



Making Disciples

Together let's follow Christ; immerse ourselves in the words and ways of Christ; delve deeper; be in authentic relationship with Christ; be transformed by the Holy Spirit to live a life that demonstrates Christ to the world; while we encourage and mentor others to do the same.



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Cover Images — Window and altar vista from the Church of the Good Shepherd in Takapo | **Credit** — George Empson | Ferns with flowers and crown | **Credit** — Samuel-Lopes / *Unsplash* | **Cover Design** — Leisa Jamieson.

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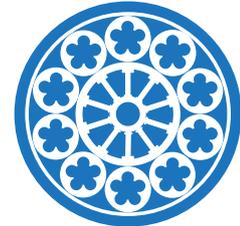
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Intentional Discipleship



I want to offer three brief reflections on Making Disciples – one of our key intentions within the theme of Regeneration of the Diocese of Christchurch.



An intention to Make Disciples is a commitment to the new generations in our Diocese being followers of Jesus who know Jesus, study his teaching and live their lives according to that teaching, until the day they die. Potentially we could gain new generations for our Diocese through some kind of approach which drew people to our churches for a short time and increased our attendance statistics in a pleasing way for a few happy years. But the Jesus of Scripture never looked for short term growth in his movement. He looked for people who would follow him for the rest of their lives. He was not afraid to lose potential followers when they realised the cost of following him (e.g. Luke 18:18-25). In our praying for and working for Regeneration, we seek new generations who love Jesus and are committed with the whole of their lives to him.

An intention to Make Disciples is a commitment to shaping our life together so that disciples are made. I encourage regular review of everything to do with our worship services and

other gatherings. For instance, How are people welcomed? Are our services, both as a whole event, and in their parts (e.g. sermons, intercessions, singing) encouraging discipleship? Put in another way, is participation in worship helping us to walk more closely with Jesus? To be frank, sometimes I get feedback that our services are frustrating rather than life-giving experiences. What might we do to sharpen up how we gather as the people of God?

An intention to Make Disciples is a commitment to do everything we can to see people become new disciples of Jesus. Sometimes that might not be much. There is resistance to the good news Jesus offers humanity. We cannot compel people to follow Jesus. But even in the midst of a resistant world, we ourselves can be faithful followers of Jesus. Every word we say and every deed we do in Christ's name has potential to influence people in their life choices. When we influence people towards Jesus and the claims he makes on their lives, we are working with the Holy Spirit.

What then happens may be known only to God, but we have the satisfaction of being faithful servants of Jesus.

Manaaki,
Bishop Peter.

+Peter



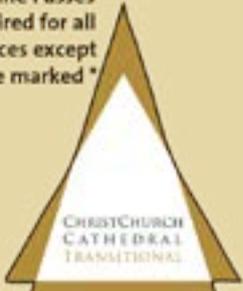
Credit: Getty

“We are all missionaries. Wherever we go we either bring people nearer to Christ or we repel them from Christ.” Eric Liddell



Credit: Will Rogers from medicalmissions.com

HOLY WEEK & EASTER at The Transitional Cathedral, Latimer Square

<p>SUNDAY 10 APRIL PALM SUNDAY 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Choral Eucharist 12:15pm All-Comers Eucharist* 5:00pm Service of Passiontide Music & Readings</p> <p>TUESDAY 12 APRIL 12:05pm All-Comers Eucharist* 1:10pm Organ Recital</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 7:30am Holy Eucharist 12:05pm Holy Eucharist</p> <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY 14 APRIL 12:05pm Holy Eucharist 7:00pm Eucharist of the Last Supper</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY 15 APRIL 10:00am Children's Service of Stations of the Cross 12:00noon Celebration of the Lord's Passion</p>	<p>HOLY SATURDAY 16 APRIL 12:noon: Midday Prayer 8:00pm The Great Vigil with the First Eucharist of Easter</p> <p>SUNDAY 17 APRIL ~ EASTER 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Festival Eucharist Music by The Cathedral Choir 12:15pm All-Comers Eucharist* 5:00pm Festal Evensong Music by The Cathedral Choir</p>	<p>Vaccine Passes required for all services except those marked *</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
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See our website for full details of these and our other regular weekly services
www.christchurchcathedral.co.nz | admin@christchurchcathedral.co.nz | (03) 3660046

Stepping Into The Future

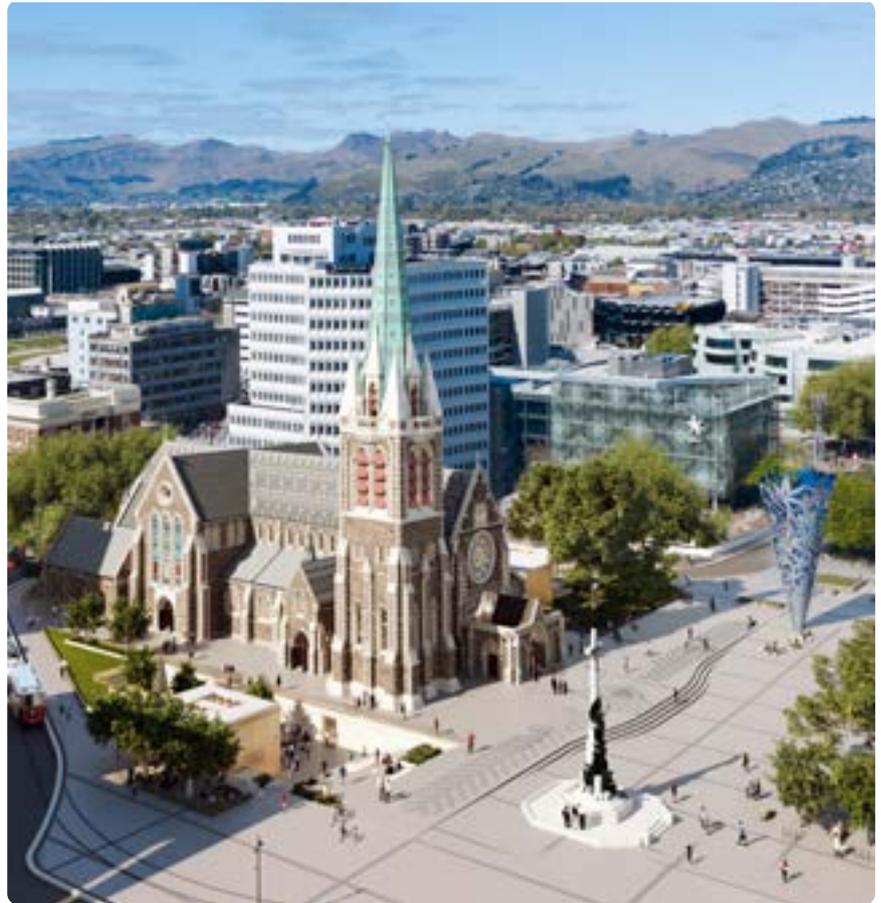


Yay! We're on target for a mid-2027 completion!

The project team has recently submitted the design for the main Cathedral and Tower for building consent—and this means the critical path of the project timeline is bang on track!

Figuring out how to strengthen and enhance the existing heritage building, and then connect this to the new tower, vestries and porch has taken the team the best part of 2021 but now it's done! It's great to have this important work behind us," says the Project Director Keith Paterson.

This tricky and unusual job requires a big team that includes a wide range of disciplines including architects, engineers, contractors, landscape designers, acoustic engineers not to mention organ and bell specialists and many more. "It's taken a huge collaborative effort from a diverse team of experts to make it happen.



The different groups have been fantastic. They've developed excellent working relationships and performed superbly to meet the challenging deadline," says Keith.

Peter Marshall of Warren and Mahoney Architects says, "This is a very complex strengthening and refurbishment project. Integration of the engineers' designs with the contractors' methodologies, whilst retaining the heritage and architectural values of the building, required an understanding of the strengthening strategy at the same time as understanding design and cost implications. The architectural challenge has also been in the documenting of the Tower, which is being totally rebuilt, and in the design of two new vestries in keeping with the architectural language of the Cathedral. To be at the point where we can lodge for a building consent is a major milestone in this exciting project."

This year, strengthening work on the main structure will continue and design work for the two accompanying buildings—the Cathedral Centre and Visitors Centre—can start.

"We are delighted with the achievements to date and pleased to be able to keep moving ahead together," says Keith.



Two new 'renders' of the end goal vision of the reinstated Cathedral: one a view of the front entrance through to Tūranga, and the other an aerial view showing the renewed connection to the Citizen's War Memorial and Chalice. Credit: CCRL

Want more? Visit www.christchurchcathedral.org.nz and/or [facebook.com/ChristChurchCathedralReinstatement](https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchCathedralReinstatement)

Let it Be—Three Youth Groups Get Together

It's been almost two disruptive years of school, life, travel and family from the impact of the Covid pandemic. Students of course are not exempt. Senior students being directly impacted in the NCEA exams. From sports to the arts, or just social life in the teen years has been drastically munted.



Demonstrating the shared courage to do something as a team...Teens being teens running in pairs into totally freezing water! Credit: Kayden Grant

So, three youth pastors of neighbouring parishes got together to organise an end of year camp-retreat. Of course, in mid-December not everyone can go... but those who did were not disappointed.

'Let it Be' was an incredible combined youth retreat. St Barnabas' (Fendalton), St Christopher's (Avonhead) and St Timothy's (Burnside) all converged to finish the year refocusing and recharging. On Tuesday 14 December at

'4451 Little River' Retreat Centre the groups arrived, with a variety of factors working against them. Many were tired, there were limited inside spaces and a severe weather warning—more rain fell in a day than in a normal month! However, the four-day gathering became one of the great highlights of the year.

