



St Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER – March 2021



"This do in remembrance of Me."

Services of Holy Communion

March 14th 9:15 & 10:30

Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.



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Commissioning Adair

From the Minister's Desk

Recently I was fascinated by the journey of the latest mission to land on Mars. The trip took seven months and it was around 300,000,000 miles. (Pause for a second to take that number in.) A little rover, aptly named Perseverance, landed safely on the surface of Mars, where it will stay for about two years, all being well, collecting core samples which could be stored on the surface for a later mission to bring back to be studied on earth. Perseverance sent back the first audio recording from Mars. You can see more about it [here](#). They are especially looking for signs of ancient life on the red planet, and exploring the possibilities of humans living there. Or at least visiting.



I am awed to think that human beings can successfully send a car-sized rover to land on another planet after a 300 million mile journey. I am awed to think of what that little rover might discover about the red planet. Awed to listen to a gust of wind from Mars or see some holey rocks which may have come from a Martian volcano.

But perhaps more awesome still was the thought that Dean Ian Render shared at our combined Ash Wednesday service. On Ash Wednesday, as the journey of Lent begins, we are reminded of our limits as human beings. Traditionally, as the ashes are imposed on people's foreheads the priest or minister says the words 'remember you are dust and to dust you will return. And the limitlessness of the divine spark is expressed in the words which often follow: Repent and believe the Gospel.

And it is true that we are dust. Stardust. Dust from the elements of stars born not long after the first breath of the universe - on the third day in the Genesis account of creation (or about 100 million years into the life of the universe, almost 14 billion years ago. Dust from the stars from which everything in the universe emerges.

There was an audible gasp in the cathedral as those of us listening apprehended (almost) the immensity of this thought. A sense of great awe which was a good place to begin our Lent journey together.

Lent is a time when we pause to remember our human limitedness, pause to remember the full humanity of Jesus, pause to prepare ourselves to journey with him to the Cross which will reveal his divinity. On each of the 40 days of Lent it is good to pause and do something which reminds us of the journey we are on. Take a photograph. Pause to look at a tree or a stream or a flower. Take a short walk around where you live or work. Pause as you drink your morning cup of coffee and be conscious of your existence and your belovedness. Lent is not to burden ourselves with our failings, or to deprive ourselves of things that give us joy. Though it might be a good time to become aware of things that get in the way of our experiencing life in all its fullness. Our repentance is a turning again - turning away from our illusions, to turn towards the God in whom we are healed and made whole.

Hear these words as you make your Easter journey:
Remember you are stardust, and to stardust you will return.

Sally

Editorial

Rae Wildbore and Pam Clare

What a disappointment February has been, with the cancellation of the Napier Art Deco festival along with our own Art Deco fete, the fifteenth, as COVID once again rears its insidious head. This year the ninetieth anniversary of the Hawke's Bay earthquake was to be commemorated during the festival in a ceremony involving the NZ Navy which contributed so much on that deadly day, saving lives and fighting fires.

Christchurch too has risen from the rubble, and a documentary, "When a City Rises", available on TVNZ OnDemand, marks the tenth anniversary of the day that changed the city for ever. While still mourning their lost ones, they celebrate a new city built upon the kindness and resilience of its people, a sentiment that would have been very close to the hearts of those who rebuilt Napier.

Knowing of the barriers and obstacles encountered in rebuilding, it was an incredible achievement that, following the earthquake and fire of 3 February, 1931 which destroyed St Paul's almost completed new brick church, a temporary church (the back half of our current church, 90 years old this year!) was ready for worship and dedicated on 14 June, 1931. A true example of the resilience of our parishioners and the kindness they received.

"The First Century, 1858 – 1958" records grants received from the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand (five thousand pounds), the Presbyterian Earthquake Committee (six hundred and fifty pounds), and a gift of the New Zealand Bible Classes (six hundred and fifty pounds). And it is noted that the

architect was Mr Louis J Hay, “who was most generous in reducing his fee.”

In this edition we remember our friend Don Ransom, with excerpts from an article he wrote about the first St Paul’s Art Deco fete in 2006. We celebrate our flower ladies who beautify the church every Sunday, find out more about our new Parish Council, and welcome our intern Adair Oosterbroek.

The closing date for contributions to the June newsletter will be Monday 17 May, to be sent to the church office.

Parish Council Update

The group working for the implementation of the Parish Council has been meeting regularly and are pleased to report that steady progress is being made.

We now have a clear picture of what the council will look like.

It will be made up of 3 teams.

One will focus on Our Life together, which will include worship, faith formation and care for each other.

The second team will cover Responsible Stewardship, which includes property, finance and legislative requirements

The third will focus on Mission in our Community which will include community connections and communications. Groups such as Care and Share, Catering, Jitterbugs and the Fete team will report to this team as needed.

