



Clypping the Church, All Saints Day 2024

Photo by Barry Pearman

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From Sarah's Desk

It is traditional, on Easter Eve or Easter Day for those gathered to renew their baptismal vows. The priest sprinkles the congregation with water which has been blessed in the font, often with the accompanying phrase *"remember your baptism and be thankful"*.

What (if anything) do you remember about *your* baptism?

The first quarter of 2025 has seen a plethora of baptisms. In January we had the joy of Marika Jones' baptism and then in March, the baptism of eight children from three families.

Baptism is rich with theological themes of a new start, being named and known, choosing to stand with Christ, being welcomed into the Church. The baptism of an adult and the baptism of children (en masse) invited quite different approaches.

Here's an excerpt from my sermon at Marika's Baptism:

Some years ago, I heard writer and theologian Martin Smith tell a story about a young boy (under five) who had spent all his life as a member of an Episcopal (Anglican) church. When it came to The Peace, this young fellow did not extend his hand and say "Peace be with you". Instead he would go around high-fiving members of the congregation, saying "Amen!"

"Amen" is a word we use unthinkingly in this context, but very rarely anywhere else. It derives from the root word Emuna, meaning faith or trust. There are a variety of meanings associated with the word "Amen", including "Yes", "Praise the Lord", "Let it be", and "May it come to pass". All of which makes "Amen" a sound theological response to the Peace. Good choice, young fella.

After some time, someone asked this small boy why it was that he opted for the liturgical high-five accompanied by "Amen!" as his version of the Peace. And it transpired that he wasn't saying "Amen" at all. He was saying, "I'm in!"

Having heard scripture and its interpretation, having prayed for the church and for the world, this little man's response was "I'm in", which is not dissimilar to



“Yes”, “Let it be”, “May it come to pass”.

When an adult chooses baptism, it is the ultimate “I’m in”: “I may not fully understand what is going on here, (none of us really does) but I’m in.” And choosing to be in on God’s big idea for the healing of and redemption of the world also means pairing up with an unlikely group of companions. People at different ages and stages, with a variety of experiences and gifts, who choose to be here. They choose to be here because they know their need of God and they know their need for companions on the journey.

Today we celebrate that Marika chooses to respond to God’s invitation to stand with Christ with a Yes (an ‘Amen’). By default, that means that this community of faith gets to stand alongside you, Marika. Because Christianity is not an individual pursuit. It’s a team sport. It is our privilege and our pleasure.

Marika’s baptism offered a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the community within which our faith is nurtured. Just prior to the baptism liturgy, the congregation was invited to come forward and pour water into the font, so that the water that was used for Marika’s baptism was a symbol that “we’re all in”.



On March 16th (aka “D Day!”) I baptised eight children from the **de Gruchy, Douglas** and **Duder** families. Incredibly, the pandemonium I had predicted did not come to pass!

A baptism with children (as opposed to infants) offers a great opportunity to explore the symbols of the sacrament.

So in the sermon slot I invited all the children to come and help me work through my baptism checklist.

Baptism Checklist 16 March 2025 – All Souls, Clevedon

- ❑ Eight Baptism candidates
- ❑ Full names and details of above
- ❑ Three sets of parents:
- ❑ Godparents
- ❑ Extended Family and Representatives of the Church Community
- ❑ A baptism font
- ❑ Some water
- ❑ Some blessed oil
- ❑ Candles – named and dated
- ❑ Cards and certificates
- ❑ A really great morning tea



We talked about the importance of each of the children's names:

A name is important. For it not only reflects a person, but in some way shapes them. No parent gives their child a name they don't like. For some parents, the names they choose are simply because of how cool they sound. That is true for all of you. Oftentimes, parents will give names that link their child to someone in the family tree. That's also true for all of you being baptised today. How amazing is that? Your names tell a story. Baptism proclaims that even before your parents chose them, God knew each of your names and thought they sounded super cool, bursting with possibility.



I explained why it is essential that representatives of the faith community are present at a baptism: *The reason this service happens on a Sunday, and not on a random weekday is because we need members of the faith community present. Because Baptism is about welcome and belonging. Not just to your own family, but to the Family of God. Those people out there are some of them. Baptism means that*

whatever church you walk in to, you belong. And you belong with these people, whether you know them or not, whether you like it or not. Remember that.

Then the children covered their ears so I could speak privately to their godparents about their role:

Being a godparent is not about buying the coolest birthday present. It is about being an adult outside of these children's immediate family to whom they can relate. Being a godparent is about committing to a relationship that is intentional and focused on the flourishing of your godchild – physically, emotionally and spiritually.