As the rain fell and the wind blew the three youth groups bonded. In fact, the weather conditions actually created

opportunities for individuals to get to know each other as they hung out in close proximity. Highlights included the hike and wharf jumping, board games as well as the talks and reflective moments. They heard from a range of speakers that encouraged and inspired the youth in their walk with Christ and with each other. Josiah (St C) and Nathan (St T) bravely guided them in a short 'let's quieten our minds and bodies and focus on sitting in God's presence and listening to His voice' time. Rory Smith (who is MC & a speaker for Eastercamp) shared about 'Jesus Our Hope', and Michael, Vicar at St C's, talked about the compelling argument for Christianity and celebrated Eucharist with them.

Fantastic results included students refocusing their lives on Jesus, and students eager to invite friends to their groups. Robyn H (St B's) organised the meals operation—the crucial engine to all youth ministry! All the groups are eager to do this again. This was an 11 out of 10 experience!



Combined Youth Retreat at Little River. Photographer (and therefore missing from the shot) is Kayden Grant (St C's)

Spiritual Disciplines

Confession: the fruit of the Spirit, 'self-discipline', has almost completely by-passed me! Perhaps I was in the queue and thought God said 'elf-control'? Whatever! The truth is, I really struggle with discipline of any kind...

And yet, the people I look up to have all practiced some form of spiritual discipline. My heroes are people who have consistently and diligently pressed into God. They have been honest about the ebb and flow of their desire for God, and they've persevered. I have come to realise that my own discipleship journey is nothing without the practice of spiritual disciplines.

This extrovert recognised early on that I needed other people. So, however flawed and fragile church is, I vowed

that I would belong to it. Regularly meeting with others is essential for me in processing God's work in the world.

The elements of corporate worship—gratitude, confession, another's thoughts on the Bible and life, prayer for others, Holy Communion—rejuvenate us. (Caveat: it helps if we come wanting a genuine meeting with the Divine.) Ok, church is not helpful for everyone. It can be tricky finding a group, that is a good theological and experiential fit. Compromise and perseverance

are essential in this. But simply placing oneself amongst others at least brings the possibility of encountering the Living Christ.

For me integrating habits that bring an awareness of Godself into daily life have been very helpful. A weekly examen refreshes God-incidences and helps to minimize my resistance to God. It reminds me of the joys God and I shared and brings me to prayer for the week ahead.

Want to explore more? Why not try this creative meditation on the story of Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish. Go out into Deep Water—An unhurried meditation on Luke 5:1-11

1. Find a quiet, comfortable place of solitude. Spend a few minutes being silent and still, breathing deeply.
 2. Read Luke 5:1-11 slowly.
 - Imagine you are there by the lakeside—the weather is calm and mild
 - Visualise what it is like—the lakeside, the boats, the water, the people
 - Imagine the sounds—voices, water gently lapping, movements
 - Imagine the smells
 - Let the scene form in your mind.
 3. Notice Jesus—what is Jesus like?
 - His clothes, his gestures, his voice, his face
 - Jesus has finished talking to the crowd and now you see him getting into one of the boats.
 - You decide to get into the boat too! Imagine yourself in the boat with Jesus and the disciples.
 4. Continue to let Jesus reveal himself to you.
 - You hear Jesus' voice—he says, "Go out into deep water and let down the nets."
 - How does this affect you? How do you respond when Jesus says this?
 - Take unhurried time here before you move on in the meditation.
 5. The boat goes out into deep water and there is a great catch of fish.
 - Imagine the excitement, the noise, the sounds
 6. You notice Simon Peter has dropped to his knees in front of Jesus
 - You hear him say, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!"
 - How does this scene affect you?
 7. You hear Jesus' voice say to Peter, "Don't be afraid."
 8. Jesus turns and looks at you.
 - Allow Jesus to be present and reveal himself to you.
 - What is the expression on his face?
 - What is he saying to you?
 - How are you feeling?
 - How do you respond to Jesus?
 9. Spend unhurried time with Jesus. Don't hurry—there still may be words to hear, words to say, or something to notice.
 10. When you are ready, let the scene gently fade.
- Meditation credit: Created by Joanne Garton, taken from p24 Refresh Journal of Contemplative Spirituality, Spiritual Growth Ministries Aotearoa NZ sgm.org.nz. Used with permission.*

The Sea of Galilee. Credit: Alexbruda / rgbstock

Receiving monthly Spiritual Direction is extremely useful (compulsory for clergy). A Director helps me perceive the presence of God in places I might not notice on my own. It was the usefulness of this habit that drew me to training as a Spiritual Director myself. The training ‘Spiritual Growth Ministries’ offer has enabled this extrovert to embrace some more contemplative practices too.

After years of Bible reading and prayer, I’ve been delighted to find creative ways to be with God. Imagining being present in a passage, reading it several times slowly, noticing the word or phrase that stands out to me, or gazing at an icon or picture are some examples. Making a picture collage, visualizing God coming to an individual or group of people,

writing names and doodling whatever comes up are non-verbal prayer forms that I experiment with regularly. (Our Anglican Prayer Book is an amazing resource especially the daily devotions which begin on page 58.)

So, what have I discovered about my own discipleship, during my nearly forty years of intentionally walking with God? That I get bored with the same-old.

(I wonder if God does too?) That the Sovereign One gives me a lot of leeway. That the images of God I held in the past are open to revision and reconstruction. That God’s self-revelation and guidance come quite frequently when I’m open. That the ordinary is shot through with the light and life of the Spirit. That God is very close to all of us. And just maybe, spiritual discipline can be fun.

Spiritual Direction?

If you’re on the lookout for SD or just want to know more about it, go to *Spiritual Growth Ministries* and have a look. Many Directors also belong to the Association of Christian Directors Inc and are listed on their website acsd.org.nz. Alternatively contact Rev’d Stephanie Robson, Diocesan Ministry Educator on education@anglicanlife.org.nz

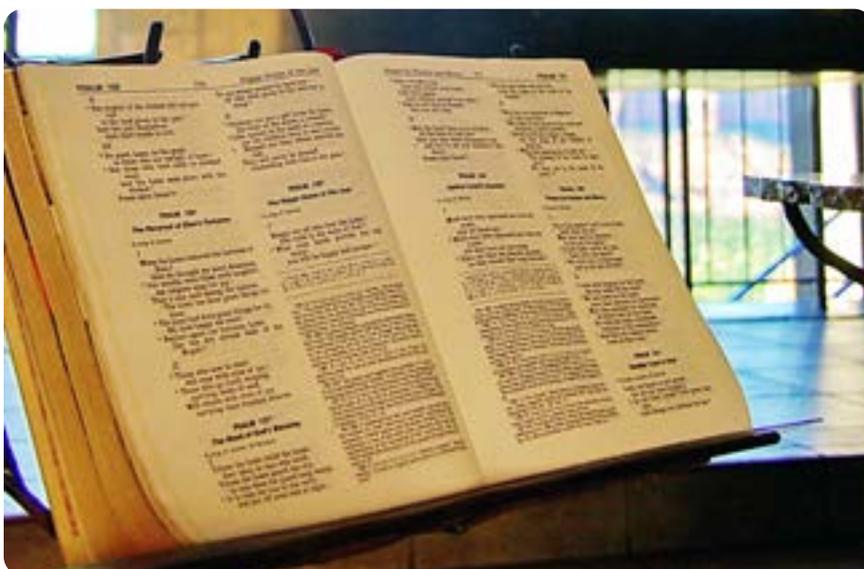
Extra for Explorers

- Pray-as-you-go.org has several versions of the examen and a weekly variation each Saturday too. There are daily prayers originally designed for commuters but suitable for everyone who has 12 spare minutes each morning.
- Ignatianspirituality.com also provides lots of prayer resources including the examen.
- The poetry of Mary Oliver will bless you with the spirituality of nature and life. maryoliver.com
- With by Skye Jethani exposes the old paradigms which no longer serve us well and lays

out what it means to know and experience communion with God. Brilliant. skyejethani.com

- To Bless the Space Between Us by John O’Donohue contains a book of meaningful blessings for the events we all experience in daily life johnodohue.com
- The Prodigal Son or anything by Henri Nouwen henrinouwen.org
- The Sensible Shoes series, by Sharon Garlough Brown, contains fictional accounts of the spiritual journeys of several women who will speak to your own reality. sharongarloughbrown.com

Some of these titles are available at Theology House.



A spiritual discipline, like reading God’s Word, is something we habitually do to embed in our daily routines and lives. Eventually our lives feel ‘wrong’ without them. Credit: Meditation Chapel of Holy Cross / AL_HikesAZ / flickr



Who is Rev’d Susan Gill?

Susan Gill enjoys listening to God with others in many settings including Spiritual Direction, retreats, walking, crafting, reading etc. Country life entralls her though the city draws her into ministry with groups and individuals.

Optics Versus Authenticity

What does your faith “look” like?

Have you ever wondered how your life as a Christian comes across to other people?

Years ago, when I was at Victoria University in Wellington, I was part of a ministry team that had a few connections into the sporting world. It seems incredible looking back now, but somehow, someone in that group persuaded a team of American College basketball players to travel to New Zealand, at their own expense, during their summer holidays, (which is of course the middle of our winter), and to run a Christian outreach at the Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin campuses. The big idea was that they would play basketball games at each university and during the half-time break one of the athletes would tell the story of how they had become a Christian and what a difference Jesus had made to their life. As a further inducement the players would be able to travel around the country in between the games in the three vans—one was known as the bongo because of the knocking noise it made when starting up, and all three were, in hindsight, unreliable! And if that

wasn't deprivation enough, they would also have free accommodation sleeping on couches and spare mattresses in grotty student flats—Lucky them!

Perhaps not surprisingly, the game in Wellington drew a respectable crowd; the basketball was played at a cracking pace with several impressive long shots thumping into the hoop to roaring applause, but then half-time came...a microphone was handed to one of the American players... and time slowed down a little bit. He was tall, as you would expect, and although he had been confident on the court, all that swagger evaporated when he started to talk. Imagine these words with a Californian accent:

“Well,[sigh], before I became a Christian I used to date a lot of girls—usually cheerleaders so there was sex, lots and lots of sex. I was a popular guy. I used to go to parties, lots of parties, and there was lots of drinking, lots and lots of drinking...”

