



Anglican Parish of
Caversham Saint Peter,
Dunedin, New Zealand

THE ROCK

December 2012—Christmas



Merry Christmas

By The Editors

Well here we are, almost Christmas Eve. Most of the hustle is over, most of the preparations made, the final 2012 edition of The Rock is

prepared, printed and distributed(!) and we can all start to enjoy the real fruits of Christmas—the peace and hopefulness which stem from the birth of Christ.

As Editors, we have thanks to offer.

* First, to our advertisers, without whose contributions The Rock would be a much greater burden on parish operating funds. Please continue to support them so they may continue to help us

* Second, to our contributors. It was with enormous gratitude and not a little relief that we found so many parishioners willing to offer articles for inclusion. Many of them have contrived to infuse a seasonal air for this edition. Thank you all

Sadly, The Culinary Cleric will no longer appear. **Along with the rest of the Saint Peter's** community, we were very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Father Geoff Hughes just a couple of weeks ago. For the past four months his recipes and associated commentary have graced and improved our pages. We shall miss him for this and for many other reasons

* Finally to our readers. Thank you to those who have mentioned you like our efforts. We hope you continue to do so next year.

And remember, we are always open to your contributions—whether articles, letters, news tips cartoons, jokes, artistic pieces ...

A very Merry Christmas to you all, and best wishes for a happy 2013. We will be back in February. 📧

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*For unto us a child is
born, unto us a son is
given: and the
government shall be
upon his shoulder: and
his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The
everlasting Father, The
Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6

www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

Letters

Hospital Chapel Assistance

I have just received the reminder-letter from the Chaplaincy Administrator that St Peter's next duty Sunday will be on the 20th January 2013. This is a time when many people will be away so I ask you please if you could possibly manage to help even just on this one occasion to contact me at 455 1642 or gemi@slingshot.co.nz.

We need a team of ten members composed entirely, or largely, of adults who are able to manoeuvre wheel-chairs or beds. If we're not there patients who want to attend the service at a time of stress in their lives will be left high and dry, so for God's sake (and I'm not blaspheming) if you can help please do. Thank you,

Michael Forrest, convenor.

The Rock welcomes letters to the Editor. Letters should be no more than 150 words in length and 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

Ask The Vicar

For answers to questions doctrinal, spiritual and liturgical.

Write to: Ask The Vicar,
57 Baker Street,
Caversham,
Dunedin, N.Z. 9012

Or email:

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, 57 Baker Street,
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Dunedin, N.Z. 9012

Emailed to:

AskTheVestry@stpeterscaversham.org.nz

Christmas messages

In my Wellington ministry at **St Peter's, Willis St** we had a young man in our 10 am congregation with aspergers syndrome. This disability made it hard for him to read social situations, to know how to respond appropriately within them, and to exercise empathy and insight in relationships.



Aspergers brings with it a narrow range of obsessional interests—in his case a devotion to the Reverend Ian Paisley, and an abiding interest in the sectarian politics of Northern Ireland.

Looking back I can see that he was one of the most potent sources of pastoral education I have received as he lead me through a variety of challenging situations. Psychiatrists told me that it would be unlikely that he could ever express gratitude for anything that would be done for him.

Christmas Midnight Mass at **St Peter's, Willis St** was a glorious experience, with hundreds of well behaved young adults turning up, and packing even the gallery. The Christmas Day Services were much more modest affairs.

On this particular Christmas I had arranged for another priest to celebrate the last Mass of Christmas day, so I could fly home to

Christchurch to have Christmas Day with my parents. The timing was tight, but it could be done.

Two hours before Christmas Midnight our young man turned up and informed me he had lost the key to his flat earlier that day, and it soon became clear that he had done nothing to retrieve the situation as the day had developed. It also became clear that his usual helpers were not interested in offering him emergency accommodation. It was down to me to deal with the situation. I was furious with him for being so gormless.

At around 2 in the morning of Christmas day, as he and I walked up the road into the Aro Valley towards the Vicarage, I still had steam coming out of my ears. It was then that I heard the words that I had been told that I would never hear – **“thank you, I am grateful that you are doing this for me.”**

Father Hugh Bowron.

I have greatly enjoyed worshipping with you from time to time this year when Father Hugh has been away. Many thanks for

the kind welcome you have given me. May you all have a peaceful, joyful and holy Christmas as we look forward to the dawning of the 2013th year of our Lord.



Be assured of my continued prayers for you all at Saint Peter's.

With love,
Father Roger Barker.

