hear the abundant bird life. For this newsletter we have asked people to share some of

their lockdown experiences and we pay tribute to our dear friend Isabel McClymont Morgan with a Memorial Minute.

As we move from autumn into winter, may we continue to look ahead with faith, hope and love.

## **Covid-19 Pastoral Message**

*Fakaofu, Moderator*



### **Greetings**

The storm of Covid-19 has rocked and shaken us all. Each bubble, each person - in fact the whole nation, and maybe all of the world - are in disarray. The invisible enemy is wreaking havoc like never experienced before. We have a common foe. "Keep the faith, stand firm, do not be afraid." These are the words of our Lord Jesus to his disciples in times of trials, fears, death and uncertainty. Our Lord speaks these words to us, today.

Please keep going forward with how you have faced this intruder in the past seven weeks. Your resolve and your desire for life is profound. There is nothing stronger in life than human will. It is a precious gift of God from the beginning of time. You are making a difference for yourself and others. You are appreciated, valued and loved. "Keep going, do not be tired of doing good." (1 Peter 3:13)

Beloved, this dark cloud will not subdue us or cause us to surrender or concede. We will live, we will learn, we will prosper. We hold on to our hope and to our faith. Our God is the Creator of heaven and earth. In the image of God we were created. Praise and thank God always.

For our part also, keep everything and everyone in daily prayers. Call, email, and make contact with others as the Covid-19 alert moves down to level two. Adapt, adjust and do more where you can. We must lead by example, adhering to government

guidelines. Remember the “front liners” in these unprecedented times. Look out for the least, the ill and the unfortunate.

Build and rebuild the church of our Lord wherever you are. Let the Spirit of God guide and lead. Many of our church services are online, reaching thousands weekly, globally.

“Stand up, stand up for Jesus,” the old hymn calls of us today.

Blessings

## **Jitterbugs during Lockdown**

*Lynne Arnold*

We are delighted to be able to tell you that Lockdown has not meant the end of Jitterbugs. In fact, it would be fair to say we are going stronger than ever.

Fortunately, Jackie (the wonderful person in charge of presenting the programme) is not only a musician and dancer, but also quite competent with technology and happy to try new ways of doing things. As a result, we have not missed a session.



At 9.30 each Tuesday morning Jitterbugs families go onto our Facebook site and there is Jackie, sometimes assisted by her husband Simon, all ready to do the Hokey Tokey with us. Then Sally miraculously arrives to sing our welcome song, only instead of singing “It’s good to see .... here” the words have been changed to “I wonder if .....is here”. From there Jackie takes us through the programme, creatively adapting the use of props and making sure there are lots of the old favourites sprinkled through the programme.



We've kept up with birthdays but sadly not been able to hand over the birthday cards. That can be done when we eventually get to come together again. Now that I have mastered videoing, I am able to zoom in and end the session with our prayer, keeping the programme as familiar as possible.



Our audience has expanded in ways we didn't expect. We have at least two mums in Adelaide who regularly tune in; and we have a Gran in Hastings who has

spent lockdown with two small grandsons joining us and really appreciating the programme. We also have some of our ex Jitterbugs kids who are now school or kindy kids enjoying revisiting their favourite songs.



We are having a great time. Feel free to join us on Facebook: Jitterbugs St Pauls (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/257149738458746/>).

## **Our Covid Bubble**

*Anne & Richard Loan*

Our bubble for two feels safe. There have been the anxieties about family members who are medical essential-workers: two sons and their families in Europe and also a nephew and niece who have lost their jobs. Then there was the disappointment of the cancelled visit of our London family who was to have been with us at Easter. Yet, lockdown is all for a good cause and we have bounced around our bubble happily.

We're seeing things with fresh eyes: sussing out pantry ingredients; prying into backyards as we walk; checking out the backdrops in Zoom meetings; waving to strangers.