He went on to describe the beautiful car his parents had given him for his eighteenth birthday. He had been quite the man. And he wasn't unhappy. There wasn't a “God shaped vacuum in his heart” that his Christian friends assured him must be there. No. But one day, a Christian he knew told him about a man called Jesus who wanted a relationship with him. His heart was engaged—He wanted to follow this inspiring man Jesus. And then he hung his head, and with deep heaviness he said...

“Since Jesus came into my life I don't date anymore, and I don't drink anymore. He's made such a difference to me.”

One of the guys in the audience yelled out, “You were living my dream and you threw it away...”

People laughed. It was a slam dunk for cognitive dissonance. Understandably, this did not turn out to be a very successful outreach!



Can you hear the bongo vw van clatter? But you don't have to go on the road to share your faith. What does your life really look like? Credit: Skeggy / CC

This young man's yearning to be part of something that mattered had been subverted. He was miserable. It's probable that the version of Christianity he found himself attached to was primarily concerned with the appearance of piety, which is very different to the real thing..

I wonder why it is that many Christian groups, even today, insist that people must "behave" before they can truly "belong"? And even then, it's a conditional kind of belonging that contains no real interest in the uniqueness of each individual, their heart, their life and experiences, or the fresh perspective they might have to share. It is the kind of belonging that insists on conformity to particular set of social norms which may or may not be entirely "biblical."

The absence of genuine hospitality that is open-hearted and curious towards those who are different, has been a disaster for Christianity. I have lost count of those I know who have left a church or parachurch ministry feeling exhausted, exploited, disillusioned, and angry. The price they paid to try to belong was unbearably high. Not that they have left Jesus... just that somehow Jesus had got lost in someone else's vision and expectations. Some left to find him again. And did.

It is easy to share your faith when you can honestly say it has made a positive difference, here... now...

What if the most important thing about being a Christian is that we commit to love? Love is not a coercive force; love is consensual. Compassion, respect, and empathy are love's sisters. Love is held within boundaries that leave enough room for you to breathe but only grows out of vulnerability, not power or control. Love takes courage. Love gives life.

Consider these inspiring words: 'Ubi caritas deus ibi est.' Where there is compassion and love there is God.



Who is Rev'd Stephanie Robson?

Rev'd Stephanie Robson is the Diocesan Ministry Educator. Email education@anglicanlife.org.nz

2022 Lenten Study SENTINELS

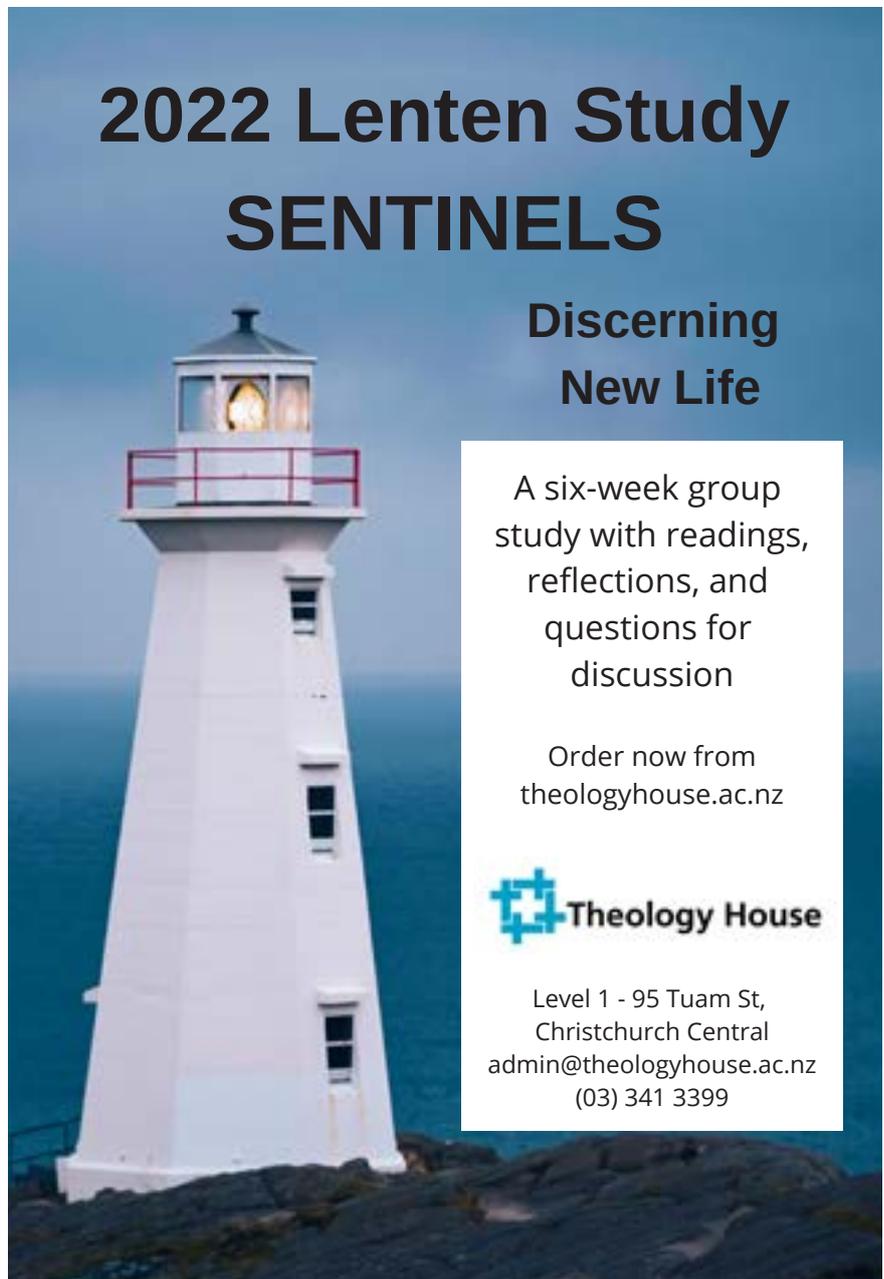
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Need Renewal?

New Wine NZ can help with that!

In January I attended the New Wine NZ Summer Festival in Whanganui. If you are not familiar with New Wine, they are a Spirit-empowered movement whose goal is bringing the nation back to Jesus—through the local Church—one renewed life at a time. I first attended this (then called New Wine) as brand-new follower of Jesus in about 2003 where I attended with my family for a few years. It was there I began to hear God speak directly to me—as I witnessed healings and the Holy Spirit moving and ministering, I was led towards my own vocational calling.

Over the years the Summer NW family camps grew into Festivals with over 1500 attendees. Other events during the year include one-day worship training sessions and leaders' retreats or online equipping sessions, all seeking to help followers of Jesus to grow in living and ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit.

New Wine has a compelling vision to see churches filled with the presence and power of God, overflowing with love and hope to their communities with people learning how to move in the power of the Spirit, making God known in their streets and workplaces. NW gathers people, families, and youngsters around a rhythm of yearly festival (national, regional and local) events focused on Spirit renewal, presence-filled worship and biblical teaching. I have always found it an encouraging way to start the year and also a significant few days away to be re-filled with faith and in the Holy Spirit.

John Coles, trustee of New Wine UK, has said that faith seems to be the purest conductor for the power of God; it brings the power of God to the point of need. On numerous occasions when Jesus heals the sick he comments on the place of faith in creating a healing environment.

The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy, as the leader of the church in Ephesus, saying that faith is something that should be pursued, implying that alongside other aspects of our Christian lives it can grow. Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace. (Tim 2:2) Faith grows through hearing. Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Rom 10:17) God is committed to healing the sick and God's character hasn't changed. If we immerse ourselves in the gospel accounts of what Jesus did during his physical life on earth our faith in him will grow.



Summer Wine 2022. Credit: Supplied

It is also faith building to hear and witness testimonies through the body of Christ, the church. For me it is an important part of my faith to deliberately attend churches or conferences where the sick are being healed and people are being set free. We don't have to have a lot of faith to start using the spiritual gifts, and ministering healing. God has hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to the little children' (Luke 10:21). Consequently, Paul instructs these Christians to keep exercising their faith and keep prophesying. As the year 2022 has begun, be encouraged to start using your spiritual gifts, and ministering healing as you build your faith in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Want to go Deeper?

Get a shot of the Holy Spirit and God's presence, via worship, ministry and encouraging teaching—believe me, there's no better way to start a year. And if you're organised early, you can get many of the costs at a reduced rate. Why not join us for at the 2023 New Wine Festival Thursday 19 to Monday 23 January 2023. For further information see Sampson, or visit newwine.org.nz



Who is Rev'd Sampson Knight?

Sampson (pictured with his wife Kim) came from a business background before being saved after a middle of the night God encounter. Summer Wine (New Wine) became a significant source of growth both theologically and growth in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This led him on a journey ministering to young people with Kim for nearly a decade in Sumner prior to being ordained as an Anglican Priest. Sampson is the Vicar of StMJ's (St Martin's St James) Riccarton/Spreydon and Chaplain to the City Mission. Contact Rev'd Sampson Knight on 03-3384062 or revsampsonnz@gmail.com

See the Phoenix

You do not see as we see;
The greatest pain ever known,
Was the greatest Love ever shown:
The Son of God's arms stretched on wood.

We see sorrow, loss, pain
As threatening to destroy us.
You see them as something that takes us to You.
We feel pain,
We see the immediate.
You see the future's growth,
You feel the love.

Outside of time,
You see beyond our now.
And beyond the immediate problems,
Pain, sorrow and doubts
Are lives deepened in You.
Seeped in faith, love, joy and hope.

