

**2011 ST MARTINS CHURCH FAIR**  
 \$10, 046 raised on a rainy day ... Hooray!! Grateful thanks to all our  
**GOOD SORTS!!!!**



Sue Saunders

Marilyn Tait  
 And David Hodder



Christine  
 Wethey

And Allison  
 Blackler



Bruce Hudson  
 And Sonya Hodder.  
 Plus many others, a  
 great effort by all.



**ST MARTINS MESSENGER**  
**JUNE – JULY 2011.**



**THIS ISSUE: DREAMING SPIRES**

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## Dear Friends

My warmest greetings to you all.

Our editor has asked me to write this foreword for the newsletter along with some impressions of Cambridge. Forgive me if the two get somewhat mixed.

There is no space here to wax too lyrically about this time of study leave. But it is certainly a special experience, not least because of living within a Cambridge College and joining in its life.

As many of you know from overseas travel, when we visit places where buildings still used are 1000 years old, we come to a greater realisation of what a young country New Zealand is. Cambridge is steeped in history, both of the Church and the University, which has been in existence since the early 13<sup>th</sup> Century, when scholars moving from Oxford and Paris formed a school here. However, it was more than half a century before residential accommodation was established.

By the 13<sup>th</sup> Century there were a number of monastic houses in Cambridge, including a hospital of St John on the site of what later became St John's College. In 1280 the Bishop of Ely tried to get scholars accepted into this foundation. But the monks and academics didn't get on, so the latter moved down the road to establish Cambridge's first true college, PeterHouse in 1284. Its hall is the only surviving part of the early buildings.

Part of our history as the Presbyterian Church is now here in Cambridge – securely housed at Westminster College. The original of the Westminster Confession has a fascinating history.

Those of us here on Sabbatical Leave have had a viewing, even a brief 'hold.' And, of course, been thoroughly teased by the students as to why we didn't swoon on the spot at the sight of this sacred Reformed document! Of course it's only a bit over 360 years old. Remind me to tell you sometime how it was almost lost to the church.

For now, best wishes.

**Chris**



## FROM YOUR EDITORS(S):

### WHAT'S YOUR TYPE?

In The Guardian, journalist William Skidelsky explained why his font of choice has always been Times New Roman, preferably 12 point.. After many years in newspapers, I also find that if I start writing in some other font, my whole approach becomes "skewed". Times New Roman seems honest, traditional, neutral and unshowy, he says. But it made me think about a change – just for change's sake. In this issue I have switched to Bell MT, which also seems very clean and readable. You probably won't notice the difference!

### MORE ON DELIVERY

Post earthquake there have been all sorts of hitches in getting newsletters out promptly. In order to expedite delivery the editors will notify Elders of the Sunday on which the newsletter will be available in church. Elders will then contact their "flock" to let them know. Each newsletter will be individually named and available for pick-up at church. Copies that are not collected will then be taken and delivered by Elders. Any problems – please talk to Lyn or Madg.

### ON WINGS OF SONG

At Pentecost, other commitments during the day saw us chasing the virtuoso voices and organist of Christchurch Cathedral to St Barnabas Church Hall for an inspiring Choral Evensong. From Dean Peter Beck, we heard how his church is facing the same questions about where to from here. Nothing will ever be the same again, he stressed. But the church is about people, not buildings, and if people can't go to the cathedral, the cathedral will go to them – hence their peripatetic visits to numerous parishes. But how exciting it is, he says, to see the Spirit of God at work among us NOW, as we collectively plan our future.

### GRACE BEFORE MEALS

We thank thee Lord for happy hearts  
For rain and sunny weather  
We thank thee Lord for this our food  
And that we are together

Thanks for breakfast, lunch and dinner  
If it weren't for you I'd be much thinner.

Without the sunshine and the rain  
We would not have the golden grain  
Without they love we'd not be fed  
We thank thee for our daily bread.

**We are off to the NT for a month, but will be thinking of you. Please send any contributions – stories, snippets, reflections etc. to [madg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:madg@xtra.co.nz), [lmck@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lmck@xtra.co.nz). or 7 Pentonville Close, Chch 8025.**

**Lyn and Madg.**

**Your Newsletter was delivered by**

.....

## BOOK REVIEW

**LOLA** by **Elizabeth Smither**. Penguin 2010. From Chch City Libraries. This is a relatively new novel from an acclaimed New Zealand poet, short story writer and novelist. A first sentence as pithy as one of Jane Austen's sets the scene for an intriguing look into the world of the funeral director.

"On the day Lola Dearborn vowed never to attend another funeral, she was present at three."

The central character in this story of love, death and the search for meaning, young Lola never dreamed she would become an undertaker's wife. Much later, the deaths of her husband and a close friend send her in other directions, forging new relationships in an attempt to find another self. Set between Australia and New Zealand, the story may sound a little odd, but it's always thought-provoking.

**Thomas Lynch**: "Mourning isn't a retail experience .. it's an existential one."

**Mozart**: "Since death is the true goal of our lives, I have made myself so well acquainted with it ... that the idea of it no longer has any terrors for me." And

**e.e.cummings**: "Life's not a paragrah .. and death I think is no parenthesis". LM

### On the same theme, more or less:

#### HAVE A CHUCKLE: (A story provided by Grace McLeod.)

As a young priest in Whyalla, I was asked by a funeral director to hold a graveside service for a homeless man who had no family or friends.

The funeral was to be held at a new cemetery way back in the country and this man would be the first to be buried there. I was not familiar with the bush and I soon became lost. Being a typical man I did not stop to ask for directions and finally arrived an hour late.

I saw the backhoe and the open grave but the hearse was nowhere in sight. The digging crew were sitting eating their lunch and I apologised to the workers for my tardiness as I stepped to the side of the open grave. There I saw the vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them up for long.

The workers gathered around the grave and stood silently by as I began to pour out my heart and soul. As I preached about 'looking forward to a brighter tomorrow' and 'the glory that is to come' the workers began to say 'Amen', 'Praise the Lord' and 'Glory'. The fervour of these men truly inspired me, so I preached as I had never preached before, all the way from Genesis to Revelations.