*Read the titles from top left onwards*

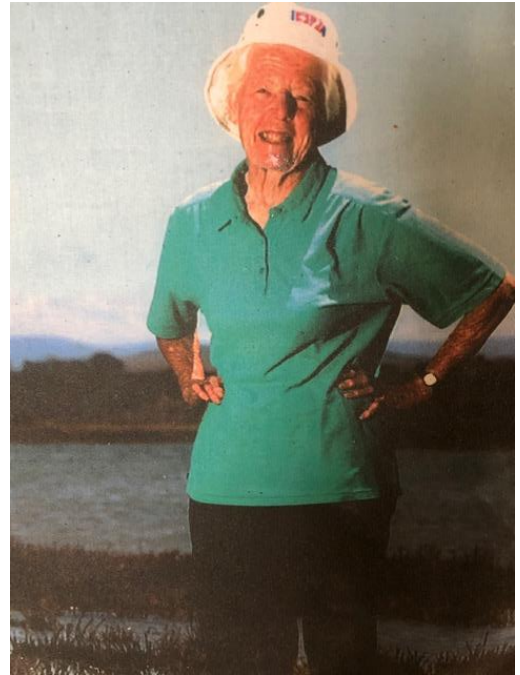
Copying someone else's example, I've even seen my bookshelf titles in a new light and rearranged them into a Covid-19 commentary.

As well as eating too many feijoa loaves and cleaning out the filing cabinet, I've found joy in sorting and collating all that family history stuffed into boxes. Why had I not noticed before my grandfather's concern about the 1918 influenza epidemic or that my great-grandmother and one of her sons died of malaria? Then there were the Mathesons who sailed from Glasgow to Bluff in 1863, a five-month journey because of storms, with three children under five. Yikes! Somehow our lockdown, with sunny days and our listening to tui and the whirr of kereru, as we plant trees down our bank, feels idyllic.

## Memorial Minute

*Pam Clare*

Isabel McClymont (Morgan) MNZM  
Isabel was a loved and respected member of St Paul's Parish for 66 years. Following many years of devoted service as an elder, a youth leader, a Sunday school teacher and an active member of many parish groups, she received the honour of Elder Emeritus last year on her retirement from Session. She was



always active in the wider church community including Presbyterial and the Napier Action Group of the Bible Society. Having had a long teaching career, she always maintained her interest in education, writing to the newly appointed Minister of Education in the current government to advocate for the importance of early intervention for young learners.

Alongside Isabel's commitment to the church and to her Christian faith and belief in social justice, was her deep care and concern for God's creation through her advocacy for the environment. She was a member of Forest and Bird for 64 years and a founder of the Ahuriri Protection Society formed in 1981 to save the estuary from further degradation. She worked both locally and nationally to raise awareness of environmental issues and was made a Member of the NZ Order of Merit for services to conservation. The Forest and Bird magazine is to publish a tribute in an upcoming edition.

Last year Isabel was able to attend a ceremony at the Ahuriri Estuary where a seat was dedicated in her honour. On hearing of her achievements, one of the children exclaimed "She must be the fairy godmother of the Estuary!"

Isabel was blessed by being able to live at home with her daughter Helen until her final days. Her burial took place on Friday, 13 March 2020 following a small family service and her memorial service was held on 18 March. Always a leader, she was the first person to be given an ecological burial at Mangaroa Cemetery.

## **Worshipping in Covid-19 times**

*Brenda Silson*

These are certainly different times we are experiencing. Our normal has changed, including how we are worshipping.

Those with access to computers, Ipads, tablets etc. are probably able to access more than those without, but after speaking with a couple of our parishioners, the following might be options for you if you do not have that technology.

Media:

- Shine TV (on Freeview channel 25 or Sky channel 201) is part of the New Zealand National Christian Channel.
- Word for Today is a booklet with a daily Bible reading accompanied by an explanation of the passage
- Life FM is a radio station (at 93.5FM)
- Rhema radio station (at 99.1FM)
- Rev Jimmy Swaggart (on Sky channel 203) who offers rousing music and quite an evangelistic option
- Praise Be and Hymns for Sunday morning

Books:

- By Joy Cowley and Eddie Askew are favourites
- 'The Message of Psalms' by Eugene H Peterson an American Presbyterian Minister, Scholar, Author and Poet
- The International Bible Reading Association which has been around since 1882 is also a good source of reading material.

Whatever and however you choose to worship is entirely up to you. The above options along with the Holy Bible are some food for thought.

Keep safe, keep well and know that you are all children of God.

