

THE ROCK



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From the Vicar

As this will very likely be my last contribution to *The Rock*, I must begin by saying how grateful I am to you all for the love and support which you have shown me during the quarter of a century which I have been privileged to spend among you at St Peter's.



I must say that when I began here twenty-five years ago many things were really rather different. In those days to print *The Rock* we used Gestetner and even Banda, the second of which worked by means of methylated spirits. Fine if you were desperate for a drink, I suppose, but entirely messy and unpleasant otherwise.

Methods of magazine production are only one of the many changes which we, the diocese, and the Church at large have all lived through since then. The most immediately relevant has been the extraordinary development of the so-called Information Technology.

My first contribution to the magazine was typed on an ordinary old-fashioned typewriter. You don't see many of those about these days. Just about everybody does what I am doing right now – they use a computer.

And that is only a very small part of the story. Information Technology has led to the most extraordinary and radical changes imaginable in our otherwise ordinary daily lives. Who would have imagined the advent of cellphones, email, ipods, computer games and all the rest, including it seems, something called Virtual Reality.

Strange, isn't it, that our growing ability to communicate reality should lead to increasing unreality.

At his appearance before Pilate, when everything hung in the balance, Christ said that he had come into the world for Truth. Not love, joy, or peace – but truth, without which the other qualities have no meaning.

And that must surely be what the Gospel means, and what St Peter's is for. I pray that in the years ahead the parish will continue its witness to the "truth as it is in Jesus" and that you will get great joy and fulfillment from doing so.

The Crucified and Risen God bless you all. Fr CARL.



Vestry in Brief

- At the November meeting of Vestry, the following items were of note:
- Consultation with the parish about the appointment of a new vicar will take place next year.
- The sum of \$900 to be donated to Anglican Missions.
- Two new racks to be purchased for the dishwasher.
- There will be a change of tenancy at the cottage in January.
- The potluck Christmas lunch will be held on the 12th of December.
- Vestry inspected the vicarage so that necessary repairs and redecoration can be carried out when it is empty.

Heather Brooks Vestry
Secretary

The Wardens' Warble

Greetings to you all and welcome to this, the final Warden's Warble for 2010.

What a disastrous few weeks, we as a nation have gone through recently, two events which have hit the World headlines and focused on New Zealand, firstly the earthquake in Christchurch which has created so much damage to homes and properties and perhaps more miraculously, without loss of life, then a couple of months later we learned of the mine disaster on the West Coast with not so much visible physical damage to be seen but resulting in the loss of 29 lives. God moves in a mysterious way, is

a common phrase we hear and these two events are a clear example of this. It's hard to imagine how those affected, whether it be by loss of loved ones or loss homes can be expected to have a Happy Christmas and New Year but I'm sure that they'll all be in our thoughts at this time.



During all this, we at St Peter's learned of Father Carl's decision to retire in January and I'm sure that like everyone who has made the decision to retire, he will be in some sort of "countdown mode". We're not suggesting in any way, that this is as calamitous as the two previous events mentioned, however it is going to mean changes for us in the year ahead and is something that we need to be looking towards. As part of this process, the Parish Nominators would like to have some idea or indication from you, as parishioners, what ideals and qualities you would like to see in a new Vicar. With this in mind, we invite

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you to contact any of the four appointed nominators with your comments and ideas. Contact details are:

Heather Brooks, phone 481-1916 or heather.brooks@stonebow.otago.ac.nz,

Ian Condie 454-4316 or mayian@clear.net.nz,

Joy Henderson 456-1141,

Tubby Hopkins 455-3613 or tubbyandaveril@xtra.co.nz

Please make the effort to let us know your thoughts, don't just leave it to someone else to do.

However, no matter what else is happening around us, we hardly need to remind you that Christmas is almost upon us, a time to celebrate the birth of Christ and hopefully extend Peace and Goodwill to our fellow men.

From us both, we hope you all have happy and safe Christmas, a Happy New Year and may God bless you all.