I finally closed the service with a prayer, thanked the men and walked to my car.

As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I heard one of the workers say to the other, "I ain't never seen nothin' like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for thirty years."

## DREAMING SPIRES

### INSPIRED BY THE PAST

From the Middle Ages, Christian churches were some of the world's tallest buildings. In England, where Chris has been revelling in old architecture and historic places, the word "spire" immediately brings to mind Salisbury Cathedral, (cover picture). Its 123m spire, added in the 1300s, is one of the tallest of the period anywhere in the world.

Here in Christchurch, Canterbury Association planners dreamed of a city built around a central cathedral. Plans were commissioned, and on a wet day in 1864, when Christchurch was still a raw settlement rising on swampy ground, a foundation stone was solemnly laid. In 1904 the cathedral was finally completed. The city has been built around it, and its Gothic setting has enhanced not only services but concerts and community celebrations, so the terrible damage it has suffered over the last 10 months has been devastating.



### ASPIRING TO THE FUTURE

So where to from here? At the time of writing, no decisions about the future of the Cathedral had been made. Even before June 13, a Fletchers engineer at the Arts Centre site told us that though the Arts Centre would certainly be rebuilt, the Cathedral was a much more difficult scenario. Would prohibitive insurance and crippling debt now be our legacy for future generations?

But for today's young people, no matter how magnificent the architecture, it's the future that leads them on, not the past. Even without many of our lovely colonial landmarks, we must hope that we can rebuild for the future in ways that will inspire us as much as the fine old buildings of the past.

In whatever form, the Anglican and Catholic cathedrals will always be a part of our history, which people will continually revisit. Just as Madg and I did last year in Winchester, where we were blown away not only by the Cathedral (right), where Jane Austen is interred, but also by Winchester College, where an ancient Madgwick relative was educated four hundred years ago.



Ever since Professor of Poetry Matthew Arnold called Oxford the "city of dreaming spires" in his poem *Thyrsis* (1865), we have come to think of Oxbridge - a collective term for Oxford and Cambridge, England's two oldest universities - as the pinnacle of scholarship as well as the seat of privilege. In this issue, we hear from Chris about the Cambridge heritage and what it means to her. ■



## IMPRESSIONS OF CAMBRIDGE

The city centre was no surprise when I arrived in Cambridge. However, my last visit was during the summer University vacation so I hadn't been fully treated to Cambridge as a bicycle mecca. Everyone rides a bike, from students - who take their lives (and others) in their hands riding the one way streets and alleyways, yes, the wrong way - to little old ladies manoeuvring past double-decker buses. I suspect one has more chance of being mown over by a bike than running into difficulty with anything else! However there are very few of the up market bikes that we see powering through Christchurch.

The main streets are full of historic buildings, shops as well as Churches and University Colleges. For me, it is wonderful to wander and see town and gown (and church) so intermingled and so steeped in history. You would have to ask those who live outside the university / city centre what they feel are the effects of so much tradition.



However, when I had my gold-plated haircut this week I talked to the stylists in the salon - who just loved my New Zealand accent! They love their city and are proud of its traditions, even though they cannot afford to live close in. In observing the world go by there is obviously a diverse cultural mix in Cambridge who mostly look neither rich nor poor, but I do know that housing and accommodation generally is very expensive. The service industry for the University is huge of course, including the café culture, which I have joined with enthusiasm, enthusiasm for the coffee anyway. Cambridge also seems to draw its share of eccentric people, one being known as the Busker in the Bin!

Although I didn't come primarily to enjoy leisure time, there is much to enjoy in one's spare time, aided by the closeness of Westminster College to the town itself. The various libraries are a real treat for the treasures they hold beyond academic works, reminding us of the long history of Cambridge both monastic and university.

## 2011 PARISH FAIR

How the Fair organisers groaned as the week was overcast, grey and cold. This however did not deter the dozens of helpers who turned up to empty four bulging Bible Class rooms of their contents. The Church, Lounge, Foyer and Hall were lined with tables and many willing hands helped to unpack the dozens and dozens of boxes that were spewing treasures unlimited. It was an unusual year. We had, a few weeks previously, a rather large earthquake. Consequently many St Martins residents and others beyond our suburb were ringing the Church to give us goods, house lots, treasures that no longer had a home and much more.

This year we moved a number of the stalls to different locations so that the customers could move out of buildings in case of aftershocks. The main Church this year was the home of the White Elephant Stall, and what a selection and quantity they had. Cakes, Sweets, CDs and records were all crammed into the Lounge with the Childrens Toys and books in the foyer and spilling out into the entrance way. The Hall housed the pre-loved Clothing and the books, with plants and other activities outside.

Saturday morning started fine and by 7.30 a.m. the punters were arriving, lining up on the street to be first in. Hundreds kept coming; one lot would move on and the next wave of people would fight their way through the doors. There were bargains galore and it appeared that people just wanted to be out and about doing normal things and the St Martins Fair was part of that normal life. The heavens opened up about 11 am but this did not deter the shoppers. It was a very successful day. Piles of leftovers have been packed away for either a Garage Sale or next year's fair. A very big thank you to everyone who came and worked during the week and on the day - all the aprons were distributed which means over 65 people were helping. Thanks also to all who came and spent their money - we look forward to seeing you all again in 2012.

..... Allison Blackler.



15 June  
LETTER FROM CHRIS  
(abridged)

Dear Friends

You have all been in my thoughts and prayers this week following the news of the Monday earthquakes. An uncertain and frightening time once again. I do hope St Martin's people have come through without injuries, or further damage to property. It is strange and unsettling being so far away. However, I know that you are taking good care of one another.

Sonya sent me some pictures of the Pentecost Sunday service. I was delighted to hear the details and to see the impressive line-up of presenters! Thank you, Lyndsey.

Examinations have finished here, and students are having various workshops and seminars while gearing up for final events, as the northern hemisphere academic year draws to a close. I've already seen gowned students careering down the street on bicycles – and the graduations haven't begun yet!