Then we looked at the 'props' required for baptism, and the meaning behind each of them: water, oil, candles. Pip and Jo as Wardens assisted in that, with Barry bringing comic relief in the form of a hose and a fire extinguisher. Each of the eight children were very engaged in what was going on. It was indeed a glorious celebration.

So, what (if anything) do you remember about *your* baptism?

Many adults who were baptised as infants or children, later claim the promises made on their behalf by choosing to be Confirmed. I've had one parishioner enquire about Confirmation. If Confirmation (or the Renewal of Confirmation Vows) is something you are interested in, be in touch with me.

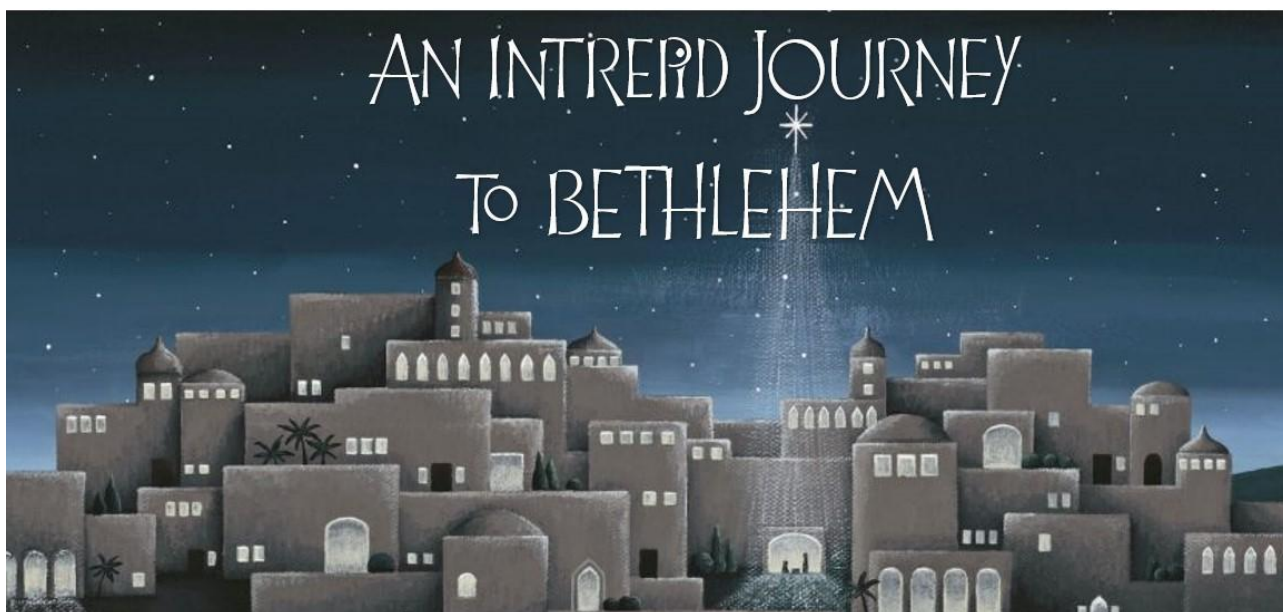
Sarah

An Observation from Rufus Scott

Sunday 16 March was a very busy day in the Clevedon Community – there were two markets, the Sculpture Trail, the Warbirds Display, and eight baptisms at All Souls.

There was much joy and happiness as these youngsters (aged between four and twelve years old) were baptised and welcomed into the church.

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany



Advent Event

120 people came through our Advent Event: ***An Intrepid Journey to Bethlehem***. For the first time in four years it did not rain!

Comprised of eight different stations, visitors were met by their tour guide, who told the Nativity Story as they groups moved around the site.

They were given a passport, which was stamped at each station. Each station used different media: music, art, performance, craft and sheep!



Our tour guides Bryan, Barry, JJ and Karen did a cracking job! In the hall Chris was on cuppa duty, and Sharon and Jo offered great craft making opportunities.

The whole event was a wonderful team effort. Entry was by donation to the parish, and either food for the City Mission or a children's gift for the ATWC.

This annual event is an incredibly important way to support the work of those who tend to our most vulnerable.



Advent 1: Dressing the Tree (above)

Christmas Eve saw All Souls packed to the gunnels!



On Christmas Day we were joined by Mouse at Clevedon



*The season of Epiphany
New Year 2025*

Lent 2025

On Ash Wednesday Vivienne offered a beautiful reflection on “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return” incorporated this exquisite piece by Jan Richardson.

