

# the Gateway

Magazine of the Anglican Parish of  
Upper Riccarton—Yaldhurst

Spring / Aroaromahana 2026



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**Plant & garden sale, Market day & Boot sale,**

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**"Colour-me-in" & "A-maze-ing"**

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### St Peter's...

8:00 am

**Eucharist**

9:15 am

**Eucharist**

11:00 am

**Good News service & Sunday School**

2:00 pm

**Mandarin service with Pastors Albert and Stephen**

### St Luke's...

9.30 am

**Eucharist every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month**

## Usual Sunday services

### St Peter's...

10:00 am

**Eucharist**

## Wednesday mornings



Cover photo—Springtime in the St Peter's churchyard.  
Photo by Heather Cox

### A recipe for spiritual bread

Rev Dr Mike Baker



**B**read is so basic to life, that it is rightly referred to as a *staple of life*. Nearly every culture has some kind of bread specific to it. It is one of the oldest man-made foods, going back to mankind's agricultural roots.

For humans it is associated with special emotional and symbolic significance. Walking past a bakery often triggers hunger from the sweet warm yeast smell of freshly

baked loaves. But it can also trigger memories of perhaps walking home from the corner shop on a Sunday with a crusty brick of bread, and picking the soft warm centre from the surrounding crust and secretively eating it. Of course, it never was a secret because you arrived home with a hollow loaf of bread, and mum yelling *Now what are we going to have for tea!*

Or perhaps memories of eating hunks of fresh bread slathered with butter and jam, washed down with cups of milky sweet tea as a child. There's something comforting about bread—unless you are gluten-intolerant and then it can cause a lot of discomfort.

Fundamentally, bread has become associated with daily life. In the Lord's prayer we pray *Give us this day our daily bread*. Bread and dough are terms that also refer to money. In cockney slang *bread and honey* means money.

Sharing a meal with other people used to be referred to as breaking bread with them. In fact, the symbolic act of breaking bread is an essential part of Holy Communion. At the Last Supper: *[Jesus] took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples...*

Friendship is also connected with the concept of bread. The word *companion* comes from the French to share bread with someone.

**O**n the night before he died, Jesus refers to himself as bread, to be broken and shared amongst his friends. In eating this bread Jesus is *remembered*, and spiritually becomes one with us, and we his earthly body. In this spring edition of the Gateway, I would like to give you the **Recipe for the Bread of Life**.

Now, every recipe has its own history; some recipes are associated with different cultures and countries. They often get handed down from one generation to another, and can come to define a family: it is part of their heritage. As something that is handed on, it is a living treasure that needs to be used, enjoyed, cherished and passed on.

As time goes on and the bread is repetitively made, it becomes ingrained and second nature to the baker. It moves from the page and becomes part of the memory. By making and remaking each new batch of bread, the past is somehow tied up with the present, and aunties, and mothers and great grandmothers are remembered, as they contributed something of themselves in the passing on of the recipe.

**T**he recipe book that I am going to use is the Gospel. The gospel has been handed down to us from parents, grandparents, friends, fellow parishioners as well as ministers. Of course, we can trace our recipe for the bread of life back two thousand years to Jesus, who passed it on to us through the apostles and Christians in every age. Before we go into the main ingredients, I offer you a prayer that you could pray before preparing the dough: *Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this bread—which earth has given and human hands have prepared. It will become food to nourish us. Blessed be God for ever.*



**Let us start with flour.** Earth gives us grains, which are ground, milled and refined. We too are part of the fruit of this earth. We become the flour that is needed for this recipe. As life refines us and teaches us humility, we become an essential ingredient in the recipe of the bread of life.



**Let us add water.** We need water to combine the starches and proteins in the flour to create dough. The water helps the flour to stick to each other.

In the church, we need the water of baptism, to bind us together and make us one body. Without baptism we remain separate, independent of one another. But mixed with the waters of baptism we are bound together as a community.

**Let us add leaven.** Most bread needs some kind of leaven, which is an ingredient that aerates the dough mixture. Traditionally leaven refers to yeast, which are living cells that exist all around us. Once they find the right environment of moisture, food and heat, they multiple and release gas, helping to change and transform the dough into light, fluffy bread.