This past weekend I had a wonderful visit to a friend in Dublin. The Holy Faith sisters made me very welcome once again. On Saturday I had another visit to Trinity College, Dublin, to see the Book of Kells and the magnificent Library.

This coming weekend my brother and I will be in Norfolk. Among other things we will visit Sandringham and also manage to fit in a Sunday afternoon Bach concert.

Best wishes to everyone.

Chris.



Some Cambridge bicycles



River Cam



St Johns College

The College Chapels are truly remarkable and the music sublime, even in chapels that don't draw the crowds. Fence notices advertise concerts, films, shows and different media art exhibitions. Currently Cambridge is gearing up for Summer in the City, including Strawberry Fair (which was a great deal of fun), along with the travelling Midsummer Fair – a mere 800 years old. By the way, one exhibition I went to was showing the work of a Lee Madgwick!

I suspect that Cambridge has its share of social problems and inequities. There is certainly a gap between life as I have been enjoying it, and life lived by those who are less privileged. Once only have I seen someone sleeping in a doorway, but there are the signs of inferior housing, run down schools and shopping, outside of what is generally shown to the visitor or tourist.

As a New Zealander home always looks good from wherever I am, even without rose-tinted glasses. It is a privilege to have this wonderful experience, but:

*“The grass isn't greener on the other side.”*

Chris. ■

## BOOK REVIEW

**DON'T EAT THIS BOOK : Fast Food and the Supersizing of America**, by Morgan Spurlock, producer, director and guinea pig of the Academy Award-nominated “**Supersize Me**”, which on release broke box office records.

Each day one in four Americans visits a fast food restaurant, and French Fries are the most eaten vegetables in the US.

This book is well-researched, fascinating and humorous, and outlines the author's month-long diet of eating only McDonalds' meals, the results on his health, and his investigations into the food culture of the USA. He looks into why fast food is tasty, cheap and seductive, the growth of McDonalds around the world, why they are concentrating their chain in China and poorer areas, the spin about so called “healthy” foods in various fast food restaurants, and the outcomes of eating fast food.

Both Peter and I found it an easy and very interesting read, and we recommend that if you care about your children's or grandchildren's health, then you should read this book.

..... Sue Saunders.

## MORE ANCIENT HISTORY

A large chocolate fish to the first person who correctly identifies the two men in this photo. Email your answer to [madg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:madg@xtra.co.nz) please. No clues, no bribes.



## BOARD OF MANAGERS.

### MEETING APRIL 14.

#### Finance:

At the end of March, total parish income was \$65,414 (budgeted income \$66,450); total parish expenditure was \$76,738 (budgeted expenditure \$76,738) Deficit \$11,324 (budgeted deficit \$13,863).

#### Property Maintenance

We discussed the report from Aurecon on damage to our buildings from the earthquake and have written to Presbytery asking them to organise a full engineering report on the Hall.

Urgent repairs to the Skylight above the Hall toilets have been completed.

Repairs have been carried out on two ceiling heaters in the church where the bars were "dropping" after the Earthquake.

Faulty handle on Hall door which was jamming has been replaced.

Sliding door handle at the rear of the church has been repaired.

#### Health and Safety Matters

Earthquake Drill has been completed and was successful.

Pews to be herringboned after the Church Fair.

#### General

Website is up and running.

Groups using the Hall and Church have been written to advising them of our earthquake protocols.

Document on the proposed St Martins Trust still being circulated.

Replacement tree for front of the Hall is to be purchased.

Trees down the side of the church are to be cut back.

Cupboard/shelves are to be organised for the Worship Committee.

### MEETING JUNE 15: (Very brief, as John McKean is away to Auckland)

Although there doesn't appear to be any major damage after this week's earthquake, the Church and Hall have to be checked by Aurecon before we can use them again.

Excellent Fair result - \$10,046.00 raised.

#### Property Maintenance

Getting quotes for sealing path from road to church.

#### General

Replacement tree for front of the Hall has been purchased and will be protected against vandalism by metal waratahs. The old tree stump has been mulched.

Having a clean up of the cupboards, hall, and old bible class rooms next Monday.

..... **Judith Mackay.**

## ST MARTINS CHURCH WEBSITE

<http://www.stmartins.org.nz>

Mid-2010 Chris Elliot, John McKean and I started talking about what we wanted in a church website. We wanted it to be useful both for visitors (who might like to know when and where services are and a bit about what it's like) and for existing members (who might want to refer back to what's happening when). We wanted it to be fairly simple and easily updateable - keeping it an active site by adding current news.

We secured the name/address in September and I created the site using WordPress - a common tool for online journaling which has lots of extra "plug-in" features available if we want. The events calendar on the right is one such (very useful!) extra. I also got some useful feedback after giving a short demonstration during a Sunday service one week.

There was a delay over the summer holiday, but when the February earthquake struck it seemed a good occasion to start using the site to post news. This was a bit of a "soft launch" as we made it live but didn't publicise it at all, but it means you can now get an idea of how it works in practice. Please look around, click on links, and if you have any questions or suggestions please email me: [deborah.fitchett@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.fitchett@gmail.com) We're still working out our processes for managing it so any feedback about what's most interesting for you is particularly useful.

How can you contribute?

I'd particularly love to flesh out the sections "About" the church with some history and more information/photos about the church elders etc - to make it really friendly and welcoming to visitors. It would also be lovely to have some photos from parish groups and events to liven it up. Of course we won't post any identifying photos without permission from those whose faces appear. And, on the subject of privacy - we're currently posting our weekly notices, which may include first names and phone numbers for those organising events, however we won't post surnames.

If you'd like to contribute content (whether history, news, photos, or a calendar event), you can email it to me. Or, if you run a group and would like to have control over how the meetings/events appear, I can set you up to do it yourself just by clicking a few buttons and typing in the name, time and location.

