



# THE ROCK



Anglican Parish of  
Cabersham Saint Peter,  
Dunedin, New Zealand

March 2019—Lent

## An era ends ...

**S**aint Peter's has long celebrated the lengthy service of Father Carl Somers-Edgar, with 20 years at the helm. The parish Annual General Meeting held this month marked the end of an even longer incumbency in the parish.

When Tubby Hopkins (pictured at right) stepped down from the post of Vicar's Warden it marked the end of 25 years' continuous service in the role.

Speaking to the AGM the Vicar, Father Hugh Bowron, paid tribute to Tubby as "... a worker, a willing helper whose collegial advice and assistance has been vital ... over the past seven years [since becoming Vicar and 'inheriting' Tubby from Father Carl]".

Tubby is to continue as a Vestry member and nominator.



## Evensong confusion clarification

**M**isunderstanding amongst people responsible for publishing the extended Evensong and Benediction Service times resulted in some materials saying the Service would be held on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month.

This is not so.

Evensong and Benediction are held fortnightly. We will endeavour to publish upcoming "Evensong Sundays" in *For Your Diary* on page 7 and in *Coming Events* on the home page of our website.

## ... another opens



The AGM heard that Deirdre Harris (pictured at left) is to take over the mantle of Vicar's Warden.

Deirdre has a long-standing connection with the Church. Her paternal grandparents were stalwarts of Holy Trinity, Avonside and her father installed stained-glass windows in Christchurch.

To eclipse Tubby's record Deirdre will need to remain in post until 2045. *The Rock* will of course mark the occasion when the time comes

*More online:*



A profile of Deirdre (and her husband Warwick) appeared in *The Rock* of June 2015  
<http://www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz/The%20Rock/1506.pdf>

## No other changes

Vestry membership did not change at this year's AGM, other than for the new Vicar's Warden joining ex officio. The Vestry comprises Alex Chisholm, Ken Ferguson, Tubby Hopkins, David Hoskins, Kate Paterson and David Scoular, with the Vicar's Warden (Deirdre Harris), People's Warden (Di Bunker), Vicar (Father Hugh Bowron) and Assistant Priest (Father Brian Kilkelly) as unelected members.



Evensong  
And  
Benediction

**Every second Sunday  
at 5pm**  
March 31<sup>st</sup>; April 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Join us for this quintessentially  
Anglican close to the weekend

The Service includes:

Evensong  
Benediction of the Blessed  
Sacrament  
Shrine Prayers

# Why private funerals are a bad idea



By The Vicar

Soon after my ordination I was asked to take the funeral of a middle aged man who had lived close by. When I arrived at the widow's house she told me she wanted a private funeral at the Crematorium with a very limited guest list, so limited in fact that their son would not be attending because the experience would be "too upsetting for him". In my youthful inexperience I weakly agreed and went on to preside at this deeply unsatisfactory Service.

Since then I am pleased to report that most of the funeral Services I have taken have been publicly advertised and attended by all those who wished to. Yet in recent years I have noticed a trend towards private funerals and these have almost always posed a difficult pastoral dilemma for me.



Funerals "provide a vital opportunity to say goodbye".

[HTTPS://STMARYMAPLEPARK.ORG/](https://stmarymaplepark.org/)

What funeral Services do is provide a vital opportunity to say goodbye to the person who has died. They help us to let go of the person concerned, to accept that we have a different relationship to them now and this of course is a great help to the grieving process. Sometimes we attend the funerals of people we didn't have a close personal relationship with but who nevertheless were part of an organisation, or work place environment, or leisure group we belong to. We attend as a way of honouring them and of acknowledging the contribution they made to the group we belong to. Sometimes we attend the funeral Services of people we didn't like but it is important and helpful to acknowledge their passing and to hear other perspectives on their life which can open us to a more positive assessment of who and what they were.

