



St Paul's Presbyterian Church
"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER – September 2022



"Do this in remembrance of Me."

Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, 11th September 10:00am. Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.



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Editorial

Pam Clare

“Dad, Dad, when’s the auction starting?” A ripple of amusement passed through the crowd gathered around the display of priceless Greek artefacts currently on loan to the Auckland Museum. The ten-year-old had been checking out the labelling and had read ancient dates as dollar values.



This exhibition comes to New Zealand from the British Museum, but Greece continues to be home to some of the most spectacular archeological finds on earth. Recent construction

work on an Athens Street uncovered a head of Greek god Hermes, lying since antiquity just 1.3 metres under the feet of Athenians as they have gone about their daily business. And Greek archeologists have unearthed thousands of objects and artefacts dating from Roman times during the excavations for the Athens metro line to Piraeus. Many of the household objects were made of wood and preserved in water at the bottom of a well and are viewed as extremely unusual finds considering the carbon-based material of which they are made.

This must make us think. I wonder how many of us hover over the rubbish bin, piece of plastic in hand that seems to display no sign of a number in a triangle, and visualise it lying for antiquity in a landfill with no hope of it ever being dug up in two thousand years and displayed with great excitement in a

museum on the other side of the world? And do our small efforts to recycle and reuse make any difference?

In this issue Adair tells us more about what it means for St Paul's to be part of Eco Church NZ and how we are joining churches across Aotearoa to actively care for God's earth as an integral part of our life of discipleship and mission.

What's happening with the Parish Council? After much hard work in the initial stages with a small team led by Lynne and Sally involving planning, discussion, consulting, writing and rewriting, the Parish Council is now well established and Lynne provides us with a clear overview of the structures, teams, and responsibilities.

Right now, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, the Right Rev Hamish Galloway, is attending the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches which is taking place in Karlsruhe, Germany from 31 August to 8 September. You can read his 7th August Peace Sunday message to the Church about the Assembly where the rallying call and theme is 'Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity'.

During the vacancy, St Paul's is very fortunate to have Rev Jill McDonald from St Andrew's as our interim moderator and you can find out a little more about her on Page 9.

What is your life like today? Jill McConnochie's poem will have you nodding in agreement, along with a few wry smiles. And enjoy the photos of two of our most faithful members who both had very important birthdays in August.

Message from the Moderator – Right Rev Hamish Galloway

Where are the peacemakers, these blessed people that Jesus calls the children of God?

Around 5,000 will gather in Karlsruhe, Germany, at the end of the month for the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC). The rallying call and theme for the Assembly is,

‘Christ’s love moves the world to reconciliation and unity’.

It is a miracle of sorts that this is happening in our fractured and discordant world. Our Christian movement has by no means been immune from fracture and discord! And yet through the work of the WCC, people are gathering from around the globe representing a huge diversity of churches. Conversations will take place on a huge array of issues, theological and missional, related to this wonderful theme of reconciliation and unity.

As a representative of our Church, I have been fascinated by preparations for this Assembly which I will attend. It has opened my eyes to the positive influence the WCC has on the world stage. It models a coming together of diverse communities rather than separation into our little homogeneous and comfortable bubbles. It centres on our unity in Christ as a platform for transformation in society.

This is a message so needed in our world right now. A world with increasing polarization. A world where conflicts rage. A world where this is highlighted daily, as shocking images of destruction are beamed into our living rooms from the Ukraine.

Just as this WCC gathering has drawn me in to a real and deeper engagement with issues of reconciliation and unity, may Peace

Sunday on 7th August also be a catalyst for real and deeper engagement for we who are called by Christ peacemakers, children of God.

Or, as in the lovely verse from James 3, may we be ‘peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness’.

Update from Parish Council

Lynne Arnold, Parish Clerk

After some initial teething problems, the St Paul’s Parish Council is working well to oversee the smooth running of the church. The PC is a combination of Elders, past members of Managers plus congregation members.

The Council looks like this:

Moderator:	<i>Rev Jill McDonald – (during the vacancy)</i>
Parish Clerk:	<i>Lynne Arnold</i>
Minutes Secretary:	<i>Brenda Silson</i>
Conveyors of Teams:	<i>Our Life Together Team</i>
Worship	<i>Pam Clare</i>
Care for One Another:	<i>Marian Eagle</i>
Formation & Discipleship:	<i>Janice Tucker</i>
Responsible Stewardship Team:	<i>Liz Willis</i>
Mission in Community Team:	<i>Adair Oosterbroek</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Sylvia Low</i>
Members at large:	<i>Murray Arnold, Anne Loan, Bruce Tucker, Meg Sillay</i>

Team membership:

Responsible Stewardship: *Liz Willis, Sylvia Low, Murray Arnold, Helen McClymont, Jeff Goodall (co-opted member)*

Mission in Community: *Adair Oosterbroek, Meg Sillay, Bruce Tucker, Jill McConnochie*

Worship Team: *Pam Clare, Adair Oosterbroek, Brenda Silson, Heather Brown, Lynne Arnold*

Care for One Another/Pastoral Care Team: *Marian Eagle, Ella Haigh, Penny Marshall, Rae Wildbore*

Formation & Discipleship: *Janice Tucker, Adair Oosterbroek*

As you can see, not all team members are members of the Parish Council, members may be seconded to bring the necessary strengths to the group.

