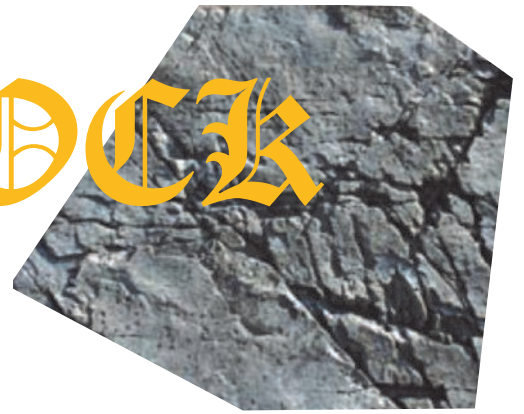




Anglican Parish of  
Cabersham Saint Peter,  
Dunedin, New Zealand

# THE ROCK

March 2026—Lent



## Reflections on Curacy and Beyond: Lessons from Saint Peter's



By The Reverend Joel Stutter,  
Priest in charge

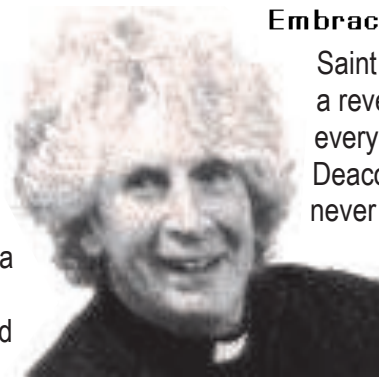
Our Interregnum Priest in charge looks back on a journey of faith and service.

As Easter approaches and my time at Saint Peter's draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the journey, its milestones and the grace which has accompanied me throughout. The path to Saint Peter's began with an unexpected call from God—one that surprised both myself and those around me. Bishop Steven shared in my astonishment and the Reverend Natalie [Milliken, Vicar at the time], embarking on her first parish as Vicar, wondered aloud: "What would I do with a Curate?" Yet, as we have since discovered, God's wisdom led us to a place perfectly suited for growth and service.

Saint Peter's Anglo-Catholic tradition has been a transformative experience.

### Embracing Anglo-Catholic Worship

Saint Peter's brand of Anglo-Catholicism was a revelation. I immersed myself in almost every aspect of worship—serving as sub-Deacon, tea maker and more. Admittedly, I never made it onto the flower roster and my single attempt as Thurifer earned me the title 'world's worst'! Lighting incense charcoals proved tricky until I invested in small blow torches, which remain in use. These experiences underscored the depth and richness of our liturgical life, shaping my understanding of worship and ministry.

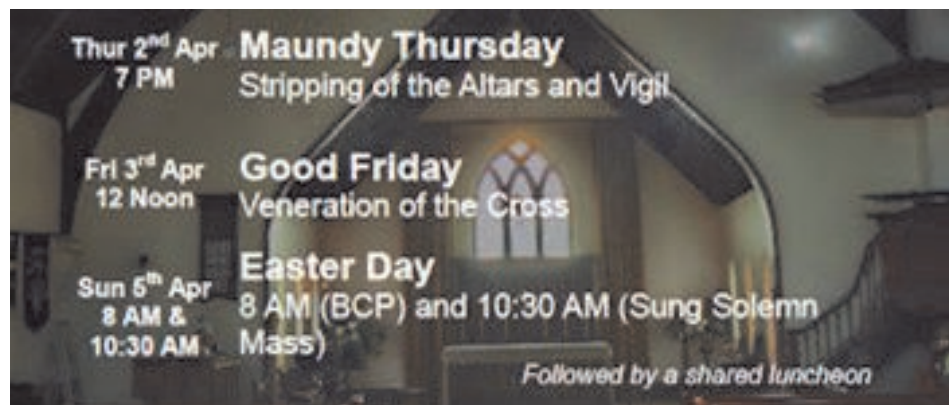


### Honouring the Church's History

Saint Peter's is steeped in history—built on the foundations of those who came before us. Learning about

Saint Peter's has been the best environment for me to learn how to serve both God and the wider community. The learning curve was steep, especially coming from a predominantly low-church background. My early worship experiences at St Stephen's Church in Opotiki taught me much, but the distinctive worship style of Saint Peter's offered new challenges and opportunities. Each church possesses its own unique liturgical identity and embracing

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Reflections on Curacy and Beyond

*(Continued from page 1)*

our past and seeing its influence on present-day practices has been profoundly enlightening. It is vital that, as our church evolves and adapts, we never lose sight of our heritage. The lessons and traditions handed down are a guiding light for our future.