The leaven in our gospel recipe is ***the Holy Spirit***. When we are open to being filled with the breath of God, then we are ready to be transformed into something new. Then we can become the person that God intended us to be from the beginning of time.

Let us add some fat. Butter, vegetable oil or even cream can be added. A little bit of fat lubricates the strands of gluten and other proteins to enhance, soften and improve the loaf. Fat brings out the potential goodness of the other ingredients.

**I**n our recipe the little bit of fat is the **goodness of human nature**. As we offer our best to others, we create a community that represents all that is the best of human kindness, and that gives hope to this chaotic world. People who have been touched by the goodness of God can pass that on, and bring out the goodness in others.

Next, we need to **knead the dough**. The kneading or mixing is hard work. It requires action. It does not happen by itself. But the longer the dough is kneaded the better, for it allows the yeast to become thoroughly mixed in. Also, the best bread requires time to rest; it is the natural cycle of work and rest.

**T**he act of kneading is our **liturgy**, which literally means *the work of the people*. But it is not just up to us, for when we rest, God continues to work in us, giving us gifts while we sleep. We need **work** and **rest**!

Then, when the dough has been kneaded and rested it needs to be put into an oven, which is an environment of **heat**. The dough needs to be baked for just the right time to be transformed from a blob into something solid. Baking also releases a natural sweetness from the grains' sugar and starch. Often crusty on the outside, it is invariably soft and fluffy on the inside. Dough is transformed into nutritional bread to satisfy human need and hunger.

**F**rom a spiritual perspective, this transformation is the process of **metanoia**, of being changed personally and corporately into something beautiful for God. The **heat** by which we are changed are the trials and tribulations of life.

This my recipe for the bread of life! It is the gospel that has been handed down to us from Jesus.

**J**oy Cowley has written that we are called to be God's bread in the world. For in life, God blesses us. We are inevitably broken, but then God shares us and our giftedness with others, just as Jesus did.



Illustration: source unknown, but available on Facebook and Instagram





## Connecting with our community

Heather Cox

I have been a regular worshipper at St Peter's for over forty years, and during that time it has been interesting to notice some of the changes. There seemed to be a greater formality in the earlier services, but I feel the emphasis on strictly following the traditional service has changed slightly. We still have reverent services, but some elements vary from time to time.



We always celebrated the traditional Christian services around Christmas and Easter, but over the latter years other services have been introduced, where people from outside our regular parishioners take part. This includes services for such as Nurse Maude, the Racing community, the Free masons, the pet service, the combined spring service with the Methodists, combined services with our Mandarin community, Petersgate, remembering the departed, and probably other groups I have neglected to mention. Each and every one of these services adds a richness, an awareness of other groups in our wider community, and a chance to mingle with those who come specially for those services. The times spent together over a cup of tea afterwards are often stimulating, and provide a warm welcome to all visitors.

We are so fortunate that over the years we have had vicars who have encouraged this community interaction. Whenever guest speakers, and those who come to celebrate with them, are present, they have the opportunity to feel and absorb God's love. It also helps all of us to understand a little more about these organisations, and to enrich our lives.



## Connect Group adventures

Ethan Wilson-Bruce

**T**his winter, our **Connect** group returned to Orohaki for our winter camp, where we had the joy of baptising five people. Kevin, Callista, Charisse, Lewis, and David all responded to the Lord's calling to be baptised. With such an occasion, it was only appropriate that our camp theme was *Baptism*. For this theme, we prepared various talks. These were: *What is baptism? Why water?*



*John the Baptist, baptism and the kingdom feast.*

**O**ur time was filled with meaningful worship and prayer, organised games and activities, a hike up a mountain, and plenty of board games. We were well supported by Angeline, who, with the help of Cindy, organised and cooked our food for the camp. A big thank you to you, Angeline! It is no easy task to feed over twenty youth and young adults for four days!



The morning of the baptism was beautifully cold. We had planned to go down to a river for the baptisms. However, the river was far too shallow, so we put up a pool and filled it with icy cold water from the hose, with the hopes that our water heaters would do the job of warming the pool. This did not work very well. So in the hour before the baptisms, we had many volunteers rushing to pour boiling water into the pool to make it bearable for Mike, me, and those being baptised. This also did not work very well, so we settled for freezing!