..... **Deborah Fitchett.**

## NEWSFLASH – WINTER SOLSTICE

As the Worship Committee encouraged the congregation to dress up warmly for freezing mid-winter conditions, some let loose with sartorial abandon – Allison in padded jacket and gumboots, Joan with a very fetching Irish cap, and wonder of wonders – John Shanks in a 50 year old duffel coat. I was green with envy! – Ed.

### MISSION PROJECT?

Can we, should we, commit to a small project as part of our mission? Should it be overseas, or could we help a refugee family who have newly arrived here? Any other options? Any ideas? Does anyone know of an overseas project we could support? Does anyone want to work with a refugee family in Chch? An annual figure of \$300 to \$400 has been suggested, and Fireside have informally indicated they could make a healthy contribution, so that's a great start. We need ideas. Contact **Lyndsey McKay or Barbara Meier**.

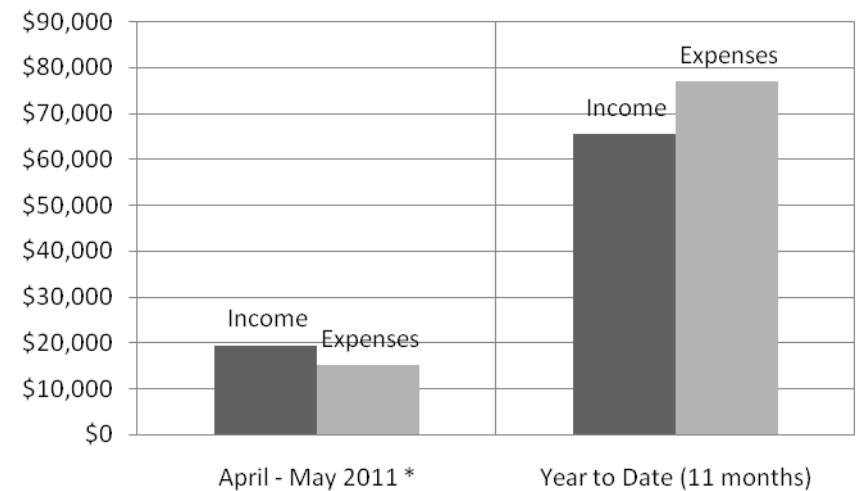
### JAMS, PRESERVES AND PICKLES FOR MISSIONS.

As a result of the recent earthquake and aftershocks many groups are now using the Church premises. It has been suggested that parishioners might like to make jam, or pickles and have them on a table in the Lounge or the foyer for others to purchase. If you are able to help perhaps you could speak to Judith McKay – Secretary of the Board of Managers. This is a very simple way of Outreach for our parish.

### OBITUARY: JOAN BLACKLER

Joan passed peacefully away at Santa Maria Resthome on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Born in Rangiora, she spent her early days in Otira where her father was stationed as an engineer for New Zealand Railways. She commenced her schooling there and as a 10 year old returned to Christchurch where she attended Philipstown Primary School and the Christchurch Technical College. She spent the war years as a WAF Nurse at Wigram Airforce base where she met her future husband Allan. They married after the war and settled in Beckenham for all of their married life. Their son Tony was born in 1949 and as parents they became totally involved in his school life, his YMCA voluntary work and his sporting activities. Joan also supported Allan with his work as an apprentice instructor and his many interests along with her own. She was a member of the Townswomens Guild for over 40 years, serving on Committees both locally and nationally, the Garden Club, a volunteer with Save the Children and Cholmondeley Children's Home and Glenelg Health Camp and a founding member of the Thorrrington Ladies Probuss Club. She took an active part in our Womens Fellowship group as a member, Secretary and at 83 she became President. Her family were very important to her and she loved to join in family activities and to catch up with extended family as well and kept in touch with friends and family members by phone. She was a wonderful baker, did exquisite embroidery and handwork and loved to read. Joan had an amazing memory and would often talk about her early days, places she had visited and people she had met over the years. She enjoyed travelling with Allan and following his death with Greylines Travel, she spent hours listening to music, and her Church and Christian faith was the centre of her life. Joan lived a good life, one spent helping others and especially her family. She is sorely missed but will never be forgotten. ....**Allison**.

## St Martins Presbyterian Church Income & Expenses



\*Includes approximately \$10,000 Income from the Garage Sale

### LIVING THE QUESTIONS

St Martins is well-represented at the discussion groups meeting until September at the Cashmere Presbyterian Church. The Clelands and the Crees have taken an active role with other knowledgeable people interested in exploring their faith more deeply and trying to work out what's next for Christianity. *Living The Questions* is based on explorations of progressive Christianity featuring mostly American contributors, from Bishop John Shelby Spong to New Testament scholar Marcus Borg. Author and professor Tex Sample compares the tradition of the Christian Church to the Santa Fe Trail which in places is very narrow, in others six miles wide. The course is promoted as an open-minded alternative study that attempts to create an environment where participants can interact.

Your editor, however, found it all too daunting. A feeling of deep inadequacy developed as the shallowness of her knowledge left her floundering. Borderline volume didn't help, so I gave up the struggle. I look forward to hearing! outcomes – hopefully with some insight as to how churches in New Zealand can combine forces to meet future challenges. Hopefully, this course will do more than enable just a few individuals to move closer. ....LM. ■



## SESSION NEWS

Session met on May 18 with devotions led by Allison Blackler. With Chris away, John McKean chaired the meeting.

\* David Hodder was appointed to report to the congregation which he did with great clarity.

\* The new Elders' district books were handed out, and with ongoing events in the city it was realised that as we have some elders unable to continue their duties, coverage would have to be shared so there were no gaps in our care of each other.

\* We continue to receive letters from Chris which are posted on the notice board, and we encourage folk to read them. While Chris has been away, services have been running smoothly, with an interesting mix of speakers.

\* A Presbytery paper entitled "*Facing a New Future*", which looks at the possibility of some parishes working more closely together as a result of the disruption caused by the earthquakes, was discussed. It was decided that more information and clarification was needed from Presbytery and a letter asking for this will be sent.

\* Some new amendments to the Book of Order regarding disciplinary procedures were also approved and passed by Session.