Perhaps he made one of these cups of tea!

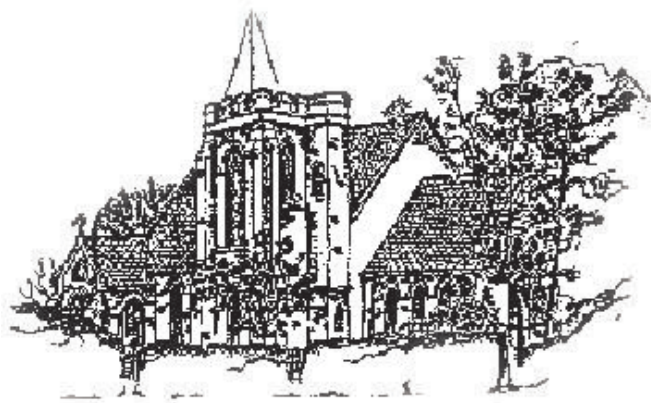
### Our Heritage Buildings

My passion for old buildings was nurtured at Saint Peter's, where our physical church serves as a bridge between past and community. As a landmark in South Dunedin, Saint Peter's connects us to generations of parishioners and neighbours. The ongoing restoration of the stained-glass windows stands as a testament to our commitment; I anticipate seeing them glowing, renewed, in the months ahead—a beacon for all who pass by.

### The People of Saint Peter's

Above all, the heart of Saint Peter's lies in its people. From the moment I arrived, friendships and fellowship have enriched my ministry. It is the memories, the shared moments and the kindness of the parish community which I will carry with me. The people, alongside God, are the most important part of the church and their support has been a constant blessing.

As I prepare to leave on Easter Day, I am confident that Saint Peter's will continue to flourish under the care of someone who will love and cherish this community as I have. My heartfelt thanks go to each of you. God bless, and I look forward to the day our paths cross again. 🙏



## Installation

### of a new Vicar

Father John Graveston will be installed as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Vicar of Caversham at a Service in Saint Peter's at 6pm on Friday, 10 April 2026.

The Right Reverend Dr Anne van Gend, Bishop of Dunedin, officiating.



Left: Bishop Anne van Gend; Right; Father John Graveston.



# What is the difference between a miracle and an answer to prayer?

By Father Kit Bunker

**M**iracles are mysterious God-driven events which take only a few moments to happen, are often in public and memorable because they are (apparently) instances of God doing powerful deeds.

That 'apparently' in parentheses is an important caution, particularly when considering modern instances, perhaps even televised, of miracle making during which prestidigitation—the polite word for entertainer's 'magic'—can sometimes be used to create very realistic miracles to order. Miracles are both public and rare. That does not mean



The Raising of Lazarus by Carl Bloch.  
IMAGE: WWW.DAILY-BIBLE-STUDY-TIPS.COM

they do not happen; they do. Answers to prayer on the other hand are events which correspond in time and manner to requests made directly to God and are remarkably common. They are seldom matters of public interest but normal in the lives of devoted Christians, ask anyone at church.

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Answers to prayer on the other hand are events which correspond in time and manner to requests made directly to God and are remarkably common. They are seldom matters of public interest but normal in the lives of devoted Christians, ask anyone at church.

Ask any missionary from one of the faith missions, which do not as a rule provide any subsistence to help with the costs of living.

Faith missionaries live on in the belief that God, perhaps through family and friends and donations from home parishes, or through a miracle, will provide what is needed.

Prayer answered? ☑

*And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

*Isaiah 65:24*

## Vestry notes

By The Editor

**W**e used to publish a summary of matters of note from the monthly vestry meeting, but discontinued that when the Vicar of the day began including substantially the same material in The Pebble.

This has also stopped happening and the vestry has had some requests for a return to the practice, so:

At the Vestry meeting on March 10 the following items were noted:

The Reverend Joel reported taking 23 acts of worship last month despite it being a short month. The fourth of our Lenten studies Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM, continues followed by a shared meal.

The bell tower strengthening and maintenance on the first of our stained glass windows will be commencing shortly and the lounge carpet will be repaired soon.

The Friday Light Group is growing in size with about 30 members. It meets in the hall early in the evening on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Fridays for worship, followed by a meal. More people to help, especially with the meal preparation, would be most welcome. ☑





By Alex Chisholm, Bishop's Warden  
and Raylene Ralston, People's Warden



CHURCHWARDEN  
CORNER

Joel thank you very much for all you have undertaken and done for us since Natalie left, in spite of coping with an at times additional busy schedule and travel.

