

Charter

Bi-monthly magazine of Chartwell Cooperating Church
Anglican | Methodist | Presbyterian



Farewell and best wishes to Julie and Ken .

IN THIS ISSUE

Church Information	2	Ken's Progressive service	14
Milestones	2	Progressive Exploration Services	15
Minister's Report	3	Winnie Payne memorial bench	16
Christmas Services	5	Allan King	17
Selwyn Foundation	7	St. Andrew's Day	18
Youth Finale	8	Parish Council Highlights	19
The Gospel of John	10	Library Notes	20
The Church Picnic	13	Health Form	22

Parish Information

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Aaron Bennett 027 497 6209

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Catherine Polglase 855 5443

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CHARTER: Aaron Bennett, Amanda Bowcott, Alec Utting.

MILESTONES

Compiled by GWEN KENTISH

BAPTISMS: We welcomed into our church family through baptism on 12th November **Hayley Paige** and **Daniel Mark Dawbin**, children of Mark and Kylie Dawbin and **Rebecca Aimee Street**, daughter of Adrian and Sharon Street and on 19th November, **Paige Rose Mitchell**, daughter of Shaun and Alex Mitchell. Paige's baptism was Skyped to her father who is in the US for work and to Nelson where her godmother's response was heard by us. This is the first time we have Skyped a baptismal service. Then on 26th November, at the start of the end-of-year event for Youth at Chartwell Church (Y.A.C.C) three of our young people chose to be baptised by full emersion in the Bowcott's pool: **Samuel James Hollis**, **Nicola Paige Hollis** and **Emily Rose Hollis**, the family of Peter and Andrea Hollis.

DEATHS: We offer condolences to those who have lost family members in the past two months: to the family of **Joy Stringfield** [d.12/10] whose funeral was held at Chartwell Cooperating Church on 19 October; to Leslie Haworth and family on the death of her husband **Don Haworth** [d.21/10] whose funeral was held at St Andrew's, Cambridge on 27th October; to Loris Eyre and family on the death of her husband **Colin Eyre** [d.27/10] whose funeral was held at Chartwell Cooperating Church on 30th October; to Errol and Linda Thom on the death of her mother **Ethel Muirhead** [2/11] at Te Awamutu; to the family of **Joan Sparrow** [d. 17/11] whose funeral was held at Chartwell Cooperating Church on 21 November; to the family of **David Kentish** [d. 21/11]. A memorial service for David will be held at Chartwell Church at 10.30am on 16th December.

Disclaimer: The articles contained in Charter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministers or Chartwell Cooperating Church. We seek to represent as wide a range of views as possible within Charter, to reflect the diversity within our congregation.



MINISTER'S REPORT from REV. KEN

We wish you a happy and blessed Christmas.

Where has the year gone?

Is it just me or are the years flashing by even faster than previously?

Such is the disconnect between brain, assumption and feelings we experience at times.

In the rush of this Christmas season our prayer would be that we manage to grasp some time to slow down and fully live the days and the precious moments this time offers us; being able to

perceive signs of grace and love awaiting discovery; the life and light emanating from baby's crib, fellow sojourners, and in unexpected places and people we will encounter. Discovering the mystery of the Divine in the most unanticipated places and times is often the most precious treasure. For this is how God so often breaks into our lives, to bless and renew with new vision and new life.

Christmas has that ability to strip away the pretence of our lives, to glimpse once again what is truly vital and life giving. Maybe that's why a fragile newborn baby is such a potent symbol; we can rarely observe a newborn without being struck by the wonder of life and the awareness of something profound and precious being in our midst. So, may this season bring abundant blessings and insights of what life is meant to be.

As we come to the close of another year and the beginning of a new one, such moments offer us the promise of the unknown and the excitement of new possibilities ahead. What are the new opportunities you may embrace in the year ahead? How might they change and transform your life? Are there things to be done in preparation for such possibilities to meet them well?



In this parish Rev Chee will be supported in the New Year by Rev Gloria Zanders, who will bring her wonderful, unique gifts and abilities, her discoveries of the God we follow, and offer them to the parish.