\* After a considerable period of time Jim McFie has passed on his envelope duties to Lyn Steele, and a letter of thanks to Jim for his contribution to the ongoing life of the church has been sent.

**Bruce Hudson**  
Session Clerk



Bruce and Beverley saying God Speed and God Bless to Chris.

## NOTICEBOARD

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All services at 10 a.m. unless otherwise stated

\* School Holidays

June 26	Jackie Langdale-Hunt
July 3	Communion. Rev John McKean
July 10	Rev Anne Stewart
July 17*	Liz Whitehead, Christian World Service
July 24*	Rev Graeme McIver
July 31*	Rev Chris Elliot



Not long now!

### PARISH GROUPS:

#### MEN'S GROUP

Will meet on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 6 p.m. in the Church Lounge for a shared tea. Rob Connell will speak to the group about his experiences in Belgium. On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August John Shanks will talk about his experiences and adventures travelling to the UK on a container ship. All men are welcome to come to these meetings – contact Tony Blackler 3320 554 for further details.

#### FIRESIDE:

At the June meeting John Shanks will talk and show slides about his trip last year when he came back to NZ from France on a container ship. This will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June in the church lounge. Any interested members of the congregation [women and men] are very welcome to join us. Contact: Margaret Shanks 3668936.

#### WEDNESDAY WALKERS:

Check the noticeboard. June Service says it has been a very positive thing in recent times to meet, walk, talk and compare notes. Contact her on 332 8874.

#### CRAFTY CRAFTERS:

Thursdays in the lounge 10am-12 noon. Contact Beverley 942 7821.

#### FOOT CLINIC:

Next session Thursday July 7. Enquiries to Lyndsay 388 1264.

#### CARING AND SHARING:

The Lincoln CWI due to entertain last week. Watch for future events. Contact Margaret 324 3825, Barbara 942 1939, Fern (when home) 332 4725.



## FILM REVIEW



Madg and I went over to the Hollywood at Sumner to see this movie, but before I tell you our verdict, I must tell you about our walk along the beach before the movie started. It was a very high tide, and the amount of sand between us and the surf suddenly became critical. I leapt for the rocks, Madg ran for the steps – and missed. Drenched to the knees, he was about to renege on the movie excursion, when I had a flash of inspiration – the Nurse Maude Hospice Shop.

We ducked in to get a spare set of trousers, and it just happened to be half price day for menswear. So for only \$4 we got a great pair of black curduroys, and I was left lamenting my own bank balance, because I had just spent \$120 on a pair of posh cords for his birthday. C'est la vie.

Anyway, this film takes a long slow look at four seasons in the lives of a happily married couple and their relationships with their family and friends. Passing time, with associated scenic shots, is a pretty familiar filmic device, but as we follow the annual tasks of Tom the geologist and Gerri the counsellor (Jum Broadbent and Ruth Sheen) in their allotment, it's rewarding to see that ordinary lives can in fact be very interesting. Alongside are some compelling characterisations – especially Gerri's office friend Mary (Lesley Manville), a romantic, self-deluding semi alcoholic fantasist living alone after a string of failed relationships. So sad that it has stuck in my mind – perhaps a "There but for the Grace of God Go I" response, because how she got into that state is so very believable. And it's not only the women who are dysfunctional – Tom's lifelong friend Ken (Peter Wight) shares his woes as well, and when I say it's desperately funny, I mean the desperate bit. The movie is a tragic contemplation of life, really: Another year nearer the grave". Very memorable, very affecting. L.M.

### WINTER WARMER NO 2

#### Corn Cheese Chowder

3 medium sized potatoes, 1 large onion, 1 stick celery, 2 cups milk, 1 can 450 gram cream style corn, alt and pepper, 1 cup grated tasty cheddar cheese, 1 Tbsp chopped parsley.

Peel and cube potatoes and cook in boiling salted water until tender – drain. Chop onion and celery, and heat 1 tbsp butter in a large saucepan – cook until tender. Add potato cubes, milk and corn along with salt and pepper until heated through – DO NOT BOIL. Stir through the cheese and return to a low heat until the cheese has melted. Sprinkle over the chopped parsley. Serve with crusty bread.

.....Allison

## A SERVICE FOR OUR TIMES.

- contributed by Margaret Shanks

**Thou dost the strength to workman's arm impart;  
from thee the skilled musician's mystic art,  
the grace of poet's pen or painter's hand.**

("Almighty Father of All Things That Be:"

Author: Earnest Edward Dugmore, 1843-1925)

The service on Sunday May 29 was conducted by the Reverend Martin Cleland and the church Men's Group, which meets at 6pm on the first Thursday of each winter month to share a meal and hear a speaker or make a visit. Martin introduced the form the service would take, alternating hymns and readings with his "interviews" of the speakers.

This service was thought-provoking in two different ways: for the way some of the men of the congregation acknowledged and had developed God-given gifts; and because of what we learned about each man and his topic.

Martin himself, in 'Time with the Children', explained how he created a woodcarving and showed some of his tools. Similarly the others demonstrated and/or talked about using gifts which they had chosen to develop, and these were related to hymns and readings during the service.

Gifts had been developed over many years, some as 'hobbies', others in employment. As well as Martin, we heard about:

Bob Kayes - tuba player, who played 'My grandfather's clock', and suddenly stopped at the appropriate word, to general amusement.

Lindsay Day - rockhound, with his rock display



Bill Irvine – florist, creator of the floral arrangement for the service: here Jess holds the spray of flowers he brought along as an exhibit.

Warren Pettigrew - electronic engineer, who was able to demonstrate his skill by keeping the microphone working during the service!  
 John Shanks - part-time boiler attendant  
 Bob Cathro – silversmith, who showed some of his work and tools  
 Bernie Brettell - funeral director



And (above) the Rev Dr John England - scholar & teacher. He asked us to think about the many ways in which we found something of God in our daily lives.

All of the above were also demonstrating the gift of being prepared to share with the congregation, as did others: Rob Connell by playing the organ, Bruce Hudson in leading prayer, and those who helped in less obvious ways like door duty.