Human beings are communal beings. They belong in collective groups. They are made for life together. They are shaped and formed in their individual identity by the influence which many people have had on them in their growing up and maturing years, indeed right up to the end of their lives. We learn and grow from those around us. Even contemplative monks and nuns, who live in almost total silence within the seclusion of their cells, live in religious communities and are within themselves an assemblage of roles and outlooks on life bestowed on them by others. Privacy has its severe limits. We don't just belong to our families or whatever tight knit group we hung out with. We belong to a greater whole. As John Donne wrote:

No man is an island.

The life of each person touches others at many points and in many different ways. We may think we know someone really well and assume they knew very few others and we would be almost certainly wrong. These others are the ones who miss out in private funerals. They are left bewildered, perplexed and sometimes hurt when they find out in the paper or by word of mouth that the funeral Service of the one they knew is a fait accompli, now over and done with.

Private funerals which exclude the members of the congregation a church going Christian belonged to create even more distress. The person they worshipped with and had fellowship with, often over many years, appears to have disappeared into the ether. Christians belong together in a collective group known as the Body of Christ. Christ encouraged his followers to think of this group as more important than their families. This is why it is so essential that the members of Christ's body gather

(Continued on page 6)

## 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)

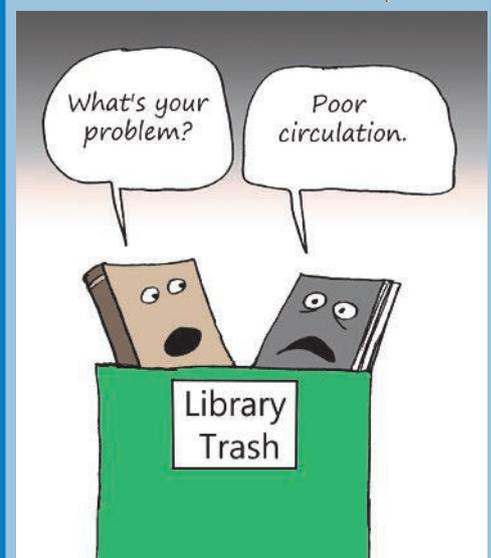
## The Articles of Religion

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

XXXII. Of the Marriage of Priests.

Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, are not commanded by God's Law, either to vow the estate of single life, or to abstain from marriage: therefore it is lawful for them, as for all other Christian men, to marry at their own discretion, as they shall judge the same to serve better to godliness.

## The Frolicsome Friar



SOURCE: WWW.HOWTOGEEK.COM.

# Our Isle of Lewis trip (i)

By Ken Ferguson

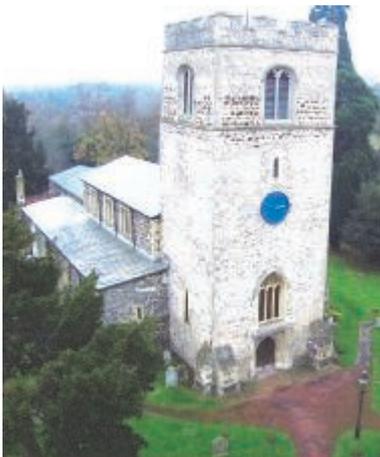
**P**lanning for our 2018/2019 Christmas and New Year trip to The Isle Of Lewis commenced in mid 2018 and even then Joan and I wondered if 10 weeks was too long to be away from home.

However, as we wanted to stop over in Perth Western Australia and have Christmas with our daughters Sarah and Mairi we decided to go in the beginning of December and have four weeks in Perth and Kambalda.

It was HOT!

By the first week in the new year I was ready for the cooler temperatures of Scotland.

We flew to Doha and then Doha to London and stayed with my sister Mary who lives in Buckinghamshire in a small village called Iver. Iver is a quintessential English village consisting of a couple of pubs, shops, a St Peter's Anglican Church and a school, etc.