As we reflect upon our wonderful time here at Chartwell Cooperating Parish, we would like to thank you for the love and care offered to us, for the wise council of so many, and the grace which has blessed and nurtured us, the special friendships which have developed and grown over nearly fifteen years, and the glimpse of Christ in the faces of those we have journeyed with. These have been rich, joy filled years. There have been significant life moments shared together which we have been privileged to be part of and have been a blessing to us; baptisms, weddings, celebrations of lives lived fully and faithfully. These, along with special times of gathering for celebrations or the privilege to worship God in varied and diverse ways, have all been a great blessing. I have found it a privilege to journey with you over this time, as both a Presbyterian, and as a Methodist minister.

As you journey on, may you continue to embrace the wide and wonderful diversity which exists here. We will seek to do likewise with those we meet on our ongoing journey of faith. As Paul would say, "may grace abound" for you. May we each be able to love even when it is challenging so that we emanate the light of Christ and the kingdom vision of a different and more radical living and being, where justice is done, love heals, wisdom flies in the face of those common assumptions which diminish life and where all are honoured and respected.

Thank you for the privilege of this journey with you.

May God bless you richly this day and all days.

Next year I will undertake a supply ministry at Cambridge Uniting Church.

Ken and Julie Olsen



Christmas Services...

Advent 2 – Sunday 10th December

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Family Service with children's nativity play

Advent 3 – Sunday 17th December

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Family Service – farewell for Rev Ken & Julie Olsen

Advent 4 – Sunday 24th December

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am "Carol our Christmas" favourite carols service
- 9.30am Insight Service

Christmas Eve – Sunday 24th December

- 4.30pm "Carols and Crafts" Family Service
- 11.30pm Carols by Candlelight with Holy Communion

Christmas Day – Monday 25th December

Celebrate together the birth of Jesus

- 9.00am Holy Communion

...and into the New year

- The **Wednesday Holy Communion Service** will run until the 20th December and then recommence on the 7th February
- **Whole Church Picnic at Raglan** on Sunday 4th February from 12:30-3pm. All welcome. BYO picnic.
- **Ash Wednesday** Service will be held on Wed 14th February
- **Harvest Festival** will be held near the end of Autumn
- Annual Leave over Christmas:
 - Ken is away from 26th Dec-8th Jan and leaves on the 14th January
 - Amanda will be away from Dec 26-8th Jan and 15th-21st January

Church Office Hours

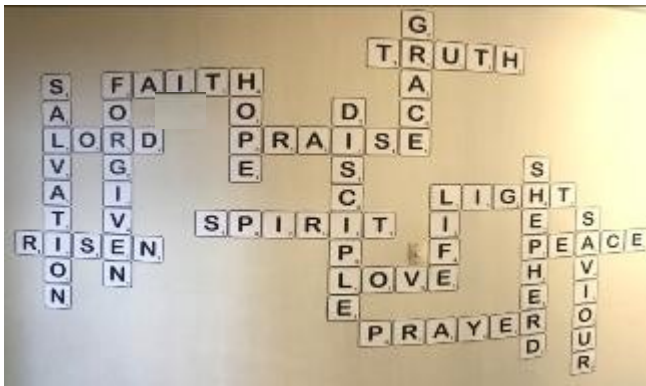
The office will close at 3pm on Friday 22nd December and reopen the 15th January. The office will only be open mornings for the first week back and will resume normal hours (9am-3pm) from the 22nd January.

During this period if help is needed please phone Rev Chee direct on 0274148909. Should he not answer rest assured his answer phone is checked regularly.

Christmas Eve Family Service
Carols and Craft

@ Chertwell Cooperating Church,

The youth have been making their mark around the building....



Activities for older people

The Selwyn Foundation has been serving older people in New Zealand with integrity, warmth and respect for almost 60 years. As an independent charitable trust, the Foundation has a set of values we believe in and seek to live by – Faith, Care, Independence and Wellness.

The Parish Council recently decided to engage with Selwyn Foundation to start a local Selwyn Day Centre on site. Selwyn Day Centres provide companionship, fun, help and support to those over 65 who may be living alone or have limited opportunity to get out and about. The Day Centre will begin on Thursday 1st February 2018. It will be held weekly. Please spread the word around.