There was much interest after the service when people could have a closer look at displays. The congregation was left marvelling at the wide range of gifts of what was only a small number of our members - a useful reminder to us all of the unknown "depths" that people have which we may learn about if we are fortunate. What other stories and gifts may be unknown to us! ■



Martin's  
Easter-themed  
woodcarving

## PARISH ANNIVERSARY

We will celebrate the 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of St Martins Parish on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August with a lunch to follow. Mark this in your diary – after all the shakes and quakes our Church is still standing – we have a lot to give thanks for. Further details of this special service later.

## BOOK REVIEW

### MY NAME WAS JUDAS:

By C.K. Stead. Harvill Sekker London 2006. From Halswell Library.

An interesting and thought-provoking perspective on the relationship of childhood friends Jesus of Nazareth and Judas of Keraiyot. As the 70 year old Idas of Sidon, a successful trader in foodstuffs, Judas looks back on the epic events leading up to the Crucifixion and the reputation he earned as The Betrayer. But far from hanging himself from the barren fig tree cursed by Jesus, Judas lived on to become Idas the Greek, Idas the poet, Idas the grounded family man. Forty years on from the terrible events of Calvary he hosts a blind Ptolomy – the young disciple Bartholomew – as he moves about preaching the doctrine of the new "Christian" sect. But the Stories of Jesus as recollected by Judas the Sceptic and as preached by Ptolomy the Disciple open up vast questions. Were the tales of miracles figurative or literal? Into what moral and practical dilemmas did the charisma and power of the young Jesus lead the chosen Twelve? Here's how Judas saw it: "Jesus, my brilliant friend, who held us fearful, yielding, to the lash of language." "Jesus was nurse to my griefs. When he called, I followed." By then Judas was powerless to defend himself from the role for which he was destined. "Jesus, I see it now, wanted to be the scapegoat, to take on himself the sins of our village, our world ... How risky to play guardian to the Son of God!" I thought this book was wonderfully written, rewarding for its various interpretations of motives and actions, and quirky insights into the interplay of Rome and the Priests of the Temple. History Alive! LM

**Comment.** What is 'The Truth'? Having just read Barbara Thiering 'Jesus the Man - A new interpretation from the Dead Sea Scrolls' I realise how little we **really** know of the Jesus story. Perhaps it is the ideas behind the stories, not the stories themselves which are important. HM. ■

### WINTER WARMER NO 1:

**Spicy Bean Bake** – (this recipe comes from a number of members of the parish)  
 2 – 3 cups cooked beans (mixed beans, frozen or fresh or canned), 1 cup pepper chopped (red, green or yellow), 1 cup of chopped bacon, sausage or ham – a combination of all is fine, 1 tsp dry mustard, 1 cup tomato sauce, ½ cup tomato puree or over ripe tomatoes, 2 large apples – chopped, ½ cup sweet pickle relish, 1 chopped onion, ½ cup raisins, ¼ cup Golden Syrup.

Mix thoroughly, cover and cook at 300 C for 1 ½ hours. Even better reheated the next day. Serve with any meat or chicken combination, mashed potatoes and a green vegetable.  
 .....Allison.

## FERN BEARS ALL: FROM CANADA/ALASKA

### BIG BROWNS

*We have been watching out for bears ever since we got here and today we actually saw one.* We had detoured from the Icefields Parkway - the road from Banff to Jasper. We had this one all to ourselves for a few moments before he sloped off back into the trees. This came shortly after James had seen a beaver in the river downstream of the Athabasca Falls so it was a good afternoon.

### HANGING IN THE AIR

Returned to Banff and went up the gondola, and saw the classic Lake Louise view from Lake level. Still not thrilled about hanging from a wire high above the ground but the views are worth holding my breath for.

### SAME OLD, SAME OLD

Saw a sucking truck cleaning some roadside toilets [washrooms] today and immediately thought of Christchurch. Found lots of people have heard of the earthquake.

### THE DYSFUNCTIONAL TRAVELLER

Funny moment of the trip so far - 10 days into the trip I put on my walking shoes as usual - and realised that they didn't match! Hope the matching shoes are at home or the shop where they came from will have had trouble selling two odd shoes.

### DRIVING BACK TO FRONT

White knuckle time when we picked up our car (a grey Mitsubishi) from the Calgary airport. One of the unnerving things about travelling at 110 along the motorway for me was not having the steering wheel or clutch or brake in front of me when I was so obviously in the driving seat! Mind you, James didn't have a clutch either.

### HOT TO TROT

In Vancouver James walked my legs off. We did sit on a couple of buses and the fast train between walks. A quick coffee in the Sinclair Centre (thinking of Vivienne). A quick stroll around the Beaver Lake - saw squirrels but no beavers.

### ON CANADIANS

Canadians are generally friendly - just open a map and someone will try to help. They don't always get it right, and struggle with our accents, but genuinely want to help. Canadians can be identified by the cup of take-away coffee held in their right hand.

### ON ALASKANS

Alaskans are outnumbered by visitors so we can't always tell who belongs and who is as lost as us. Not that many roads to get lost on but the 'blocks' are big. Many Alaskans could be transplanted to Hokitika or Greymouth and would blend right in [except for the accent].

### CRUISING TO SEWARD

*Best trip ashore was when we took a bus to the Medanhall Glacier and after a quick look at the ice we wandered up one of the 'trails' and found a mother bear and three cubs.* Two of the cubs tried to run up a tree when they became aware of us - so I know there really is no point in trying to escape from a bear by trying to climb a tree. (Much abridged - apologies to Fern.)



## PENTECOST SUNDAY

What a treat in store Rev Lyndsey McKay had for us on Pentecost Sunday, with the aid of our retired clergy and two of our elders. I am pleased we did not have to judge the best performance.

Rev Lyndsey Day set the scene dressed as Peter the Fisherman, giving an account of *The Day of Pentecost*.

Martin Luther, alias the Rev Dr John England, dressed in a black and white cossack, presented a very animated account of *the Reformation*, using his linguistic skills to advantage.

