

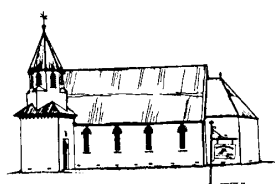
St Bartholomew's

**People, Places and Happenings in
The Anglican Churches of
Kaiapoi, Ohoka, Clarkville and Eyreton**

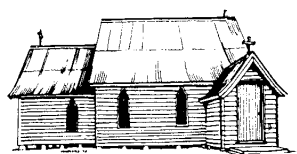
CONTACT

March 2017

Lent



St Albans



St Augustine's



St Thomas'

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Glenda Writes...

Draw Near to God

March 1st is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent in the church calendar. I find it helpful to see Lent as a time when we 'walk with Jesus' on his journey to the cross. It was an intentional journey in which he remained faithful to the Father's call and purposes despite frustrations, opposition and suffering. He knew something of what lay ahead of him, but not all.

It is the same for us. None of us knows what lies ahead. It seems for many at the moment we are coping with situations of loss, grief, or supporting friends and loved ones through a journey of terminal illness. For others in the city, the loss is of their home and treasured possessions. At such times we can feel our human weakness and mortality all too keenly.

I find the following verses in the letter to the Hebrews encouraging and inviting:

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16).

The message and invitation they convey is right at the heart of the Christian Gospel. Through the work of our Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf, we are able, indeed encouraged, to freely enter into the 'throne room of grace'. I love that phrase – *throne room of grace*. However we envisage that, there is nothing standing in the way of our coming into the presence of a Holy and compassionate God. We can do so through sheer grace – 'God's Riches at Christ's Expense.' In fact, we are invited to do so when we are feeling least 'worthy', when we are feeling our human weakness and need. This is the paradox of the love of God.

Throughout history, Christians have made special efforts to draw near to God during the season of Lent. Some have fasted. Some have made a special commitment to times of prayer, to study the Bible, often with others. Some set aside particular ways and times of meeting with God – be it in the garden, daily walks, writing letters to God, keeping a journal, reading a helpful book. We often hear of 'giving up' something for Lent. I do think there is not much point in this unless

what we are 'giving up' is conducive to developing a closer walk with God, and strengthening our Christian character and discipleship.

This Lent, I encourage you to find your way of showing our Lord that you take his call to communion and discipleship seriously. On the back page there is an exercise for the end of the day that can help us maintain spiritual fitness. Then when we come to the celebration of his resurrection on Easter Day, we will have all the more resurrection life to give thanks for.

Your fellow pilgrim, Glenda

News from the Vestry

- ♦ Accessible Parking was discussed and signs will be made denoting areas for accessible parking around St Bartholomew's.
- ♦ Vestry discussed the 3rd Sunday Family Service and Combined Service times and a recommendation for a monthly combined service was made to the Worship Committee.
- ♦ Financial aid will be made available to the Youth Group for Easter Camp if it is needed.
- ♦ Annual General Meeting date was set for Sunday, 30 April - after the 9:15am service at St Bartholomew's.

ASHWEDNESDAY—1st March

A combined service with the Co-operating parish is being planned. This will take place at St Bart's hall beginning at 7.00 pm.

All Welcome.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Sunday, 30 April at St Bartholomew's
after the 9:15am service.**

Please send your 2016 reports to the office by 12 April for compilation.

office@kaiapoianglican.org.nz

The 2016 Report Booklet will be ready for circulation on 21 April.