The varied programme includes social games, some gentle exercises and morning tea, all at a minimal charge per person. Regular outings and excursions are also organised on occasions. New participants are always welcome. So come and meet new friends, have fun and enjoy good conversation at your local Selwyn Centre right here at Chartwell Church!

Volunteers needed: Do you have an hour or two - weekly or fortnightly - to socialise with the older people attending the Selwyn Centre? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Ian Bridge at iankbridge@gmail.com



YOUTH FINALE!!

We had a great YACC finale on Sunday 26th November out on the farm of Amanda and Blair Bowcott. The weather was perfect and the pool was warm.

This was just as well as we all got to start the evening off with a very special event. We were blessed to have the full immersion baptisms of Emily, Nicola and Samuel Hollis performed by Ken. It was wonderful that they were surrounded by their friends and some members of their family. It was a lovely, meaningful and intimate service that set a celebratory tone to the rest of the proceedings.



After the service the pool went from being a baptismal font to being a playground as it was invaded by youth and the sounds of splashing, squealing and laughter.

The youth enjoyed time playing frisbee, kickball, bat-down and just hanging out on the trampoline and the playground. Dinner was a relaxed affair followed by some gift giving between each other. This is a sure way to get everyone's attention and have everyone smiling!

Then more excitement as we lit the bonfire which warmed everyone up nicely and of course was a great excuse to roast a few hundred marshmallows!!

All in all a great night and a fun end to what has been a fabulous year of YACC! We have had formal, casual, messy, wet and competitive events throughout the year, all while celebrating God in our lives and the joy of making new friends. YACC has also had a successful year with their social action project of supporting Foster Hope.

I would like to say a super huge thank you to Brad for taking over the YACC ministry segments this year and also to our other youth leaders; Catherine, Aaron and Tim.

Have a fabulous holiday everyone and a safe and happy Christmas.



Lightwire

INSIGHT SERVICE : The Gospel of John

As the Insight service has been working its way through the Bible, we have recently been exploring the Gospel of John. The following article is a useful insight into one of the best known passages in the Gospel of John.

GOSPEL OF JOHN

Understanding John – Marcus Borg

Jesus “The Way, the Truth and the Life”

Is Jesus the only way to salvation, and is Christianity therefore the only true religion? Or is God truthfully and adequately known in other religions as well, so that Christianity is one of the great religions, but not the only way? It's a controversial issue that divides fundamentalist and conservative Christians from moderate and liberal Christians.

The verse most frequently quoted in this debate is one attributed to Jesus in John 14:6: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me." For many centuries, it has been the classic "proof text" for Christian exclusivism--the notion that salvation is possible only through Jesus, and thus only through Christianity.

But is that what it means? Is that how it should be read? Most mainline biblical scholars don't think so.

As is generally the case with words attributed to Jesus in John, the verse does not go back to Jesus himself. Written near the end of the first century, John's gospel is the product of a relatively late stage in the developing tradition of the early Christian movement. Though all four gospels combine historical memory with metaphorical narrative, John is the most metaphorical and furthest removed from the deeds and words of Jesus. Put positively, John is the most symbolic of the gospels.

The first key to reading this text again is setting it in John's historical context. According to most scholars, the gospel was written late in the first century, in a setting of intense conflict between Christian Jews and non-Christian Jews. The setting is reflected especially in the ninth chapter of John, which refers to people being "put out of the synagogue" as the consequence of following Jesus.

In that world, to be "put out" from the synagogue was far more serious than being expelled from a Christian congregation or denomination is in our world. To be expelled from the synagogue meant no longer to be considered a Jew (or at least not an acceptable Jew). In a traditional society where most people lived their entire lives in the same village or town, it was a powerful social sanction. Those expelled faced social ostracism. Among other things, it disrupted relationships within families and with neighbors, and made marriage to "proper" Jews difficult or impossible.