Before the baptism, I had asked each person being baptised if they would like to share their testimony of how God had brought them to this moment. It was such a joy to see all of them standing together up front, supporting one another as they shared. It was also great to see many of their friends and family members make the trip

out to support them in their baptism.

*The day was filled with joy, proud tears, and thanksgiving.*

I want to thank all of those who helped us raise funds and provided food for the camp, from both the English and Mandarin congregations. This camp would not have been possible without your commitment to support the young people of our parish. I also want to thank Mike, who spent a night with us and led the baptism service. I hope you were not too cold in that pool! And I want to again thank Angeline, who drove over an hour to and from the camp each day to prepare food and cook for us.

**I** want to leave you with some words from a few of those who were baptised...

*My baptism experience was truly life-changing. It was a moment where I publicly declared my faith in Christ and symbolically died to my old self and was raised to new life with Him. It reminded me that my life now belongs to Christ and that I want to continue living for Him.*  
~Kevin



*"I would say that my baptism felt daunting at first. Sharing about my faith in front of many witnesses was not something I would have done but because of the encouragement of the people at church around me, I was able to declare what Christ has done in my life to bring me here and become who I am today. So I'm grateful that God has surrounded me with a community that I can call home."*  
~Callista

*"My baptism experience was intimate. I was able to share and boldly declare my faith to my brothers and sisters in Christ. I am still on the journey to keep Christ in the centre of my life every day, and to trust in his plans for me."* ~Charisse



*"I'm glad to be baptised. The camp has deepened the meaning of baptism for me as well as helped me notice just how much of an impact Jesus has had on my life. Glory to God for his love and grace he has for everyone. Thank him that we are now living with the RISEN CHRIST!"* ~David



## Plant and garden sale, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Fiona Gilmore



We are nearly there and we are all looking forward to our annual plant sale. We have started advertising and the countdown is certainly on.

Vegetable seeds have been distributed, bags of soil have all gone and many generous donations of tools, pots and garden accessories have been made. We have been talking with many people who have been very busy potting up plants ready for sale.

To help with the ease of setting up, we kindly ask if you could please do the following:

- *Give the pots a quick wipe*
- *Label plants using common name and colour if appropriate*
- *Remove any dead leaves or weeds*
- *Give them a last water before dropping off.*

**P**resentation really helps to sell the plants, and people always comment on how well everything looks.

*Hint: We have been using ChatGPT to help identify the name of plants and the best growing conditions to ensure they look their best. However bring them in, as one of our experts will know!*



### **Thursday and Friday (8-9 October):**

1. The hall will be open from 9.00am-12.00 for plants to be dropped off. We will also be asking for helpers on those two days to help receive the plants, display tools, pots and other accessories.
2. Friday afternoon is when we price the plants and volunteers would be appreciated with this task.

### **Saturday (10 October):**

We will need a number of volunteers to help in a variety of ways including on the check-outs, preparing morning tea, supplying morning tea and cleaning up. We also just love it when people come for a chat and cuppa as it is always a great community event. We will be asking for volunteers closer to the time!

**W**e know from last year that even if it is pouring with rain we will be busy. We look forward to seeing you all, and many thanks for all the contributions people have made thus far.



*Another exciting quiz night!*

**David Winfield**



## Parish Quiz Night

**Friday, 18 September  
7.30pm in the Parish Hall  
Upper Riccarton**

Teams of up to 6 members

\$10 a head admission

(\$5 school students)

Good prizes

Multi-draw raffle

BYO refreshments

**Register at Church or by email to:**

**[Jo.winfield49@gmail.com](mailto:Jo.winfield49@gmail.com)**

All proceeds going to  
St. Peter's Church Restoration

## ST FAITHFUL'S, HAVNOT STATEMENT OF DOCTRINAL CERTAINTY (Revised)

After prayerful consideration, extended discussion, and several cups of tea (with biscuits), the Parochial Church Council of St Faithful's, Havnot is pleased to affirm the following matters upon which we are now entirely certain.

