



# THE ROCK



Anglican Parish of  
Cabersham Saint Peter,  
Dunedin, New Zealand

April 2020 — Easterfive

## Back to the 1950s?



By The Vicar

The 1950s have received a bad press from historians, journalists and commentators in recent years. They are seen as an era of drab conformism, of stultifying boredom and of repressive morality. As my PhD supervisor John Stenhouse says, “They are seen as our dark ages.” They were marked of course by the drive for security and stability. Men who had come back from the war had had enough adventure for a lifetime and those who had lived through the depression wanted bad times to never come no more.

### The Good Features of the 1950s

It is true that it was an era of compulsory military training, of a miniscule hospitality industry, of 6 o'clock closing, of persecution of gay people and of overlooked domestic violence and drink driving. Yet there were many good features of the time. The crime rate was low, especially the murder rate compared to today. An Avonside parishioner of mine had started his career in the police force in Dunedin and reported that “Dunedin was a great place to start your time in the police force because compared to today there was practically no crime.” The family unit was relatively intact so many children grew up with the reassuring stability of having two parents around.



“The family unit was relatively intact ...”.

IMAGE: PA / WWW.ITV.COM.

It was an era of rising standards of living and of low unemployment. It was said of one minister of employment that he knew every one of the few hundred unemployed in New Zealand. The Kiwi ideal of equality was still powerful, the wealthy often living cheek by jowl with the modestly off and usually taking pains to conceal their wealth rather than flaunting it as in later decades. And of course it was a good time for the churches and their Sunday Schools.

## Will some features of the 1950s Return?

### Tourism

When New Zealand emerges from the present crisis I am wondering if some features of the 1950s will return. Overseas travel, seen as a must by many Kiwis, is unlikely to return for a while. Air New Zealand says it will focus on being a domestic airline which also provides an overseas cargo service. Even when airlines get back in the business of long distance flights many parts of the world will be dark and threatening places to visit or will have closed borders. As for cruise ships, those gigantic petri dishes of infection, one can't help wondering if that industry will collapse. So New Zealanders will probably holiday in their own country, as they did in the 1950s. The old slogan, “See your own country first”, will have new relevance. We are likely to see many fewer overseas visitors.

### Farming

Farming will be to the fore again as our major export

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# Back to the 1950s?

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earner, as it was in the 1950s. This will be a morale boost for the rural sector. The old farmers' catch cry of decades ago that "we are the backbone of the country" will have a ring of truth about it.

## Universities

Our universities are likely to be smaller affairs, as they were in the 1950s. International students will be much less in evidence and as rolls decline there will be staff cuts. This will have concerning implications for Dunedin, a small city over-dependent on its university. The reality is that New Zealand's secondary and tertiary education providers have been too reliant on international students topping up their budgets for some time. Looking at the websites of prestigious American universities one learns they typically average around 12,000 students. Otago's bloated roll of 18,000 to 20,000 was unsustainable. It is also likely some young people will conclude that learning a trade will be a more secure route to job security and a dependable income in the years ahead. This of course will be helpful in terms of providing capacity for the large infrastructure projects the government has promised us as the royal road to economic recovery.

## The Hospitality Sector

Without doubt a major improvement on life in the 1950s is our greatly expanded hospitality sector which brings us a wide variety of food products and cooking styles from around the world. Resisted at first by holdouts from the 1950s as "foreign muck", they are here to stay. With it has come in some places a service attitude—if we treat the customer well they will return and spend a portion of their discretionary income with us and help to keep our business going. In the 1950s the attitude from behind the



The University, Dunedin.

"Our universities are likely to be smaller affairs..."

IMAGE: [HTTPS://NZHISTORY.GOV.T.NZ/MEDIA/PHOTO/UNIVERSITY-OTAGO.](https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/university-otago)

counter was sometimes "we are doing you a favour by serving you." No doubt the hospitality industry will come back on line but there is a question mark around how many cafes, bars and restaurants will reopen as resilient businesses. There is a possibility we may have fewer choices in this regard than before.

## Renewed Desire for Security and Stability

I wrote before that the desire for security and stability were the major motivators of public life in the 1950s. This is the way I suspect things will be for us for the next little while. We have been experiencing apocalyptic events in steady succession—earthquakes, floods, a mass shooting and now a modern plague, with more promised in its wake. Political parties which promise and provide security and stability will prosper. However, they may need to bring forward radical ideas to provide this. I was intrigued to hear that Grant Robertson is seriously considering implementing a universal benefit income (see sidebar). I also think people will long for security and stability in their personal lives. As unemployment spreads and wage cuts proliferate people will want to see a political and social order which protects jobs and restores near full employment, just as New Zealanders did in the depression years.