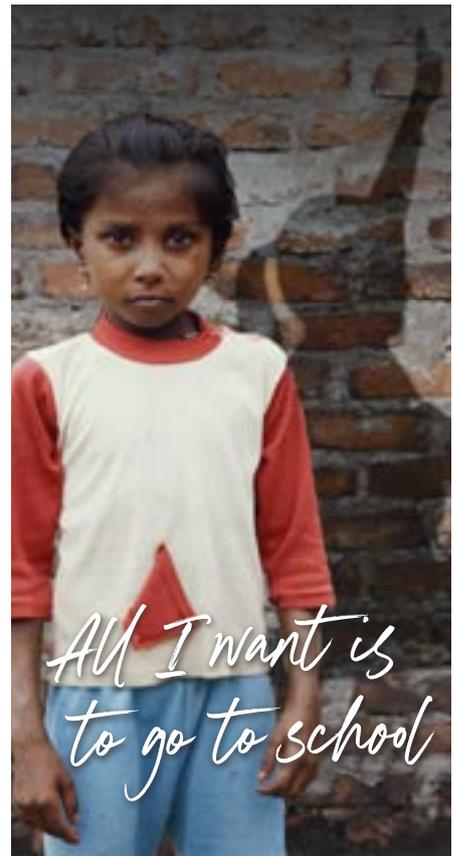
But the lives must live the first,
Before they know the latter.
While all that is within would scream
"Remove the bad."
Yet without the 'bad'
The good is not really known.

What is hope without despair?
What is faith without doubt?
What is love without pain?
What is joy without sorrow?

Each known in greater measure because of the other.
Never do Your eyes rest on the negative,
Always You see forward to
The Phoenix that rises from the ashes.



Credit: Written by Jo Anastasiadis, taken from p25 Refresh Journal of Contemplative Spirituality, Spiritual Growth Ministries Aotearoa NZ sgm.org.nz used with permission.



In Nepal, all young Maya wants is to go back to school. Her father passed away from TB and her house was destroyed by floods. To make matters worse, Maya then contracted leprosy. She was forced to quit school and faced awful discrimination. But there is hope for Maya.

Through The Leprosy Mission hospital in Anandaban, she is receiving a treatment that will cure her of this crippling disease. Every day 50 children around the world contract leprosy.

You can help make it Zero by donating to The Leprosy Mission today.

We're working to achieve Zero Leprosy by 2035. We can spot it and stop it. We just need your hand to defeat it.

**MAKE IT YOUR LEGACY
ZERO LEPROSY BY 2035**

Donate now by scanning the QR code or go to www.leprosymission.org.nz



We Walk Against The Tide

“ Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. ”
Matt 6:33

People often ask me why I went to work in Uganda? Was I ‘called’ there? How did I know God wanted me to go? Then the more pressing question sometimes follows.

“ How can I find my calling? What should I do next with my life? ”

It’s a tough and important question but before I don’t really answer it, allow me to share a bit of global perspective. My Ugandan friends follow Jesus, but rarely discuss what job, career or place they are called to. My nurse colleagues did not usually choose to be a nurse, because they didn’t have the privilege I had to agonise about whether to be a doctor, teacher or an engineer. They became nurses to provide for themselves and their families. And even more so for the 30 million Ugandans with little to no education who work the land for a living. They have neither the headspace nor the money to fret about whether they should quit their job and do mission work in New Zealand. So let’s be grateful for the privilege many of us have to choose much about the path of our lives. But this privilege can seem overwhelming, the range of options paralysing. And I think the often given, reasonable advice to find where your passion intersects with your skills can miss the heart of our problem.

I think obsessing over our future ‘calling’ is often a bad idea which isn’t really part of Jesus’ playbook. If we’re going to obsess over something, let it be what we know we are called to right now. God’s kingdom, God’s will.

“ Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. ”

The world around us has steamrolled our soul and has imprinted on us layer after layer of lies. That being busy is a virtue. That comfort and convenience is a worthy life goal. That constant anxiety is normal. So we live like frogs in boiling water, not realising how far off track we are because all the ‘normal’ people around us live the same lies.



“Hello NZ. Thanks for your continued support!” Christchurch doctor and missionary, Nick Laing, with some of his nursing colleagues in Uganda.

But instead of inviting God to free our lives and transform our worldview we hold tightly to the lies, keep Jesus at arms length and choose minor change rather than transformation. We invite Jesus only to chip away at our edges, not renew us from the inside out. But Jesus calls us away from this world to a life infinitely more full—His Kingdom.

The kingdom of God is any place where God’s will is done.

“Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Matt 6:10

In our hearts. In our lives. In our communities. And we find that will when we follow God’s answers to everyday questions. It’s often easier to find these answers than we think—Jesus covered a lot of ground.

- What would Jesus think is the most healthy thing to do straight after I get out of bed? (*Hint – not checking social media*)
- What kinds of people does Jesus think I should invite to my parties?
- What does Jesus think is the best use of my money?

This is the heart of discipleship—following Jesus by seeking his will in every decision we make, even when those decisions might be hard or make our lives look radically different from those around us. In the words of Bishop Justin Duckworth, we walk “against the tide, towards the kingdom”.

“We walk against the tide, towards the kingdom.”
Bishop Justin Duckworth

After we jump out of the boiling pot of the world’s lies and land on solid rock, our future paths can naturally emerge from a place of joy and peace. Perhaps Jesus was right when he said that as we step away from the world’s expectations and seek first his kingdom, then tomorrow will indeed worry about itself. I only started to consider medical work in Uganda when God freed me from the world’s expectations about my future career and earning lots of money. When those clouds lifted, new paths for my life emerged. Paths which I am grateful to walk.

Who knows where the kingdom of God might lead you? You might leave your lucrative job to serve among a poor community at home or abroad. You might devote your life to fight

injustice, poverty or climate change. You might create beauty with your hands, pictures or words. Or as the anxieties and expectations of the world fade away, you might realise you are more satisfied and fulfilled with your current work than you realised. And as you simplify your life, you will be freed to use most of your salary to fund your sisters and brothers doing that other stuff which doesn’t pay quite so well.

There’s a clever New Zealand police advert with the tagline “get better work stories”. As disciples of Jesus, we can go one step further and get better life stories. And with these kinds of compelling and attractive lives, others will want to join in as well.

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.”



Who is Nick Lang?

Dr Nicholas Laing and his wife Tessa are mission partners with NZCMS who live and work in Gulu, Northern Uganda. Nick works as a doctor two days a week, manages 10 rural health centers for the Diocese of Northern Uganda, and founded the OneDay Health Center enterprise which has launched 15 small OneDay Health centers in remote rural areas which previously had no access to healthcare. You can read more from Nick and Tessa at ugandapanda.com and learn about OneDay health at Onedayhealth.org or on facebook.

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God's Hands And Feet

Discipleship is not passive, it's relational and active—speaking up for the least and lost in the world is true discipleship. Jesus transformed the lives of outcasts and sex-trade workers, the blind, the sick and the shunned, and it's our discipleship journey to imitate Him. (Ed)

“ Dana grew up in a very poor family in Cambodia. When she was 15 years old, Dana was working in a garment factory and was told by a colleague that, if she travelled to China, she would be able to get a job earning more than US\$1000 a month. Feeling responsible for her family, Dana agreed to go.

Dana was taken over the border in February 2019 but discovered there was no work. Instead, over two years, she was sold twice to two different Chinese men to be their bride. Both of the husbands were violent, and one beat her so badly that she miscarried her baby. At one point, Dana was hurting herself by cutting her arm.

Dana eventually escaped the second marriage and got herself to a Police Station. After spending time in a detention centre(!) Dana was returned to Cambodia in 2021. ”

When I read stories like Dana's, I often ask myself how I think God feels seeing His precious children in such circumstances. How much does His heart ache when he sees His daughters trapped, traumatised and hurting themselves like Dana was? Does He require me to do anything from my home and location in New Zealand?

The answer is clear in His word. The Bible is filled with passages which instruct us to use what we have to look after the poor, needy and oppressed. This bold statement Jesus shared at the beginning of His ministry, sums up to me Jesus' heart AND what He asks of me now as I seek to magnify Him.

Let's read these verses from Luke 4 (ESV):

18 “ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. ”

Jesus did miracles, talked to outcasts and reached out to the marginalised. He modelled the approach of care and action that He wanted us, as His followers, to take up after Him.

There are an estimated 40.3 million people in some form of slavery right now. That's more than any other time in human history and that number is expected to keep growing as COVID threatens to make vulnerable families and humanitarian situations even more destitute.

Some of you may be able to pray. Pray for those women and children like Dana who are currently living in slavery and are void of hope. Pray

Did you know?

- In 2018 about 50,000 human trafficking victims were detected and reported by 148 countries.
- 50 percent of detected victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 38 percent were exploited for forced labour.
- Female victims continue to be the primary targets. Women make up 46% and girls 19% of all victims of trafficking.
- Globally, one in every three victims detected is a child.
- The share of children among detected trafficking victims has tripled, while the share of boys has increased five times over the past 15 years.

(Source: [UNODC Human Trafficking FAQs](#))



Dana meeting with a Hagar counsellor. Credit: Hagar

that Christians and the global Church would mobilise and be God’s hands and feet, bringing the promise of His healing and hope into communities.

Some of you may also be able to partner with us. Dana was referred to Hagar’s project in Cambodia when she returned and last year, our staff and donors were able to provide loving

temporary accommodation while her family were being located, clothes and hygiene materials, counselling, legal advice and career counselling. We are committed to walking the recovery journey with Dana (and all of our other clients), doing whatever it takes for as long as it takes, to see them healed and transformed.

As 2022 begins, let’s resolve together to make it a year where we each actively seek to do what is right, to pursue God’s call and instruction to look after the poor, needy and marginalized wherever they are. It is only when everybody does something, that we will see real change.

Want to go Deeper?