A time of celebration. Angels singing. Shepherds scurrying. Grumpy publicans. Wise men. Christmas trees (with a fairy on the top). Presents. Goodwill and general bonhomie. Oh, and also, a baby.

Ask a lot of Kiwis what Christmas is all about, and you'll probably get an answer like the

(Continued on page 3)



Christmas messages

(Continued from page 2)

comments above.

But you and I know, or we ought to know, that this is all about God coming to earth. God made man, through the birth of the **Christ child. That's it in a nutshell. God,** and a baby.

There was nothing glamorous about it. The birth of Jesus was an event that probably took place amid squalor, in a garage at the back of the local pub. Amid the wrecks of old cars, the stink of old engine oil, and tools tramped into the dust.



So what about the angels, and all the rest? Well, I very much doubt if they were there as the gospels record—they may be the add-ons of writers who wanted to glorify a world-shattering event. And why not? They all help us sing, **"Glory to God in the highest"**

A happy—and blessed—Christmas to you all.

Archdeacon Bernard Wilkinson.

Christmas at sea

By Ian Condie

Christmas to New Zealanders conjures up mental images of bathing suits, sun frocks, shorts, barbecues, beer and arguments about the relative merits of beach or back yard. Merchant seamen did not have those problems. It was all decided for them and the menu depended on the abilities of Chief Steward and Cook—and the liberality or otherwise of the owners.

One Christmas which sticks in the mind was celebrated not all that far from the site of the original one. The Red Sea is well named; it is hot at all times and with the wind astern, no air conditioning, no movement of air and the accommodation grouped round a nice hot engine room it is very unpleasant.

On top of that someone with a perverted sense of humour decided to have a traditional English Christmas dinner. Ice cream there was not. Hot soup, hot turkey, hot roast beef with accompanying vegetables and hot steamed pudding there was in abundance. Liquid refreshment, apart from hot coffee, was limited to one can of beer and jugs of water containing ice cubes that rapidly melted.

Not only were the stewards dressed in long trousers and white jackets fastened up to the neck as usual, the officers were not excused from wearing their normal uniform of white starched - yes, starched - shirts and shorts, knee length woollen stockings and white canvas shoes.



Not only the officers dressed for Christmas

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

We did our best, sweat running down everywhere and starch surrendering, aided by the imagination of what the Cook and his staff had suffered in the Galley while preparing the feast and, perhaps, by the thought that it was by such stoicism that the British Empire had been created. 📺

"Gifted" - a gift solution with many winners

By Joan Dutton

PARISH CWS CONTACT



Gift-giving can be a difficult decision. If this is so for you, CWS may just have the answer.

Have you seen the leaflet at the back of the church or in the Link entitled, 'Gifted...giving that works'? It describes 'gifts' you can select at a sum which meets your budget and a need that amount can satisfy in a variety of countries less developed than New Zealand.

The leaflet explains how the gift works: 'Select your Gift from the options - pick the country, gift or value that suits you best - CWS will send you a magnet inside a card with details of what your gift will achieve. You send the card and magnet to your recipient. Your purchase becomes a donation, helping people in a developing country build better lives.'

Why not think about doing something different next time you are wracking your brains for a suitable gift (one of those so difficult close-to-Christmas birthdays perhaps?) and bring joy to your recipient and to the person receiving the help sorely needed in their country.

Pick up a leaflet from the church and read about how you can help. And don't forget to have a look at the Christmas Appeal display to see how the help you give is helping others to rebuild lives disrupted by violence or natural disasters. 📺



More online

<http://www.cws.org.nz/>

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Alan Gillion



Art in the church

4: An English Public School, Zimbabwe and New Zealand

By Pamela Welch

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I left Tottenham after four years to become Assistant Chaplain at Bryanston School in Blandford, Dorset, which catered for young from the opposite end of the social scale: it was one of the major English public schools. It had a free and unusual tradition of schooling, however, which was tailored to the individual originally, though by my time work was also being done in classrooms, in largish classes. Freedom and individuality remained hallmarks of the Bryanston system, however, and I was able to have groups of young in my room, talking about things that matter, or lying on the carpet, meditating with music in the background. There was always plenty of paper and coloured pens around, so people could “draw their feelings” if they so wanted. I was also able to organize a weekend away for a large group, when Peg and Alan Glendining and two Roman Catholic nuns joined me.

The youngsters were much concerned about ‘image’ and popularity at the school and one of the exercises we did was to make and decorate masks, masks which showed our ‘true personality’ (or whatever aspect of it we wanted to express) rather than our ‘image’. We then put these masks on and all prowled round the large central room looking at one another and what was hidden/revealed by the masks. It was an extraordinarily powerful and unsettling experience but we all learned a lot from it. I have no photographs of this

occasion, though I could still reconstruct the mask I made.