## **Pipe Banding in a lockdown**

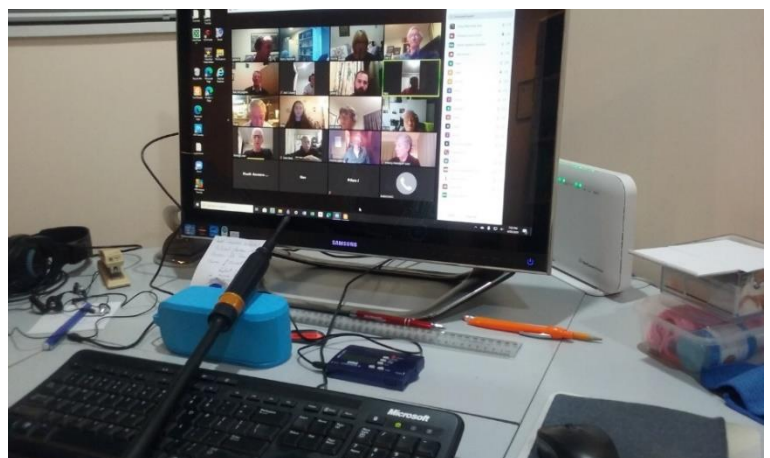
*Kerry Marshall*

Normally we would be meeting on Monday nights to play our pipes and drums and we would be out on parade. In the past few months that has all changed. A major one for us all was no Anzac Day parades, an event many of us have played at since we were youngsters. But in this time of lockdown we haven't been idle!

On Anzac Day many of us played at 6am for the Stand at Dawn initiative and then at 11am we played Amazing Grace (many in uniform) as did many pipers and drummers around the country. There is a link to a video of this on the Band's website <http://www.napierpipeband.nz/news/anzac-day-2020/>

Another initiative has been our weekly Thursday 12noon piping at our gates, on our decks or in our homes to salute/thank emergency and essential service workers.

Piping lessons and band practices have continued in a virtual way. For our weekly practices our members connect by zoom to share stories about our pipes and pipe band experiences, to learn new



music and to revise our existing tunes. We've had more than 20 people joining the practice some weeks but we don't all play at

once which would be a bit of a challenge given the way the technology works. Still, we're enjoying ourselves and when we are able to get back together we will be all ready to go.

## **Meals on Wheels**

*Mike & Bev Coghill*

We had been involved with the Meals on Wheels programme run by Red Cross for a time before the arrival of the Coronavirus. When Lockdown was announced, we were asked and readily agreed to deliver meals throughout, on a daily basis, to ensure that our clients would continue to have their nutritious lunch and importantly to check on their wellbeing.



We found the service to be invaluable, not only for meal delivery, but also to nourish the need for human interaction. Some of our clients have coped admirably, whilst others have felt confused, lonely and isolated during this difficult time, particularly those living alone.

It has been a privilege for us, (at a two-meter distance!) to have confidences entrusted, share laughter together at humorous stories, exchange garden tips, collect post and run an errand to purchase that essential bottle of tomato sauce to accompany lunch!

As with all experiences in life, we have appreciated the opportunity to develop meaningful friendships not only with our clients, but also with our fellow volunteers.

The lesson learnt for ourselves can be aptly summed up in this reflection sent to us by Ngaia Richardson, our PSEC Volunteer Manager. 'When the dust settles, we will realise how very little we need, how very much we actually have and the true value of human connection'.

## **Pastoral Care during Covid-19**

*Marian Eagle*

Lockdown and moving through the levels has been a very unusual experience in these 'unprecedented' times. Our minister, Sally, knew we would all be comforted by having a strong network of communication and in the very early days of Level 4 worked hard on how to put this in place.

It has resulted in the whole congregation being involved with lots of phone calls made and received; some for a brief chat to check in on each other and some for a long, enjoyable conversation.

It has been wonderful that St Paul's people have all kept in contact and been so caring about each other and maybe we have all got to know one another even more.

## **If Only There'd Been Water**

*Jill McConnachie*

1929 – St Paul's first Church was ruined by fire and prior to the earthquake of 1931, the brick church to replace it was almost completed and was to have been opened on 11 February. Here is an extract from a book belonging to Noneen Ennor "Our Yesterdays", compiled for Age Concern Napier Inc. Noneen's Father in law, Vivian Ennor writes "When the earthquake occurred I was in my office in Dickens Street.....I went home and after seeing Win and the boys safe, I went and attached myself to the fire brigade in Emerson Street. ....We were fighting a fire in Rushton's shop. A man came along and said that the new St Paul's Church had just caught alight, and a bucket or two of water would save it.....We were doing no good where we were, the fire having got away, and Billy Gilbert the Superintendent agreed that we should move to the church. We disconnected the hose, pulled up the hydrant and rushed to Tennyson Street, set

the hydrant there, connected the hose and turned on the water, but there was no more water.”