Tubby Hopkins *Vicar's Warden*

Joy Henderson *People's Warden*

AAW Report

Our Christmas Function was once again held at the Home of St Barnabas. As usual the dinner was ample and delicious, the conversation flowed and the fellowship of the 20 members present was evident.

Father Carl was our after dinner speaker and as expected presented a deep and thought provoking historic overview on the Women In the Church.

After 25 years of leading our services, providing support and much entertainment along the way Father Carl will be missed by our group.

Due to family ill health no report on the October Annual general Meeting was filed. By now most members will know that the committee structure was not finalised. A number of options for a changed format were presented and discussed but put on hold until the New year when a survey of members will be held. The fellowship of our group is too strong to lose and to adapt now, to our changing circumstances, is the route to survival. So put on your thinking caps and consider what you want from A.A.W.

Our first meeting for 2011 will be a Dutch Auction with proceeds going to the Anglican Family care followed by discussion on our future direction.

Thank you for your support over the past months and Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas.

Gwen Hudson *Convener*



Ladies' Guild Report

For our November end-of-year function we went to Swell Café on the Esplanade And had an enjoyable afternoon tea among ourselves.

Margaret Finnie has moved into the Home of St Barnabas. She will be remembered for her gifts of garden produce on Fair Days. Rae Read is now living at Chatsford Retirement Village in Mosgiel. She will be greatly missed for her beautiful embroidery. We wish both these two long-time members well at their new addresses.

Our next meeting will be at 2pm on Tuesday 8th February in the Lounge. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Mary Barton *Secretary*

Nine Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a format for a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music.

The format was based on an Order drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve (24 December) 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10 pm service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve.



The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. Lessons and Carols most often occur in Anglican churches, and in some Roman Catholic and Lutheran parishes and institutions. However numerous Christian churches have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of

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their Christmas celebrations. In the UK, the service has become the standard format for schools' Christmas carol services.

The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge.

The first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, was held on Christmas Eve in 1918. It was conceived by Eric Milner-White, the Dean of the College, whose experience as an army chaplain had led him to believe that more imaginative worship was needed by the Church of England. The order of service was adapted from the order created by Benson for Truro Cathedral 38 years earlier, based on an idea from the future Bishop of Edinburgh, George Henry Somerset Walpole. The music at the first service at King's was directed by Arthur Henry Mann, who was the organist from 1876 to 1929. The choir had 16 trebles as specified in statutes laid down by Henry VI, and until 1927 the men's voices were provided by choral scholars and lay clerks. Today, 14 undergraduates from the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, sing the men's parts.

The service was first broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1928 and, except for 1930, has been broadcast every year since, even throughout World War II despite the

stained glass having been removed from the Chapel and the lack of heating. For security reasons, the name "King's" was not mentioned during wartime broadcasts. During the 1930s the BBC began broadcasting the service on its overseas programmes, and it is estimated that each year there are millions of listeners worldwide who listen to it live on the BBC World Service.

Domestically, the service is broadcast live on BBC Radio 4, and a recorded broadcast is made on Christmas Day on BBC Radio

3.[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nine Lessons and Carols - cite note-King.27s College Chapel: History-2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nine_Lessons_and_Carols_-_cite_note-King.27s_College_Chapel:_History-2) In the USA since 1979, the broadcast has been heard live on public radio stations affiliated with American Public Media, and most stations broadcast a repeat on Christmas Day. From 1963, the service was periodically filmed for television broadcast in the UK.



The format of the first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols did not differ substantially from the one known today. The order of the lessons was revised in 1919, and since that time the service has always begun with the

hymn "Once in Royal David's City". These days the first verse is sung unaccompanied by a solo boy chorister. To avoid putting him under undue stress, the chorister is not told that he will be singing the solo until immediately before the service is to begin.