## The Family and Religion

Will the desire for security and stability bring about a return to the intact family unit as it generally existed in former times? I suspect not. The genie

## Letters

The Rock welcomes letters to the Editor. Letters are subject to selection and, if selected, to editing for length and house style. Letters may be :

Posted to : The Editor of The Rock,  
c/- The Vicarage, 57 Baker Street,  
Caversham,  
Dunedin, N.Z. 9012

Emailed to: [TheRockEditor@stpeterscaversham.org.nz](mailto:TheRockEditor@stpeterscaversham.org.nz)

## Ask The Vicar

For answers to questions doctrinal, spiritual and liturgical.

Write to: Ask The Vicar, c/- The Vicarage as above

Or email: [AskTheVicar@stpeterscaversham.org.nz](mailto:AskTheVicar@stpeterscaversham.org.nz)

## ASK THE VESTRY

Questions about the secular life and fabric of the parish may be:

Posted to : Ask The Vestry, c/- The Vicarage as above

Emailed to: [AskTheVestry@stpeterscaversham.org.nz](mailto:AskTheVestry@stpeterscaversham.org.nz)

## The Articles of Religion

ISSUED BY THE CONVOCATION OF CLERGY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN 1571

XXXIII. Of excommunicate Persons, how they are to be avoided.

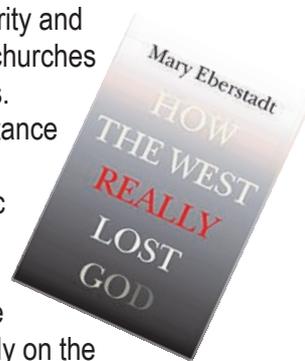
That person which by open denunciation of the Church is rightly cut off from the unity of the Church, and excommunicated, ought to be taken of the whole multitude of the faithful, as an Heathen and Publican, until he be openly reconciled by penance, and received into the Church by a Judge that hath authority thereunto.

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# Back to the 1950s?

(Continued from page 2)

is well and truly out of the bottle on that one. Co-habitation, transient relationships in the name of freedom and personal fulfilment, high divorce rates and the rise of ersatz families will continue, though I would love to be proved wrong about that. I would also be surprised, very pleasantly surprised, if the desire for security and stability brought about a modest boom for the churches and their Sunday Schools as it did in the 1950s. Back then there was a general and tacit acceptance of the Christian roots of western society. Now there is growing hostile opposition to any public expression of Christianity or its implications for the way we should live in society. Christians need to accept that they and their churches are now a counter cultural reality which can live only on the Divine power of the gospel, not on making alliances and compromises with secular culture. In her book *How the West Really*



*Lost God* Mary Eberstadt argues the decline of the family lead to the decline of the Christian faith in western society. I suspect she is on to something.

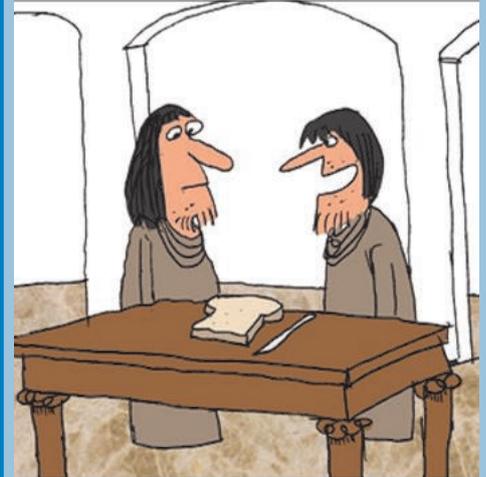
## Conclusion

I rejoice that New Zealand society now has more colour, vibrancy, diversity and tolerance in its life than ever before. I was 8 years old when the 1950s came to an end and can hardly remember them. Yet they weren't all bad; they weren't a dark age, there were some good things about that era and perhaps some of those features will return? 📧

## Universal Benefit Income

Everyone from an adult age would receive a basic income no matter what their circumstances or job situation. This would avoid the administrative costs of the present complex and complicated benefit system. It would provide a basic security and a sense of dignity for those facing redundancy or needing to job seek in the face of a growing automated IT economy that will require fewer workers. As for the counter argument that the money would be wasted on millionaires and high paid professionals they also get the pension when they don't really need it. 📧

## The Frolicsome Friar



"I've invented sliced bread, the invention that will set the standard for all future inventions."

SOURCE: WWW.HOWTOGEEK.COM.