- You can read more stories like Dana’s and become a partner in Hagar’s work by heading to their website: hagar.org.nz
- Read *5 Questions about Human Trafficking* on the Taonga website
- Peruse the *TalithaKum*—end human trafficking website (choose English) (Talitha Kum means “maiden arise”).
- Read about *7 non-profit companies fighting Human Trafficking*
- Read up and take action on the *World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 30 July 2022*

*a*s followers of Jesus, we must do something.



Who is Don Lord?

Don is the Executive Director of Hagar NZ and previously worked for World Vision in New Zealand and Mongolia. Don has been involved in research on Trafficking in Cambodia and has worked in Mongolia on the formulation of an anti-trafficking project to be spearheaded by local project staff. He has also had extensive involvement in developing tools to work with trafficked women and children in Cambodia, National Child Protection standards and systems in Mongolia, and global Children in Crisis initiatives. Don established Hagar NZ in 2009. Contact: don.lord@hagar.org.nz

Bosco Bows Out

Rev'd Bosco Peters in December 2021 retired from 24 years as Chaplain at Christ's College mentoring young men. He also has been serving the Diocese and the Anglican faith in other ways. He is well known for his deep commitment to the Anglican expression of Christian faith, he's a Benedictine, an Associate of a Cistercian monastery, and has boldly lived through some unique experiences, such as hosting the Cathedral post-quake; a visit from the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams; running a special programme of evening lectures on a variety of 'Hot' topics including same sex blessings, euthanasia and more. His blog 'Liturgy' liturgy.co.nz is rated in the top 10 NZ blogs and additionally has significant international engagement. It would be criminal to let this leader go without asking him a few topical questions ourselves...



Rev'd Bosco Peters and the Very Rev'd Peter Carrell in the Chapel at Christ's College. Credit: Christ's College

Q Retiring from Christ's College after 24 years of chaplaincy ministry among young people. How does that feel?

A I made the decision to retire after long reflection and prayer. I helped bring Christ's College to being a more clearly Christian and Anglican community. It is now more inclusive. And I was strongly invested in seeing it grow in

its commitment to te ao Māori and te Reo Māori. I wanted to help young people see Christianity as an intelligent and relevant option in our contemporary world. These things have now been well bedded in, making it a good time to hand over for a new chapter for another chaplain to build on. So, it feels that the time is right.

Q What's one great story to tell to illustrate what your life at the college was like?

A When the quakes happened, students were eager to help in any way they could. They would ask me to drive a minivan out into the eastern suburbs to help dig liquefaction out of people's gardens. As we knocked on people's doors, they would burst into tears when they realised we weren't officials planning for some possible future help; we would clear their garden that afternoon. This young people's spirit of pitching in is seen in the passion to help plant trees in the Red Zone, to work with and also to raise funds for the City Mission and other local and overseas charities, and so on.



Bosco passing on the Light of Christ at a student's Baptism service. Credit: Christ's College

Q How hard is it to reach young men, mentor them and foster Christian values in today's world?

A I would say that it is easier than people think, and possibly easier than it used to be some decades ago when Christendom was still more alive in our country, and young people had unhelpful prejudices about "God" and "church" and "the Bible". Information about Christianity is less known now, and young men are clearly seeking meaning and wellbeing. Many people think that hyping things up is attractive to young people, but they are actually much keener to be with someone who shows a genuine curiosity in their interests, does not speak down to them, and makes natural connections between real needs and the relationship with God, spirituality, and historic resources and disciplines that the Christian tradition offers.

Q Twenty-four years is a long time—What will you miss?

A I will sorely miss the daily enthusiastic engagement with teenagers; the camaraderie of staff committed to the same goal—helping young men to be at their best, including at their best for others and for the planet; and relating to the wider community of whānau, including the



Bosco teaching Religious Education in the classroom. Credit: Christs' College

regular and special services in the Chapel (which can hold about 700 people, and was normally full).

Q If you could say one word of encouragement to Cameron as he takes up the role, what would it be?

A Be yourself
(I know; that's two words)

Awesome advice. I love it. It applies to all of us. Now changing tack a little, you've also done one and a half decades of online mission and ministry via your Liturgy blog.

Q Why did you start that?

A The Christchurch Diocese had asked me to, each month, provide a four-A5-pages resource for worship. I edited this into my book, *Celebrating Eucharist*, which I made freely available online at liturgy.co.nz. To my surprise, it received a lot of visits, and the site grew from there.

Q What value do blogs like yours add to the rich tapestry of mission and ministry in the 21st century?

A The Liturgy blog has grown into a network of online platforms (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook), and people have private conversations online that they might never risk IRL. That is a whole new dimension of pastoral care that needs a different sensitivity to when you have people in front of you. However, blogs are waning somewhat these days, with a shift to social media. Online mission and ministry is essential—because that is where people now live.

Q And doubly needed in these COVID times, I'm sure. So, will you continue your blog in some shape or form into retirement?

A I will see how things evolve, but I continue to be fervent about being present in the Third Millennium—which means engaging with the digital world.



Bosco preaching in the chapel at an ANZAC Day service. Credit: Christs' College

Q So, now that you're retiring, what will you be focussing on? Anything specific you're looking forward to?

A I hope there will be more time and energy for reading and reflecting, praying and meditating, journeying and writing. My ministry has been very active, all consuming—I hope this might be a season in my life where I can be more 'human being' than 'human doing'.

I love it—Human Being not Doing. So, to wrap up, let's go wild and ask a biggie x2—

Q What are the current missional challenges for Anglicans at this time? And... What is your take on the changing landscape of Christian faith in Aotearoa New Zealand?

A COVID has forced many more to engage with the digital world and enter the Third Millennium. Having claimed it was too difficult, many people are finding that the phone they carry in their pocket is all they need to stream a service online, make a video, or start a digital conversation. Alongside growing an engagement within the digital world, I think COVID may impact us in ways we are not yet able to see.



A Carol Service in the Quad. Credit: Christs' College

The secular world has taken over much that was seen as the church's domain: hospitals, education, weddings, funerals. Wellbeing and meditation are now being yearned for, and many (both within and beyond the church) are unaware of the rich heritage of Christian spirituality that can fill that yearning. We are watching a secular burgeoning in this area. Will the Church miss this opportunity to connect with this real need?

And there are ongoing issues in Aotearoa New Zealand that the Church can be part of addressing—of inclusivity, the rapidly growing wealth gap, and biculturalism.

So, to sum that up, you recommend that we: are authentic and real in our daily faith and lives; continue to engage digitally and keep building this ever-evolving habitat; promote our Christian traditions in the secular spiritual space; and move to address (as a minimum) three big advocacy issues of inclusivity, the wealth gap, and biculturalism. Awesome. That will give us all food for thought and action going forward. Now, let's leave the readers with your favourite Bible passage...



Bosco at the Centre for Ethics and Spirituality. Credit: Christs' College

One of Bosco's favourite Bible passages is from Micah 6:8 and was set to music for his school farewell.

Kua whakaaturia e ia ki a koe,
e te tangata, te mea pai; a he
aha ta Ihowa e rapu nei ki a koe,
heoi ano ko te whakawa tika,
ko te pai ki te tohu tangata,
ko te whakaiti me te haere tahi
i tou Atua?

This is what God asks of you, only this; to act justly, to love kindly, and to walk humbly with your God.

Prayers for Discipleship

“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:12-13

Three prayers for personal or public use on the theme of discipleship.



Credit: sharefaithnow

Prayer to Follow Christ Wholeheartedly

God of Abundance, you know me inside and out. Scripture teaches that you want the best for all people of every nation. In you we find life in all its fullness. Help me to follow you wholeheartedly, becoming more aware of all that your gospel implies—I want to serve you, because to serve you is perfect freedom.

I pray that your Holy Spirit will help me to read the scriptures with wisdom, worship you with authenticity, reflect your nature and recognise your work in the world. This I ask in the name of your dear son, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Prayer for Growth and Maturity

Creator God, the gospels are full of all kinds of agricultural imagery. The rhythms of nature have much to teach us. We give thanks for sunsets and sunrises; seasons of growth and rest. These remind us that so many things are beyond our control. And so we look to you, as a little plant looks towards the sun—mindful of our need and dependence on you. We pray that our roots of commitment and connection grow deep into the community of faith. We pray that together we may be fruitful. We pray for resilience when storms of uncertainty gather, when we are in spiritual drought, or when fears overwhelm us and it feels like our whole world trembles.

Help us to remain openhearted and mindful of others even when we are ourselves distressed. Help us to cultivate a spirit of compassion and courage. When we gather as your people to worship you, may we be united around our shared mission to the praise and glory of your name. AMEN.

Prayer for Opportunities to Share

Life-giving Spirit, you are the counsellor who guides us into all truth. Guide us we pray to people and places where we can encourage, inspire and be a blessing to others. May we remember with gratitude all the good things you have provided that we can share generously.

Where we see need, help us to respond in loving ways that reflect your care for all. Where we see suffering help us to remain openhearted and gentle, and to recognise what is ours to do and what is not. Where we see despair, help us hold hope, share hope, and nourish hope. For you are the source of all hope; Creator, Redeemer and Source of all life. AMEN



Credit: Dev Benjamin / Unsplash

A New Archdeacon

Jo Bean talks with Rev'd Cannon Mark Chamberlain

Rev'd Canon Mark Chamberlain, recently Vicar of the Fendalton Parish (a position he held for 11 years), now appointed to a new role in the Diocese to assist Bishop Peter with regeneration and mission. Mark has over 30 years in ministry under his belt and is known for his visionary and missional mindset. He knows how to start something new and see it to fruition. He is enthusiastic about the Christian faith and has a strong desire to communicate the gospel. He wants to make a difference and he wants to contribute to Bishop Peter's vision to regenerate the Christchurch Diocese.

Q Hello Mark. Welcome to the Diocesan Mission Team. Your job title is quite interesting. What is an Archdeacon for Regeneration and Mission?