Dates for the Diary

February

28 Craft & Coffee Morning—10:30am-12noon

March

01 Mainly Music - 10am at St Bart's

01 BATA, 7:30pm

01 Ash Wednesday

02 Life Group, 7:30pm

03 World Day of Prayer

05 First Sunday in Lent

05 **9:15am** St Bartholomew's

05 **11am** Family Service at St Bartholomew's

06 Cursillo

07 Craft & Coffee Morning—10:30am-12noon

07 Afternoon Study Group - 2:30pm, parish lounge

08 Mainly Music - 10am at St Bart's hall

08 Vestry, 7:30pm

09 AAW, 1:30pm

09 Life Group, 7:30pm

11 Men's Breakfast, **8:00am**

12 Second Sunday in Lent

12 **9:15am** St Bartholomew's

12 **11am** St Alban's Ohoka

12 **5pm** St Augustine's Clarkville

14 Craft & Coffee Morning—10:30am-12noon

15 Mainly Music - 10am at St Bart's hall

16 Life Group, 7:30pm

19 Third Sunday in Lent

19 **10am Combined All Age Worship**
at St Bartholomew's

21 Craft & Coffee Morning—10:30am-12noon

21 Afternoon Study Group - 2:30pm, parish lounge

22 Mainly Music - 10am at St Bart's hall

23 Life Group, 7:30pm

26 Fourth Sunday in Lent

26 **9:15am** St Bartholomew's

26 **11:15am** St Thomas' Eyreton

28 Craft & Coffee Morning—10:30am-12noon

29 Mainly Music - 10am at St Bart's hall

Lenten Studies

The Tuesday Afternoon Study Group and Thursday night Life Group will be doing a Lenten Studies this Lent (1 March - 9 April) using the booklet "**Risk: Through Lent with Acts**". This booklet covers six weeks of Lent and costs \$7. If you are interested in joining one of these study groups, please contact Margaret Cooke (Tuesday afternoon group—327 6265) or Ray Maw (Thursday night group—327 6404).

Daffodil Bulb Sale

12 Bulbs for \$6,

mixed varieties and sizes.

A generous home gardener has donated the bulbs to the parish for sale. These bulbs vary in size according to variety.

How can you be involved?

1. We will be bagging up the bulbs on Thursday morning (9 March) and will need approx. 3-4 people to help with this. Please contact Mary (327 8457) if this sounds like you.
2. You can place an order by:-
Emailing: treasurer@kaiapoianglican.org.nz
Phone the office, 327 7084 (Wed-Fri mornings)
Fill out the clip board at back of your church.
3. Spread the word and sell them to your friends.



Magazine Advertising

We have had two advertising spaces open up in the "Contact" Magazine for 2017 (11 issues) - if you would like to advertise your business with us please contact the Parish Office (327 7084 or office@kaiapoianglican.org.nz) for prices and advert size options.

World Day of Prayer

Friday 3 March, 10am

at Riverside Community Church, Charles St



From the Parish Register

Wedding: Joseph Gee & Marina Muratova

"The Contact" is published monthly. Items for the next issue need to be to the Parish Office by Tuesday 21 March. The April Issue will be ready to be delivered Sunday 26 March.

Opportunities for Worship

Sunday Morning

St Bartholomew's, Kaiapoi:

Every Sunday **9:15am: Holy Communion**
1st & 3rd Sunday **11am: Family Service**

St Alban's, Ohoka: 2nd Sunday @ 11am

St Augustine's, Clarkville:

2nd Sunday @ 5pm Taize service

St Thomas', Eyreton: 4th Sunday @ 11am

*All Churches are available for Weddings,
Baptisms, and Funerals.*

People in the Parish

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Glenda Hicks Ph:359 4546

Bishop's Warden: Darryl Thompson Ph: 327 5291

People's Warden: Heather Driessen Ph: 03 313 4033

Priest Assistant: Rev Ann Lloyd Ph: 327 0034

Vestry:

Margaret Cooke (*Synod Rep*)

ph 327 6265

Darryl Thompson (*Synod Rep*)

Ph 327 5291

Mary Mackintosh (*Treasurer*)

ph 327 8457

Elaine Clark

ph 327 5552

Victor Sue-Tang

ph 03 424 4010

Chris Sundstrum

ph 03 312 0408

Frances Young

ph 327 5568

'Keep Spiritually Fit' exercise

We can see Lent as a time when we aim to get 'spiritually fit'.
As with physical fitness, exercise helps.

Here is a very simple and effective Prayer exercise at the end
of the day. Based on the traditional practice of *Examen of
Consciousness*, it follows 3 steps: **THANK YOU; SORRY;
PLEASE.**

Sometime in the evening, or before going to bed, find
yourself a quiet place, ask God to guide you as you look back
over the day:

1. THANK YOU. Where have you received God's love today?
When have you been able to be an instrument of God's love?
Give Thanks.

2. SORRY. When have you fallen short of God's love – towards
God, someone else, yourself? Ask for and RECEIVE
forgiveness, and strength to amend what is needed.

3. PLEASE. Looking back, whom or what do you wish to
intercede for? Looking forwards to the next day, what do you
wish to place in God's hands so you can go to sleep at peace?
I have cards with this Prayer exercise. Please let me know if
you would like one.

Glenda (gmhicks@snap.net.nz)

Parish Office:

23 Cass St, Kaiapoi Ph: 327 7084

E-mail office@kaiapoianglican.org.nz

The office is open:

Wed, Thu & Fri: 9am-11:45am

www.kaiapoianglican.nz



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