



The Rock

Easter Vigil a service of mystical quality

Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is the Saturday after Good Friday which is often, but wrongly, called Easter Saturday.

Easter vigil service

The Easter vigil service is the first Easter service, and takes place on the night of Holy Saturday.

The idea behind the service is for faithful Christians to wait and watch, hopeful and confident that Christ will return at midnight.

The Easter, or Paschal, candle is lit during this service. The service traditionally begins outside the church, where the priest and some worshippers gather around a fire - a charcoal brazier is common.

The service begins with words like these:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer.

For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

Traditional Easter vigil liturgy

After readings and prayers, the Paschal candle is lit from the fire using a taper, while a prayer like the one below is said.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Traditional Easter vigil prayer

The lit candle is now a symbol of Christ, risen as the light of the world, and come into the midst of the people.

After being lit outside, the candle is carried into the church, where most of the worshippers are waiting in darkness, which symbolises the darkness of Christ's tomb.

After more prayers and readings the candles held by the congregation are lit from the Paschal candle.

The symbolism of the candle is made very clear by words such as...

Grant that this Easter candle make our darkness light; for Christ the morning star has risen, never again to set, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

Traditional Easter vigil service

The readings at the service tell of the creation of humanity, how humanity fell from grace, and was repeatedly rescued by God. The readings remind peo-

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ple of God's promise to be with them always.

ANGLICAN MISSIONS EASTER APPEAL

The Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East extends over five countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Israel and supports thirty-five institutions, which include hospitals,

clinics, kindergartens, schools, vocational training programmes, as well as institutions for the deaf, the disabled and the elderly.

Giving envelopes have been placed on the pews

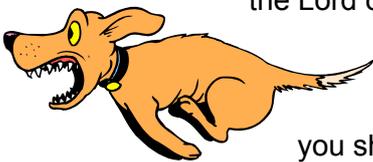


The Vicar Writes

Every now and again I have a bit of a problem with God. Perhaps you do too. My recurring problem is about suffering and perhaps yours is as well. But my difficulty isn't so much about why God lets *us* suffer, as about why God lets *them* suffer, and by *them* I



mean the lower orders, *i.e.* cats, dogs and the rest of the lesser brethren. This is probably where we part company. The lesser brethren do not normally loom very large in the collective Christian consciousness, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if (like most people) you don't normally connect Felix or Fido with the Lord of Hosts.



But perhaps you should. After all, as St Thomas

Aquinas says, 'God loves all existing things' – which includes Felix and Fido. And it's a pretty poor sort of love which doesn't much care if the Beloved (the aforementioned Felix and Fido) are having a rather rough time of it. Thus I found myself on the back foot a few years ago when a retired philosophy lecturer (Gwen Taylor) at whose feet I had sat some decades earlier made it clear that she couldn't possibly believe in a so-called loving God who seemed not to notice the often appalling suffering of the lesser brethren –

who were his creatures after all, and often much nicer (and indeed much more beautiful) than the Bigger Brethren like you and me! Bit of a problem there. The great English composer Edward Elgar

gave up on God after hearing about the dreadful fate of the cavalry horses during the first world war. I trust God agreed with his decision, or at least with the motives behind it – I certainly would. But I wouldn't follow Elgar's example, and that is because I have a particular understanding of the meaning of Easter which I doubt Sir Edward shared. It is, I believe, essential to the meaning of the greatest of all the Christian festivals, but due to our obsession with ourselves, indeed our all too natural pride and arrogance, we don't often recognise it.

Put simply, it is that the resurrection of Christ isn't just for us, it's for the whole Creation and for everyone and everything in it. Horses can be saved! They can have their sufferings made up to them, as it were, in the next life.



Anything which has any good in it – animal, plant or mineral – (as we used to say) can never be lost, and has a place in the world to come. The resurrection of Christ is the first fruits, as the New Testament says. It is not the end, but is instead the beginning of the process by which the Creation, and all the creatures in it, progress 'from glory to glory' throughout eternity. No wonder Easter is the greatest of all the Christian Festivals.

The Crucified and Risen God bless you, and may you have a happy and blessed Easter.

Fr CARL



The Ladies Guild

Our AGM was held at the March meeting. The existing committee members were re-elected in en bloc. Because of fewer numbers we have had to decrease our donation to St Christopher's Orphanage in Fiji. At our April meeting Jan Crayston will talk about her time as a London policewoman. This will be in the lounge at 2pm on April 14th.