A Bishop Peter's vision is to work towards the 'Regeneration' of our Diocese. This involves supporting and challenging our parishes and ministry units to grow in faith, obedience to Christ, and in numbers. Parishes who are struggling need support and I hope to get alongside local leaders, to listen, support and brainstorm new ideas. Parishes who are doing well also need to be challenged and equipped further. 'Mission' is about reaching out to the people of our community with the love of God, and it's intimately connected with Regeneration. One leads to the other. The title suggests I'll be offering my support and encouragement to the ministry units within our Diocese to overcome obstacles to growth and develop a missional mindset. The name 'Archdeacon for Regeneration and Mission' is also quite symbolic in that it provides a Diocesan focus for growth, parish development and mission.

The very existence of this position in the Diocese says we think it's very important. And it means that collectively, we want to do better—we want to become more missional.

Q You mentioned that some parishes are doing well and other just surviving. Our Diocese has been through a huge amount of disruption and change in the last 12 years, so it's not surprising that some parishes are still struggling.

A Yes, that's true. This new role arose out of the Diocesan Mission Action Plan (DMAP) recently tabled and agreed to at Synod. The plan includes the mandate that if a parish is in trouble, for whatever reason, it might be a dwindling or aging membership, reduced church income, a conflicted church membership, we need to rediscover our identity and our mission. So, what is our identity? We are the living embodiment of Jesus Christ in our various communities, and we are called to participate in God's mission to these communities. So, what is our mission? Our mission involves following Jesus Christ faithfully and reaching out to others with God's love. Sometimes this mandate for mission can get a bit lost

along the way—we can get distracted and feel forced to maintain what we've got rather than reach out with freshness and newness.

Consequently, our mandate for mission needs to be renewed and reshaped from time to time. This sometimes means a door might close and in spite of the pain of ending something, it can be the route to new life. Finding new ways to work together can be challenging, and will require courage, but if it leads to growth, then that's constructive. The DMAP says that things can't go on as they are—change is needed so that we can fulfil our missional identity. But I hope I won't end up constantly problem solving! I hope to affirm all the good ministry that is happening and to strengthen and leverage what we are doing well. One way this might happen is that when we see some ministry practice or initiative that is going well to tell that story to others so that we can all be encouraged and learn.

Q Some of the hurdles I am aware of in our Diocese are the need for younger leaders and the need for more vicars. Is this something you'll try to address?

A Yes. There is definitely a need for more, younger, missional leaders. One thing I will be doing is offering some training for those who may feel God's call to missional leadership. There's a course called the Mission-Shaped Ministry Course and has been useful in the past. So, I'll look into that and other options and identify something that will be suitable for our Diocese. This course will not only offer new skills to our existing clergy but encourage emerging leaders to come forward and receive some training. This may be a step towards ordination. However, the issue of growing leaders is a complex challenge for the whole Diocese that we all need to engage with. We will need to develop a multi-faceted, long-term plan.



Bishop Peter (right) with his new Archdeacon for Regeneration and Mission, Mark (left).
Credit: Pip Chamberlain

Q Broadly speaking, three years down the track, what are your aspirational goals? What do you hope will be achieved?

A I hope that in three years' time the Diocesan Mission Action Plan will be embedded as a living document in the Diocese. I hope that there will be greater confidence in our faith and in the Church as the body of Christ. I hope that I will have contributed to a stronger missional mindset within the Diocese which will have led to some bold experiments. I also hope I will have been involved in some creative solutions in the way we do church in our lower population areas and also in our growing population areas. I hope to have listened to, encouraged and stimulated our clergy and be seen as a person who could add some value to local conversations about ministry and missional arrangements.

Q This role will be quite different from your last. What will you miss about not being a Parish Vicar?

A I will miss my key lay-leaders hugely as well as Vestry and the St Barnabas staff—all who have contributed to the ongoing life of St Barnabas. I will miss being a spiritual leader within a particular community with the role of articulating the Christian faith and helping to shape a Christian community.

Q What will you not miss?

A I won't miss the daily pressures of being a Vicar, the pastoral demands, the organisational demands, and the endless barrage of things to attend to that come across the path of a Vicar. Actually, I think my new role will have plenty of the above—but expressed in a different way.

Q So how can we, the members of the Diocese, support Bishop Peter and you in this task?

A Pray. Pray for regeneration. Pray as individuals and small groups, parishes and



Mark (left) with his siblings and parents (centre)—Christmas 2021: Photo credit: Julie Chamberlain

communities. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that he would send workers into the vineyard. Pray that more leaders would step up and present themselves for ordination discernment. Pray that we would send the right people to St John's for theological education. We need the Holy Spirit to guide us to plant churches of different kinds and shapes within different contexts—pray for opportunities and for courage to do this. Pray that we have the will and courage to restructure the Diocese according to the needs and priorities of God's mission.

Q Is there anything you want to say directly to the people of our Diocese?

A I look forward to engaging with our clergy and parish leaders—to sit and listen and to build relationships. I want to get to know you better and hear your stories, both your joys and frustrations. I want to bat around ideas, plant seeds and see God do some amazing things! Together we can work towards our shared vision for the regeneration of our Diocese!



Pip and Mark Chamberlain with their grandson. Credit: Jamie Caldwell

It's a New Year! And I'm Feeling ~~Good!~~ ^{Tired:(}

Ministry and fatigue

After a great summer holiday, maybe a camping trip, some rest to recover from last year, we launch into the new year refreshed and energised! Or not. In the third year of a pandemic, fatigue has to be taken seriously as a significant risk, to people and to congregations.

If you feel tired even thinking about 2022, you are certainly not alone! Covid fatigue is now well recognised around the world as a massive impact on work and wellbeing, whether or not you actually catch Covid-19. The APA (American Psychological Association) reports that in the USA nearly 80 percent of the workforce are experiencing high levels of stress at work, and over a third are seriously exhausted.¹ The risk of burnout across caring, teaching and health professions has never been higher.

What a challenge to the church to be part of the solution, not just add to the problem. Let's be known as a community who cares and who rests,

as a space to repair and recover. If ever we need a wake-up call to take excellent care of ourselves and those around us, 2022 is it!

Fatigue undermines our ability to 'push on' despite being tired. Week after week, month after month, there is just a bit too much stress and effort and not enough fun and support and relaxation. Burnout sneaks up on us and crumbles our "I can cope" mentality.

The first sign of fatigue is, obviously, feeling tired. Remember that wonderful sensation of energy that sustains you through the whole day? If you are seriously fatigued you probably can't remember when you last felt that way.

The second sign is more insidious. Burnout sucks away our motivation. We stop caring. The WHO defines it as "increased mental distance from one's job or feelings of negativism or cynicism related to one's job."² Doing ministry while feeling cynical about people or negative about the church is very bad for the soul.

As a supervisor I am concerned for personal, spiritual and professional health. A key part of this is self-awareness. "When do you feel drained? How does that feel in your body and heart? What do you need?"



The joy of flowers in full bloom is a delight. Let's notice and enjoy it, and carry that sunshine forward to be islands of joy for others.
Credit: Sergey Shmidt / Unsplash



“Be still (Let go) and rest in the Lord; wait for Him and patiently lean yourself upon Him.” Ps 37:7 Credit: Fotos_PDX/CC

I also want to help identify patterns in church systems that create stress. “What roles are you playing? What roles would you choose?” What are the drivers that end inexorably at the rubbish dump of exhaustion? It is not working hard that burns out people in ministry. Fatigue comes from being pulled in different directions, tangled by other people’s expectations (or our expectations of their expectations!), our fears, our internal rules, our warped images of God.

I love the work of the Holy Spirit to release us into greater freedom. “What if you were totally free to be who God has made you to be?” Working from that place may still be tiring but it is also energising, and sustainable.

Tiredness is the invitation to rest. Exhaustion is the demand to rest. Fatigue is the call to rediscover what truly matters to you, and not let yourself get pushed into other stuff. Find joy in serving Christ, and stop pushing yourself too hard.

Let’s be islands of joy and tender care in a stressed-out, burned-out world. Peace be with you.



Who is Silvia Purdie?

Sustainability consultant, Silvia Purdie, is a Presbyterian Minister, counsellor, supervisor, writer, musician and visionary. She is married to Chris, an army chaplain at Burnham. Contact Silvia at silvia.purdie@gmail.com or via conversations.net.nz

Want to Go Deeper?

Here are just a few places to deep dive:

- theconversation.com/exhausted-by-2020-here-are-5-ways-to-recover-and-feel-more-rested-throughout-2021-152608 (this is a well-researched article from ‘The Conversation’. It includes reference to a psychology paper about truly detaching from work in non-work hours which is also worth a read.)
- abi-rehab.co.nz/fatigue (ABI Rehabilitation is a trusted rehabilitation provider in NZ with over 20 years’ experience.)
- theologyofwork.org/key-topics/rest-and-work-overview (this ‘Theology of Work’ website is fantastic! Read it all!)
- satisfactionthroughchrist.com/2014/09/rest-in-god.html (verses in the Bible about rest.)
- debpreston.com/modern-day-sabbath a blog about Sabbath rest.