It is greatly appreciated. We are privileged that it was possible for you to be deaconed and priested here and that we could be a part of your journey. To be able to avoid a long interregnum, but instead have had steady spiritual input and guidance during this time, with a smooth transfer from Natalie's ministry has been a

blessing.

Saint Peter's has also benefited from your considerable talents and practical gifts which we will call to mind often, especially when using our lovely new kitchen.

We have enjoyed having you here and you will be missed but we pray for God's Rich Blessings on the next step of your journey.

Raylene and Alex. 📧



Joel was ordained a Deacon in Saint Peter's in November 2022 and was soon acting as Curate in Saint Peter's. Above from left: Bishop Steven Benford anoints Joel; the new Deacon; with Vicar Natalie Milliken and the Bishop.



Above from left: Joel at a parish gathering; with daughter Renee and wife Deborah at the farewell gathering for Vicar Natalie Milliken; by the seaside with wife Deborah.



In January 2024 Joel was ordained a Priest. Once again at Saint Peter's and once again by Bishop Steven Benford. Above from left: Joel makes his declaration; the new Priest is presented to the congregation.

*Saint Peter's Cabersham*

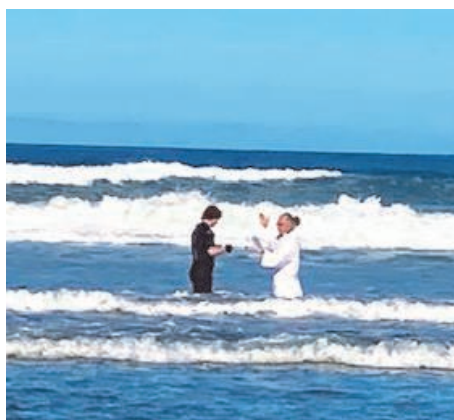
CHURCHWARDEN  
CORNER

As our Priest in charge, The Reverend Joel Stutter, prepares to leave Saint Peter's at the end of the interregnum early next month, our churchwardens have curated this selection of photo's from Joel's almost three and a half years with us.



Much of Joel's time at Saint Peter's has been involved with maintenance of the fabric of the parish. Two notable projects were, At left: removal of the safe from the sacristy and Above: the refurbishing of the hall kitchen; Top left: the old kitchen; lower left: old cabinets removed; top right: wall oven installed and benchtop ready for the a new cooking hob; lower right; almost complete with only the floor remaining to update.

Liturgical and pastoral matters were not overlooked. Clockwise from right: After taking a World Day of Prayer Service in Saint Peter's; with fellow officiants during a Christmas shared Service; preaching at Evensong; following a Service of Evensong and Benediction; a baptism in the sea at a local beach.



# Nutritious

## Gut health; some newer discoveries



By Alex Chisholm



Gut health is a topic getting more attention at present. There have recently been several large research studies looking at how our gut health affects our general health. In fact, many beneficial health effects are related to our gut bacteria and how they are affected by the food we eat.



"...our gut health affects our general health."

Generally, when we think about bacteria it is often in relation to infections or illness. However, gut bacteria are very helpful. They are responsible for helping us to digest and utilise the food we eat and we could not do without them. It turns out they are also

very specific to individuals.

New research has found that individual responses to the same foods were unique, even between identical twins, who of course have the same genes. However, their gut bacteria were not the same. The effects of these different gut bacteria were reflected in their overall health. In general, there are differences in the gut bacteria depending on the eating pattern, whether it includes meat or is vegetarian or vegan. Regardless of the pattern the amount of healthy plant-based foods is generally the most important factor influencing gut health and encourages the most beneficial gut bacteria.

Not only plant-based foods, but their selection and variety are important as different health promoting gut bacteria prefer different foods. In addition, much of

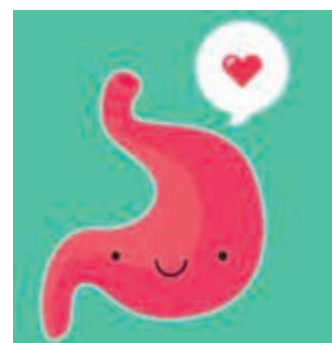


"...the amount of healthy plant-based foods is generally the most important factor influencing gut health..."

PHOTO.: WWW.NEWS-MEDICAL.NET.

our present dietary advice—avoiding lots of high sugar, ultra processed foods high in the wrong sorts of fats and encouraging a variety of fruits and vegetables, lean protein foods and some healthy fat and oils is also beneficial for our gut health. Certain features of more traditional eating patterns may also be beneficial.