1. **God is love.**  
What this means in practice remains under active review.
2. **God is not limited by our understanding of God.**  
Or by anyone else's, however confidently expressed.
3. **The Bible is inspired.** Which we take to mean that it continues to inspire faith, argument, scholarship, prayer, disagreement, and the occasional raised eyebrow.
4. **Jesus is the Son of God.** Precisely how this works is a mystery we have decided not to simplify for administrative convenience.
5. **Jesus is the Saviour of the World.** The precise mechanism by which salvation is achieved by him remains a standing agenda item.
6. **The Holy Spirit is at work in the Church.**  
Often in ways that make people slightly uncomfortable.
7. **Being right is not listed among the Fruits of the Spirit.**  
We checked. There was discussion.
8. **Faith is not the same thing as certainty.**  
Certainty is much tidier, but has fewer miraculous stories associated with it.
9. **Doubt is not the opposite of faith.** Indifference and apathy are.
10. **Questions are welcome.** Answers may be provisional.

This Statement may be revised without notice, should further reflection, prayer, lived experience, or divine interruption require it.

Signed,

The PCC

St.  
**Faithful's**  
HAVNOT  
Faithful. not finished.

*Included with thanks to the St Faithful's parish in the (fictitious) town of Havnot, UK. There is much more of their valuable enlightening advice at...*

*<https://www.facebook.com/stfaithfulshavnot/>*

## Activities at St Luke's

Rev Gerard Jacobs

### Coffee and Chat

**Monday, 21 July & 17 August 2026**

The Coffee and Chat gatherings held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2026 provided a warm and welcoming opportunity for members of the community to connect, share conversation, and enjoy fellowship together. The photos show attendees gathering in an inviting indoor setting, engaging in small group discussions around tables laden with a generous selection of sandwiches, savouries, slices, and biscuits. Participants mingled comfortably throughout the event, renewing friendships and meeting others in a relaxed atmosphere over coffee and refreshments. The strong attendance and lively interaction reflected the value of these regular gatherings in fostering community spirit, social connection, and mutual support. Special thanks go to everyone who contributed food, assisted with setup and hospitality, and helped make both Coffee and Chat events enjoyable and successful occasions.



## Parish fellowship: Mid-winter lunch

### Sunday, 25 July 2026

The *St. Luke's Anglican parish mid-winter lunch* was a wonderful celebration of fellowship, friendship, and community, bringing people together on a chilly winter's day in the warmth and comfort of Sue Chappell's welcoming home. The gathering was filled with lively conversation, shared laughter, and the joy of spending time together, creating a relaxed and cheerful atmosphere for everyone present. A magnificent spread of delicious food and drinks, generously contributed by those attending, showcased the parish's spirit of hospitality and generosity, with a tempting variety of savoury dishes, treats, and refreshments enjoyed by all. The event was a great success, not only because of the wonderful meal but also because of the sense of belonging and connection that was so evident throughout the afternoon. Special thanks to Sue Chappell for opening her home and providing such a warm and welcoming venue, and to everyone who contributed food, drinks, and good company to make this year's mid-winter lunch such an enjoyable and memorable occasion.



## Maintenance

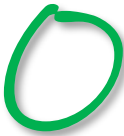
The recent reinstallation of the St. Luke's church bell marks an important step in preserving and protecting a valued part of our parish heritage. Following previous theft attempts, we are extremely grateful to Craig King, who generously undertook the work of reinstalling the bell, securely bolting it to its stand and welding the fittings in place to make future theft attempts far more difficult. His skills, time, and commitment have ensured that this historic bell can continue to serve the parish for years to come.



We also extend our sincere thanks to James Cliff, who has installed additional sensor lighting around the church grounds. These new lights will help deter would-be thieves and provide greater protection for church property. The parish greatly appreciates the practical support and dedication shown by both Craig and James in helping safeguard our church and its treasured assets for the benefit of the whole community.



## St. Luke's musician

 On Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be saying farewell to our beloved musician, Anne-Marie, who has faithfully served as our pianist and organist in worship. We are deeply grateful for the dedication, talent, and care she has shared with the St. Luke's community over the years.

As Anne-Marie prepares to welcome her baby and begin the wonderful journey of parenthood with her husband, we send her our heartfelt congratulations, love, and best wishes. While we will miss her greatly, we are excited for this new chapter in her life and pray for every blessing for her growing family.