Each team has terms of reference to guide them in the work they undertake and are required to report, in writing, to the Parish Council. This has proven to be a very effective way to operate, the recommendations they present to the meetings have already been discussed fully and usually only require the approval of the Council, not a lot of discussion.

The Worship Team's main focus at this stage is to ensure worship is offered within the Parish, to identify training needs, i.e., make sure that someone is able to work the technology that supports our worship, plus a lot of other seemingly insignificant tasks.

The Care for One Another Team have quite a different role. Their purpose is to strengthen the network of care within the parish. It is a daunting task to establish, implement and maintain systems for keeping in touch with parishioners and the work done by this team is appreciated by us all.

The Formation and Discipleship Team have the responsibility of identifying opportunities for growth in faith together. The weekly prayer time and bible study come out of this group and are a time of real blessing for those who attend.

The Responsible Stewardship Team has a huge area of responsibility, covering the finances, employment, buildings, Health and Safety and property related maintenance. This team needs to be acknowledged for the amount of time they put into their, at times, very frustrating, work. Time spent chasing up builders who always have other more important jobs to do, chasing up quotes, dealing with the complications of being landlords, and the minor maintenance issues that arise at the most inconvenient times, to list just a few of their responsibilities.

The role of the *Mission in Community Team* is to make connections with the wider community as an expression of partnership in God's mission of love. The relationship with the Inner-city churches comes under this umbrella as does our relationships with the Family Centre, Presbyterian Support, WIT and other agencies we work alongside. Signing up as an Eco Church and becoming a Fair-Trade workplace have come out of recommendations from this team.

As you can see the work of the Parish Council is wide and varied. We need to remember that our primary role is the spiritual wellbeing of the parish, but the physical wellbeing of the buildings, and the day to day running requires a diligent team.

If you have any issues do not hesitate to make contact with Parish Council members, they may not have all the answers, but they can direct you to the right person, or team.

Introducing our Interim Moderator, Rev Jill McDonald

We are fortunate to have Rev Jill McDonald from St Andrews as our interim moderator during the vacancy, providing support and advice to our Parish Clerk, Lynne, to the Parish Council, where she chairs our monthly meetings, and as a listening ear to anyone in the parish who requires one.



I have been the minister of St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Hastings since July 2017. Prior to that I spent nearly five years at Waitaki Parish in Oamaru, first as an intern, then as a newly ordained minister.

I am married to Chris and we love living in Hawkes Bay. I am passionate about mission and helping the church find ways to engage with and serve their local community so that all may experience fullness of life. I believe that orthopraxis is an essential part of following Jesus – it is the way that we practice our Christian faith in our daily lives through sharing the love and grace that Christ has given us, with those we encounter.

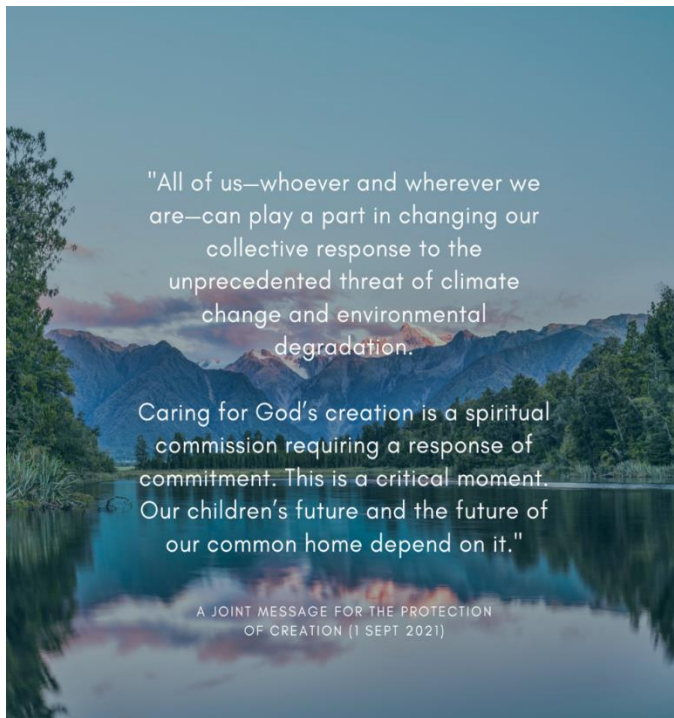
While these are indeed challenging times for PCANZ, Presbyteries and local congregations, I am excited by the new frontiers and innovative ways of doing church that the Wairua Tapu (Holy Spirit) is beckoning/ beaoning us towards.