Followers of Jesus were not threatened with such expulsion during his lifetime. At the earliest, it happened a decade or two after the destruction of the Temple in the year 70. Thus, John 9 not only suggests an approximate date for the gospel, but also points to the historical situation facing John and his community. They were experiencing painful social ostracism by non-Christian Jews. As a result, some of John's community may have been tempted to return to their community of origin. This is the setting for the words, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me." John was not thinking of all the religions of the world, but of the synagogue across the street. In effect he was saying, "Stay within the community of Jesus--don't go back to the way you left behind."

It is important not to see this reading of the verse as a rejection of Judaism, as if other religions are all right, but not Judaism. The verse is not an absolute pronouncement about all other religions or about all other forms of Judaism for all time, but a pastoral exhortation in a particular historical setting. In short, reading the verse in historical context relativizes it.

Yet the text may have a universal meaning as well. We see this by using a second key to reading the text again, namely paying attention to the text's central metaphor: Jesus is the way. A "way" is a path or a road to be followed. A "way" is not a set of beliefs.

So, Jesus is "the way." What does this metaphor, applied to a person, mean? We need to ask, "What is Jesus' 'way' in John's gospel?" Or, "What is 'the way' which Jesus is?" The answer is found in the movement or dynamic of the gospel as a whole as well as in a single verse.

If we look at the gospel as a whole, we see that from the beginning, Jesus' way leads to his death. This death is also, for John, his glorification. The way is the path of death and resurrection. If we look at a single verse, we read, "Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). In short, for John, the way or path of Jesus is the path of death and resurrection understood as a metaphor for the religious life. That way--the path of dying to an old way of being and being born into a new way of being --is the only way to God.

The same point is made in a story I heard about a sermon preached by a Hindu professor in a Christian seminary several decades ago. The text for the day included the "one way" passage, and about it he said, "This verse is absolutely true--Jesus is the only way." Then, he continued, "And that way--of dying to an old way of being and being born into a new way of being--is known in all of the religions of the world." The "way" of Jesus is a universal way, known even to millions who have never heard of Jesus.

The way of Jesus is thus not a set of beliefs about Jesus. That people ever thought it was is strange, when we think about it--as if one entered new life by believing certain things to be true, or as if the only people who can be saved are those who know the word "Jesus." Thinking that way virtually amounts to salvation by syllables. Rather, the way of Jesus is the way of death and resurrection--the path of transition and transformation from an old way of being to a new way of being. To use the language of incarnation that is so central to John, Jesus incarnates the way. Incarnation means embodiment. Jesus is what the way embodied in a human life looks like.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE BIBLE?

The last edition of Charter contained an article entitled "How Accurate is the Bible?" focusing on how we should understand the often misused passage from 2 Timothy 3.16.



Unfortunately, the last three paragraphs of the article were inadvertently omitted. They make some key points which are worth adding here in a paraphrased form:

- The critical phrase "inspired by God," can also be translated as *divinely breathed or infused with the spirit*. Contrary to the image taught in Sunday School, it in no way implies that the texts were "dictated" word for word.
- Because of the ambiguity of the Greek text, scholars haven't even been able to agree on the relationship between our focus words "scripture" and "inspired". Technically, the passage can be translated as either "*All scripture is inspired and useful*" or "*All inspired scripture is useful*" (which have very different meanings!).
- The Bible is not a weapon. And yet 2 Timothy 3.16 – an otherwise unremarkable recommendation to be familiar with the teachings of one's tradition – has been misused over the centuries to shut down objections and promote questionable doctrines.

Dates to Remember

for the FAMILY

Kids' Nativity:	Sunday 10th December 9:30am
Mainly Music:	Finishes 8th Dec and starts again 9th Feb
Toy Library:	Finishes 9th Dec and opens again 23rd Jan
Christmas Eve:	Family Carol & Craft Service 4:30pm Late Service 11:30pm
Family Fun Day:	Church Picnic in Raglan Sunday Feb 4th at 12:30pm
Shrove Tuesday	Tuesday 13th Feb
YACC:	Starts back on 19th Feb



Calendars Mark Your Calendars Mark Your

GAMES - SWIMMING - SUMMER FUN - PICNIC IN THE RAGLAN

"Wild West" Raglan Whole Church Adventure!