Overarching these three teams there will be a Core Governance and Strategy group. This team will be made up of the minister, session clerk, a secretary, a representative from each team and 3 other members.

It is hoped that by the middle of the year these groups will be meeting and taking over from the current Interim Parish Council.

If you would like to know more about where we are at please do not hesitate to talk to one of the team, Rev S Carter, L Willis, M Arnold, B Silson, M Silay or L Arnold.

Anne Frank Exhibition in Asher Hall



We have a wonderful opportunity to host this exhibit which is going around the world from its base in Amsterdam. Here is a description of the exhibition:

The Holocaust Centre of New Zealand is proud to announce that the new exhibition “Let Me Be Myself - The Life Story of Anne Frank” has been brought to NZ. This Anne Frank exhibition is a message to the young people of today, written by a 15-year-old Jewish girl who has become a worldwide symbol for the millions of Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

It shows the story of Anne Frank from her birth in 1929 up to her death in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945. Each panel also contains images and texts about the world around Anne Frank; the rise of Hitler, the Second World War and the persecution of Jews and other so called “undesirables.”

After a successful showing in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, the exhibition is now touring to other major cities and regional towns.

The exhibition is in line with the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand’s vision that through testimony and experience, we will

inspire and empower individuals to stand against prejudice, discrimination and apathy. The Anne Frank exhibition makes clear the role that prejudice plays and how this can start small but lead to exclusion, discrimination and persecution.

This version contains a section in which young people of today address subjects like identity, exclusion and discrimination. The educational programme is based on peer education: secondary school students themselves give guided tours to their fellow students. The student guides have been given an extensive full day's training covering basic Holocaust knowledge, Anne Frank's story, how to interact with the exhibition, how to deal with difficult questions, and how to elicit answers using leading questions.

The exhibition will be in Asher Hall from March 11th - June 12th and will be open from 10:00am - 2:00pm from Tuesday - Friday. This means that there will be minimal disruption to our existing users of the hall. Our job is to arrange for someone to be present during opening hours to welcome visitors and provide information about the exhibit. Adair will be coordinating the roster, and we hope that as many of us as possible will be able to help out. We will put a sign up sheet out shortly.

We will also arrange and cater for the opening ceremony for the exhibition, which will be opened by deputy mayor Annette Brosnan. The opening ceremony is on March 18th at 5:30pm in the church lounge and Asher Hall. More details on that later.

Our neighbours from the Inner City Covenant Churches and other groups will be helping out, too.

For those who would like to help, there will be a training day about the exhibit on March 19th which you would be welcome to attend.

This is an amazing opportunity to connect with our community in all its diversity and to explore important issues for our society.

Jitterbugs

Lynne Arnold



Jitterbugs is one of St Paul's very successful connections with the community. Each Tuesday morning a group of Mums, caregivers and under 5 year olds gather for a time of play, dancing and moving to a variety of music. And a great deal more. It is a privilege to watch the children come in and grow from shy little

ones to more outgoing participants. It is also a real privilege to be able to sit down beside the mums and get to know them and share a little of their lives. To have them open up about their challenges, whether it is something that may seem minor like the first haircut or obviously major like an impending operation or health diagnosis, is very special. The relationships take time to develop but it is a real blessing being part of the process.



We lost our older group at the end of the year so are now back to a younger group but we are

already starting to see the children's personalities shine through. Some like to observe the proceedings and others are in, boots and all. They are all different but all equally a joy to get to know.



I would ask you to pray for the group, pray for the mums in their important role as caregivers. Pray for the children that they might be blessed in every aspect of their lives, and please pray for the team who make the sessions happen that we might be sensitive to the needs of the participants, that we might be the listening ear that is needed and that we might show

God's love to this special extension of our church family.

Care and Share

Dorothy Finlayson

The Care and Share Group meet once a month on the 3rd Monday February to December. Our next meeting will be held in the Church lounge on 15th March, 2021 at 1.30. Recently we celebrated Christmas with a visit from the man himself and in February we celebrated the Art Deco Festival.

Although our members are older we have amazing memories and recollections of days gone by. During the March meeting we will have a speaker but sometimes we share a quiz or other fun activities. This is the only fellowship group at St. Paul's now so do join us for a fun time. We offer transport through the Pastoral Care group. Remember to share in the sales table bring and buy. For further information please contact Dorothy (06) 8431266 or findot@extra.co.nz

Our People

Pam Clare

What a wonderful sight the church was over the Christmas season, with festive and spectacular flower arrangements designed and arranged by Lesley Goodall and Rae Wildbore for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Lesley as flower convenor for seven years takes responsibility for the weekly roster, arranges flowers for special occasions and bears the brunt of keeping the vases full during the holiday month of January when many people are away. Thank you Lesley, we do appreciate all you do.

Rae was flower conveyor for over thirty years, and has been on the flower roster for years longer than that, also providing countless special arrangements for weddings and funerals. We asked her how she began and what flowers have meant to her.