There is another striking thing I remember about that weekend. I knew how hard it was to return from a deep and personally-changing experience (the place of religious retreat) to the workaday world and to others who had not been there and who did not share the bonds and trust created by the shared experience. So I said to the young, as I got on the coach, that we should use the journey as a time of transition, as a “wood between the worlds” (which is a reference to C.S. Lewis’s first book about Narnia, “The Magician’s Nephew”) and suggested we keep silence until we got to school. The journey was about two hours long but that coach load of teenagers, boys and girls in equal numbers, sat in complete and profound silence for the whole trip. It was enormously moving.

As to what happened next, well, I began to explore at an academic level the religious history of my own country and people (the settlers of

Zimbabwe); returned there, married and found myself after a while, working with paint and stories and mums (and a few dads) and children again. In 2001, for the last Easter before we left to seek refuge in New Zealand, the combined Sunday School made another triptych, on theatre flats. Each board was about two and a half metres high and the

figure of Christ on the Cross, and again in the Garden of the Resurrection, was life-size.

These huge pieces of art were stationed in the church for the three days of the Triduum of Easter liturgy and used for meditations and homilies. Each was a collage of paintings done by the children in response to the events of the three days—the crucifixion, the quiet of the tomb and the resurrection. And something happened that still gives me an extraordinary feeling when I remember it. When the paintings for Holy Saturday were pasted on to the board, all in their soft subdued colours and we stood back to look at the effect, we found in front of us not just the shape of a rock-tomb in a garden, but Jerusalem itself, with its hills and domes. The other thing I remember is a little painting done by one of the youngest children, a tiny Shona boy with enormous eyes. He had painted something very important to him—a helicopter—and that was pasted on too, near the foot of the cross on the Good Friday painting. I made sure to show him where it was and he regarded it very, very seriously. It would be nice to think that experience is something he too will never forget. 📺

Next: Here ends the current series, but our author has other ideas, so keep watching [The Rock](#).



“The Crucifixion”



“The Quiet of the Tomb”



“The Resurrection”

PHOTO'S: SUPPLIED



Nutritious

The joyous feast of Christmas



By Alex Chisholm

So many of our memories of Christmas are associated with foods. Wonderful smells issuing from warm

kitchens, especially in colder northern countries where the long dark evenings seem to invite creative Advent activities and Christmas preparations.

In Germany, hours may be spent in creating special decorative Christmas biscuits called

Weihnachtsplätzchen. These take longer to make than our Christmas cakes and unlike fruit cakes cannot be stored for long. Thus many batches of biscuits must be made and decorated as they are often given as gifts as well.

The special foods associated with the Christmas festivities are in this day and age usually abundant, posing a challenge to people watching their diet. Previously there was something of a

counterbalance, the practice of abstaining from certain foods for a prolonged period of time, coupled with the lower availability of richer foods. In the past, abstinence or fasting was a more widespread practice, especially in the time span preceding major feasts. In some branches of the church this involved strict fasting (no meat, fish, dairy or other animal product, wine or oil) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and a lesser abstinence on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fish, but no other animal product was allowed on Saturdays and Sundays. In this setting the tradition of rich Christmas fare is different. It was special food, made with ingredients, which were not necessarily

available at other times of the year but sold at Christmas Markets, a tradition that continues in many parts of Europe today. The form & content of some of these dishes was different to what we know



Weihnachtsplätzchen

PHOTO.: WWW.GERMANY-INSIDER-FACTS.COM

today—for instance both mince pies and Christmas pudding contained meat in addition to dried fruits and spices. This was probably related to the exclusion of meat during the fast. Interestingly, nuts are not mentioned. Thus they would have been a

permitted fasting food and a useful source of protein, fat, vitamins and minerals. Given the results of recent research on their high satiety value, healthful fats and lack of effect on weight, nuts may also be a useful food for assisting with one problem associated with Christmas eating today—namely how to cope with rather too much rich food, generally high in animal fats.

Nuts in their shells are something often associated with Christmas—eaten either outdoors or sitting around a candle lit table indoors. That a little action is required before the nuts are consumed, adds to the relaxed enjoyment of food and pleasant company.