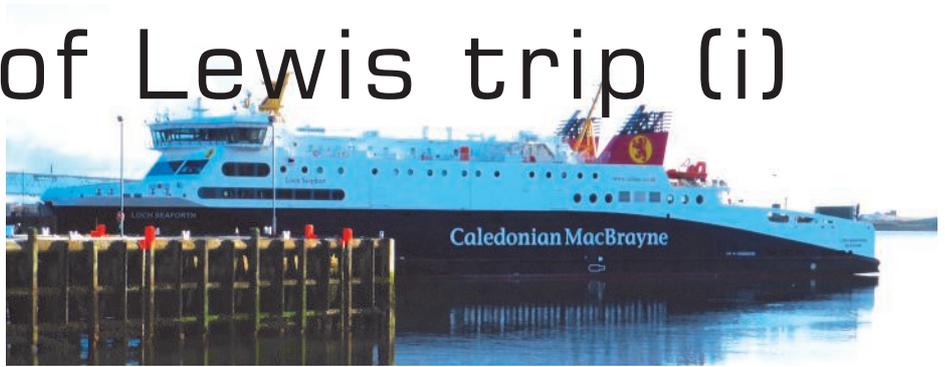
St Peter's Iver.

PHOTO.: [HTTP://IVERPARISHCHURCH.ORG.UK/](http://iverparishchurch.org.uk/).

Iver is approximately 28 miles out of London and two weeks gave us ample opportunity to visit historic churches, museums and enjoy some lovely winter country rambles.

St Bartholomew the Great, in London city, was definitely my favourite. Joan and I attended two consecutive Sunday services and we felt blessed by the glorious music and spiritual dignity of the church.

After two weeks in London we set off for the Isle of Lewis, by British Rail. After two days in Glasgow, by rail again we left for Inverness—the fastest growing area in the United



“From there the Caledonian MacBrayne Ferry leaves for Lewis twice a day”.

PHOTO.: SUPPLIED.

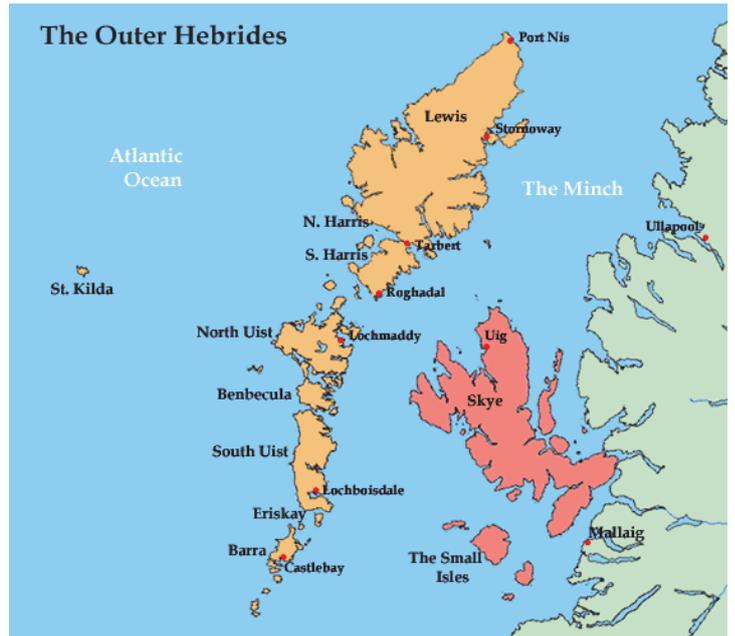
Kingdom.

We then left Inverness by bus for the small highland coastal town of Ullapool. From there the Caledonian MacBrayne Ferry leaves for Lewis twice a day, weather permitting.

The bus trip from Inverness to Ullapool was not for the faint hearted as it turned out.

It was late in to afternoon, the road was covered by snow and ice and the driver obviously wanted to complete a two hour trip in record time. The road was narrow and winding which didn't help him achieve his goal.

Arriving in Ullapool the driver hit the kerb coming alongside the ferry terminal, much to the alarm of the passengers, which resulted in the bus door jamming shut and unable to be opened.



Map of the Outer Hebrides showing Ullapool, The Minch and Stornoway.