 On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June we rejoiced with the family as Rev Mike baptised Phoenix Arne Andreassen, with his mother Nina and his Godparents standing alongside him with love and faith. We pray for God's blessing upon them all, that Phoenix may grow in Christ's light and be upheld in the care of the church community. This was a joyful occasion, and the family joined us for fellowship afterwards.



## Spectacle drop-off—Leigh Craythorne (03)342 9110

 Many thanks for your continued great response to our parish collection of spectacles that you no longer need. These are passed on to Specsavers, then onto *The Fred Hollows Foundation* who provide surgeries (like cataracts) and spectacles to folk in the Pacific Islands.

There is a bag on the table at the back of the church to collect them. Prescription sun glasses are also passed on.

To date, we have collected 859 pairs—amazing! Only the spectacles are passed on, so the cases are not needed thank you. **Keep them coming!**

## Head teacher's update

Liz Orr

Greetings from the management, staff and children of St Peter's Anglican Preschool to the clergy, vestry, and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's. *Kumusta, Ni Hao, Namaste, Malo e Lei lei, Hi, Kia Ora, Asalamo Alaikum, Talofa, An Young Ha Se o and È nlé o*: that is *hello* in nine languages that currently represent our cultures at preschool.



As I write this, spring is starting to emerge. It is wonderful to drive to preschool in daylight, and it is lighter later in the afternoon as well. Lots of blossom, spring flowers and baby lambs are appearing. I find this time of year a time of renewal.



Listening (and pointing) time

Preschool life has been quite settled in the last few months for children and staff, and our roll numbers have grown slightly. Your faithful prayers for our ongoing roll growth are appreciated. We still have spaces available each day, but they are slowly filling up. Our marketing strategy this term continues to be through Facebook notifications into cultural groups, and churches of our staff and families.

Last term we held our annual Matariki family celebration. This included our annual Matariki disco, which was a fun sparkly affair. It was so good to see so many parents dancing with their children. Families provided a vegetable for our shared meal and we made three delicious soups (pumpkin, traditional vegetable, and broccoli and cheese). We had a lovely time enjoying food and fellowship after we had all worked up an appetite on the dance floor.

One of our big highlights for the year is happening in a few weeks as we celebrate St Peter's Anglican Preschool's 7<sup>th</sup> birthday and Chinese Mid-Autumn festival on 10<sup>th</sup> September. This celebration is always a fabulous opportunity to celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness to our preschool.



Our *Mums and Bubs Playgroup* has moved into the preschool building this term, as it is warmer and saves the electricity costs of heating the space we use. It is much easier to set up (and pack away) the playgroup area within the preschool with preschool resources. The number of parents has dropped a little since we moved and we are hopeful that the warmer weather will bring some families back. Those who come really enjoy being in the preschool and being able to access the outside playground when it is warm enough to go outside. The group is aimed at children under two, and is a way for parents and young children in the area to be welcomed into the wider parish/preschool whānau, connect together, and be introduced to the gospel. We are also using this as a marketing tool, our goal being to encourage more young families into parish activities, and to help grow our preschool roll.

**A**s I mentioned above, the season is changing outside. God also gives us seasons in life and the season inside preschool is also changing. Therefore, I want to inform you that my season as head teacher is coming to an end at the end of term 3 (25<sup>th</sup> September 2026). The Lord has made it clear it is time for me to step down and begin a new chapter of service with Him. It has been such an incredible honour and privilege to lead preschool since we began seven years ago. There have been many blessings and challenges throughout my journey as head teacher, but I have always been sure it is the Lord's preschool. It is only through His daily leading wisdom and my utter dependence on Him that I have fulfilled the tasks of the role. I have loved meeting lots of you over the years and am inspired by your courage and vision of the preschool.



**T**he preschool is serving this Upper Riccarton/ Sockburn/Avonhead/) community well. We have spread the light of Jesus' love into nearly 200 homes. so be encouraged that the sacrifices you made to establish a preschool are well worth it. Rev Nick's vision of *Bringing children back to Church Corner* has certainly been realised.



I am especially grateful to Rev Nick Mountfort and Rev Peg Riley for their love and support as we have worked closely during my time at St Peter's Anglican preschool. Adele, who is head teacher of our sister preschool Aidanfield Christian preschool, will oversee the running of our preschool until the roll grows a bit more, and we can employ a new permanent head teacher.