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners
or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—
did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?
This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.
This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.
This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.

Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are
but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.



—from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

Giving it up for Lent

A Lenten Fast is not about punishment. Nor is it about demonstrating the iron strength of our will as we reject chocolate, or meat or alcohol. A Lenten Fast is about examining the things we quietly depend on to get us through the day: The distractions, the pacifiers, the anaesthesia.

A Lenten Fast is about restoring balance.

(On Lent 1, Devlin gave the balance board a go, as Sarah ladened him with heavy things)

For some it might be the affirmation we receive from Social Media, which we can pretend is the same as real relationship. For others it might be the buzz we get from being busy or competent, which distracts us from honest vulnerability. Or a TV series which we watch instead of the news, in order to avoid engaging with the frightening chaos that is unfolding in our world. It might be the ever-present cellphone we can reach for to distract us from

loneliness or silence or a morning coffee without which our ability to be a decent human is compromised. Our pacifiers are as unique as we are at this particular moment in time.

Lent is an opportunity to ask ourselves whether they are helping or hindering our relationship with God, ourselves and the world.



Watch this Space after Easter ...



A couple of years ago, Mark Hays organized a very successful fundraiser in the form of a *Money Can't Buy Raffle*. The winner had Jo Seagar cook dinner at their place, season

tickets to the Sanctuary St James concert series, a weekend at a Taupo bach, and a massage. We raised \$9,000 and plan to repeat this after Easter. Jo Seagar has agreed to be one of the prizes for this raffle again this year. What experience/service might you have that could be included as a prize?

Introducing Phoebe Taylor

In February Lizzie and Sarah interviewed for the role of Accounts Officer. We appointed Phoebe Taylor. A chartered accountant, Phoebe was more than qualified for the role. What struck us about Phoebe was her desire to be involved in the community and to get stuck in. Be sure to introduce yourself to her if you're passing.



Hi everyone

I'm Phoebe and I've just started as your new accounts person here at the Anglican Parish of Clevedon.

I live out near the Oyster Farm on Clevedon-Kawakawa Rd on 50 acres with my husband Dan and my three kids Sienna 16, Sam 14 and Connor 8.

We have 42 cattle, 6 old Ag Day sheep, a flock of chickens, 4 rescued cats and 2 dogs.

We've been living in Clevedon for 9 years and before that we lived in Maraetai.

I convinced Dan from Takapuna to move rural and now he loves being a farmer and says he'll never leave.

As far as my work goes, I am a Chartered Accountant and member of CAANZ. I worked as an auditor in Auckland before moving to London for 7 years where I had lots of interesting jobs including working for Nestle, the Design Museum and in banking.

Recently, I've held many volunteer roles including treasurer of Clevedon Pony Club, Beachlands Playcentre and the Maraetai Hall. I am the currently treasurer of Brookby School PTA. My kids and the farm take up most of my time, but I love travelling and I'm planning a trip to Japan next April for the cherry blossom season.

So far, I've really enjoyed learning the ropes and meeting members of this lovely friendly community.

I'm here on Mondays and Wednesdays 9am - 2pm so if you are around pop in and say hello.

Weddings



Hiromi Onoma and Jono Steele married in the forest at Bridgewater Country Estate, Helensville, October 2024.



Olivia Peterson and Ben Brook married at Millbrook Golf Course, Queenstown in February 2025.

Tahlia Sundrum and Jen Nung Hong had their marriage blessed at Nocton Woolshed Clevedon, on a blazing hot Saturday in March 2025.



Poetry by Barry

The Cows are on the Beach

*The cows are on the beach
We see police car come
Council has been many a time
Dotterels watch cows bum*

*They're heading to the dairy
Not to be milked for sure
Maybe eat some mooseli
Kawakawa Bay garden tour*

*There in my garden
Breakfast feast for sure
Freezer meals considered
Better in abattoir*

*I've talked with Mr Luxon
He knows about the fray
He's considering a name change
'What about Cowacowa Bay'?*

*How much is this costing?
Police emergency
Animal control
Lay some charges please
Before they take another stroll*

*The cows are on the beach
'Watch for dotterels' council says
We say get rid of the cows
Bull.... out of Kawakawa Bay*

22/3/25



An Old Man Wearing a Hat

*I sit in silence
I wait for light
I ponder on the day that's coming
Open up my sight*