¹ ‘Burnout and stress are everywhere’, APA, 1 January 2022, <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/01/special-burnout-stress>

² Burnout, WHO, <https://www.who.int/news/>

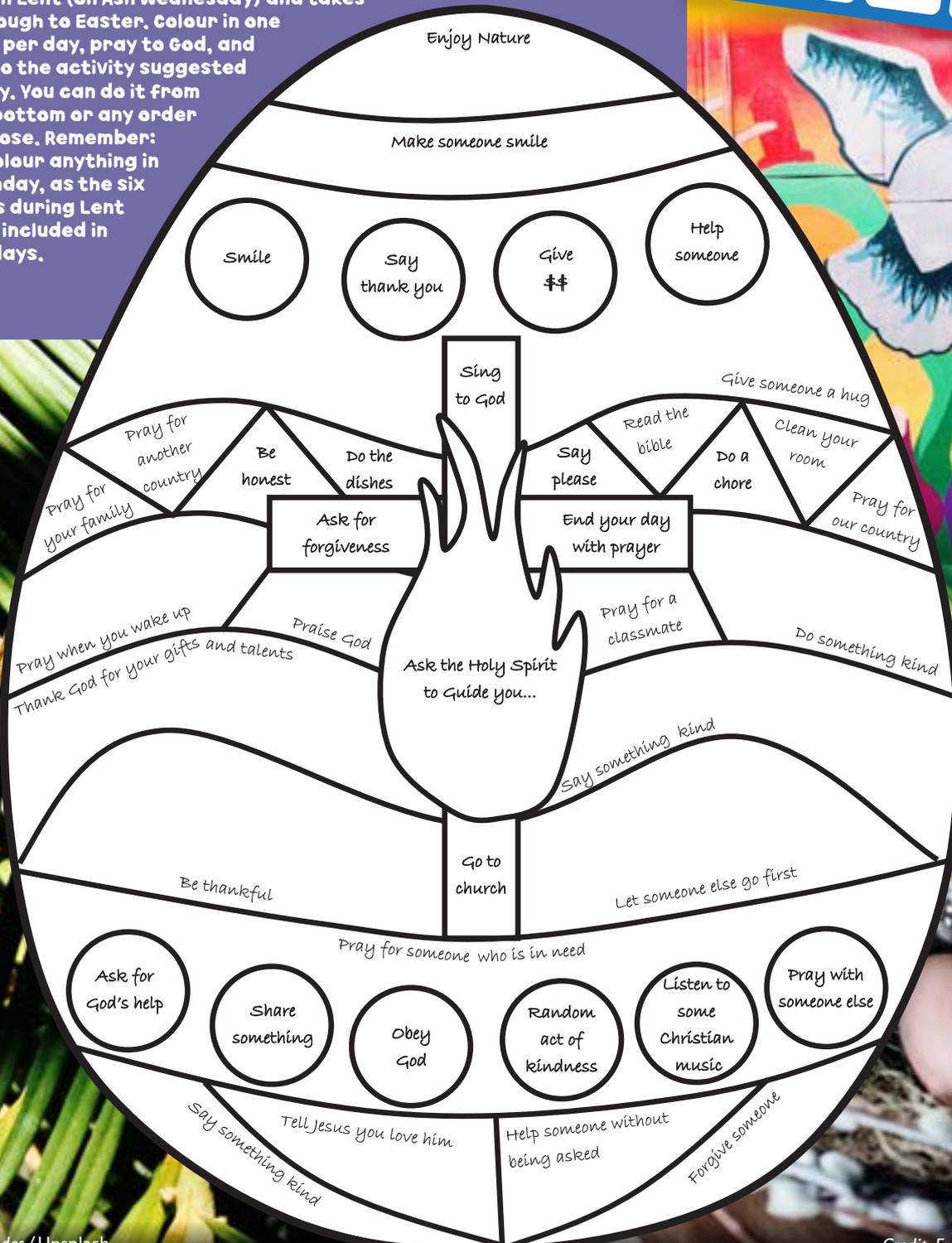
The Journey From Lent To Easter

Lent is an important time in the church calendar—it's the forty days before Easter Sunday (not including Sundays). Lent begins on Wednesday 2 March this year and ends on Saturday 16 April, the day before Easter Sunday—yay!

Here is an Easter egg for you to colour. This egg begins in Lent (on Ash Wednesday) and takes you through to Easter. Colour in one section per day, pray to God, and try to do the activity suggested that day. You can do it from top to bottom or any order you choose. Remember: don't colour anything in on a Sunday, as the six Sundays during Lent are not included in the 40 days.

Lent begins on Wednesday 2 March this year and ends on Saturday 16 April

2 March	→ forty	lent	lent
lent	lent	← days	16 April



Credit: Jon Tyson / Unsplash

Harakeke

Photo by Duane Mendes / Unsplash

Credit: Freestock / Unsplash

Extra for Explorers

There are a number of words and traditions associated with Lent. On this page is a small list of some of the words and their meanings



Ash Wednesday

Credit: tuttodisegne.com

Ash Wednesday is a day for sadness knowing that sin is in the world. It's the beginning of Lent, a time when we draw close to God. At Ash Wednesday services the minister draws a cross on your forehead using a smudge of ash and oil. This represents the cross Jesus died on. The ash is made by burning the Palm crosses from last year.



Shrove Tuesday

Credit: deliciousdecorating.co.uk

Shrove Tuesday, sometimes called **Pancake Day**, is the day before Ash Wednesday. As Lent is traditionally a time to give up luxuries so we can spend more time with God, one thing people

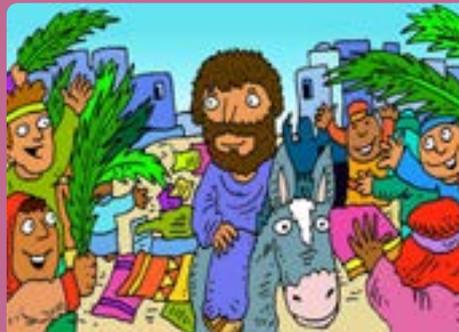
used to give up was rich food like eggs, sugar and milk. So, the day before Lent, people made pancakes to use the rich ingredients up and celebrate God's goodness just before going without it for 40 days.



Lent

Credit: scribblefun.com

Lent is the forty days before Easter Sunday. It starts on Ash Wednesday and goes through to Easter Day but does not include Sundays. The colour we use for Lent is purple and this is because it's the colour of Kings, and Jesus was called the "King of the Jews" by the Romans. They also draped him in a purple robe, another symbol of a King. But they did this to make fun of Jesus, so it also represents his suffering and humility. Purple also reminds us to think about the choices we make each day. As disciples of Jesus, is there something we could do better?



Credit: freebibleimages

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter and celebrates the time when Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem by the people who thought He would be their leader and help them

get rid of their Government (the Romans). He rode a donkey and people put their cloaks on the ground and waved palm branches singing: Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel! On Palm Sunday we often get crosses made of flax to represent the palm branches.



Holy Week is the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

Credit: stjosephwakefield.org

We see a crown made of thorns in church—that's because the Romans gave him a crown to make fun of him being a so-called "king". Holy Week is the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.



Credit: missionbibleclass.org

Want to know more?

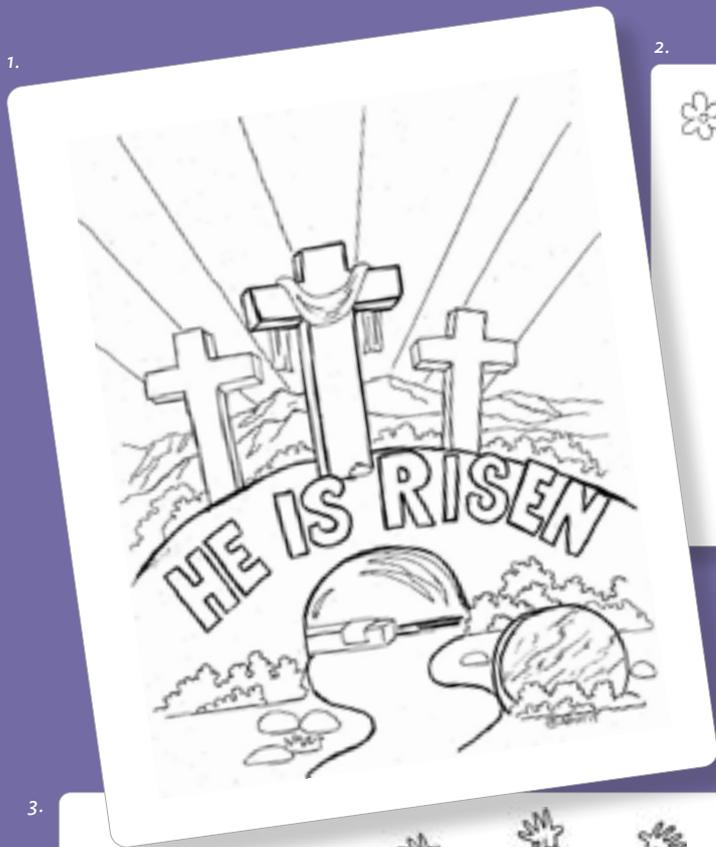
Ask your parents or leaders about...

- a donkey, a special supper and Jesus washing his friend's feet like a servant
- friends falling asleep during the night prayers, being betrayed by a friend, and a friend who said "I don't know Jesus" because he was scared
- a rigged trial, an earthquake, a torn-up temple curtain and a "I've changed my mind" Roman soldier
- a tomb, some spices, a stone, and a "very hard to explain to your boss" situation.

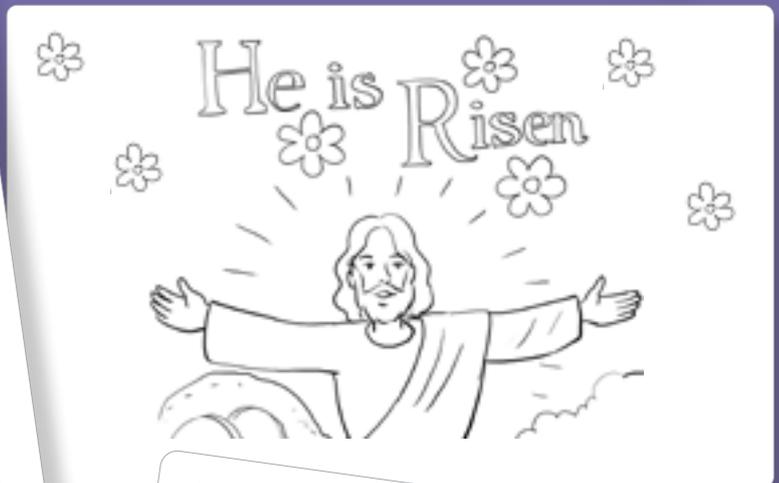


Colour these Easter images in...

