

# CROSSTRAX

St Martin's St James 2021 Spring September/October

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ,  
they are a new creation: old  
things are passed away; behold,  
all things are made new. 2 Cor  
5:17*



## Discipleship in all areas of our lives

What comes to mind when you hear the word discipleship? Do you think of being a better 'Christian'- reading the Bible more and praying frequently? Is it about being more like Jesus? Perhaps it's about becoming more holy – what ever that looks like? It's important for us as disciples to know that every aspect of our lives, not just what we do on Sunday mornings is impacted by our relationship with Jesus. Being a disciple should have a direct influence on our thinking, habits, bodies, families and relationships, as well as our finances. Let's consider the latter. What does discipleship of our finances look like?

There's a scriptural principle that helps us to understand what this is about which draws on the great horticultural metaphor of sowing and reaping. We find this mentioned throughout the Bible, sometimes directly and other times indirectly.

We've become familiar with using the Parable of the Sower when talking about discipleship and the need to work on creating 'good soil' so that the seeds of the gospel can grow and become established.

Elsewhere we see in Proverbs 11:18 it

says *"The wicked earn no real gain, but those who sow righteousness get a true reward."* Can we conclude that what we turn our attention towards matters and what we invest in does as well?

In Galatians 6:7-9 Paul advises: *"Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."* If in our discipleship we learn to let our thoughts, decisions and actions all come under the influence of Jesus we will reap a good harvest – although we may not see it at the time!

Let's continue with Paul's letter to the Corinthian Church where he advises them in regards to their financial support of other believers: *"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."* (2 Corinthians 9:6). Often when we talk about giving in the church we look at the next verse: *"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under*

## DISCIPLESHIP IN ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES

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*compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*" (2 Corinthians 9:7). I've seen people use verse 7 to say that it doesn't matter what we give financially - it's more important what our attitude is as we give.

I used to agree with this especially when I was a poor student! I justified my decision based on what I later realised was a poverty mindset. I realise now that I didn't give much because I didn't have much and it made me feel insecure which was the result of the sowing I'd done from a position of poverty rather than generosity. This changed for me after the subject of giving came up in conversation when I was talking with an older friend who'd been a disciple of Jesus for much longer than me. She talked about what it was like to have brought up her son as a single parent and how she'd found tithing (giving 10% of your income) to be sacrificial but ultimately helped her to dedicate her finances to God. What struck me was how when she'd sown in generosity to God, this had helped her to become more generous in all areas of her life, not just financially. I was deeply challenged by this, and I realised that I had only ever heard tithing spoken about negatively and usually by televangelist types! In prayerful consideration, this is what I have decided to do with my giving. I choose to give my tithe to the church

because that's where I want to sow into. I believe that God has given us the church so that we can partner with him to bring the Kingdom to earth so that is where I'm investing my time, my energy and my finances.

Discipleship of our finances is not necessarily about having a set target to meet – though it might look like that for you. It's around working in partnership with God to steward the resources we have well, whether we have little or a lot. It's good to consider whether the way we spend our money lines up with the values we have as disciples of Jesus. Also to think about whether we're sowing or investing into the areas that God has put on our hearts to support in order to reap the promised harvest.

In light of this, some questions for us to ponder:

- Who has taught you what you know about money and does it line up with the values of God's Kingdom?
- What does it look like to be disciplined in the area of our finances?
- What are you sowing into?
- What is God saying to you today about your money and what's something you could do to act on that?

– Victoria Askin

Prayer is the breath of faith.  
Prayer meetings are the lungs of the church. *C.H. Spurgeon.*

**Prayer Meeting**  
Monday at 4-5pm, Neave Room—St Martin's Church

## PASTORAL CARE REPORT

What strange times we are living in. With all these lockdowns we need to keep connected with one another and I would like to acknowledge our ten pastoral volunteers who have regularly rung people. Victoria divided up our parish directory into ten sections with a designated person allocated a section each. People were rung on a regular basis, especially to inquire about people's well being and informing them about Zoom services and also about getting back into Church to worship in person.

We have had many positive responses and I feel that we have successfully

contacted everyone. As a Church we now need to consider whether to keep this pastoral phone list continuing or to activate it only in emergencies. i.e. during another lockdown.

If you would like to have someone to continue to ring you on a regular basis, please let us know and we can arrange for someone to ring.

Hopefully in the near future we can get an updated Parish directory published so that we can all keep in contact with one another.