As for me, Murray and I are going travelling for three months through Europe, England and Ireland. We are spending Christmas with my brother in England. Next year I will be still working for the Manukau Christian Charitable Trust as a part-time reliever at Aidanfield .



*I want to take this opportunity to say a tremendous THANK YOU to each one of you for your support and encouragement, and pray God's richest blessings over you both now and in the weeks, months and years ahead.*





St Peter's  
Anglican Preschool

# Mums & Bubs

## PLAYGROUP

morning tea provided

- Bowden Hall -  
St Peter's Church

Every Wednesday, 10am - 12pm  
of the school term

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

## St. Peter's Market day and boot sale

Saturday 17th October, 9.00am-12.00

Fiona Gilmore



This is an exciting new initiative to support current fundraising efforts. Market day will take place the weekend after the plant sale as it provides an opportunity to sell unsold plants and other items. St Peter's will be running...

- Plant sale tables
- Baking and preserves table
- Book sale table
- Sausage sizzle

All tables will be outside so minimal preparation is required. If wet we do have the option of moving inside.

**W**e envisage that the tables will be set up on the day although contributions can be dropped off the day before for pricing.

Each table will have a point person and they will communicate more information in the next few weeks specifying what goods and help that they may need.

**Plus—Petersgate Counselling Centre** will have a couple of tables as well so this is a fantastic opportunity to support the work that they do in our community.

**But wait—**there is more...

***We are offering 'Boot Sale' sites for people to sell their items.***

Each site will be \$25 payable on the day in cash.

We are hoping to set up on the Glebe, weather permitting.

Each site will be allowed one additional table if required no wider than their car boot, to be placed directly in front of the boot.

Sites will be available from 7.30am and people will be directed to a site. We have a maximum number of 20 sites available, so first in first served.

Enquiries can be made to [gilmoresnyny@extra.co.nz](mailto:gilmoresnyny@extra.co.nz)

**W**e would like this to be a fun and festive atmosphere which serves not only as a fundraiser but also a place for our community to gather. We hope that you are able to support this event!

**~Fiona, Jo & Gin**



### Homelessness in Christchurch

# ‘Where are we supposed to go?’

Red-zone campers given deadline to leave as the city council wants to make the area a wetland

**A**n article under the headline above from The Press (Te Matatika) of 10<sup>th</sup> August, written by Louis Walker, tells of homeless campers in Christchurch’s *red zone* being evicted by the Christchurch City Council.



Ngawai “Fire” Timu, a leader among the red-zone campers, says many in the community want to stay together.

**P**eople living in a makeshift camp in the Christchurch residential red zone have been told they will have to move on by early next year to make way for a wetland, but some say they have nowhere to go.

*The encampment is on Wetlands Grove in Bexley, with most people living out of parked vehicles on the side of the road.*

*Long-time resident and self-described “mother” of the camp Ngawai “Fire” Timu, 65, said the council had not told the red-zone inhabitants where they could go, though the majority were willing to stay as a group.*

*“We don’t understand what they [the council] are really intentionally doing with this property... It was all right for us to be on here, and then all of a sudden it’s not. And where are we supposed to go from here? ‘It’s not our problem.’ That’s what they said.” ...*

*-excerpts from Louis Walker, The Press 10th August*

Previously, on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026, **Dennys Guild** wrote to the Christchurch mayor, Phil Major. His (abridged) letter follows...

*Dear Phil (Your Worship),*

*...I am writing to you to see if something can be done for the homeless in Christchurch. Regardless of how they came to be homeless, I think it is appalling that they are hounded from pillar to post without anything being done to help them...*

*I have seen them camped in the old red zone land at Bexley, and I can't see that they are doing any harm there. This land is Council land (as I understand it) and is not currently being used for anything else... These homeless people seem to have a collection of things to provide them with shelter. The most sophisticated have old busses converted into travelling homes, or camper vans. The less fortunate are either living in tents or in their cars. I guess some are even living rough by sleeping out.*

*It strikes me that the Council is in control of a lot of land in the red zone that is not being used for any better purpose than providing a valuable place for the homeless to camp out. Surely these people should be left alone, or even helped by Council, while their luck is down.*