1.



2.



3.



4.



Credit: 1 and 4. getcoloringpages.com 2. biblefunfactory.com
3. theredheadedhostess.com

Pentecost

Jesus is Alive! It's utterly Astounding!

Lent → 40 days → Easter → 50 days → Pentecost

Between Easter and Pentecost, the amazed disciples began to see that Jesus really was the Messiah, the Saviour promised to them. They listened as Jesus explained the meaning of the kingdom, helping them see it was a new gospel, a new movement, and that it was to be announced to the "ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The disciples were told to wait for help—God would send it to them. And when the Holy Spirit descended on them in power on the day of Pentecost, they turned in an instant from confused and aimless, to daring bold evangelists with a plan.

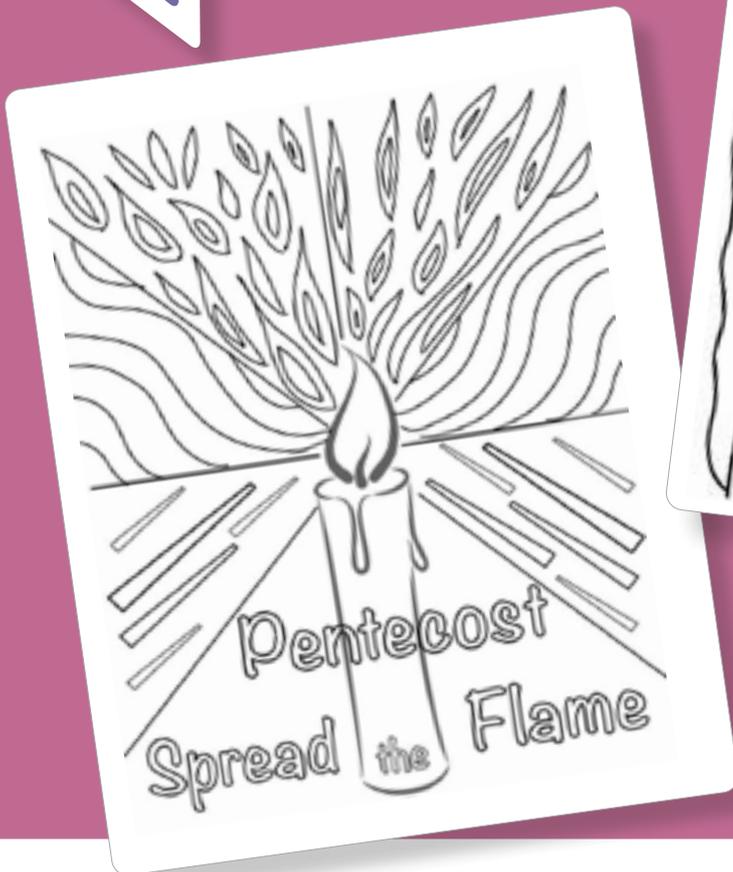
It took a while, but slowly and the Spirit taught them, they came to see that Jesus' gospel was for everyone: Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free. Everyone in the whole world.

The resurrection of the crucified Jesus is an historical fact. Jesus came alive again.

And that changes everything...

This activity is a bit early as Pentecost doesn't arrive until 5 June 2022. But it's good to see the journey in context between Lent, Easter and Pentecost. After all that's what Discipleship is all about: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" Matt 28:19 (Ed)

Colour these two images to celebrate the Day of Pentecost when God poured out his power on the baby church.



Words adapted from a blog by Ron Sider
ronsiderblog.substack.com

45 ways to encounter God

-English



45 Ways to Encounter God is a multilingual resource proudly produced by Women's Ministries of The Salvation Army New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory.

Find the other translations:
#45WaysToEncounter
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45 Ways to Encounter God is a multilingual resource produced by The Salvation Army NZ. There are now 6 languages available, and more are on there way. To download this printable go to tawa.salvationarmy.org.nz/church-community/women/resource/45-ways-encounter-god-multilingual-resource

NZ Eco Warrior–Women

Nature—an inspiring backdrop and resource to our worship and mission. Here in the Christchurch Diocese, we have some stunning vistas as the setting for our worship: The Church of the Good Shepherd in Takapō (right), or the Chapel of the Snows in Arthur’s Pass, for instance.

But in these challenging times of the triple threat—global warming, emissions and bio–diversity—the natural world is crying out for our loving attention, and we, the Church, can’t ignore it.

Below is a new resource, soon to be delivered, that focusses on the positive things NZ churches are doing to care for creation and it has a fairly decent Anglican representation.

Awahi Mai Awahi Atu: Women in Creation Care tells the stories of thirty NZ Christian women who are taking a lead in environmental action. Through their stories, thinking and experience, a powerful vision emerges of God at work, in a rich diversity of ways.

The book contains:

- The stories of 30 faith–filled women (3 from Christchurch) including a strong Anglican contingent (more than a third), and representatives from our three Tikanga (Pakeha, Māori and Pasifika)
- Vibrant stories of hope and creativity in the face of local and global problems
- A breadth of ages from 12 to 80, from the far north to the deep south
- 80 ‘action points’ provide practical tools for churches
- A wealth of prayer and poetry to connect heart and soul
- Discussion of theology in ecological mission

Is this the emergence of a dynamic mission movement? I hope so. Now, more than ever before, God is calling the church to care for God’s creation.

Awahi Mai Awahi Atu: Women in Creation Care encourages Christians to receive God’s love (‘awhi mai’) and to share God’s love (‘awhi atu’), in human community and with the natural environment.



The background vista during worship at the Church of the Good Shepherd (McKenzie Cooperating Parish) is spectacular. But our beautiful land is more than just a backdrop. Credit: George Empson



Editor Rev’d Silvia Purdie is a Presbyterian minister, counsellor and sustainability consultant. Silvia convenes the Christchurch group of A Rocha, an international non–denominational Christian environmental organisation. She also writes resources for Eco Church NZ. The Covid lockdown last year prompted her to interview people in creation care leadership. “I started thinking I might put together a small booklet with half a dozen women”, says Silvia, “but it just grew and grew! I kept finding more amazing women to write about.”

“Too often we rush through life without really examining the journey. The gift of contributing to this book was the invitation to recall God’s faithfulness. God has been faithful not only in bringing about that ‘second’ conversion towards the earth and its creatures but also in sustaining me on the journey of cultivating ‘a long obedience in the same direction’.” Rev’d Courtney Wilson, St Peter’s Anglican, Kaikoura



Want to help?

Awahi Mai Awahi Atu: Women in Creation Care is in the process of publication. It will be published as both a printed and an e–book via Philip Garside Publishing.

If this book excites you, and you want to help inspire the NZ church towards environmental action, you can donate towards the publishing costs at givealittle.co.nz/cause/celebrate-women-in-creation-care. They have already raised (as at the time of writing) a third of the money needed. By the time you read this it may be published already. But if not, and you donate \$30 or more, you’ll get one of the first copies of the book when it’s out.

Living Abundantly Covid-Style

I've been thinking...

I lead a small church and there's no denying the challenges we are facing.

We have an ageing congregation. Our outgoings are greater than our income. Some of us are bone tired. Some of us are really looking forward to a time beyond Covid when there will be more freedoms. But for now, we are doing what we can to avoid putting others at risk. Covid is serving as a sharp reminder that life is not all about what I want! And it's also reminding me that I am part of something bigger—and so are you.

For example, Covid has made us aware that we are in close contact with lots of people in our neighbourhoods! That's got me thinking about how we might share our faith in ways that reveal the abundant life that God desires for all people. I would guess that there are many people who, like me, detest having to wear a mask. I don't know anybody that goes "yay, I love wearing a mask all day!" But I do put on my mask before I get out of my car, before entering a building, and before I go near others.

I wonder how many people feel because of their life circumstances they need to constantly wear a mask before getting close to others, for fear people may see the reality of their daily lives, for fear they will be rejected or ridiculed.

Going to a social event or to any place which offers nourishment and refreshment, I now need to show my vaccine pass. I'm required to show the host that I'm OK, I'm safe, that I've got the right status before I'm allowed in.

I wonder how many people have at some point in their life got the message that they were not OK and were not part of the accepted group, who reluctantly inhabited the margins of society.

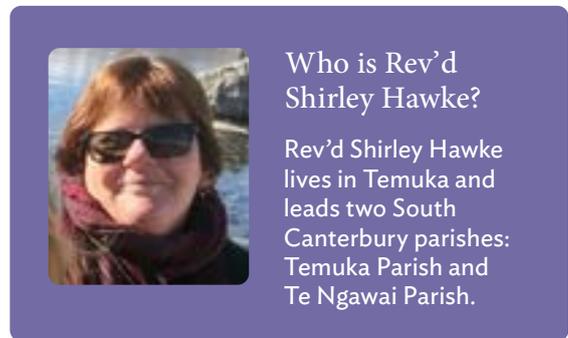
Then there is the scanning in. I have to scan the QR codes and record where I have been, provide the Government instant Bluetooth access to this data, even.

I wonder how many people live fearing that others will discover things about them they would prefer to keep secret, or that others will pass all kinds of uninformed judgements when they see where they have been, that they will be exposed and shamed.

Covid has reminded me of God's lavish gift of abundant life is for the whole of humanity, and that includes my local church; we are part of something bigger than just us. Now, when I put on a mask, I remind myself that rather than being guarded in my interactions with others I will be open and wholehearted. I'll take that risk. And when I show my vaccine pass, I remind myself to look around, to notice the people who might be feeling lost. And when I scan in at the places I go, I imagine what it might look like if the places I have been become places of interest on the government website—and I smile. I am God's beloved and life is full of wonderful surprises!



Credit: DailyVerses.net



Let's embrace the new canvas and look for the good Credit: Kerruso.com

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