Blessings, Sue

All the fun of the ..

**FUN FAIR**

*"Family Famous in Spreydon"*

Saturday **St Martins St James**

**NOV 13** Anglican

**10am-2pm Church**

**Food n Stalls Galore. Bouncy Castle, Baking & Books.  
Plants, Produce & Preserves. Coffee, Cakes & Clothing  
White Elephant**

OR RENT A SALE TABLE - [office@stmartinsstjames.church](mailto:office@stmartinsstjames.church)

50 Lincoln Rd Spreydon [www.stmartinsstjames.church](http://www.stmartinsstjames.church)

## THE HUMAN STORY: HORROR, COMEDY OR A ROMANCE?

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It's been said, "The way we understand human life depends on what conception we have of the human story."



under the Creator's word, choosing life apart from him. That results in disaster and opens the floodgates of sin, oppression, evil and death that infects all creation.

I recently reviewed some old photos taken years ago of family, friends, parties and places I had visited. I couldn't help but wonder which of these stories shaped me most? As Christians we understand a divine story of how the world began and where it is going. This story of the Bible shapes us. People today struggle to understand the overarching story of the Bible as one of hope for a hurting world. Christians can be shaped by a wrong version, which begs the question, "How can the Church live more faithfully in the right story"? To do this is to understand the Bible as one story: beginning in creation, ending in the final consummation and renewal of creation, with meaning through God's work in history, Israel, Christ and the church. Michael Goheen in his book '*Drama of Scripture*' conveys the biblical story as six acts, "the divine drama told in Scripture offers a story which is the story of the whole world." The challenge is to find our place in this scriptural drama.

In Act One God calls into being a marvellous creation. He creates human beings in his image to live in fellowship with him and to explore and care for the riches of creation. As the curtain drops God says, "It is good."

In Act Two humanity refuses to live

Act Three is God's first step of restoration and renewal. The way God goes about this is by choosing 'a people', Israel. He makes a promise to Abraham 'I'm going to make you a great nation; I'm going to bless you and restore the creational blessing to you. Your job is to live the way I intended humanity to live and thus be a light to the world.' Israel fails in this calling. Yet God promises through the prophets that Israel's failure will not derail His plan.

In Act Four God sends Jesus at the very centre of the story. He defeats sin on the cross, rises from the dead inaugurating the new creation and pours out His Spirit to reveal God's kingdom. God then sends a newly gathered Israel to all nations to be the intention of what he meant for humanity.

Act Five tells the story of the church's mission from Jerusalem to Rome in the first hundred or so years. But the story ends on an incomplete note. The story is to continue; the church's mission is to continue in all places until Jesus returns.

Here we are, 21st century believers, confronted with our part in the Fifth Act looking forward with hope toward the

## THE HUMAN STORY: HORROR, COMEDY OR A ROMANCE?

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Sixth and final act. We are invited into this story to witness the rule of God in Jesus coming at the climax of history.

Act Six is yet to come; Jesus' return and his restoration ministry completed.

Our mission is to cultivate a culture of discipleship, mission and regeneration, living the way God intended us to live, just like Abraham and Israel before us.

The church is essential to the gospel. Jesus did not communicate the Good News simply by writing a book. Rather, he formed a community to be the bearer of this good news. The identity of Christian believers here and around the world is in 'being sent' by Jesus with the Good News of His kingdom. The story of the Bible is our life and our lives form part of the ultimate story.

– Rev. Sampson Knight

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### MEDITATE ON . . .

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*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . . and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*  
Matthew 28:19-20

Whether you leave a church committee with glee or with regret, most people feel that they have grown in God as a result of this service. How can you integrate that into the rest of your life, both as a member of your parish and in the wider world?

Most Christians subscribe to a very narrow definition of the term *lay ministry*. We would define it as something people do for their parish church, like being on the vestry, singing in the choir, or teaching Sunday school.

But if we confine our concept of ministry to what goes on in and around a house of worship, we limit the reach of our baptismal covenant. Being a Christian is not a hobby to be indulged on Sundays and occasional evenings. It is our vocation to be Christians. The Great Commission at the end of Matthew's Gospel means that all of us are to spread the gospel. Since we are

not all called to be street preachers, lay ministry cannot be divorced from our everyday affairs.