*How will you provide today
Where will your artists brush touch
down
I will have to pay close attention
To hear the angels sing 'Well done'*

*Will it be in the flower
Will it be in the chat
Will it be in the smile
Of an old man wearing a hat*

*I open my mind
I will wait and see
What the Lord
Will give to me*

*Providence is an underused word
God's protective care
A spiritual power.*

*It's not about luck
It's not about chance
It's taking time to notice
To give thanks for God's dance*

*At end of day
I will make a review
How did the providence of God
provide
In the mystery of me and you*

*Was it a flower
Was it a chat
Was it the smile
Of an old man wearing a hat*

28/2/25

A Car Boot Sale and Book Fair was held mid-February as a fundraiser for the parish. It attracted vendors from within the church family and many from the wider community. Fabulous weather added to the convivial atmosphere. Many thanks to all those who took part or offered their support in a multitude of ways: particularly Simone for getting the idea off the ground and making it happen, Philip and Ben for sorting countless books into alphabetical order and Clare and Barry for getting the word out. Thanks also to those parishioners who generously donated the proceeds of their car boot sale. The event raised over \$1,000. Thank you!!



Looking in Windows

By Barry Pearman

There Dad and I stood. Outside the window of George Courts on K'Rd. A lot of interesting things to see on 1960's Karakangahape Rd. Still are! Mum would be inside getting all sorts of things to take back to our Wellsford home. I went in a couple of times, but mostly Dad and I would wait outside. He, with folded hands behind his back, and me looking around, growing impatient. I think I have picked up that pose from him. I don't like going into shops that much, unless it's the den of temptation – Mitre 10.



But you had to go into George Courts to truly experience the diversity of items on display. My father, a good outdoors farming man, preferred the fresh air and watching the bustle of people walking by.

The shop windows were interesting though. They gave you a peek at what might be inside. Mannequins

with dresses. Men in stylish suits. All saying 'come inside and take a look around.' So what happens inside?

If you remember the comedy *Are you being served?* I think it was a bit like that. There was a hive of activity: staff, managers, cleaners, decorators. All busy in their roles to create a wonderful place to shop.

Mum would share with others about the bargains she had bought. Then she would see in the Herald a sale and off we would go. Dad and I, out on K'Rd again. But you didn't ever really experience it unless you went inside. The smells, the lighting, the 'dinging' of the cash register.

These days, those shop windows are online. Type in 'The Warehouse' and up will come everything available in under a second. You can even buy items without even having to go into the shop.

I love looking at our wonderful stained-glass windows at both All Souls and Christ Church. But they can only be seen from the inside.

That is why I am passionate about our Website and our Social Media profiles – Facebook and Instagram. They are our 'shop windows'.



**Anglican Parish of
Clevedon**

504 likes • 641 followers



People in our community want to know what goes on inside. They also want to know what we as a community are like:

- Are we young or old?
- Are there children?
- What happens in a service?
- Who is the Vicar and what is she like?
- Is there somewhere we can come and sit and be quiet?
- Is it friendly?

Pictures, videos, and the stories they tell, all speak the message.

This is who we are, this is what we are like, you're welcome to come and join in!

They can 'peek in' and get a feel for what goes on.

A couple of examples of how this happens:



- Views of our services. (a year ago it was about 100 people viewing)
- On December 17th, Sarah did a short video thanking people for the Christmas donations to the Auckland City Mission. This was viewed 1064 times.
- On the morning of our Car Boot sale, Simone and I did a 39 second video: 833 views.
- Denise did a little video promoting the Chip packet recycling project: 1013 views
- *Sanctuary St James* is promoted across the website and social media platforms. People see the inside of the Church, get a feel for the vibe, and want to know more. We share the promotions out into the local Facebook groups.

New shop windows, new people coming, so new mission ahead.

Word of mouth. Click of mouse.

So here's the challenge: in business, and in life, we will most likely connect with people we know, like, and trust. So please share the shop window. Share the Facebook posts. Forward the emails. Get the news out there and invite people into all our activities.

It used to be solely 'word of mouth' but now it's also 'click of mouse'. When you see a Facebook post come through and you like the content, then please like it and share it with your friends. Leave a comment, add a GIF, 'wave your hands in the air like you just don't care' (I wonder where I learned that from?!)

Let's keep creating shop windows and invite our community to look in.