And Ralph Ennor wrote “We sat on the curb.....waiting and wondering if Dad was all right. ...Eventually he came along after a miraculous escape from his office where a huge concrete ceiling beam had collapsed on his desk. On the way home he had helped the fire brigade try, unsuccessfully to put out a small fire in the Presbyterian Church. (The water mains were broken, and the water flow stopped when just a little more would have been enough to extinguish the flames.) My uncle, Bill Ennor had almost finished building the church and my father’s cousin, Redvers Short, was up on the tower of the brick church, but not a brick fell.

## **St David's Presbyterian Church**

*Anne Silson*

In 1914, a branch Sunday School of St Paul's was opened in a new hall in Todd Street, to be called Sidey Hall, after Dr Sidey, a former minister of St Paul's. Regular services under resident Home Missionaries attached to St Paul's began on 22 March 1926 and three years later Napier South Presbyterian Church became a separate Home Mission Station. A new hall was built in 1932, the original building to become the church.

Following the earthquake, Napier South was linked with Port Ahuriri to be known as the Napier Suburbs charge, being together from 1934 to 1943. It was during this time that the Napier South Church was renamed the Sidey Memorial Church. In 1944, a Sunday School was opened in Marewa, a hall being built in 1952. Late in 1948 following a congregational vote, the church was renamed St David's. In 1957 a new Sunday School was opened at Maraenui and the Clive Parish which had been linked with St David's for 20 years was disjoined to form the new St Aiden's Parish.

A major undertaking was made in 1960 to centralise the Parish on a new site on Georges Drive. The Church was moved from its site in Todd Street and enlarged by 10 feet and the Sunday School Hall was sold.

During 1971, the Hawke's Bay Presbytery (after looking closely at parish boundaries) recommended the merger of St David's and St Peter's. This came into being at a special service held in St Peter's Church on 1 July 1973. The new combined Parish was entitled the Napier West Parish. In 1982, the old St David's manse was sold for removal and a new manse was built at the rear of the section. This was financed from proceeds from sales of the old manse building, Barker Road Sunday School Hall, Wycliffe Street manse, individual donations toward furnishings, plus special efforts and a \$10,000 mortgage.

After the Rev T Corkill left the Parish in 1986, Presbytery was advised that the Parish could only support a single minister. This meant that one manse was unoccupied and so was let out to tenants. With the call of a new minister in 1988, the issue of rationalisation of property and buildings came to the fore. As a result at the Parish Council meeting on 15 February 1989, a motion was passed that the unifying of Napier West Parish into the one worship centre at St Peter's commence on 2 April 1989. On that Sunday, a closing service was held at St David's and a week later a combined service at St Peter's marked the beginning of a new era. This was reaffirmed when at the Annual Meeting the following August it was voted overwhelmingly in favour of changing the name of the Parish to St Stephen's.

After several attempts to sell the St David's property and buildings proved unfruitful, it was decided to offer them for sale by tender. As a result a settlement was reached with Warren's Funeral Services and the property passed into their hands at the end of September 1990.

## St Paul's Art Deco Event

*Pam Clare*

Another successful Art Deco community fete was held at St Paul's during Napier's annual Art Deco festival. As always, the main drawcard was the beautifully



presented Art Deco themed Devonshire teas along with fundraising stalls run by volunteers from Red Cross, Samaritans, Presbyterian Support, Napier Civic Choir, Inner Wheel, Napier Boys High School Hockey, and of course St Paul's lemonade stall with the minister in charge. Musical entertainment kept the toes

tapping, provided by Charles McLean, the Napier Pipe Band,



## **Parish Register**

*Rae Wildbore*

### Funerals

Katie Isabel McClymont (Morgan) MNZM died March 11, 2020

We extend our loving sympathy to Helen and to Isabel's many nieces and nephews.

We also remember a former member of our parish whose service was held at St Paul's. Fred Bayley Sanders died 23 February 2020.

## Regular Events

*NB: These events will return to normal when we reach Level 1 of the Coronavirus Pandemic.*

- **Sunday Services:** 9:15am and 10:30am services each Sunday and 7pm evening service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month (NB: 9:15am service not held on statutory holidays)
- **Care and Share:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays from 1:30 until done in the church lounge (February – November)
- **Fireside group** meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the lounge (February to November)
- **Lunch group** meets monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at noon for food and fellowship at various venues around the city
- **Choir** meets each Sunday at 9.30am in the church
- **Jitterbugs Pre-school Music and Movement** each Tuesday from 9am (during the school term). *Please see the newsletter article for structure during the Coronavirus pandemic*

## Contact Us

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Please feel free to phone me with any questions or if you would like a visit.