The best and surest way to carry the gospel to the rest of the world is for us to live out our faith in our homes, at our jobs, and in our communities. What can we do in each of these places to image some aspect of God's relationship to humankind? Start with your job. For those who are in the so-called service sector, or the helping professions, the answer is pretty obvious. A doctor or nurse can readily envision his/her hands as an extension of those of the Great Healer. The teacher's dedication to his/her most difficult pupils' mirrors Jesus' patience with his wooden-headed, uncomprehending disciples, counsellors offer a needed shoulder to cry on, just as the Father comforted his Son in prayer. A judge can only aspire to the model of the One who offers justice tempered with mercy.

Even if your job is not service oriented, you can image God by the way you do your work. Pierre Wolff, a noted

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## MEDITATE ON . . .

Ignatius, a Jesuit retreat master, used to direct a group of French civil engineers who were interested in transforming their work into ministry. By focusing their attention on the need for care and the primacy of public safety over other concerns, they came to understand their role as instruments of God's loving care for all people. A waiter's efficiency, a receptionist's friendly welcome, a supervisor's careful mentoring, all can transform secular work into Christian witness.

Then there is your home. Your relations with family and friends offer untold opportunities for imitating Christ. Jesus lavished loving attention on those closest to him: He taught them, comforted them, provided for them, forgave them, and supported them in their work. If you have never thought about caring for, supporting, teaching, and forgiving your partner, children, parents, or close companions as

ministry, think again.

Many worthwhile community activities that are not associated with church offer opportunities to seek and serve Christ in strangers. Tutoring programs, community fund drives, the Parent-Teacher Association, these activities may not be religious in origin, but all that is required to transform them into ministry is a new attitude on your part.

Of all the traditional forms of lay ministry that one can do around the parish, serving on a committee, taking care of the secular side of life for God's community, is probably the best suited to teaching the lesson that everything we do in this world can be a ministry if it's done for the honour and glory of God. Now is the time for you to go out into the world and apply that lesson to your own life.

– Colleen McMahon—Faithful Servant Series: Meditations for Vestry Members



St Martins and St James

# High Tea

Fundraiser

**Due to ongoing Covid level uncertainty the date is to be confirmed.**

50 Lincoln Road  
Tickets \$20

Raffles and Bake sale  
on the day

For Tickets contact Catharine on 02102365492



## VESTRY SNIPPETS—AUGUST 2021

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**Meeting Chaired:** Rev Victoria Askin

Saturday 18 September.

**Devotion:** Sue Phillips from Revelation 2. Covid Lockdown for some is a time to reflect and revisit our first love, the love of God and rekindle our closeness to God in worship, praise and thanksgiving.

*Prayer and Fasting September:* An invitation to the parish to pray and fast for:

- Church House: 67 Riccarton Road giving thanks for the provision and prayer that God would lead us to the correct commercial tenant and that the business would thrive and flourish.

**Correspondence:** N/A

**Vicars Report:** A huge thank you to our Vestry and staff/leaders team who carry the governance of the parish seriously, responsibly, gracefully, prayerfully and joyfully. We are in good hands. Thank you.

- Love Riccarton: We continue to seek God's leading to those called to Love Riccarton. We give thanks to God where the Spirit has been at work and pray for these people as they step out in response.

*Goals going forward:* We continue to press into our strategic goals of Regeneration & Spiritual Growth as we lead into our 2022 AGM (Gatherings, School of Good Soil, Regeneration, Nurturing Healthy Church Whānau & Love Riccarton Project). We do this at a staff/leadership ministry level with accountability to vestry and to the parish. We currently account for our key performance indicators, which mark our progress on this. Please read the full report from the vestry folder at the back of the church.

- Healing Peace & Provision: We give thanks to God bringing healing and restoration to a broken world. We pray for people to respond to the call of prayer ministry. We pray for those on our hearts for healing (spiritual, physical, emotional) to be fully restored in Jesus name.

Thank you to our ministry leaders, teams and volunteers pushing into regeneration. Teaching series for June, July and August, Ephesians 4 five fold gifts, Bible month and Prayer Healing Ministry along with a 101 training in September.

**Reports:** Full reports, are available in the Vestry Folder at the back of the church (includes Clergy: Rev Victoria, Children, Youth, Property, wardens, Finance).

*Series Prayer Healing Ministry:* Began on Zoom with Rev Victoria giving an overview of the theology of healing. 4 to 6 week series with a beginners 101 course developing a healing ministry

**Synod:** Our Clergy and Synod representatives have all attended the pre Synod meetings. Synod will be on Zoom starting September 2 & 3 with a postponed Saturday TBC.