## Staying sane

Suggestions for helping to fill the days during the coronavirus epidemic. Send your suggestions to [therockeditor@stpeterscaversham.org.nz](mailto:therockeditor@stpeterscaversham.org.nz).

## Our website

By David Scoular

Aside from information about the daily life and times of our parish, the parish website includes a number of items of general interest—entirely suitable for filling in a few otherwise long, drab moments while locked in one's bubble.

- ◆ The Pebble and *The Rock* are posted when published, but never removed so the archives can revive memories of recent history—start on the *News and Opinion* page on the News menu
- ◆ If older memories are your thing, check the *Our Printed Heritage* page—also on the News menu. Here you will find copies of parish magazines from 1952 up to 1964 at present. Further editions are added each month
- ◆ The *Services* page has audio and video recordings of a wide variety of Services from the current vicar's institution to the latest weekly "lock-down Masses". 📧

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# Nutritious

## Rather different Decorated Eggs



By Alex Chisholm

Although we may think of Easter Eggs as uniquely related to Easter, and not just in name, it would seem decorated eggs as gifts have a much longer history. A recent article in the magazine *Science* describes decorated shells found in the tombs of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern

which was discovered in 1839 in Vulchi, Italy at a burial site known as the Isis Tomb, dating back to around 600BC. The eggs were not the only valuable items as there were other luxury items including gold jewellery and bronze dinnerware. The eggs, which were decorated with geometric patterns



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"...elaborately carved and decorated Ostrich eggshells..."

PHOTO: WWW.SCIENCEMAG.ORG.

nobility dating from 2500 to 500 BC. These eggshells were not of the size we are used to but were large, elaborately carved and decorated Ostrich eggshells. For the archaeologists and researchers this was a perplexing but thrilling puzzle. Where did the eggs come from, who decorated them and how did they come to be given to the people in whose tombs they were found? A team of specialists took a look at a collection held by the British Museum

as well as animals, flora, chariots and soldiers, were thought to have been made by Assyrian and Phoenician artisans. Stable isotope analysis\* confirmed that. However, eggshells in the same tomb came from different regions, suggesting a complex supply chain. An article from Hodos et al examines issues such as the origins of the eggs and their possible routes into

Europe. The eggs were presumably from Africa and the Middle East, as no Ostriches lived in Europe. But were they carved and decorated then imported or were they made by Etruscan craftsmen in Europe who were familiar with the Eastern Mediterranean styles and techniques? Were they from wild birds or a farmed population? Ostriches are highly nomadic but are mentioned in Assyrian royal texts as being kept, possibly to stock the pleasure gardens and for their eggs. They were considered to be dangerous, could lash out and outrun any horseman. Certainly different to the more gentle suppliers of eggs we may choose to decorate at Easter (*The Rock*, Easter 2014).📧

\*Stable isotope analysis is a technique that generally matches chemical markers in bones and teeth to specific regions.

#### REFERENCES:

HODOS ET AL [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.15184/AQY.2020.14](https://doi.org/10.15184/AQY.2020.14)

[HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCEMAG.ORG/NEWS/2020/04/ELABORATELY-DECORATED-EGGS-PREDATE-EASTER-THOUSANDS-YEARS](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/elaborately-decorated-eggs-predate-easter-thousands-years)

## Ecclesiastical Embroidery

By Shelley Scoular

As some of you know, I am a member of the Otago Embroiderers' Guild and during level 4 lock-down I

have been sending out weekly lists of online embroidery sites of interest to embroiderers. This site, <https://spitalfieldslife.com/2016/02/19/the-broderers-of-st-pauls-cathedral/> about the broderers (embroiderers) of St Pauls Cathedral, London might also be of interest to Saint Peter's people.📧

# In Saint Peter's Garden



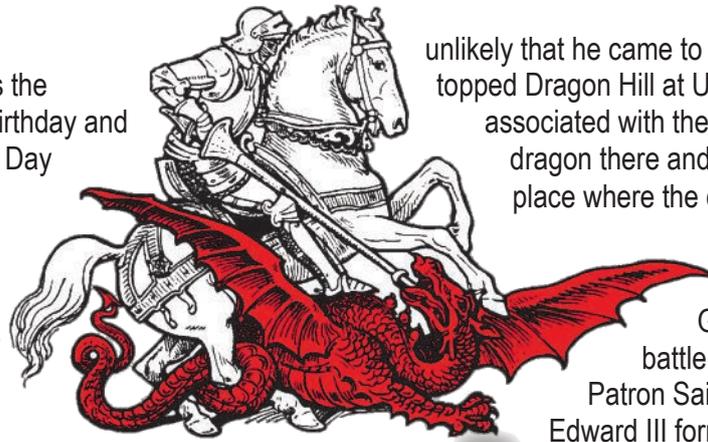
By Warwick Harris

## Dragons, Roses and St George



April the 23rd, St George's Day, is the day before my birthday and of course Anzac Day follows the next day. Early recollections of these dates were when I believed dragons were real and that St George slayed them. Now I know dragons are symbolic of evil things, like the Devil, which threaten our existence. St George's Day is a moveable feast so cannot be celebrated during Easter Week. Would it be appropriate to see the flag of England, bearing the cross of St George, hoisted on the tower of Saint Peter's Caversham on 23 April as a reminder of the evil consequences of COVID-19?