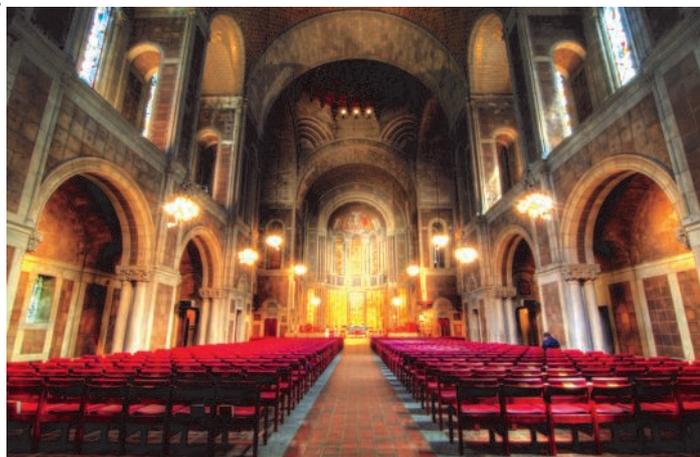
IMAGE: [HTTPS://DEBORAHJAYAUTHOR.COM](https://deborahjayauthor.com).

Assistance was needed from terminal staff in prising the door open from the outside.

We spent the night in Ullapool, a typical western highland night—cold and sleeting. That didn't disappoint me at all!

The Outer Hebrides, of which Lewis is the main Island, is a string of islands off the north west coast of Scotland. Remote, windswept and possessed of a rugged beauty it maybe doesn't appeal to everybody, but certainly does to me.

It is separated from the mainland by a stretch of water named The Minch which can be extremely treacherous when rough.



St Bartholomew the Great.

PHOTO.: SUPPLIED.

Next Month:  
We get to Lewis.



# In Saint Peter's Garden



By Warwick Harris

## The Life of a Tree



The Tree of Life.



"Deirdre and I walked quickly over sand to find the shade".

In the south of the main island of Bahrain, an area part of the Arabian Desert, there is a lonely tree of the species *Prosopis cineraria*, known as the Tree of Life. It is close to 10 metres tall and has been estimated to be older than 400 years. This is supported by a dendrochronological analysis in 1990 which indicated it was planted in 1582! Important for its survival, it has roots which extend 50 metres into the soil, perhaps allowing it to take up water from the Damman aquifer which underlies Bahrain. As a plant of the pea family it is able to fix nitrogen, a key element for plant growth and survival, from the air. Tolerance of highly alkaline and saline soil may also aid its survival.

The tree species is widely distributed, native to arid regions of Western Asia and the Indian Subcontinent and introduced to southeast Asia. It is the

national tree of the United Arab Emirates, where it is known by the common name Ghaf.

The Tree of Life is an important attraction for the residents and visitors to Bahrain with more than 65,000 visitors a year. It has prompted several curious theories about its origin and means of survival—a relic of what was once the Garden of Eden, its protection by the water god Enki of the ancient Babylonians and Sumerians and an innate ability to extract water from the sand in which it grows.

There are likely less fanciful explanations as to why The Tree survives where it is. In 2010 archaeologists found 500-year old pottery near the tree and close to it are foundations of ruined buildings. Perhaps, when the level of the Damman aquifer was higher, before human depletion of its water, it was an oasis. Currently, an occasional judicious watering may be an aid to its healthy survival?

Forty kilometres' drive in an air-conditioned vehicle from Manama, Bahrain's ultra-modern high-rise capital, took us to The Tree. There were few visitors that day. Deirdre and I walked quickly over sand to find the shade The Tree provides from searing sun. Distracted by what may be foundations of ruined buildings and what seemed to be a



A 'nodding donkey' raising crude oil from the Bahrain oil field.

PHOTO'S: SUPPLIED.

vent into soil below the tree, I overlooked glancing upwards to see The Tree's bipinnate leaves along thorned stems. These leaves must have remarkable resistance to withstand the sun's searing heat.

A discrete distance from The Tree there is a low-slung oblong building

which displays old photos of The Tree. Looking from there towards the direction we had travelled from Manama, we could see the pumpjacks, nodding donkeys, which raise crude oil from the Bahrain oil field. A maze of pipelines gathers crude oil for refining.