**Annual leave:** I (Sampson) was meant to be on annual leave from the 19th of August for two weeks. This has had to be postponed because of lockdown travel restrictions (maybe next week or the week after or the week after

## VESTRY SNIPPETS —AUGUST 2021

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that?... :-).

**Nominators:** The following Nominators have been appointed for this year: Judy Carson, Nigel Pugh, Sue Phillips and Byron Behm. Thank you

### **Finance Team Report August**

*Finance Review:* Conversation with Paul, Diocesan accountant, post our last months full review. Thanks to the Diocese for correcting your coding and budget figures.

*Love Riccarton:* Tenants are now living at 200 Riccarton Road with income of approximately \$18,000 for 6 months. A heat pump installation is to come to adhere to 'Healthy Home Standards'.

*Fundraising:* Thank you Catharine for getting the fundraising underway. It starts with a High Tea in September, \$20 per ticket, along with a Fair in November.

*Donations/Tithing decline:* Over the years Giving/Tithing has been on a downward trajectory here at St Martin's St James. One of the reasons could be our income from sources such as Church House and Rimu St rentals. This year alone (January to July) we have seen a gap \$21,282 below our expected budgeted donations, offertories, mission giving. We do ask that we all pray into what God calls us to give toward the mission and ministry of the church. Victoria has written a great article on this as a part of who we are as disciples in this Crosstrax.

*Mission Giving:* It appears that there has been no donations specifically to missions recorded in our accounts YTD this year. Hence, giving to missions is coming from the Church general

expenses. If you would like to contribute please reference your giving. *Day of Giving:* This year in October will be for the heating of the church with a target of \$6,000.

*Church House (67 Riccarton Rd):* Tenants move out in October 2021.

This is a high priority of prayer as the income from the commercial tenancy is \$170,000 toward our general income for the parish which finishes in October.

*Purchasing Officer:* We are moving away from the reimbursement system in order to reduce the single item purchases through our bank account and move ministry leaders to planning the pre-purchase of items required for ministry. The purchasing officer will purchase items online to be delivered.

### **July Donations, Offertories, Mission giving**

*Income - JULY Budget \$9931 JULY Actual \$6491. Variance (-3440). YTD Budget \$69517 YTD actual \$48237. Variance (-\$21280)*

July & YTD Bottom Line:

*Income - JULY Budget \$35984 JULY Actual \$27806. Variance (-8178). YTD Budget \$251888 YTD actual \$206994. Variance (-\$44894)*

*Expenses - JULY Budget \$41952 JULY Actual \$42397. Variance (-445). YTD Budget \$258964 YTD actual \$237622. Variance (-\$21342)*

*Surplus/Deficit - JULY Budget (-\$5968) JULY Actual (-\$14592). Variance (-8624). YTD Budget (\$7076) YTD actual (-\$30628). Variance (\$23552)*

Zoom Meeting closed at 8.38pm.

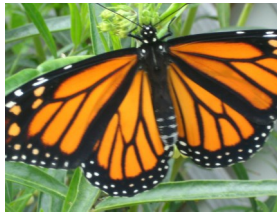


The August meeting was the final of this years afternoon meetings and we heard from Denise of the Christchurch Resettlement Services who told us of the work done to help settle migrants and refugees in Christchurch.



Covid levels the meeting is not being held on the usual date and is now planned for THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER at 7.30pm. The long awaited talk from The Butterfly Lady will be heard at this meeting and she will have copies of her book available which may be purchased for \$20. We will all be looking forward to an evening out and meeting up with everyone.

With the lockdown and the uncertainty of what comes next, the September meeting scheduled for Thursday 2nd September was rescheduled until Thursday 23rd September this date was also postponed. Because of the continuing uncertainty of changes in



Keep safe and well with Gods Blessings.

–Velda Kelly

**FOODBANK**

**St MARTIN’S & St JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH**

If you, your family, friends, or neighbours are struggling do advise them of our Foodbank.

**St MARTIN’S & St JAMES CHURCH**

50 Lincoln Rd  
Spreydon

Foodbank open

**Wednesday 9.30-11am**

Donations of non perishable food items would be gratefully received so we can help more members of our community thrive and not just survive.