Rev John McKean, looking resplendent with mortar board and crimson robe as John Calvin the Scholar, followed by Rev Ken Cree as Scotsman John Knox, presented *The Foundation of Presbyterianism*.

*Presbyterianism comes to New Zealand* was the next step in our history lesson, with Rev Martin Cleland sporting a dashing swept back hairdo, representing Rev John McFarlane, the first Presbyterian ordained minister to come to NZ and preach on the shores of Petone. John Shanks and Warren Pettigrew represented the Deans Brothers part in *Presbyterianism comes to Canterbury*. before Rev Errol Hildreth completed the history as Rev Colston Robert (Bob) Sprackett first Minister at *St Martins Presbyterian Church*. Rev Lyndsey McKay, looking great in red and purple colours of Pentecost welcomed the children in with the streamers they made and had them light the candles on the birthday cake to complete the Church's birthday celebration.

.... Sonya Hodder ■

Editor's PS – June 19. Watch out in our next issue for Audrey's brilliant "Meditation" delivered during the Worship Committee's Winter Solstice Service today. The theme was Kindness, and her words were inspiring.



## FACING THE FUTURE IN CHRISTCHURCH

As the Presbyterian Church takes stock of its situation post quakes, Presbytery is asking for input from all parishes. Many have been crippled, like Knox Church pictured here, but as a catalyst for change, the quakes have provided new opportunities.



Church of Hard Knocks

There are websites where you can try to keep up with new directions. Among them: <http://preshist.wordpress.com/> offering earthquake newsletters and earthquake steering committee updates. Here is what our Moderator Martin Stewart had to say before June 13:

*“I am looking forward to what opportunities God has for us on this new terrain where our buildings have revealed their tiredness, and the ground they are on along with the times we are in require a new approach. ... While it is complicated and risky it is also kind of exciting.”*

Since June 13: *It is a real pain all this shaking – I really feel for those poor people out east with any hope they might have had of something being closer to normal being erased this week.... It is scary, hard on the nerves, massively inconvenient, and hugely disheartening....I feel very strongly that we need to walk in their streets and meet people at their door.*

People from St Stephen's, St Gile's and St Mark's will be delivering supermarket vouchers to quake victims. You can help by donating – through above website.

On the St Martins front, we print here the notes drawn up by Warren Pettigrew and David Hodder, designed to form the basis of a response to Presbytery on behalf of the St Martins Presbyterian Church. Discussions at Session concluded St Martins should not make any concrete proposals until we have more information on other parishes. Meetings and discussions continue: in the meantime, our thanks to Warren and David.

### CHRISTCHURCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES A NEW FUTURE

#### GOAL

Use the quakes as a trigger to introduce changes to the Presbyterian churches of Christchurch that will foster growth through better serving the needs of the community that we live in.

## TOURING THE NORTH ISLAND

This year, instead of taking an overseas trip, we decided to spend a few weeks touring and exploring the North Island. We set off on the 21 Feb for Picton with our Jayco camping trailer and were enjoying a couple of days in Picton when the earthquake struck on the 22 Feb. After discovering that we had a few things on the floor of our house, we decided to return home to check any damage. After the cleanup and no structural damage, we proceeded to put everything that could fall down on the floor, and fasten our cupboards. A week later we set off back to Picton.

Our holiday started in Eastbourne with our son and family before heading north looking for the sunshine which happened to be in Napier at that time. After a few days there we headed up to Taupo and Rotorua each for a few days before heading to the coast and Ohope Beach. This was probably our favourite place with sunshine and a lovely beach. As we were from Christchurch the camp management very kindly did not charge any fees for our stay there, very generous of them. Next we spent a couple of days at Papamoa near Tauranga, another lovely beach, before heading to the Coromandel, stopping at Pauanui, Ha Hei and Coromandel town. We explored the area quite well and even managed to try out Hot Water Beach. Next stop was Auckland where we caught up on some relatives, and managed to get a quick look at Britomart, the Viaduct and parts of the city.

We had hoped to get up to the far north, but time was against us so we headed south again and ended up in Raglan, lovely spot and even caught up with one of the Hodder daughters who lives there with her family. Back across to Cambridge where we caught the final two days of the Secondary Schools' Rowing Champs, the Maadi Cup, at Lake Karapiro, and enjoyed seeing the Canterbury schools do so well. David rowed on Karapiro 50 years ago so he was keen to see the wonderful facility developed for the World Rowing Champs last year.

We had a look at Hamilton (lovely gardens), a tour of the Waitomo Caves, before heading to Taranaki and a stopover at Opunake. Another stop at Paraparamu to visit a friend and back to the family at Eastbourne.

It was a great trip, revisiting places where we had taken the family 30 years ago, probably a bit more leisurely this time and in the main some great weather. Everyone we met were most concerned for Christchurch and its people and there were donation jars everywhere. We were encouraged by the support that the folk in the North Island felt for our city.

**Marilyn & David Tait**

#### FUND RAISING

At last year's annual meeting the congregation agreed that we try and raise \$2000 towards special projects within the Church. The Fireside group started this off with a Christmas Cake stall raising \$746.00 and they challenged other groups within the Church to do the same. To date no one else has taken up this challenge. Think about it and see what you can do.

millions of propaganda copies over Germany of the tract, now retitled The Manifesto of the Students of Munich.

In a historical context, the White Rose's legacy has significance for many commentators, both as a demonstration of exemplary spiritual courage, and as a well-documented case of social dissent in a time of violent repression, censorship, and conformist pressure.

Sophia's last words were:- "How can we expect righteousness to prevail when there is hardly anyone willing to give himself up individually to a righteous cause? Such a fine, sunny day, and I have to go, but what does my death matter, if through us thousands of people are awakened and stirred to action?"

(Contributed by **Judith Mackay.**) ■

## THIS ONE'S FOR CHRISTCHURCH

One of the consequences of the September 4 quake was the postponement of the Christchurch Writers' Festival scheduled for September 2010. Thinking that things were getting back to normal, the organisers planned a mini-version some months later, until Feb 22 canned that as well. However the Auckland Writers and Readers Week took up the cause, flying up some Canterbury authors for their own event in May.