I have always loved flowers ! As a small child I was cautioned against picking flowers from my mother's garden!

Apparently I was often seen wandering with my hands tucked behind my back, I guess so that I wasn't tempted to pick them, bending over and smelling all the pretty colours in her cottage garden.



I first became involved with St Paul's church flowers during the 70's era, through the Fireside Group who took responsibility for doing Church Flowers on the third Saturday of each month. I remember on one occasion coming to help Mrs Hayward who was doing Church flowers ready for a wedding.

I was stunned when she handed me a bunch of perfect carnations obviously from a florist, then being instructed to do something pretty with them! Imagine my horror, I had only ever used garden flowers, not perfect florist flowers, I couldn't bear to even cut them. After some gentle admonishment I must have obeyed her.

Isabel Hayward had full responsibility for keeping the interior of the Church spick and span for about 25 years. Whenever I arrived to arrange flowers, it was always to gleaming brass vases, with the dead material already disposed of. A very gentle and dear lady. In later years, when I was working, Isabel would often phone me to say that she had



picked for me a bucket full of flowers. (Remember those beautiful dahlias?)

I am not sure when I became Flower Convenor, It was after Isabel Hayward retired, perhaps September 1983. I still have rosters from that date! During that era there were four Womens'

Groups at our Church, so each group took responsibility for a Flower Duty Saturday each month. When there were five Saturdays in the month, Mrs Sims, who had a wonderful garden, would do beautiful floral arrangements. This meant that any one person had only to help about every second month. Sadly, we now have only ten helpers.

During 2008 I thoroughly enjoyed a year of evening lessons, where I learnt much in "Applied Floristry" at Nature's Art Floral Design School. Emma Davies was the Principal. Since then I have had much more confidence to help at

Church and also for family and friends.

Lesley Goodall ably took over the responsibility of convening our Flower Roster at the beginning of 2014.



Covid Humour



PARISH REGISTER

Rae Wildbore

Funeral: Reverend (Don) Donald George Ransom died 17th December 2020. We extend our loving sympathy to the families of Don and the late Kath.

Reverend Donald (Don) George Ransom

24 March 1937 – 17 December 2020

Don, along with Kath, was a loved and active member of our congregation following his retirement from the ministry in 2002. He was farewelled by family and friends at a service at St Paul's on 22 December which truly celebrated his life in story and song.

Don owned a milk run in Levin before beginning training for the ministry in 1979. He was ordained at Taihape in 1982 and served that community for ten years before the family moved to Napier in 1992 where Don ministered to the Ahuriri-Putorino Parish until his retirement in 2002.

It was Don who facilitated the first Art Deco fetes and in 2008, on the occasion of the 150 years celebration of parish life, he wrote:

“Wishing to show Napier City that church folk are part of the Art Deco Week Celebrations we set about with a will to offer a day of both entertainment, refreshments, and an opportunity to purchase a bargain. That we succeeded is evident with our third Art Deco fete having just been completed, with sufficient funds coming in to further our outreach and place within society.

However, the monies received are, yes, a gift given by the generosity of God, but by far the greater blessings are the fun we’ve had. The opportunity to dress up in clothing from perhaps a more gentle era, 1920s-30s and gather with friends old and new, laughing, playing, dancing, bargaining and just enjoying each other’s company” (“The Hay- English Years, 1958 – 2008).

Our loving sympathy to Don’s family. He was a dearly loved husband to the late Kath, a much loved father of Vanessa, Matthew, Jeremy, Angela, and Douglas, and a treasured grandfather and great grandfather.



Pictured enjoying afternoon tea at the first Art Deco Fete are clockwise, Alison Wright, Lindsay Oldershaw, Kath Ransom, Sharon Budd, and Don Ransom

Regular Events

- **Sunday Services:** 9:15am and 10:30am services each Sunday and 7pm evening service on the 2nd Sunday of the month (First service (9:15am) service not held on statutory holidays)
- **Care and Share:** 3rd Mondays from 1:30 until done in the church lounge (February – November)
- **Lunch group** meets monthly on the 1st 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).

Upcoming Events

Lenten Services

Wednesday March 3rd, 7:00pm St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Wednesday March 10th, 7:00pm Trinity Methodist Church

Wednesday March 17th, 7:00pm St. Thomas More Catholic

Wednesday March 24th, 7:00pm St Paul's Presbyterian Church

Easter Week Services

Sunday March 28th Palm/Passion Sunday St Paul's Presbyterian

Maundy Thursday April 1st Trinity Methodist 6:30pm (shared with Trinity Methodist)

Good Friday April 2nd St Paul's Presbyterian 9:30am
(shared with Trinity Methodist)

Easter Sunday April 4th St Paul's Presbyterian one service 10am

Anne Frank Exhibition:

March 11-June 12 10am-2pm Asher Hall

Contact Us

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