All ages, all welcome

Meet near the playground in the
Raglan Domain (Kopua Domain) on
Sunday 4th FEBRUARY
From 12:30pm – 3pm (ish)

FRIENDS - FRISBEE - CRICKET - TUG O' WAR - ALL AGES

SAND & SUNSHINE - FUN - COMPETITIONS

FAMILIES - EVERYONE WELCOME - RELAX

PROGRESSIVE EXPLORATION SERVICE

Sunday 3rd December @ 7pm

Walking the Way of Faith



Ken is Chartwell's longest serving minister, having been with us for almost 15 years, but will be moving on at the end of January. During this time Ken has ministered to, supported and inspired countless people in their life and their faith.

At this service Ken will share something of his journey and a few of the aspects of that journey which have been formative and precious.

Ken describes himself as initially "a reluctant follower of the way, almost in the vein of C S Lewis, who wrote of his coming to faith in these words, 'I was the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England'."

"Yet once started there was a hunger to explore and understand for myself what others seemed to embrace so easily."

"From the security of a supporting parish my mind was opened to new stimulating ideas about God and the reality of the Bible.

I have come to see that walking and journeying is a truly apt metaphor for this journey for me, as one never truly arrives. That the understandings of yesterday are often shed for the new revelation discovered today, and that too will evolve into new ways of understanding of the Divine in the future. I like the late Marcus Borg's thought of "faithing"; that this journey is less about what one believes and more about how one puts that understanding into practice. It is about praxis, loving profusely and abundantly as Jesus did."

Progressive Exploration Services explore important issues affecting our society and the journey of faith in our day. Time is allowed to explore through questioning and discussion.

Services are usually held at 7pm on the first Sunday of each month.



Anglican / Methodist / Presbyterian

Progressive Exploration Services

During October and November we have had two more excellent guest speakers share with us, both travelling from Auckland for their visits. They have continued the theme of “an evolving faith”.

- Rev Brenda Rockell spoke on October 1st about her transition from the Pastor of the Cityside Baptist Church in Auckland, to being an Anglican Priest in the Auckland Diocese. It was a fascinating insight into her faith journey which included valuing the gifts of the Cityside church, which is a little different to most Baptist churches in New Zealand, and her growing appreciation for the sacramental approach to ministry which sits more comfortably within an Anglican setting.
- Historian Rev Allan Davidson spoke on November 5th about Methodist Chaplains in the First World War, and used these observations to explore the changing response of churches to war and the way churches were influenced by this conflict. It was interesting to discuss the influence of the world wars on the growth of ecumenism, growing secularisation and the rise of more fundamentalist interpretations of Christianity. A copy of Allan’s book on Methodist Chaplains is available in the church library. It is dedicated to his good friend Alan Leadley

Ken Olsen will be leading the last Progressive Exploration Service of this 2017 year on Sunday 3rd December at 7pm. See details on the advertisement on the opposite page..



“Basically, we’re looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same.”

WINNIE PAYNE MEMORIAL BENCH



Winnie Payne joined the Chartwell Parish when she moved from Huntly to Assisi Home and Hospital around 12 years ago. While living in Huntly, Winnie offered almost 40 years' service to the Red Cross and Meals on Wheels, was a member of Huntly Church's pastoral care team and a Sunday School teacher.

Winnie was quite a reserved person who was always friendly and happy. She lived out in her life the inscription this new bench bears, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18). For a faithful peace-maker, we give thanks.

Winnie was brought to services most Sundays by Barbara Harrison (who had known Winnie from Huntly Co-operating Church) until about two and a half years ago when failing health made attendance difficult. Thank you Barbara, for your dedication and care for Winnie.

Thank you to Warwick and the Property Committee for arranging the seat and to Jack Brinkman, David Campbell, Robin Holdsworth and Jock Crawford for laying the concrete pad and installing the seat. It will be a place of rest for those in the community.

ALLAN KING'S FAREWELL

Allan King was given a farewell recently by members of the Chartwell Cooperating Church Choir (the Good News Singers) at a pot luck dinner.