St George, unlike St David of Wales and St Patrick of Ireland, was not British by birth. It is suggested that he was a high-ranking Roman soldier tortured by the Emperor Diocletian to make him deny his Christian faith, that he was beheaded in Palestine and his head taken to Rome and interred in a church dedicated to him. There



unlikely that he came to England there is the flat-topped Dragon Hill at Uffington, Berkshire, associated with the tale that St George killed a dragon there and that no grass grows on the place where the dragon's blood was shed.

Twelfth century Crusaders called on St George for his support in battle. St George was made the Patron Saint of England when King Edward III formed the Order of the Garter in his name in 1350. Henry V declared faith in St George at the battle of Agincourt in France in 1415. The pre-battle speech given by Henry at this battle is immortalised by Shakespeare in the words "Cry God for Harry, England and St George". The present House of Windsor may well call upon this phrase!

The national plant symbol of England is the Tudor Rose, a concocted symbol, unlike the national plant symbols of leek and daffodil for Wales, shamrock for Ireland and thistle for Scotland. There are few rose species native to the British Isles with the dog rose, *Rosa canina*, the best known.

When Richard III of the House of Lancaster was killed in battle in 1485 to end the Wars of the Roses, Henry VII of the House of York, the victor, took the English Crown.

The House of Lancaster was identified by a red rose and the House of York by a white rose. When Henry VII married Elizabeth of York in 1486, as an act of reconciliation, he juxtaposed the red and white roses symbolic of the two Houses to form the Tudor Rose (pictured above in the page header), the present floral emblem of England. 🇬🇧



The Dog Rose; *Rosa canina*.

IMAGES: SUPPLIED.



St George's tomb at Lod, Israel.

is a tomb at Lod in Israel said to contain the body of St George. It has a sturdy padlocked metal box at its base to receive monetary offerings from those who believe his story.

St George's fame spread through Europe. Although it is

## Lockdown 2020



By Deirdre Harris,  
Vicar's Warden

The COVID-19 lockdown has brought back my memories of the school closures during the polio epidemic of 1947-48. My primary school was shut in December 1947 because the first case of polio appeared—we knew it as infantile paralysis at that time. Schools did not reopen for several months after the summer break. Children were those most at risk from polio and public gatherings were discouraged. Camping grounds and pools were closed and even swimming in public areas was not allowed. My family had often camped at Lake Rotoiti, which was then administered by the Nelson Lakes Park Board. It did not become a National Park until 1956. The camping ground at the main foreshore was of



The author's family camp site on Lake Rotoiti.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED.

course closed, but we found a very secluded spot around at the West Bay off the dusty track into the Buller River outlet. There we were able to camp at the lake's edge miles away from anyone. It became a favourite place for us for many years. Today's children will be doing lessons on tablets, iPads and watching their teachers on TV. After our holiday we were back home to correspondence lessons which arrived in canvas bags. 📧

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Where does all the uttered music go?

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twice". So hopefully what we do helps people get through this pandemic and gives them some sense of faith and hope<sup>1</sup>.

At Saint Peter's, in our own way, the virtual reality of our streamed and recorded services linked together members of the parish family spread far and wide. The uttered music came to reality though technology in a most creative way. This year Easter was celebrated, just not attended in a conventional way.

Perhaps the most moving part of Easter this year was a telecast of Andrea Bocelli singing alone outside Milan Cathedral. Not a soul is present, yet an audience of tens of millions watched the



Andrea Bocelli sings outside Milan Cathedral.

PHOTO: WWW.TRTWORLD.COM.

live performance. It is telling of Bocelli's view of this 'performance'. He said, "I believe in the Christian Easter, a universal symbol of rebirth that everyone, whether they are believers or not, truly needs right now. Thanks to music, streamed live, bringing together millions of clasped hands everywhere in the world, we will hug the wounded world's pulsing heart"<sup>2</sup>.