*Apart from leaving them in peace, the Council could provide them with some cheap facilities. Fresh water is still reticulated to most of the red zone. At certain points, this could be made accessible to those staying in the red zone... It would be good for sanitation if Portaloos could be provided as well, which would have to be at Council (ratepayer) cost.*

*This would give the incumbents a chance to find their feet, or to get into Council social housing when it is available to them.*

*Is this something Council could do for our out-of-luck, or marginalised citizens, or is it just too hard? I hate seeing people forced to live in this itinerant and unsafe manner, but can we make life a little easier for them? If anyone can, it would be you.*

*Thank you for reading my letter.*

*Dennys Guild*

The Mayor, Phil Major, replied...

*Dear Dennys*

*Thank you for contacting me and sharing your views regarding the homeless population in Christchurch.*

*Homelessness is a matter of increasing concern to me and my Council colleagues. It's a complex social issue, and the Council works with a number of government agencies and community organisations to find housing for those that need it. We support those without homes as best as we are able.*

*The red zone encampment in Wetlands Grove has grown organically and, while it might appear there could be a solution for people to stay here, this - unfortunately - is not the case. This site is an important environmental area that supports significant bird life and native plants. After extensive community consultation, it was determined that this land to be returned to its original swamp-land habitat. The site will be flooded to create a wetland area, and this is scheduled to occur in 2027.*

*People camping there will need to move when work begins to repatriate this land to its native state. Efforts to engage with campers have begun, and the Council is partnering with a number of agencies to find permanent accommodation and look after the welfare of those currently camping there.*

*As you suggest in your letter, the Council is currently providing some services in the interim such as portaloos and waste disposal. The Council also funds the City Mission to visit regularly and support campers as best they can. Our collective efforts will increase as the deadline to move on becomes nearer.*

*Many thanks again for taking the time to contact me and share your views.*

*Cheers*

*Phil*



**A**fter Louis Walker's story on 10<sup>th</sup> August, Dennys then wrote to the editor of *The Press*, and was published in their 11<sup>th</sup> August edition...

**I**t is with sadness that I feel I have to write to *The Press* to express my feelings regarding the appalling plight of the homeless of Christchurch. The headlines of the article 'Where are we supposed to go?' in today's (Monday 10th August) says it all. On 17th of June 2026 I wrote to Mayor Phil Mager about this sad situation, suggesting that their current encampment in the red zone seemed an ideal temporary home for these people, and could be encouraged by the Council supplying sanitary facilities and fresh water.



Phil responded very politely and positively, saying that the Council was indeed doing just that (supplying sanitation and water) but mentioned that the current site was needed for restoration of wetlands. But there are hundreds of hectares of red zone—surely there is a place somewhere that these unfortunates could bed down until their circumstances improve?

On top of today's *Press* article, the 6th August *Metropol* article 'The fight against homelessness' also highlights the problem. Have we no heart in the city? Although we may claim that it's their own fault that they are in this situation, and that some may have been offered assistance but have turned it down, that is not the case with all of them. Come on Christchurch, we can do better, and we have the means to do better.

Yours

Dennys Guild



### The Glebe garden

Alan Woods

For the benefit of parishioners who live in townhouses, flats or apartments with little or no space for a veggie garden, the St Peter's Glebe has been upgraded. One area has been boxed in for potatoes, pumpkin, and corn, but there is more space available in the production area. Only one rule applies: *if you plant you must maintain.*

Ask Alan. Phone~0275838312.