Mary Barton,
Secretary



Overseas Missions Intercessions

From the beginning of the Melanesian Mission (now the Church of Melanesia) the Bishops have followed Bp Patterson's principle that the Gospel is best carried by indigenous people.

Schools were set up, catechists were trained, then priests and in the mid 20th century the first Melanesian bishops were consecrated. Now there is also the Melanesian Board of Mission.

In about the 1920s a young policeman Ini Kopuria had a vision and believed that he was called to set up a community to carry out our Lord's instruction to the disciples and to go out into all the villages as they did. He founded the Melanesian Brotherhood which continues to this day. The Brothers have for many years now also worked in Fiji and Papua New Guinea, and have been invited to other parts of the world. They live simply, take no pay, go wherever they are sent, and do not marry as long as they are in the brotherhood. They impress people greatly wherever they go. Now there are also Melanesian Sisters who work in the villages.

Two interesting books to read are: 'In Search of the Lost- The Death and Life of Seven Peacemakers of the Melanesian Brotherhood,' by Richard Anthony Carter (Canterbury Press) from the present century, giving an excellent picture of the Brotherhood today; And 'Kakamora' by Charles Elliot Fox MBE, MA, D.Litt - a most entertaining and informative book from the 20th Century.

The first one is in the Dunedin Public Library 1st floor -Non Fiction ,The second is in our own library..

Rosemary F. Brown

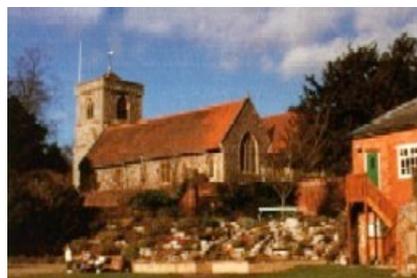


GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

THE CHURCH WORLDWIDE IS BEING IMPACTED UPON AS MUCH AS ANYONE BY THE CURRENT CRISIS AND THERE WILL BE NO QUICK FIX. FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR MISSIONS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WILL BE REDUCED. PARISHES (OURS INCLUDED) WILL FACE HAVING TO LIVE WITH REDUCED INCOMES. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN MORE PEOPLE ARE HAVING A RETHINK ON VALUES AND ON LIFE IN GENERAL. WHAT A WONDERFUL, ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE LOTS OF LOVELY PEOPLE TO OUR CHURCH. PROBLEM IS THAT THEY WON'T COME IF THEY ARE NOT ASKED. HOW MANY WILL YOU BRING, HOW MANY WILL I...

Our Partner in Mission in England

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CAVERSHAM, BERKSHIRE, ENGLAND



With grateful acknowledgement to [Sue Milton. Thames Cards](#).
tel: 0118 986 7657

St. Peter's Church is not only a beautiful building, with parts dating back to the 12th Century; it is also a family in Christ, embracing all kinds of people from tiny babies to octogenarians, joining together in worship, friendship and in the life of our community.

The Monday Club (10 am in the Parish Lounge) and the Games Night (Thursdays in the Parish Lounge) would welcome more players. Fun, friendship and a little exercise. A good way to introduce a neighbour or an acquaintance to the church. Ask Margery Palmer or Jo Steele. Why not give it a go.



DIOCESAN NEWS



Did you know that Selwyn College in Dunedin is Anglican and was the first college, established in 1893, at the University of Otago.

CALENDAR

2nd May; AAW Diocesan AGM
22nd-24th May; Diocesan Synod
23rd-24th May; Visit by Canon Oestreicher
28th June; Bishop at St Peters

20/20 Conference

A large group representing many parts of the Diocese met to consider strategic planning issues facing the Diocese. Bishop Philip Richardson was

the keynote speaker and set a positive tone as he talked about the remarkable progress being made in the Taranaki. St Peters was represented by the Vicar and four parishioners. Many useful matters were raised together with 'what planet are you on' type of comments. As with all these meetings they are only of use if they are acted upon. One would hope that a Diocesan Strategic Plan was put in place before any proposed changes are made.

VESTRY IN BRIEF

At the March meeting of Vestry, the following items were of note:

- Vicarage renovations are progressing slowly.
- The monthly financial statement from the diocesan office was not received. A letter is to be written to the diocesan manager regarding ongoing problems with the accounting service.
- A sign and tape have been purchased for the hall fire door so that the exit will be kept clear.
- Kitchen cupboards in the hall are in the process of being cleaned.
- Saturday, May 2nd was proposed as the date for the next market day.