Presently this oil is the primary life blood of Bahrain's economy. The oil field began production in the 1930s, but its reserves are calculated to last only for 10 to 15 more years. This has prompted efforts to diversify Bahrain's economy, tourism being one activity receiving attention. However, in 2018 it was announced that undersea exploration to the east of Bahrain has discovered vast "tight oil" and gas reserves. "Tight oil" is oil held in layers of shale deep below the Earth's surface which can be released by fracking. So likely, oil will sustain the economic life of Bahrain for much longer yet. 🇧🇭



## Nutritious Fibre in Focus

(Continued from page 4)

But she says: "It is not easy to increase fibre in the diet".

Professor Cummings agrees. "It's a big change for people," he says. "It's quite a challenge". As with all dietary recommendations however, these need to be tailored to the individual. There will be huge differences in people's ability to consume the amounts of foods required to reach the fibre targets. We just need to think of a healthy active student, who also plays sport, and an older person who has not only a lower energy requirement but also a reduced appetite and is generally not so active. I do wonder though as higher fibre diets were more common in times past, if those reaching older ages now have in fact benefited from eating patterns with higher levels of fibre intake in their younger years. 🇯🇵

### REFERENCES:

- WWW.THELANCET.COM PUBLISHED ONLINE JANUARY 10, 2018  
[HTTP://DX.DOI.ORG/10.1016/S0140-6736\(18\)31809-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)31809-9)
- [HTTPS://WWW.ODT.CO.NZ/NEWS/DUNEDIN/CAMPUS/UNIVERSITY-OF-OTAGO/FIBRE-EVEN-BETTER-YOU-OTAGO-STUDY-SHOWS](https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/campus/university-of-otago/fibre-even-better-you-otago-study-shows)
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[HTTPS://WWW.BBC.COM/NEWS/HEALTH-46827426](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-46827426)
- [HTTPS://NUTRITIONFOUNDATION.ORG.NZ/NUTRITION-FACTS/NUTRIENTS/CARBOHYDRATES/FIBRE](https://nutritionfoundation.org.nz/nutrition-facts/nutrients/carbohydrates/fibre)
- [HTTPS://WWW.HEALTHYFOOD.CO.NZ/ASK-THE-EXPERTS/FIBRE-RDI](https://www.healthyfood.co.nz/ask-the-experts/fibre-rdi)

By **Di Bunker,**  
**People's Warden**

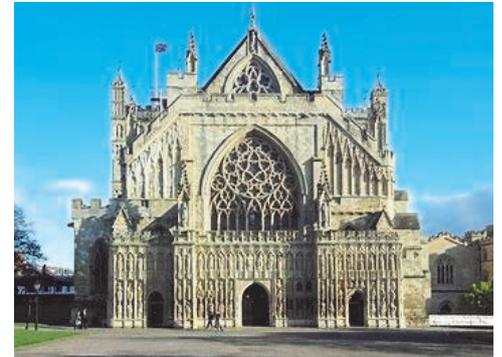
**T**he area of Cathedral Close, Exeter, has been in the centre of Exeter, Devon, England since Roman times when there was a basilica and a bath house in this area. A church was established here by the 7<sup>th</sup> century when a young Saint Boniface came from Crediton to study. The area was walled after 1283 and seven gates into the yard were created. The gates included one at St Petrocks and the original grand entrance into the yard—Broadgate. This created the cathedral close.

The founding of the cathedral at Exeter, dedicated to Saint Peter, dates from 1050, when the seat of the bishop of Devon and Cornwall was transferred from Crediton because of a fear of sea-raids. A Saxon minster



already existing within the town was used by Leofric as his seat, but services were often held out of doors, close to the site of the present cathedral building.

As a school girl (ages ago!) I attended the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding. The Archbishop of Canterbury also attended. 📷



Exeter Cathedral

PHOTO'S AND RESEARCH: WIKIPEDIA.

## Annual General Meeting

*(Continued from page 8)*

efficient service pro bono and out of the goodness of her heart. We are very grateful.”