The Nine Lessons, which are the same every year, are read by representatives of the college and of the City of Cambridge from the 1611 Authorized King James Version of the Bible in the following order: a chorister, a choral scholar, a representative of Cambridge churches, a representative of the City of Cambridge, a representative of King's College's sister college at Eton, the Chaplain, the Director of Music, a fellow of the College, and the Provost of the College. The singing is divided into "carols" which are sung by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, and "hymns" sung by the Choir and congregation. Since 1982 the current Director of Music, Stephen Cleobury, has commissioned a new carol each year on behalf of the College for the Choir. The carols vary from year to year, although some music is repeated. The service ends with the hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (*Acknowledgements to Wikipedia*)

And now, for the Edinburgh of the South ...

Hogmanay is the Scots word for the last day of the year and is synonymous with

the celebration of the New Year (Gregorian calendar) in the Scottish manner. It is, however, normally only the start of a celebration which lasts through the night until the morning of New Year's Day (1 January) or, in some cases, 2 January which is a Scottish Bank Holiday.



The roots of Hogmanay perhaps reach back to the celebration of the winter solstice among the Norse, as well as incorporating customs from the Gaelic New Year's celebration of Samhain. In Rome, winter solstice evolved into the ancient celebration of Saturnalia, a great winter festival, where people celebrated completely free of restraint and inhibition. The Vikings celebrated Yule, which later contributed to the Twelve Days of Christmas, or the "Daft Days" as they were sometimes called in Scotland. The winter festival went underground with the Protestant Reformation and ensuing years, but re-emerged near the end of the 17th century.

There are many customs, both national and local, associated with Hogmanay. The most widespread national custom is the practice of 'first-footing' which starts immediately after midnight. This involves being the first person to cross

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the threshold of a friend or neighbour and often involves the giving of symbolic gifts such as salt (less common today), coal, shortbread, whisky, and black bun (a rich fruit cake) intended to bring different kinds of luck to the householder. Food and drink (as the gifts) are then given to the guests. This may go on throughout the early hours of the morning and well into the next day (although modern days see people visiting houses well into January). The first-foot is supposed to set the luck for the rest of the year. Traditionally, tall dark men are preferred as the first-foot.

The Hogmanay custom of singing "Auld Lang Syne" has become common in many countries. "Auld Lang Syne" is a traditional poem reinterpreted by Robert Burns, which was later set to music. It is now common for this to be sung in a circle of linked arms that are crossed over one another as the clock strikes midnight for New Year's Day, although it is only intended that participants link arms at the beginning of the final verse, coordinating with the lines of the song which contain the lyrics to do so. Typically it is only in Scotland this practice is carried out correctly.
(Acknowledgements to Wikipedia)

Contacts

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Caversham, Dunedin 455 3961.
Vicar's (Bishop's) Warden 455 3613.
People's Warden 456 1141.
Parish Hall bookings 479 0754.
The Parish Hall itself 455 3851.*

Website address:

www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

Calendar

- Sun 12 +ADVENT 3
7pm Compline by Candlelight
Christmas Pot Luck Lunch
- Mon 13 Monday Club
- Wed 15 7.30pm Vestry in the Lounge
- Thu 16 Meditation Group
- Sun 19 +ADVENT 4
7pm *Nine Lessons and Carols*
- Mon 20 Monday Club
- Thu 23 Meditation Group
Games Night
- Fri 24 +CHRISTMAS EVE
11pm Carols
11.30pm Midnight Mass
- Sat 26 +CHRISTMAS DAY
8am Eucharist
10.30am Solemn Eucharist
- Sun 27 +CHRISTMAS 1
- Sun 2 +EPIPHANY
- Sun 10 +EPIPHANY 1
- Sun 16 +EPIPHANY 2
- Sun 23 +EPIPHANY 3
- Sun 30 +EPIPHANY 4
- Sun 6 +CANDLEMAS
- Material for the February Magazine is due today***
- Sun 13 +EPIPHANY 6
- Sun 20 +SEPTUAGESIMA
- Sun 27 +SEXAGESIMA
- Sun 6 +QUINQUAGESIMA

Services

Sundays:
8am Eucharist.
10.30am Solemn Eucharist.
Thursdays: 10am Eucharist