AGM IN BRIEF

In case you missed the Annual General Meeting:

- Fr Carl kept us up to date with the vicarage renovations.
- More parishioners are needed for the Monday Club and Thursday games night.
- Reports were previously circulated; the AAW report is in this month's Rock.
- Rita-May Brown presented the financial report and budget for 2009.
- The AAW and Ladies Guild were thanked for their contributions. Ian Condie was thanked for assistance with computer work. Rita-May was thanked for preparing the reports and for her work as treasurer over the past year.
- Tubby Hopkins is to carry on as Vicar's Warden. Joy Henderson was re-elected as People's Warden unopposed.
- Elected to vestry were: H. Brooks, R.F. Brown, R-M Brown, I. Condie, D. Gray, D. Hoskins, K. Paterson.
- Vestry to look into fund-raising opportunities for the parish.

Heather Brooks
(Vestry Secretary)



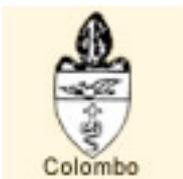
BEQUESTS "I GIVE TO THE DUNEDIN DIOCESAN TRUST BOARD, 1A HOWDEN STREET, GREEN ISLAND, DUNEDIN, PO BOX 13 170, GREEN ISLAND, DUNEDIN 9052. (% OF MY ESTATE, OR THE RESIDUE OF MY ESTATE, OR A SUM OF MONEY, OR DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND/OR ASSETS) FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSE (OR FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE) OF ST PETERS PARISH, CAVERSHAM, FOR WHICH THE RECEIPT OF THE SECRETARY OR OTHER PROPER OFFICER SHALL BE FULL AND SUFFICIENT DISCHARGE TO MY TRUSTEES/EXECUTORS.



THE ANGLICAN WORLD



27-March – Sri Lanka – The Increasingly Desperate Situation of the People Trapped in Vanni



As religious leaders, we are extremely concerned about the deteriorating plight of the civilians who are still trapped in the Vanni. Endless debates about the actual numbers trapped or who is primarily to be blamed for their plight are not the most urgent needs at this stage. The immediate and absolutely urgent need is to recognize that this is a very critical humanitarian crisis faced by fellow Sri Lankiness

27-March – England – Church of England clergy wanted for war-torn Sri Lanka



Clergy from the Church of England are being invited to provide respite for Sri Lankan priests in the war-torn country. CoE clergy will be asked to take over from Sri Lankan clergy in

safe regions, so that those clergy can provide respite for their countrymen in conflict zones.

17-March – Indian Ocean – Lenten Greetings from the Indian Ocean.



From the Most Revd Ian Ernest, Archbishop of the Province...In collaboration with the Malagasy Embassy, the Province will organize a vigil of prayer for Madagascar in the Diocese of Mauritius, on Tuesday 17th March from 7.30(local time). Many civilian organization, Church institutions and denominations have been invited to join us during this time of prayer and supplication.

16-March– A Statement from Anglican Delegates to the 53rd Session of the UNCSW



This year’s United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was focused on the priority theme: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.

Editorial

A Rule of Life

How should we Christians live our lives. How will we believers measure how we are doing.

A rule of life is one method that has been used for many centuries. Some think of a rule of life as applying to monks and nuns only but it is equally applicable to everyone.

The point of a Rule of Life, for communities or individuals, is that life should be lived in balance, with God as the focal point. A Rule of Life can provide us with the information and guidelines we need to get on the path of intentional practice of our Faith, and the loving accountability we need to keep us there.

The most famous rule is that of St Benedict.

“...Listen carefully, my child, to the master’s instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart. This is advice from a father who loves you; welcome it, and faithfully put it into practice.”

A sample Rule of Life:

With the help of the Blessed Trinity, I will strive to keep the following Rule of Life each day:

- Set aside time each day for prayer, which will always include intercessory prayer.
- Read from Scripture or from some other sacred or spiritual text.
- Do something for someone else.
- Do something for my own self: body, mind and spirit
- Seek the holy in the everyday tasks and duties.
- Try to see Christ in everyone I meet.

Why not give it a try.