For so many people: choir members unable to take part in annual performances of the Bach Passions, church choirs, soloists, organists—it has been a sad time, yet one where we have all learned new ways of doing the same thing. Perhaps I can finish best with some more Masfield, from a church nativity play from 1928, *The Nativity of Christ*:

By mercy and by martyrdom  
And many ways, God leads us home  
And many darkneses there are  
By darkness and the light he leads  
He gives according to our needs  
And in his darkness is a star. 📧

<sup>1</sup>'FOR MUSICIANS THIS EASTER, STILL LOOKING TO SOAR IN EMPTY SPACES'. NYTIMES.COM (ACCESSED 16.4.2020)

<sup>2</sup>'CORONAVIRUS: ANDREA BOCELLI'S HEARTBREAKING AMAZING GRACE FROM AN EMPTY MILAN CATHEDRAL' WWW.STUFF.NZ (ACCESSED 17.4.2020)

**Regular Services**

*(for variations consult The Pebble on our website)  
All services are held in Saint Peter's unless noted otherwise*

**SUNDAY:**

8am: Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer  
10.30am: Solemn Sung Eucharist

5pm: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month: Evensong and Benediction followed by a social gathering in the lounge

**THURSDAY:**

10am: Eucharist

**FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH:**

11am: Eucharist in the lounge of Frances Hodgkins Retirement Village, Fenton Crescent

**Special Services**

Contact The Vicar to arrange baptisms, weddings, house blessings, burials, confessions and other special services.

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**Vestry Notes**

By Alex Chisholm, Vestry Secretary

Vestry meetings are generally held every two months. No meeting was held in April.

**IS HANDWASHING IMPORTANT?**

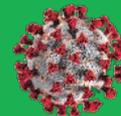
Yes, handwashing is extremely important.

Food workers must wash hands:

- ◆ before starting work
- ◆ after coughing, sneezing or blowing nose
- ◆ before handling cooked or ready-to-eat food
- ◆ after handling or preparing raw food
- ◆ after handling waste
- ◆ after cleaning duties
- ◆ after using the toilet

- ◆ after eating, drinking or smoking
- ◆ after handling money
- ◆ generally, on a regular basis

Good hygiene and cleaning are also important to avoid cross-contamination between raw or undercooked foods and cooked or ready-to-eat foods in the kitchen.



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**For your diary**

**Sunday, 24 May:** Deadline for copy for the May edition of The Rock

**Saturday, 30 May:** 6pm : Vigil of Pentecost

**Saturday, 5 September:** 2pm : Concert by the St Kilda Brass Band

\* Services and other events will be held only if government restrictions allow.

# Rock music

By David Hoskins, Director of Music



## Where does all the uttered music go?



The Choir conducted by Dr Pascual, Easter 2019.

PHOTO: TONY CORREA.

The title above comes from John Masefield's famous poem and in this time of bubbles, lock-downs and social distancing I have been trying to reconcile my sense of loss regarding the personal 'distance' from the glorious music of Holy Week and Easter this year as we all somehow come to terms with the changed world post-COVID-19. Recently, I had reason to attend my medical clinic for a 'flu shot and, looking at the empty streets and closed buildings, Masefield's words came to mind. The first stanza of the poem, which is well worth looking up, goes...

Where does the uttered Music go?

When well attempted mind and hand

Have made the mortal clay to glow

And separate spirits understand?

Church musicians find the Easter season a busy time, I often feel it is easier to make up a bed in the Parish Lounge as I spend little time at home. Now I am mostly at home. The virus lock-downs have affected musicians worldwide. Dr Jennifer Pascual, Organist and Director of Music at New York's famed St Patrick's Cathedral, notes that she

normally spends most of her Easter playing the cathedral's towering pipe organ herself for the Mass at noon and 1pm, 'sometimes they throw in a 2pm if there are still thousands of people waiting'. Her performances have, this year, been solitary ones in the organ loft as the Easter music live-streams on the web. As she says, "even reigned in a bit by the necessities of public health, the music of Easter will be a great balm to many souls". St Augustine said, 'He who sings prays

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Justin Welby  
The Archbishop of Canterbury

### A Holy Saturday reflection apt to the current pandemic circumstances.

I wonder what each of Jesus' friends and followers did on the day after his crucifixion, the day we now call Holy Saturday. Waited? But for what? So much of our waiting in uncertainty and grief often gets channelled into activity—so we can act like everything is normal and do our best to hide the pain. We hear later in the gospels that many went back to their jobs, the securities they had been used to. And yet things weren't normal anymore. Everything had changed.✉



More online :

Read the complete text at:

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speaking-writing/articles/holy-saturday-reflection-archbishop-justin-welby>