P.S. The ‘beaoning’ was at first a typo for beckoning but it is indeed a word meaning a signal or fire on a hill. This was perhaps a Holy moment reminding me that it is indeed towards the light of Christ that we always must be moving.

Blessings, Jill

Eco Church at St Paul's

Adair Oosterbroek



At the recent Central Presbytery Gathering our keynote speaker was Dr Andrew Shepherd, Lecturer in Theology and Public Issues at Otago University. The theme of the Gathering was Creation Care – an area of special interest for Dr Shepherd – and he began by asking us to think about our current global context. He

suggested that we are living in an **ecological age**, that is, a period in history where ecological concerns arguably trump all others. He pointed us to Jesus' words in the gospels when He challenged the religious leaders about their ability to read the approaching weather from the condition of the sky, but they couldn't see to discern the more important signs of the times.

So goes the challenge to us – to read the signs of the times and to prioritise engagement with environmental concerns, both because of the need to remedy the impact of human exploitation of the natural world, and because God has always loved His creation, and He always intended that we should faithfully care for it.

A way that we can do that as a faith community is to sign up to Eco Church. Eco Church is an initiative to see churches commit to intentionally engage in the care of Creation as an expression

of their mission as the people of God. There are three biblical challenges that Eco Church responds to:

1. Living a faithful life - following Jesus

Caring for God's earth is an integral aspect of Christian discipleship. It is first and foremost a response of faithfulness and gratitude to the One who created the earth in love and entrusted humans to care for it.

2. Loving our neighbours in a resource-limited world

The earth's ability to support human life is being rapidly depleted, and the poor are suffering most. We want to achieve transformational change for our natural world, and by doing so create a better world for both people and nature - our neighbours.

3. Reflecting and protecting the glory of God

Caring for God's earth is an essential part of the church's mission in the world. We know that churches can be agents of restoration and healing in their local communities. Churches can be places where Christians model ways of living sustainably that give hope.

Recently, St. Paul's Parish Council agreed to move forward in signing up to become an Eco Church. We'll assemble a small team as the action group, and one person will act as liaison between St. Paul's and Eco Church. We have a self-assessment to work through to help us see just how well we're doing to actively care for the environment. This will also highlight ways we can improve, and areas for us to work on.

The main expectation on joining Eco Church is that we'll be able to share with them at least one story a year of something we've done to care for God's beautiful world and for the sake of the poor and those most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Woohoo! What an opportunity and a privilege.

My Daily Prayer

Marion Fell

To grow a little day by day
To school my mind and body to obey
To keep my inner life both clear and strong
To free my life from guile, my hands from wrong
To shut the door on Hate and Scorn and Pride
To open then to Love the windows wide
To meet with cheerful heart what comes to me
To turn life's discords into harmony
To share some weary worker's heavy load
To point some straying comrade to the road,
To know that what I have is not my own
To feel that I am never quite alone'
This would I pray from day to day
As on I go upon my way.

Care and Share

Marion Fell (on behalf of Care and Share)

On 3rd Monday monthly, St Paul's "Care & Share" group meets in the church lounge at 1.30 pm. At the entrance, a "donate or buy" table displays e.g., homemade cookies: plants: flowers; magazines as a welcome. Donations of Hand knitted blankets, or squares for donations or sharing.

Following a seated musical exercises "fun" time with Wendy, we move into the day's theme/project.

Sometimes a visiting speaker will share an overseas work., travel or handwork display and associated experiences.

Otherwise, we share a hand craft project e.g., Iced Christmas cake decorations, or recently Gift cards (e.g., with teabag enclosed) for a hospital patient or indisposed member.



A "special" celebration at our last meeting was sharing Ella's 90th Birthday cake.

Afternoon tea helps all to unwind with friendly chatter abounding.

Our special thanks to Dorothy Finlayson who so ably leads and shares this fellowship group

An invitation is extended to anyone interested to come and join us at our next meeting on *Monday 19 September*.