Ray Sisley



AAW - LEADERS REPORT FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Once again our activities during the year have been many and varied and my thanks go to those who have stood in for me at meetings on those occasions when I have been away, namely Coral and Raylene.

February got us off to a good start with our speaker coming from Anglican Family Care, she gave a great insight into the work that this organization gets involved with.

Due to hall bookings not being compatible we held the March meeting at my home. This turned out very well indeed despite the small space. Once again we collected Easter Eggs for distribution to St. Barnabas residents and staff and to parishioners.

Unfortunately while I was away on holiday I missed hearing Raewyn Stedman speak on her work as a Homeopathy practitioner, but was back in time for the May meeting when Dawn organized the meeting, including the service and was the speaker as well.

During the Winter months of June, July and August, we had decided that our meetings would again be held on Saturday afternoons. In fact we left July out altogether thinking, erroneously as it turned out, that the weather would be so inclement that no one would be able to come. Jill's group organised Marjorie Finnie to talk about her cake decorating skills, which was reported in the Circle with a photo of "our church in icing" a creation by Marjorie.

A few years ago when we discussed remits to go to the National Council of Women we invited a number of other groups to join us for lunch and discussion. This year, at our August meeting, we were on our own but with information from Port Chalmers that their group is so reinvigorated that they wish to hold their own discussion occasion, this is good news indeed.

Gwen's niece spoke to us in September and we really enjoyed hearing this enthusiastic young lady who cares so much about those less fortunate than herself and intends to direct much of her time to helping, with her skills as a physiotherapist.

We have been delighted to welcome new members Jo Steele and Dawn McIntosh, however we have lost Elmira. Ill health has been a visitor to many members and Bereavements have been experienced by Kath at the loss of her beloved Alex and Joan suffered the loss of her Aunt and friend, Ruth.

Expressions of appreciation must be given to Fr. Carl, who, in spite of feeling less than wonderful on many occasions has been there to take our services.

Ronda Tatnell – Co-ordinator.



AAW

Faye-Noel Brown gave us an evening filled with the busy life Faye-Noel enjoys - from ballet, singing and piano playing in her youth to speech therapy, travel and floral arranging. Everyone enjoyed the delightful stories of her colourful life. Thank-you Faye-Noel. On April 28 Jan Crayston will be our Guest Speaker.

The AAW Diocesan AGM is to be held on Saturday 2 May - St Peter's AAW will provide morning and afternoon teas.
Easter Blessings.

Gay Webb - Secretary



BRASS CLEANING

*11 April at 10 am in the Parish Lounge. All polishers most welcome.
Training given.*



NZWCCM Retreat, (Part 2)

Here is a description of the form of meditation: practised by the Retreatants,

‘ Sit down. Sit still and upright. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Breathe calmly and regularly,’ to quote the pamphlet you can find in the Link.

Use a mantra (a word or short phrase, the suggested one being the Aramaic word MA-RA-NA-THA meaning ‘Come Lord’). Repeat it silently throughout the allotted time (20 mins minimum to 30 mins optimum twice daily – sounds like medicine, doesn’t it.). Don’t change your mantra. If your mind wanders (and it will), as soon as you realise this return to saying the word or phrase..

It is not intended to replace your other forms of prayer. Rather it is to underpin them.

This is disposing yourself to listening to God. The mantra stops your mind going busily from one matter to another- planning, speculating, regretting, etc. It is not vain repetition mentioned in the Gospels. That is attempting to persuade God by quantity. This is taming the ego, bringing you out of the past and future into the present moment- learning to attend to God dwelling within us. It is not about thinking.

There is no competition. You do not compare yourself with others. You just do it. You do not look for progress, visions, thoughts etc.. even if wonderful ones come upon you - as soon as you are aware of them return to the mantra.

The secret is in persistence- not giving up, in being there, even though your mind is distracted again and again. Nothing may seem to happen, but it does if it is practised regularly. And if you do stop for a time, say a month or years !!!, you can simply come back to it..

The NZ Community is an informal network of meditators and meditation groups. Meditating in silence is actually easier in groups rather than by oneself which is why many meditate together weekly to support their daily practice. At present there are two groups which meet in the Dunedin area. We will happily give you details if you ask.

A copy of ‘The Hunger for Depth and Meaning’ a book of John Main’s teaching , and pamphlets about meditation will also be in the Link library.

You can also find WCCM online: www.wccm.org .