Father Hugh went on to talk about Parish musical events, the Caversham Lectures and the completion of his time on the Selwall Board. 📷

## Private funerals a bad idea

*(Continued from page 2)*

together to farewell one of their members and to rejoice together in the promise of resurrection.

The aftermath of private funerals often requires a pastoral mopping up exercise as the excluded struggle to cope with the painful feelings left in the wake of the disappearance someone significant to them. Often this task falls to the clergy. At Saint Peter's we try to deal with this by holding a Requiem Mass, usually on a Saturday. That is a helpful thing to do but it is not the same as a Service with the body present, a tangible reminder of our mortality and of the confronting reality that it is time to say our goodbyes and to accept that they are gone—for now anyway.

Our culture has come to prize autonomy and individualism as reigning values and virtues. I guess this is why people think they can fence off their death and departure rituals from others. But this is a false and unhelpful view of the way things are. St Paul got it in one when he wrote:

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

ROMANS 14: 7 📷

## CHURCHWARDEN CORNER

### Nutifacts

- ◆ Broccoli is native to the Mediterranean and was first mentioned in France in 1520AD. When broccoli was first introduced to Britain it was called "Italian asparagus", the name coming from the Italian 'brocco' and the Latin 'bracchium' which means branch, arm or shoot. Broccoli means 'little sprouts' in Italian
- ◆ Broccolini was developed in Japan where it was called

Chinese Kale. 'Broccolini' is a trademark of the Mann Produce Company. A natural cross between broccoli and gai lan or Chinese broccoli it is a member of the brassica family which is often misidentified as young broccoli. Broccolini has a long slender stem topped with small flowering buds which resemble a cross between broccoli florets and an asparagus tip. 📷

## Reserve improvements

**T**he Caversham Community Group and Dunedin City Council have developed a concept design to improve Caversham Reserve at 230 South Road.

The intention is to create a more attractive and inviting space which will draw the Caversham community outdoors. 📷



More online at the Caversham Community Group Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/caversham9012>

## Regular Services

(for variations consult *The Pebble* or 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: **every second Sunday:** 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.

### Parish Contacts:

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#### ASSISTANT PRIEST:

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Di Bunker  
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#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

#### AND PARISH CENTRE MANAGER:

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# Vestry Notes

By Alex Chisholm

Vestry Secretary

Vestry meetings are generally held every two months. Notable features of the February meeting were:

- ◆ Sean O'Neill of Hanlons gave his preliminary engineering and geo-technical report (See *The Pebble* of 3 March 2019 for details)
- ◆ Father Hugh reported on changes to the Evensong and Benediction Service which is now being held fortnightly. There have been improvements to the Service to include the traditional Introduction and Confession. The numbers attending have increased and we have made alterations in the food arrangements. This has resulted in a welcome increase in those bringing contributions to the shared refreshments
- ◆ The popular "Fish & Chip" Eucharist will return for all the Fridays in Lent
- ◆ On Saturday, 2 March there will be a presentation on 'The Advent of Ritualism in the Diocese of Dunedin' to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Diocese. After morning tea, it will be followed by a Solemn Sung Requiem Eucharist for Bishop Samuel Tarratt Nevill
- ◆ A Church History board has been suggested by Warwick Harris and there was wide ranging discussion on various possibilities, especially whether this should be a mounted display or involve information which people could take with them. For further discussion—watch this space
- ◆ Church Access-preliminary exchange of views on a number of suggestions for advertising when the church is open and someone available to answer questions. This issue will be taken up again at the next Vestry Meeting
- ◆ Rite A revised-after a trial period this is now going to be taken further. (Subsequently, the Bishop's approval has been granted for regular use of this rite)
- ◆ The altar microphone has been an ongoing problem proving resistant to the ministrations of various technical services. (Subsequently, thanks to skilled assistance from Ron McLeod we now have a working microphone). 📺