It has been a joy to coordinate the Sanctuary St James Music Series over the past year, working with Jo and Bryan Schroeder, Barry Pearman, John Cowan and Jeffrey Fleming. A series of concerts was held in Autumn and Spring in 2024, with four concerts each

season covering a wide range of genres from the magnificent solo violin performance of Amalia Hall to the toe tapping music of the Clover Celtic trio. Each concert was very well attended by up to 85 people, many from the surrounding community and further afield.

Artists love the ambience and excellent acoustics of our beautiful church and the warmth of our enthusiastic audiences, who in turn appreciate the range of excellent music provided locally. Music is a bridge that connects people, and it is wonderful to see the animated conversations between people after each concert, and during the supper that follows either the first or last concert for each series. Thanks to Mary Brady and parish helpers for organising the catering, and to Neil MacCormick for generously providing drinks for performers after each concert.

At the time of writing we are preparing for our **Autumn 2025 series**.

Sunday May 4th we start with ***Bleu, Blanc Rouge*** (right) starring Parisian singer/songwriter Sonia Wilson, guitarist Nigel Gavin and accordionist Tracey



Collins. The trio will perform a combination of French cafe, jazz and gypsy music with local and international influences. Supper will be served after the concert.



Sunday May 11th will feature award winning Soprano ***Felicity Tomkins*** (left), accompanied on keyboard by David Kelly. Felicity has been described as “having a voice like manuka honey, priceless and healing to boot” (*Waikato Times*)

On **May 18th** we will be treated to a cutting-edge repertoire from four saxophonists who are rapidly gaining a reputation for their chamber music group ***The Orion Saxophone Quartet*** (right).



On **Sunday May 25th** we welcome the ***Nairobi Trio*** for the final concert of the series. Described as New Zealand's favourite "Jazz Entertainers", the

band showcases skilfully crafted original material which at times quotes jazz-infused and at times Celtic references, with popular repertoire delivered in a dynamic engaging style.

Joyce Cowan

Tickets cost **\$105 for the whole season**, or \$35 for the first concert, (which includes supper) and \$30 for each of the remaining three concerts. To get yours, visit the Concert Series tab on our website: <https://www.clevedonanglicans.org.nz/concert-series.html>

Big Mission Home

This is the third year that Clevedon Anglicans have had a team walk the 17km fundraising walk in support of the Auckland City Mission.

On 21 March, Bruce Gray, Lily Liu, Sarah Park, JJ and Yujie Payne, Bryan and Joanne Schroeder, Sue Blyth (a friend of Sarah's, Sue walked last year too) and Lynley Cunningham (a former boss of Sarah's from last century) set out to walk round the beaches of East Auckland. It was a glorious (and hot!) day! Over several hours we fell into step with different companions. The conversation was rich and the views spectacular.







Thank you to everyone who supported us, and thanks for the lovely messages we received on the day.

The first beach: Eastern Beach



At the end of the walk, satisfied and sore!

The team raised a whopping \$6,753 for the Auckland City Mission, with two team members making it to the individual leader board. Not bad going for a little parish in the country! We rank fourth place over all, and just behind the St George's Youth Group. Hearty congrats to St Aidan's for taking out the Anglican title!

1		PARKER WHĀNAU AND FRIENDS	Raised \$12,160
2		ST AIDAN'S REMUERA	Raised \$8,840
3		ST G'S YOUTH EPSOM	Raised \$6,983
4		CLEVEDON ANGLICANS	Raised \$6,753

At the time of writing the Big Mission Home has raised \$100,861.

Sharon Rae's *Sounds to Sounds* Bike Tour

On the 5th of March I started the Sounds to Sounds bike tour biking from Marlborough Sounds to Doubtful Sound. A total of 1500 km. I cycled this with my fellow cycling friend Robyn Chaffey (aged 72) who is a Hospital Chaplain in Gisborne.

Along the trail there were so many experiences of God going ahead and providing for both of us.

Getting ready to leave Camden, at the beginning of the Molesworth Station my concerns were not having enough food, water or power.

My reading in the morning was from Matthew 6:25, 26

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them”

My initial thoughts were ‘Yeah right’ that in the middle of an outback high country sheep station that God would be able to provide. Lo and behold, on the roadside a couple of children, Jim and Chloe, had set up a little fruit stand. They were selling pears and peaches for a donation. The pear tree was a hundred years old. It just felt like a real uncanny answer to prayer.



On one section of the trail I was particularly anxious about not having enough battery power for me to make a 92 km ride to Hamner Springs. Some hunters were staying where we were and I cheekily asked if they could give us a lift back to the main trail, a 2 km steep climb out of Muller Station. Instead this turned into a 20km ride! I hadn't seen such a big smile on Robyn's face before. She had been praying for an answer for this 92 km section.