Allan has held the position of Choir Master for about the last 20 years and has also been a member of the Instrument Group during this time. He has shared his musical knowledge and his love of singing with us all. Fellowship and fun has been enjoyed by the group at the weekly practices. Below is a poem that was read out at his farewell....

The Awful Truth about Choirs

*Immoral, Impossible, God only knows
How tenors and basses, sopranos, altos
At service on Sunday are rarely the same
As those who on Thursday to choir practice came*

*Unready, unable to sight-read the notes,
Nor counting, nor blending, they tighten their throats:
The descant so piercing is soaring above
A melody only a mother could love.*

*They have a conductor, but one wonders why:
No one in the choir deigns turn him an eye
It's clear by his flailing; he wants them to look,
But each singer slouches with nose in the book.*

*Despite the offences, the music rings out.
The folks in the pews are enraptured, no doubt.
Their faces are blissful; their thoughts appear deep,
But it is no wonder, for they are asleep.*

*With numbers depleted, new members to bring
Our Maureen spread the word – more voices to sing.
The young ones did join us, what joy they did bring!
Renette like an angel her solo did sing.*

*“Knock their socks off!” said Allan. We really did try,
But, he had a dream of a villa to buy.
His swan-song sadly over: twenty years at the lead!!!
So, ‘Go Now in Peace’ Allan. We’ll miss you indeed.*



CONTRIBUTIONS The editor would love to hear from you if you have a contribution for publication in Charter. If you have something you want to share, or come across an article you think others would find interesting then please let us know.

Email: office@chartwellchurch.org.nz or leave at the church office.

Deadline for next issue: **Thursday 25th January 2018**

ST ANDREW'S DAY



St Andrew is Scotland's patron saint and on the Sunday close to November 30 we celebrate St Andrew's Day with the rest of the world. We here at Chartwell Cooperating Church celebrated this occasion last Sunday the 26th of November.

St Andrew's philosophy was simple: share what you have with those less fortunate and be kind to each other.

Each year we celebrate these principles with St Andrew's Service.

There is always a lot of discussion about haggis; who has tried it, who likes it and who doesn't. The tradition of haggis-making goes back hundreds of years and like other celebrated delicacies the haggis is derived from necessity, not invention. The meaty pudding is essentially a kind of peasant's food. A Scottish friend of mine says, "A haggis is what was left after the upper-class gentry and clan chiefs took all the good cuts of meat. Then the servants, or lower class – were given the paunch and the offal". It can take quite a number of hours to prepare a haggis and this year we thank Margaret Clow for her efforts. We also had some fabulous bagpipers on the day who played as part of the service and in the haggis ceremony afterwards.



From left: Glenn Miller, Ken Morris (hidden), Peter Josland and Ray Miller



Ken Morris says the ode and cuts the haggis

The ceremony involves marching the haggis in with the piper, because the piper 'scares all the spirits away'. Once the haggis is presented, an honourable address is made by a speaker and then the haggis is cut and served.



Highlights for October and November

- In October the Parish Council reviewed progress towards the objectives set out in the Overarching Strategic Focus prepared last year.
 - * The Space Committee are looking at the needs of the church and investigating the possibility of making alterations to better suit these needs.
 - * A group focused on better meeting the needs of older people has been established, reviewing what is working well and what can be improved. Ian Bridge is chairing this group.
- At the November Parish Council meeting a memorandum of understanding with the Selwyn Foundation was approved. The Selwyn Foundation is an Anglican organisation focused on providing services for older people. The Selwyn Foundation will provide the guidance and initial funding for a weekly programme of activities for older people, to be run from Chartwell Church. This should be a good fit with our focus on improved community outreach and care for older people and is expected to complement rather than replace other activities already being run.
- At the time of writing, the Ministry Settlement Board had not met since September 22nd but the Parish Profile which was approved at that meeting has now also been approved by the Parish Council, the congregation (at a meeting on October 22nd) and the Kaimai Presbytery, with a few minor alterations. The second meeting of the Ministry Settlement Board was on November 30th which was too late for any update to be provided in this edition of Charter.
- While details are yet to be completely finalised, we are planning for Gloria Zanders to be available in a half-time ministry role next year while we search for a new minister.
- Financial highlights Sep-Oct:
 - * The church accounts are now showing a surplus, \$9,114 YTD, \$4,102 more than budgeted, but \$4,745 less than last year. The fair adds significantly to our income at this time of year, and after school care proceeds have also exceeded budget, contributing to this surplus.
 - * Giving has been \$3,831 less than budgeted, but \$1,066 more than for the same period last year.