Rosemary Brown and Joan Dutton

WARDENS’ WARBLE

Hooray! After talking about it for something like 2 years and telling you that it was about to happen soon, we are pleased to report that the much needed work at the vicarage has finally begun. This work will be carried out in two stages, beginning with, both the upstairs and downstairs bathroom

and toilet areas. Once this work has been completed the kitchen area will have a major upgrade carried out. Final arrangements have yet to be completed for the kitchen work but it is hoped that it won’t be too long before this work will be carried out and the “Vicarage family” will be able to enjoy the much improved and user friendly facilities. For those of you who have experienced the upheaval and disruption to one’s life which results when either kitchen or bathroom work is being done, I’m sure you’ll understand what Father Carl and his friends will be going through at the moment.



You may have also noticed that car- pet tiles have recently been installed in the porch at the Hillside Road entrance to the church. Although this is not the most used entrance to the church for most parishioners, to the general public it would still be considered the main entrance way and the old vinyl tiles were not a very warm and inviting image to visitors.

At the recent AGM, the wardens were appointed

THE ROCK IS NOW ON-LINE AT:
www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

and a new vestry was elected to act on your behalf, please make yourself familiar with who they are and use them as they should be used. They are there to manage the parish on your behalf and if you have any ideas or issues that you believe need to be addressed, please contact one of them so that your view can be considered and the appropriate action taken. They will always welcome any suggestions or ideas that you may have for the parish.

Finally, as we approach one of the main events in the Christian Calendar, God Bless You all and have a Happy Easter.

Tubby and Joy

THANK YOU: David Hoskins for your very considerable contribution to the music that enhances our worship.



CALENDAR

APRIL

- Sun 5 +PALM SUNDAY *Holy Week*
7pm Sung Evensong and Benediction
- Mon 6 Monday Club
7pm Eucharist
- Tue 7 7pm Eucharist
Lenten Study
- Wed 8 7pm Eucharist
- Thu 9 +MAUNDY THURSDAY
8pm Solemn Eucharist and Vigil
No Games Night
- Fri 10 +GOOD FRIDAY
10am Service in St Barnabas' Home
12-1pm Liturgy of the Passion
- Sat 11 +EASTER EVE
8pm Paschal Vigil and Solemn Eucharist
- Sun 12 +EASTER DAY
7pm Compline by Candlelight
- Mon 13 Monday Club
- Tue 14 Ladies Guild in the Lounge
- Thu 16 Meditation Group
Games Night
- Sun 19 +LOW SUNDAY
Eastertide 2
7pm Compline by Candlelight
- Mon 20 Monday Club
- Wed 22 Vestry 7.30pm in the Lounge
- Thu 23 Meditation Group
Games Night
- Sun 26 +EASTER 2 *Eastertide 3*
7pm Sung Even song and Benediction
- Mon 27 Monday Club
- Tue 28 MARK
7.30pm AAW in the Lounge
- Thu 30 Meditation Group
Games Night
- ### MAY
- Fri 1 PHILIP AND JAMES
- Sun 3 +EASTER 3 *Eastertide 4*
7pm Compline by Candlelight



Material for the May magazine is due today

- Mon 4 Monday Club
Tue 5 PHILIP AND JAMES
Thu 7 Meditation Group
Games Night
Sun 10 +EASTER 4 *Eastertide 5*
7pm Compline by Candlelight

We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

Baptisms, Weddings, House Blessings, Burials and Confessions by arrangement with the Vicar

Parish Directory

Parish Priest:

Father Carl Somers-Edgar
The Vicarage, 57 Baker Street
Caversham, Dunedin
Telephone: (03) 455 3961
Email: paratus@xtra.co.nz
Internet: www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

WORSHIP SERVICES

All Sundays:

8am Eucharist.
10.30am Solemn Eucharist.

Sundays of the calendar month at 7pm:

1st, 3rd and 5th Compline and Exposition

2nd and 4th Sung Evensong and Benediction.

First and third Tuesdays of the month: 11am Eucharist at St Barnabas' Home.

All Wednesdays and Fridays (except when the Vicar is away): 8am Eucharist.

All Thursdays: 10am Eucharist.



Director of Music:

David Hoskins

Churchwardens:

Vicar's Warden:

Tubby Hopkins

People's Warden:

Joy Henderson

Vestry secretary:

Heather Brooks