Another time we went off track and had to cross a very busy narrow bridge. At a cafe before the bridge we met a couple who had completed Sounds to Sounds in 2024. Just before crossing the bridge we met up with them again and they offered to follow us over the bridge with hazard lights flashing. We gratefully accepted.



I completed the ride on Sunday the 23rd of March by crossing Lake Manapouri by ferry and cycling down into Doubtful Sound. I arrived at the dead end, by myself, with Robyn deciding not to go down the very steep hill. The last challenge, and probably one of the greatest, was the 10 km climb up 671 metres out of Doubtful Sound. Of course, upon my return to

Manapouri my battery was very low. Barry had planned to meet me at the wharf. I was hoping that he would have brought the car, but from the ferry I could see he was on a push bike! Knowing I would have to cycle a 25 km ride back to Te Anau this would not be joyous. Barry looked a bit worse for wear too.

So God provided a tour bus going back to Te Anau that allowed us to put our bikes underneath and give us a ride. This is unheard of. Barry slipped the bus driver \$40, probably beer money.

Overall this tour was an adventure of stunning scenery, being out in the elements, rivers, rocks, bridges, and great cycling tracks. It was a journey filled with answered prayer and meeting some amazing people.

A little poem to describe my tour.

Not fully understanding
The warning is there
Rough surfaces are ahead

We are all set up on a loaded up bike
Hardtail electric mountain bike
New tires and brakes
Ready for what's ahead

Hilly terrain
Gravel, rocks and rivers
Why so many rocks?
The sound of gravel under my tyres, continues for days
When we hit the tar sealed roads
The urge to kiss the surface

It's not an uncommon thought.

How often I studied the official guide
Watched the YouTube clips
Reading story books of others encounters of Sounds to Sounds
It's not until I'm on it do I fully understand

My memories have been bitter
Pain had over shadowed my mind
It's been seven days since completing and I begin to see clearly again
The cloud is slowly lifting from the challenges we faced

I'm remembering the blessing
God answering prayer
From the very first surprise from a 100 year old pear tree
Hunters who offered us a ride
Surprise meeting with lovely ex clients
Help over busy bridges, protecting us with their car.
Meeting fellow cyclists from years ago,
hitching a ride in their camper van,
perfect timing to miss the Omarama saddle.
Battery is on its way home by land through another helpful hand
God has been with us in the out backs of this land.

We hear about trail angels
I'm actually one myself
Care and comfort
It's not much but it all adds up
Connecting with others on tour bikes.



Waitangi 2025

This summer, I hosted two friends of mine from Tsawassen, BC, Canada. Paul and Joanne had never been to New Zealand and knew only as much about our country as they had picked up from knowing me for the last twenty years ... which is to say, not much!

I took up the challenge of preparing them for their trip, which turned out to be extraordinarily difficult. How do

you talk about New Zealand that will give them a comprehensive idea of who we are and why we are? I chose to take them to Waitangi ... for Waitangi Day. The instruction was, “look, listen, experience!”

The prospect of an “interesting” Waitangi was pretty good. David Seymour’s Treaty’s Principles Bill had created quite a stir. I had attended the hikoī to parliament buildings in Wellington and saw first hand the response of Māori.

Although the Prime Minister was going to be elsewhere, Waitangi was still going to be an event that would inform and educate. It was that, and more.



We stayed in the caravan park at Haruru Falls, a most fortuitous decision, as this was the staging place for the twelve to fourteen waka that were going to be part of the event. We were bystanders to the calls from those on land and the responding haka from the waka as they came in from practicing out in the bay.

That was the experience that separated past Waitangi experiences from this one for me. Māori being amongst their own participating in their culture, not as showpiece but as respect for each other. This was not performance. This was authenticity, and we just happened to be at the right place at the right time.

The sense of respect and belonging was present throughout the Day. It was the first time that I was introduced to the idea that I was not just a pakeha, but “tangata tiriti”, people of the treaty, along with “tangata whenua”. I have always felt that New Zealand was home. Now I belong to Aotearoa.



My friends from Canada, Paul and Joanne, were deeply moved by the experience. The more so as there is nothing like the Waitangi experience in British Columbia. I would say, nothing like it in the world.

By Trevor Fisher

New Vestry Elected

At our AGM on Sunday 30 March Sarah acknowledged those Vestry members who were not standing for re-election: **Clare Moss, Mark Hays** and **Susan MacDougall**. Each has brought unique gifts, energy and experience to the work of Vestry. We are very grateful.