CHURCH LIBRARY NOTES

Compiled by
Gwen Kentish

Please place your returned books into the basket on the floor between bookshelves. I will card them back on to the shelves.

MEDITATION: In this donated book by Joyce Rupp, *The Star in My Heart*, there is a sequence of verse and meditative writing where the author reflects on Sophia, the feminine Wisdom in the Hebrew Scriptures. Sophia emerges as a comforting presence in the process of examining our old beliefs, left-over hurts, self-acceptance and connections with the earth. Accompanying mandalas and suggestions for spiritual exercises and journaling make this book especially valuable for personal meditation and growth.

Homeless: Poems by John Howell was launched at Wellington Central Library on October 10th, World Homeless Day and all profits go to support work with people experiencing homelessness in Wellington. Homelessness is an issue that brings into sharp focus the individual and collective tragedies of contemporary societal inequity. The author explores the emotions and aspects of homelessness in lyric form, a powerful way of understanding homelessness.

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR: At nearly 99 years old, Sir Lloyd Geering is well qualified to look back over the last century, consider the massive social changes he has lived through, and evaluate human progress. Born in 1918, Sir Lloyd reflects on two world wars, the Great Depression and changes he had experienced in education, family life, growth of personal freedom, leisure and entertainment, life in the churches, and more. He concludes *Portholes to the Past* with cautious optimism: *It may not be too much to hope that from the fragments of dismantled Christendom we may rediscover and rein-vigorate the moral values of justice, truth and environmental guardianship. Together with the spiritual forces of faith, hope and love, these qualities may yet enable us to create a viable human future.*

NZ CHURCH HISTORY: Sunday Best – How the Church Shaped New Zealand and New Zealand Shaped the Church by historian Peter Lineham, is a major contribution to our national self-understanding. The author was a guest speaker at a recent evening service. His well-researched book sets the various New Zealand denominations into context over a period of nearly 200 years. The



early arrival of the missionaries in Aotearoa set the scene for a new ‘moral colony’ that would be founded on religious precepts and modern Christian beliefs. It did not take long for a combination of circumstances to confound the aspirations of the Church Missionary Society, the Church in Rome and all those who followed. Peter Lineham has read widely on the important subject of secularisation which he describes in terms of ‘cultural process’ and he has much wisdom to share. He examines Christianity in New Zealand through the lens of cul-

tural development, and asks: If the various denominations and faiths set out to shape New Zealand, how did the very fluid fact of New Zealand change those faiths? From the Presbyterian south to the enclaves of Catholicism, who shaped whom? And what is the legacy of that influence? Why do we have afternoon tea? And what were debutante balls? Religion had a hand in the societal habits and milestones we all take for granted and he describes how the imprint of the church dominates New Zealand society even in this secular age.



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Ann Needham

Personal Details of Parishioners – After a couple of medical incidents in our Parish we have realised the need for the office to hold more information to enable us to better assist people and have the details an ambulance call out requires. We would appreciate if all parishioners fill out a form and give it to the office where it will be kept confidential and only used in an emergency. If there is something on the form you do not wish to fill out that is okay. The office would appreciate the forms by the end of January 2018.

CHARTWELL COOPERATING PARISH (ST ALBAN'S)

PERSONAL PRIVATE DETAILS OF:

CONTACT IN EMERGENCY

Full Name

Name:

Date of Birth

Home Phone:

Address:

Mobile:

Phone Number:

Doctor's name and Practice

DO YOU LIVE
ALONE?

YES ☐ NO ☐

ANY PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS OR MEDICATIONS WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF?

ARE YOU ALLERGIC TO ANYTHING AND IF SO WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

This information will only be used in an emergency and will be kept confidential in the Church Office.



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