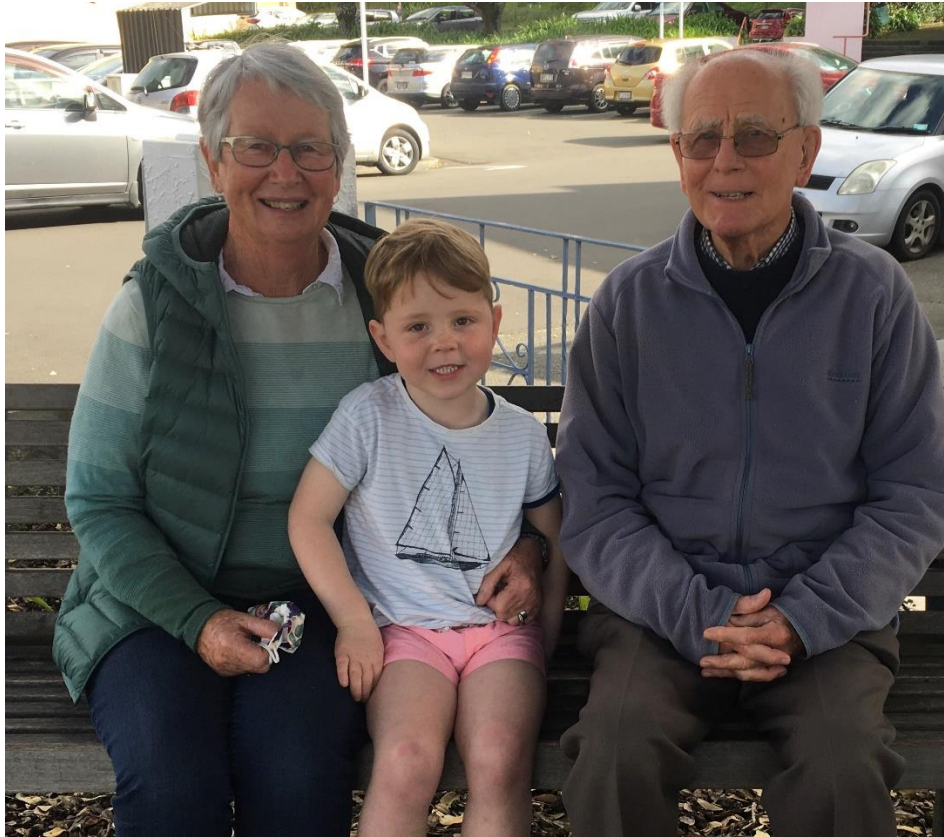
What Is Your Life Like Today?

Written by Jill McConnochie for the folk at Princess Alexandra.

Here at Princess Alex, we have a new machine
That saves you going to the town to get the cash you need.
And now no cheques to pay your bills, so what are you to do?
Is banking on the internet a bit too hard for you?
It's difficult to understand the way banks work today,
They do not want to see you – please do stay away.
The world today, or so we're told is better than it was,
And scientists and others say it is because
The health system, technology and many things are better,
Yet growing up in days gone by, I think for us was better.
We played outside, with balls and bikes, and children in the street.
We respected others property and people that we meet,
We could leave our doors unlocked, we didn't fear intruders
Drugs, murders and ram-raids, were very seldom heard of.
So here today in Princess A, do you find that things are harder?
The cost of petrol, butter, milk and all things for the larder.
And yet we must be grateful too for kindly friends and neighbours
The gardens and the sunshine and good things that surround us,
And Ryman's staff activities, for mental health and fitness
You can't put a price on that, as I'm sure you all can witness.
So, are you glad your youthful times were in the days of yore?
Or do you find this century better than the one before?

Who's on 'Keith's Seat'?

Lynne Arnold and Dusty with Alan Hoggarth



Well over 20 years given to Jitterbugs between the two of us, so a rest on Keith's seat seems to be a good way to spend a few minutes.

Alan, who celebrated his 90th birthday in August, saw a need and started helping out by guarding the door during his time as Session Clerk. He has been doing a stellar job ever since. No unattended child gets out that door while Alan is at his post. The children respect the rules, and I definitely appreciate the support provided by Alan each week.

My time on the job has been much shorter, nine years involved in some capacity. It is a very rewarding way to spend a Tuesday morning, and although we are a smaller group at the moment, we are still providing a valuable place for mums to meet, and children to socialise in a safe, caring environment.

Regular Events

Sunday Services: 10am service each Sunday during the ministerial vacancy.

Care and Share: Held on the 3rd Monday of the month from 1:30pm in the Church Lounge (February – November)

Lunch group meets monthly on the 1st Friday of each month at noon for food and fellowship at various venues around the city

Jitterbugs Pre-school Music and Movement each Tuesday from 9am (during the school term).

December Newsletter

The closing date for contributions to the December newsletter will be **Monday 21st November 2022**. Please forward articles to **Bridget** at the church office. Details below.

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