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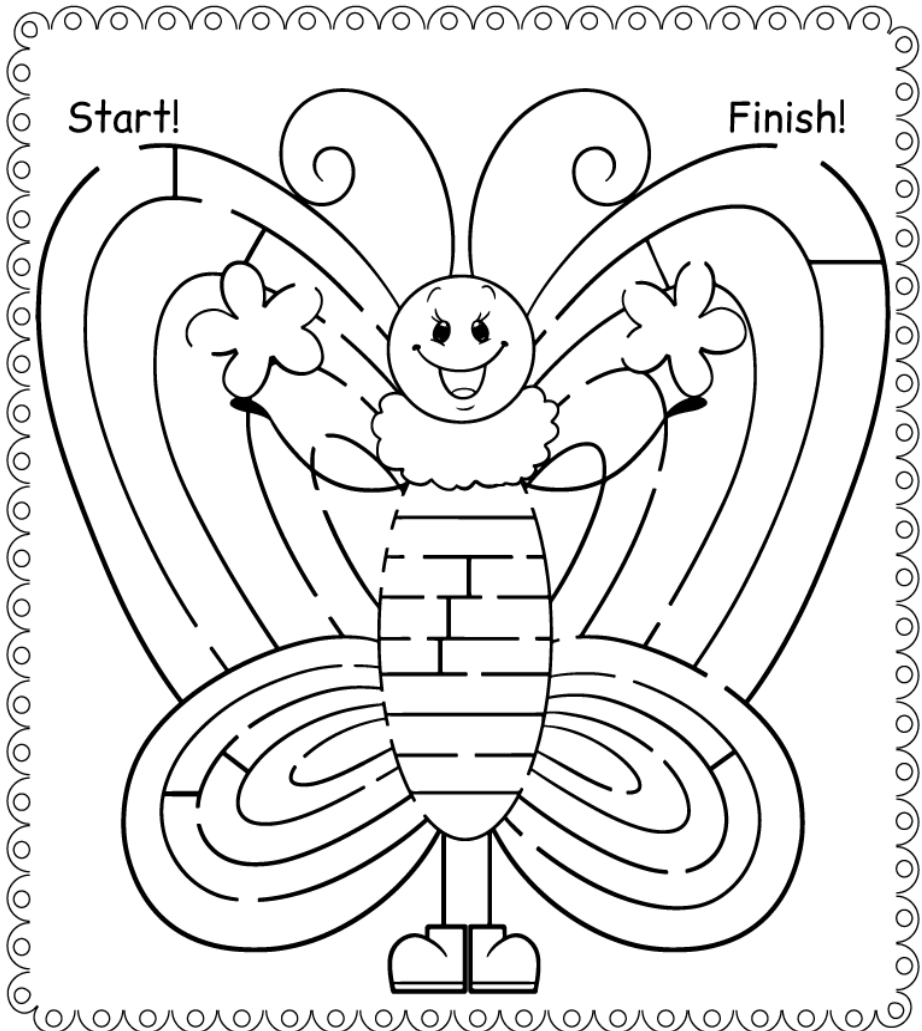
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# From the register / Mai i te rehita pariah

## Baptisms

- Phoenix Arne ANDREASSEN—21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2026
- Margaret HUTT—28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026
- Callista WONG—10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026
- Charisse WONG—10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026
- Lewis HUANG—10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026
- David SONG—10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026
- Kevin Cheuk To CHUNG—10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026

## Weddings

-none-

## Funerals/interments

- Robin Auchinbreck CAMPBELL—25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2026  
(Interment)
- Margaret KENT—9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026

## Got a story idea?

We encourage you to submit stories or ideas for stories, comment on any article, or send feedback by emailing the editor. ***We would love to hear from you!***

Illustration from <https://freechristianillustrations.com/cartoons.html>



# From the parish calendar

## 2026 Special Dates

| DATE (& Day)         | Event                                                  | Notes                              |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3-5 Sept             | Synod                                                  |                                    |
| 13 September         | Spring Service<br>Rotary Service                       | At St Peter's<br>5pm at St Peter's |
| 4 October            | Pet Service/St Francis                                 | @ St Luke's                        |
| 10 October           | Plant Sale @St Peter's                                 |                                    |
| 18 October           | St Luke's Patronal Service @<br>9:30am                 |                                    |
| 26 October (Monday)  | Labour Day                                             |                                    |
| 1 November           | All Saints Sunday                                      |                                    |
| 13 November (Friday) | Canterbury Show Weekend                                |                                    |
| 29 November          | Advent Sunday                                          |                                    |
| 6 December           | Carol Services                                         | St Luke's & St Peter's             |
| 13 December          | Remembering the Departed                               |                                    |
| 24 Dec - Thursday    | Children's Nativity @5pm<br>Midnight Service @ 11:15pm |                                    |
| 25 Dec - Friday      | Christmas Day                                          |                                    |

*Note: This is a living document, will be updated as required.*





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Whakawhetai koe (thank you!) to Academy Funeral Services for printing this edition.