More about traditional foods, recent discoveries, diet and food pattern details in a later article.📧



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## 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: **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month:** Evensong and Benediction

### FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH:

1pm: Holy Communion at Radius Fulton Home

### FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH:

11am: Holy Communion in the lounge of Frances Hodgkins Retirement Village, Fenton Avenue

### SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH:

11am: Holy Communion  
in the chapel of the Home of St Barnabas, Ings Avenue

### WEDNESDAY:

9am: Morning Prayer  
10.30am Bishop's Companionship Programme  
- Studying the Bible, prayer and life in Christ

### THURSDAY:

10am: Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer

## Special Services

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

### Parish Contacts:

#### PRIEST IN CHARGE:

The Reverend Joel Stutter : (03) 455 3961  
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# For your diary

**Friday, 10 April :** Service of Installation of Father John Graveston as Vicar at 6pm

**Tuesday, 14 April :** Vestry meeting at 2.30pm

**Friday, 17 April :** Deadline for the April Rock

## Power of the Passion

**Rock** music

(Continued from page 8)

*Calvary* (1904) by John Maunder were staples of parish choirs throughout the English-speaking world.

These were designed to be sung in the context of evening worship



Getting ready to sing *The Crucifixion* in a Methodist Church, 1953.

PHOTO.: SUPPLIED.

and lasted about 1 hour. The text was paraphrased poetically and interspersed with hymns for the congregation to sing. Many were written but few have survived—not a bad thing, considering the musical and theological poverty of some of the writing!

However, the two which were sung at Saint Peter's (certainly until the 1950s) were the *St Mark Passion* by Charles Wood (1921) and *The Last Supper* (1930) by Eric Thiman. Passion settings have continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, though having 'crossed genre'. Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Stephen Schwartz's *Godspell* follows much of the traditional Passion structure. Passion settings draw together aspects of Christian teaching, music and theatre in order to teach the story of the Crucifixion of Our Lord. ☒

# The Power of the Passion



By David Hoskins, Director of Music

**W**e have recently, along with many other churches, made our way through Passiontide. On Palm Sunday, the 'Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark' was read in dramatic narrative style with the congregation joining in the more declamatory parts. The same day, the fine City Choir Dunedin presented the St John Passion by J.S. Bach at the Town Hall. The relationship between the Passion and music is one of long standing.

The term 'Passion' is taken from the Latin *patior*—'to



A 16th century Passion play in the Antwerp city square.

IMAGE: SUPPLIED.

suffer, to bear or to endure'. Reading the four canonical gospel accounts of the Passion has been a feature of Christian worship 'from the beginning' though adding music dates from the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Thus, Passion music can mean a musical setting of the suffering and Crucifixion of Christ using both biblical texts and literary or poetic elaborations. The earliest examples employ

straightforward plainsong to express the words in a liturgical context during Holy Week.

For most people this technique is best known as the medieval 'Passion Plays' often played in town squares by touring troupes of actors and singers. These would include folk melodies, plainsong and dramatic re-enactments of the Crucifixion. They would draw large crowds—though seldom supported by the Church, which from the 4<sup>th</sup> century decreed the Passion from one of the Gospels be read in church during Holy Week. Later it began to be intoned and by the 13<sup>th</sup> century Passions featured singing of the different characters. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century elaborate musical settings, such as those by Orlando di Lasso, Victoria and William Byrd were widely sung.

Martin Luther wrote, 'The Passion of Christ should not be acted out in words and pretense, but in real life'. However, from the earliest days of the Reformation, sung Passions were common throughout the Lutheran Church—as they are still. While there were many predecessors, the two extant settings of Johan Sebastian Bach are the most famous to survive to the present day. *The St Matthew Passion* and *St John Passion* are thought to be part of a set of five Bach composed in his lifetime. These are large scale with orchestra, chorus, soloists and usually a singer acting as narrator.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Passions were less popular though the oratorio *Christus* by Mendelssohn is a fine work. However, in our Anglican tradition the late Victorian era saw a great revival in musical settings of the Passion. *The Crucifixion* (1887) by Sir John Stainer and *Olivet to*

(Continued on page 7)



Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE  
Archbishop of Canterbury

Speech in the House of Lords: Crime and Policing Bill, 18 March 2026 .



My Lords, many of you will know that the Church of England's view on abortion is one of principled opposition, recognising that there can be limited conditions under which abortion may be preferable to any available alternatives. This is based on the belief in the infinite worth and value of every human life, however old or young, including life not yet born. 🇬🇧



More online :

Read the full text at:

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speeches/archbishop-sarahs-speech-house-lords-crime-and-policing-bill>