Healthier recipes incorporating nuts can

(Continued on page 6)



A Christmas Market

PHOTO.: SUPPLIED

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<http://www.heartfoundation.org.nz/healthy-living/healthy-recipes/christmas-cake-with-frosted-fruit>

<http://www.heartfoundation.org.nz/blog-stories/blog/the-christmas-menu>

<http://www.heartfoundation.org.nz/healthy-living/healthy-recipes/category/christmas>

<http://www.unclejoes.co.nz/>

Father Geoff Hughes RIP

By The Vicar

There was a paradox in Father Geoff Hughes' personality which originated in his family background. His stepfather, who was the predominant male influence on his growing up years, was deeply grounded in Victorian values and outlook, and he transferred much of this by osmosis to Geoff. You could detect this influence in some of his characteristic turns of phrase. It also gave him some traditional assumptions about the way the world ought to be. Yet at the time there was a bohemian side to his personality that brought with it by association some advanced views and unorthodox opinions about life. At times these different sides to him emerged in unexpected ways and in surprising juxtapositions.



The photo-board on display after Father Geoff's Requiem was testament to these different facets of his personality. Some of the images of him seemed to be of rather different people. And in a way the two successive vocations of his adult life—that of art teacher and of Anglican parson played out these different internal agendas.

Yet his choice of an Anglo-Catholic idiom in which to express his priesthood brought these two sides of his personality together.

A traditional view of the Church, rich in history, with an appreciation of its hierarchical ordering, could be combined with a flair for drama, visual display, and the sensuous mediums of



An artifact of Father Geoff's time as art teacher at Gore High School and thought to be his work

aesthetic expression. Here was a way in which Victorian traditionalist and bohemian artist could be reconciled.

We shall miss this warm hearted, pastoral minded priest. Cathedral clergy processions will be the less interesting for the loss of priest and dog making a grand entrance together. Sunday potluck lunches will be without the rich and tasty dishes he always brought to them. And we share with Michael our sorrow at the absence of a lively and engaging member of the parish family ☹️



At morning tea in November with (left to right) Edith Sahagun, Dorice Preston and Jean Allen

PHOTO.: ALEX CHISHOLM



More online at

[www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz/In Memoriam/ Geoff Hughes.html](http://www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz/In_Memoriam/Geoff_Hughes.html)

Joyous feast

(Continued from page 5)

put a new spin on some old favourites, for example, the Hazelnut Meringue Cake at right.

If you have to watch your blood cholesterol and intend to keep to your healthy diet, I can recommend the recipes provided by the Heart Foundation of NZ, free to download from their website (see below). They even have a menu and complete "recipe package" for Christmas. I for one will certainly be making use of it. There is also a good selection of traditional baking, in slightly amended form.

Whether you decide to try something new, or stick with the traditional, I wish you a joyful Christmas. ☹️

Hazelnut Meringue Cake

Ingredients

- ⇒ 140g Uncle Joe's Hazelnut Meal
- ⇒ 4 egg whites
- ⇒ 250 gm caster sugar
- ⇒ 1/2 tsp vanilla essence
- ⇒ 4 drops of vinegar

Serve with

- ⇒ 300ml fresh cream
- ⇒ 250g fresh berries
- ⇒ icing sugar

Method

- ⇒ Beat egg whites until stiff, add sugar and continue beating until satiny smooth

- ⇒ Add vanilla and vinegar, then fold in Uncle Joe's Hazelnut Meal
- ⇒ Bake in two sponge tins (baking paper on bottom), for 45 minutes at 180°C, until crisp and lightly browned
- ⇒ Cool on wire rack
- ⇒ To serve, put whipped cream on one half, place the fruit (lychees or strawberries) and then top with the other half
- ⇒ Sprinkle with a bit of icing sugar.

Serve as a dessert or with coffee.

Meringue can be made the day before.

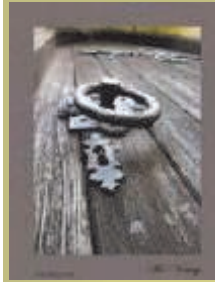
From: <http://www.unclejoes.co.nz/Recipes/Hazelnut+Meal+Recipes/Hazelnut+Meringue+Cake.html>

Regular Services

please consult The Pebble or our website for variations

All services are held at Saint Peter's unless noted otherwise

SUNDAY:	8am	Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer
	10.30am	Solemn Eucharist
TUESDAY:	11am	Eucharist in the Chapel of St Barnabas' Home, Ings Avenue
THURSDAY:	10am	Eucharist
FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH:	11am	Eucharist in the lounge of Frances Hodgkins Retirement Village, Fenton Crescent



Vestry In Brief :

Items of note in November were:

- ⇒ Following false fire alarms, new sensors have been fitted
 - ⇒ The flag of St George is flying from the flagpole; Compass Rose flag is now on order
 - ⇒ A new thurible has been purchased; parishioners have been very generous
 - ⇒ First meeting of the fully stipended vicars with more orthodox beliefs was held on 1st November
 - ⇒ Frances Hodgkins Retirement Village to have an extra Christmas service
 - ⇒ A motion was carried to capitalise 25% of the interest from Saint Peter the Less trust fund and 100% of the interest from welfare and Corstorphine/Concord church funds
 - ⇒ Hall repainting will be carried out after Christmas. Parishioners have raised half the money, the remainder will come from the hall maintenance account (to be repaid by future fund raising)
 - ⇒ Urgent repairs to cracks in the east and west church walls will be carried out as soon as possible
 - ⇒ On November 25th we will farewell Edith and Elio **Sahagun and also celebrate Jo Steele's 90th** birthday
 - ⇒ David Hoskins is in charge of the heritage Christening gown given to us by a former parishioner
 - ⇒ New advertisers for The Rock are required.
- Heather Brooks (Vestry Secretary)

The Rock

is published by

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PRE-PRINT SERVICES BY:

Information Services Otago Ltd.

PRINTED BY:

Dunedin Print Ltd.

Special Services

Contact The Vicar to



arrange baptisms,
weddings, house
blessings, burials,
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special services.



For your diary

Sunday, 23 December:	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 7pm.
Monday, 24 December:	Christmas Eve. Carols at 11pm followed by Midnight Mass at 1130.
Tuesday, 25 December:	Christmas Day. 8am Holy Communion. 10.30am Solemn Eucharist.
Monday, 31 December:	New Year's Eve. 10pm Vigil of Readings and celebration of the Eucharist using the Liturgy of St Basil followed by New Year's Eve party. See <u>The Pebble of 18 September.</u>
Sunday, 20 January:	Hospital Chapel Assistance. Contact Michael Forrest for further information.
Monday 14 January:	Saint Peter's Film Season. 'Letters to Fr Jacob'.
Monday, 21 January:	Saint Peter's Film Season. "The Island".
Monday, 28 January:	Saint Peter's Film Season. "Molokai".

Catch-up in pictures



This photo of Father Hugh preaching at St Paul's Waiwhetu arrived too late for the story in the October Rock

PHOTO: JOHN TAIT



On 25 November, Saint Peter's celebrated Jo Steele's 90th birthday and farewelled Edith and Eli Sahagun as they left for Blenheim

PHOTO: RONDA TATNELL



On 17 October, AAW members gathered in Saint Peter's Parish Centre ...



... where the Bishop talked of recently walking the Santiago de Compostela

PHOTO'S: RONDA TATNELL

Fellowship ends 2012 in style; looks to future

By Gwen Hudson

The Saint Peter's Fellowship held its final get-together for the year at The Home of St Barnabas.

Father Hugh officiated at the Eucharist prior to the evening's

entertainment and meal. Raylene had organised a Christmas novelty, a poem involving the very active exchange of Christmas gifts, after which we enjoyed the usual sumptuous and extensive St Barnabas Christmas Dinner. Thank you Raylene for organising what was an enjoyable end to the year.

It is now two years since our group

changed to a more informal format. With all changes it is important, after a time, to evaluate the positive and negative impacts. To this end I suggest a late January meeting to assess "where we are at" and plan for the coming year, date to be advised.

Best Wishes for the Festive Season. 📺

Win for Faye-Noel

Saint Peter's parishioner Faye-Noel Brown found fame in local media last month by winning the Floral Art Society of New Zealand Designer of the Year title for the region. Years of practice with floral arrangements in Saint Peter's have paid dividends over and above the joy and pleasure of congregations.

Congratulations from us all Faye-Noel.

Raffle wins too

Mary Barton reports that a raffle drawn on 2 December raised \$320 towards the Hall Refurbishment fund.

Winners were Eileen Pratt (Hair Care Products), Helen Dwyer (Patchwork Wall Hanging) and Bruce Moore (Crochet Rug).

Win in Zimbabwe

Pamela Welch has received news from friends in Zimbabwe of the results of a recent court case "which has given the Anglicans back their churches (after they were seized by the renegade bishop Kunonga, 6 years ago)".

We are hoping to feature the full story in a 2013 issue of The Rock.

Third lecture a success

The final of the Caversham Lectures for this year was presented to appreciative audiences earlier this month.

Now a feature of Dunedin theological life, the lectures will continue in 2013. 📺