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FUNERAL SERVICES

## For your diary

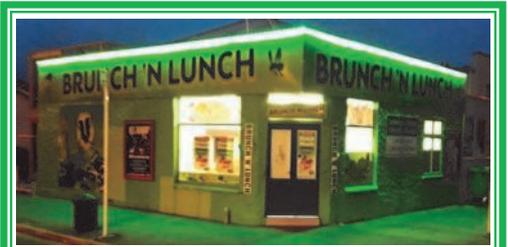
- Each Friday until Good Friday:** Fish and Chip Eucharist in the lounge at 5.30pm
- Sunday, 31 March:** Evensong and Benediction
- Sunday, 21 April:** Deadline for copy for the April edition of *The Rock*
- Saturday, 6 April:** Garage Sale
- Sunday, 14 April:** Evensong and Benediction
- Sunday, 28 April:** Evensong and Benediction
- Saturday, 18 May:** Organ recital by Kemp English at 2.30pm
- Saturday, 7 September:** Concert by The St Kilda Brass Band ("The Saints")

# Annual General Meeting



The Vicar (standing) thanks Danielle Harrison (seated at right) for her work as treasurer during the year.

PHOTO: ALEX CHISHOLM.



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## By Alex Chisholm, Secretary to the meeting

Father Hugh commenced his report with an amusing update on the outcome of the 2017 saga of the birds in the Vicarage roof. This unfortunate state of affairs was discovered after the ceiling of one of the guest bedrooms collapsed! During the repairs and strengthening of that ceiling many birds' nests were found over the other guest bedroom ceiling and swiftly removed. The completed work means the guest room with the repaired ceiling is the safest place to be upstairs. It is worth noting that Tubby Hopkins, in his role as Vicar's Warden, was responsible for facilitating cost coverage of the repairs. As Father Hugh pointed out, this is just one the excellent pieces of work Tubby has carried out on behalf of the parish in his key leadership role over many years as Vicar's Warden and he expressed his heartfelt and grateful thanks for all that Tubby has done for us, as he stands down as Vicar's Warden in order to pursue a new form of community service.

Father Hugh also said "A stand out memory over the last 12 months was Father Brian's ordination to the diaconate here at Saint Peter's earlier in the year, followed by his priesting in the Cathedral in

September, followed by his first Mass 24 hours later back at Saint Peters. That his wife Janie has joined us to read lessons and lead intersessions is much appreciated.

"I should like to express my gratitude to Kit Bunker for his priestly help in taking the Thursday Services when I am not here; to Di Bunker for her hard work as People's Warden; Warwick Harris for his work in keeping the garden and surroundings looking so attractive and loved; David Hoskins, an invaluable co-worker as organist, music director, sacristan and hall booking secretary; David Scouler as our indispensable IT support person, Parish web site tender and editor of *The Rock* (I would be lost without him); our servers, David Stocks, Raylene Ralston, Peter Rodgers, Di Bunker, Alex Chisholm and (new this year) George Melrose; Agnes Beamish, a great help as our reserve organist and introit singer; Arnold Bachop for his solos during communion, which enrich our Sunday worship. Danielle Harrison provides high quality financial services to our parish, sometimes under time pressure which this year required her to take annual leave to get everything completed. Danielle provides this untiring and

*(Continued on page 6)*



Justin Welby  
The Archbishop of Canterbury

## Deo Gloria Trust lecture on evangelism and other faiths, 14 March 2019.

◀◀ In 2009, the Christian-Muslim Forum agreed a text suggesting how both communities could share their faith with mutual respect and understanding. Islam is another tradition that believes it has universal application and so Muslims are committed to their equivalent of evangelism: 'da'wah'.

The guidelines for witness acknowledged that we could freely hold contrasting claims with universal implication, but that putting ourselves in the other's shoes would help us do this with genuine respect.

As well as rejecting coercion and inducements, one of the guidelines asserts that "We will speak of our faith without demeaning or ridiculing the faith of others." 📺



*More online :*

*Read the complete text at:*

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speaking-and-writing/speeches/archbishop-justin-welbys-deo-gloria-trust-lecture-evangelism-and>