The following parishioners were elected to Vestry:

Joanne Schroeder was re-elected as Warden and **Valonia Lawrence** re as Synod Rep. The following were re-elected as vestry members: **Denise Moyle, Bryan Schroeder, Karen Taylor**. Newly elected members are **Jenny Hays, JJ Payne and Lizzie Stanford**. (Lizzie is also Treasurer.) In addition to these are the three appointed members of Vestry: **Phillipa MacCormick** (Warden), **Sarah Park** (Vicar) and **Vivienne Pyle** (Secretary). Thank you in advance for the work you will do on our behalf!

2025 looks set to be another ‘interesting’ year. It is good to know we have such fine people to govern the parish.

Schroeder's Southern Excursion

On 30 January Bryan and I left home driving South, caravan in tow behind us. The main purpose of our trip was, having attempted to book many times and at last having success in May, to freedom walk the Milford Track.

We enjoyed catching up with old friends in Wellington and our respective siblings in the South Island as we drove down to Te Anau.

A road trip is a lovely way to appreciate the beauty of Aotearoa and we were blessed with fine weather most days for the almost 6 weeks we were away.

There were six of us booked for Milford and it was a wonderful tramp.

The scenery is spectacular even when walking in dry weather! We therefore did not witness the numerous waterfalls that can quite literally appear as you walk in wet conditions but the views from McKinnon Pass were amazing.

We love Central Otago and Aspiring National Park. We explored some new day walks and revisited some favourites, staying in Glenorchy, Cromwell, Wanaka and Roxburgh.

The landscapes can be a breathtaking reminder of God's beauty made evident in His Creation.



In Dunedin we were able to spend time with our son and his family, enjoying getting to know little Charlie, eighteen months old and a delight!

All in all a fantastic time reconnecting with friends and family and truly appreciating our beautiful land.

By Joanne Schroeder

St James Update

In her Warden's Report to the Parish AGM, Phillipa MacCormick gave an update on St James Ardmore. Since the discovery of Borer rendered the building structurally unsound \$64k of grant money has been spent. We have received a 130-page draft Conservation Plan, but in order to achieve clarity about the extent of the damage and the estimated cost of restoration, we would need to be granted another \$23k.

Our ability to be good stewards of St James has been compromised not only by the level of care the building requires, but also because of the diminishing number volunteers available to tend the site. As a Parish we have reached a point where further decisions need to be made about the future of St James. The options Vestry sees are:

1. **Do nothing:** Continue to maintain the cemetery but leave St James as is.
2. **Proceed with the next stage of investigating restoration:** Continue applying for funding to move to the next phase, which would give clarity about the possibility of remediation.
 - Pursuing this option does not guarantee that restoration will be the final outcome for St James. There would need to be another parish decision point once the scale of the structural issues and cost of remediation is known.
 - If restoration is the chosen outcome, the parish would need to be clear about the purpose for which the building was being restored: worship or something else?
 - Restoration of the building would not preclude exploring sale at a later date.
3. **Explore selling the land and buildings:** As a consequence of the Synod resolution to strategically divest underutilized resources, the Parish could make a request to Diocesan Council to seek a pathway and permission to sell St James and the land on which it sits "as is". Because St James has a cemetery, potential buyers would be either cemetery operators or another church.
4. **Some Other Option** – something which Vestry may not have identified.

We are in the process of setting a date for a **Special General Meeting** to discuss the future of St James and vote on a way forward. In the lead up to that, Parishioners are invited to contribute suggestions under Option 4 to be included in the discussion or request additional information that would assist our conversation. Only current members of the Parish Roll will be entitled to vote at the SGM.

Easter Labyrinth

Karen Taylor, Sarah, and Sarah's sister Hellen have been working on a Labyrinth for the Season of Easter. This will be put into the Glebe just prior to Easter Day and will remain there right through to Pentecost.

The ancient practice of labyrinth prayer invites a pilgrim to journey towards the centre in a pattern that includes a false finish or two; just as it looks like the centre is arriving, the path takes the pilgrim away from the centre.

Entering a labyrinth is an invitation to encounter God as source, companion and destination, as well as light to see self and path more clearly.

The inward journey also invites us to let go our agendas, perhaps even the questions we think important.