Five Canterbury writers – Carl Nixon, Fiona Farrell, Joanna Preston, Tusiata Avia and Sarah Quigley – reflected on their experiences of a seismic tragedy and paid tribute to their "lost" city. *"If I set things down on a page and put words to the feelings, I feel more in control,"* wrote Banks Peninsula author Fiona Farrell in an email to her friends just after 22.2. *"Everything will have to be reconfigured, reimagined, our internal maps of the place will have to be redesigned."* Her earthquake poems relived the moments of crisis; *"Quiver and stamp – that is how the earth is."* Tusiata Avia described an apocalyptic swirl of events, looking at St Paul's Trinity Pacific Church reduced to *"tangled steel spaghetti, spliced Corinthian columns"* with *"no evidence of the baptisms weddings and funerals of everyone we know."* Those feelings will be familiar to many. However a writers' festival is now planned for Chch in Sept 2012 – "God willing or whoever is in charge." One for the calendar, we hope.



### Where do we start?

First of all we need an information gathering phase to allow us to make rational decisions on our future. This process would best be handled by the Presbytery.

### Why do we have to change?

There is a general decline in regular church attendance and now a number of churches that were marginally viable before the quakes, now definitely won't be, so we have the opportunity to make changes which will once again see thriving parishes, this time serving both the spiritual needs and the wider needs of our community.

### Why have we seen this decline?

The complete answer to this question is best answered in another forum but part of the answer probably is because we are not meeting the spiritual and social needs of our community. This question is important to answer as the answer will tell us what we have to do to reverse our present trend and it is a national trend.

Some solutions are pretty obvious:

- Make better use of our facilities
- Involve more of the community in our churches
- Work with other churches to provide a complete package:-
  - Worship
  - Debate and learning
  - Social
  - Support
  - Group meeting facility
  - Caring and sharing

### What things may have to change?

Some churches may not be rebuilt.

- Some congregations have and will have to change their place of worship
- We will have to get more professional and commercial in the way we operate our facilities.
- We may share, join or mix with other denominations.
- We must attract younger people into the parish.

### What we must retain:

- Worship that fulfils the religious needs of our parishioners.
- An intimate, friendly and outgoing congregation
- Adequate ministerial support for each parish.
- A facility that we feel proud of and which we use for more than just conventional church services.
- A place of worship close to where we live.

### What information do we need to know about other church parishes to help us build a new future?

1. Where are the other churches?
2. What was their average Sunday attendance before the quakes?
3. What is their attendance after the quakes?
4. What do they truly believe the attendance trend will be?
5. What is the church roll?
6. What is their age distribution?
7. Are they in the red or black financially?
8. What was their facility before the quake – buildings, grounds, ministerial, secretarial?
9. After the quake?
10. What insurance cover do they have?
11. What active church groups are there in the parish?
12. What other regular groups use the church facility?

### How will this information be used?

We see it being gathered by the Presbytery for collating, analysis before distributing to the parishes of Christchurch for discussion and debate within each parish. The debate would then be widened to involve other parishes which may well be of other denominations. (eg Methodist)

### What ideas does each church have to build a new future?

1. Opinion on hubs?\*
2. What churches and facilities could be in their hub?
3. What ministerial, secretarial, volunteer support is available? ■

(Editor's note: The South-East hub could include St Martins, Cashmere, Hoon Hay and St James.)



### SHARE AN IDEA

Fewer cars in the Central City, greater use of the Avon corridor as a pedestrian/cycle route and integration of the tram into the public transport network are some of the emerging themes from the 40,000 ideas Greater Christchurch residents shared during the great May idea-fest, attended by 10,000 people. The themes will continue to be explored on the [www.shareanidea.org.nz](http://www.shareanidea.org.nz) website.

## GREAT CHRISTIAN LIVES

### Sophia Magdalena Scholl

(9 May 1921 – 22 February 1943)

Sophia Scholl was a German student active within the White Rose non-violent resistance group in Nazi Germany. She was convicted of high treason after having been found distributing anti-war leaflets at the University of Munich with her brother Hans. As a result, they were both executed by guillotine. Since the 1970s, Scholl has been celebrated as one of the great German heroes who actively opposed the Third Reich during WW2.



In 1932, Scholl started attending a secondary school for girls. At the age of twelve, she was required to join the Bund Deutscher Mädel (League of German Girls), like most of her classmates, but her initial enthusiasm gradually gave way to criticism. She was aware of the dissenting political views of her father, of friends, and also of some teachers. Political attitude had become an essential criterion in her choice of friends. The arrest of her brothers and friends in 1937 for participating in the German Youth Movement left a strong impression on her.

Sophie was brought up a Lutheran. She had a talent for drawing and painting and so came into contact with a few so-called 'degenerate' artists. An avid reader, she developed a growing interest in philosophy and theology. Her firm Christian belief in God and in every human being's essential dignity formed her basis for resisting Nazi ideology. This belief was central to her view of the world around her, a view fundamentally different from that expounded by National Socialism which was, by the time of her death, the only one approved or allowed within the Nazi State.

In the spring of 1940, she graduated from secondary school. The subject of her essay was 'The Hand that Moved the Cradle, Moved the World.' Fond of children, she became a kindergarten teacher at the Fröbel Institute in Ulm-Söflingen. She had also chosen this kindergarten job hoping that it would be recognized as an alternate service to Reichsarbeitsdienst (National Labor Service), a prerequisite to being admitted to University. This was not the case, though, and in the spring of 1941 she began a six month stint in the auxiliary war service as a nursery teacher in Blumberg.

The military-like regimen of the Labor Service caused her to think very hard about the political situation as well as to begin practising passive resistance. Following her death, a copy of the sixth leaflet was smuggled out of Germany through Scandinavia to the UK by German jurist Helmuth James Graf von Moltke, where it was utilized by the Allied Forces. In mid-1943, they dropped