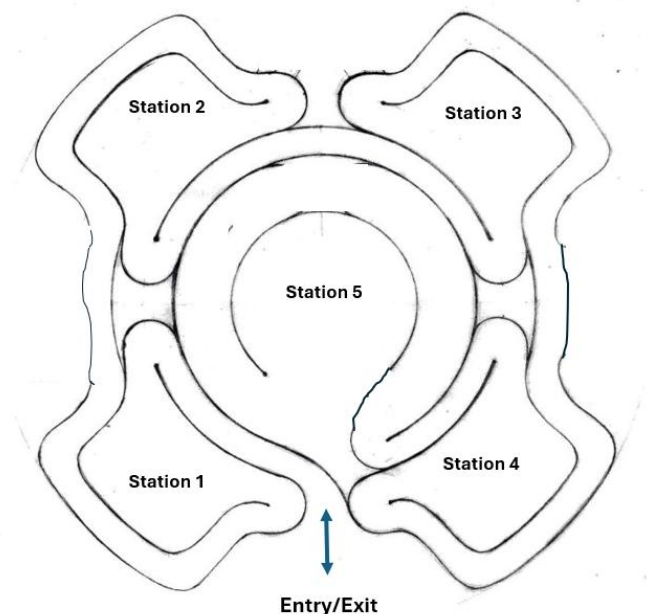
The outward path is a return to our familiar communities, our households and neighbourhoods, and a sending forth into those worlds, by less than direct routes.

When our bodies lead, they may tell our stories in ways our minds, in their well-worn paths might try to hide. Our bodies may lead indirectly to encounter God in the lived-in places.

The design of this Labyrinth allows for the inclusion of five stations which invite reflection on five Easter-related themes.

Each station will have a visual focus, and some words, and in some cases an invitation to a particular action.

It is our hope that this Labyrinth will offer the community a different way to encounter the God of resurrection.



Sacred Places to Pause: A Ministry of Beauty

A year ago, a team put in six pausing places around the grounds at All Souls, each with an accompanying piece of poetry, which is changed out with the seasons. Inspired by *The Quiet Garden Movement*, **Sacred Places to Pause** is intended to offer something of value, springing from our faith but having effect beyond our church doors. It was our dream when starting the garden that people in the community would be impacted, even if we never met them.



On a Sunday morning in March a young girl (about five) named Layla and her Dad and their dog came and told me how much they enjoy reading the poems. Layla had written a poem, which she offered us. The Autumn Collection has recently been installed.

Look out for Layla's poem in the Spring Collection later this year.

Hey there, Georgy Girl ...



Watch this space! In June there'll be opportunity to join with others from the parish see John Chapman perform in the Papakura Theatre Club's performance of **Georgy Girl: The Seekers Musical**.

Holy Week and Easter 2025

We begin Holy Week with the ***Procession of Palms and Reading of the Passion*** on **Palm Sunday** at Christ Church, 9.30am. There then follows a simple ***Eucharist*** at All Souls, at 10am on **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week**.

Maundy Thursday we have our ***Service of Shadows*** at 7.30pm at Christ Church. The structure of the service is based on a Tenebrae liturgy which is traditionally held during the three days preceding Easter Day and is characterized by gradual extinguishing of candles. The word Tenebrae is Latin for "Darkness".

The service incorporates seven Gospel readings which tell the story of Jesus sharing the Passover with his disciples, the movement to Gethsemane, Jesus' betrayal by Judas, his arrest and Peter's denial. Each reading is accompanied by a piece of congregational singing. In this way our worship echoes the Advent pattern of Lessons and Carols. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar and sanctuary, symbolizing the humiliation and barrenness of the cross.

On **Good Friday** we offer ***The Great Three Hours*** from noon until 3pm at All Souls. This is the service at which we reflect on the crucifixion of Jesus. The theme this year is the seven words from the cross.

The three hours is divided into nine 20-minute sections, beginning on the hour, 20 minutes past the hour and 20 minutes to the hour. The service consists of readings, prayers, reflections, poetry, music, hymns and liturgical action. Silence is woven between the various elements to allow time for personal prayer and reflection. You are invited to come and go as you wish.

On **Holy Saturday** we hold the first official celebration of Jesus' resurrection with ***The Great Vigil of Easter***, 8pm at All Souls. This service is traditionally held after sunset or before sunrise. At this service we light the Easter Fire and the Paschal Candle, recall the story of God's goodness throughout history, renew our Baptismal Vows and celebrate the Easter Eucharist.

Finally on **Easter Day**, we will have simultaneous all-aged ***Resurrection Eucharist*** services at both Christ Church and All Souls, 9.30am.

The ***office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday after Easter*** to enable the clergy to collapse in a heap!