**BREADLINE FOOD BANK—St MARTIN’S**

Non perishable food items can be left in the Breadline basket at the back of the St Martin’s Church. We are currently in need of the following items: breakfast cereals, sugar (500g), sandwich spreads, soups, tins of baked beans, tins of spaghetti, pasta, and pasta sauces, tins of vegetables, tins of fruit, and tea bags (30s). All donations are gratefully received.

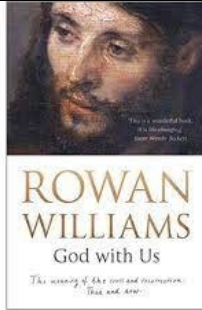


Rowan Williams writes in “God with Us” about God’s unceasing love for us, and that God continues to be alongside us in our journeys. I will focus on the first chapter, on the example Jesus has set for his disciples to follow. When Jesus was crucified, he did not react negatively to hate and abuse. Instead, he loved and forgave. He continues to love us and forgive us and wants us to do the same, by following his example.

Williams illustrates in this chapter the immense and inexhaustible love God has for us. This is expressed in Jesus’ behaviour to his oppressors during his trial and crucifixion. When Jesus was abused, mocked and nailed to the cross, he did not retaliate. Instead, writes Williams, Jesus “entrusted himself to the one who judges justly”.

The freedom of God’s unlimited love means freedom from becoming angry, and reacting to hurtful behaviours of others. Jesus’ way of responding to such behaviour is to love and forgive. He has shown us by his example that divine love cannot be defeated by violence.

Jesus knows how hard it can be to love and forgive those who have hurt us. When Jesus was dying on the cross, he was bearing all our struggles, sorrows, and sicknesses. Williams writes, “the cross is the one moment where we see God and suffering brought together”. We tend to think that the only time



Jesus suffered our pain and sorrows was when he was dying on the cross. But God continues to suffer in our pain and in our sorrows, although we may not be aware of God being alongside us, suffering with us.

Williams illustrates that God continues to suffer alongside us, with a story of a monk. One day, the monk was returning home from fishing. He heard a terrible cry and rushed to find who had been hurt. He found a rabbit caught in a trap. He prised it open and the injured rabbit lay briefly in his arms before dying. The monk felt the immense horror of suffering of this innocent rabbit. The monk was also painfully aware of the suffering he himself had inflicted on other people, and the suffering and pain of the whole world. He realized that God was in this moment, feeling the pain he was feeling for this rabbit and our hurting world.

Our awareness of God continuing to love us and suffer for us is sharpened when we think about the cross of Jesus. An expression of this awareness is in the hymn, “When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died”. The hymn goes on to say that the cross is a sign of “love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all”. God desires that we respond to his love by us loving him and giving ourselves to him.

Just as Jesus’ response to brutality and hate is love and forgiveness, so should

our response to anger and violence be love and forgiveness. Jesus is an example for us to follow, writes Peter in his first letter, 2:21-24. We, as Christ's disciples, should be examples of

Christ's readiness to love and forgive. We need to show the world what sort of God we believe in.

– Kay Knowles

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## KID'S CHURCH

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So far this term we have looked at Creation, the Fall, Noah's Ark and Abraham. All of these are part of our theme, the big picture of the Bible. In each of the lessons, we have looked at the promises God had made to the men and women in these stories and how they were lead to God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. The aim this term is not only to help the children get to know God better but also to see where they fit into God's plan.

The Preschool leaders continue to do an amazing job of bringing the stories of the Bible alive in a fun and creative way. Our Primary School group enjoys activities like puzzles and crafts so we continue to incorporate memory verses and parts of the story into these activities.

The Intermediate group has a fondness for all things crazy but also enjoys learning new ways they can connect with God. During this lockdown, we have been doing a combined Primary and Intermediate group on Zoom, although this is not the same as

meeting in person it is still a lot of fun to be able to spend time with each other see what everyone has been up to. We are hoping to continue this combined group as a trial next term.

It was lovely to be back in person last week, we had fun with our memory verse challenge, learning about how God helped the Israelites by parting the Red Sea and getting them to safety. We also prayed for the people we know, to know who God is and that He would work in their lives so that they would have a relationship with Jesus.

Ngā mihi

– Azaria  
Peach



# YOUTH

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**September Report:** Well, what a last couple of weeks we have had! It has been a disappointing time for the youth community with The Abbey, the national Anglican Leadership Training Conference, planned for the 20th-22nd of August being cancelled. We were going to be sending 19 people along to this event but because of the announcement of lockdown this has been postponed until early November. Hopefully we can get all these leaders along to this event.

The youth communities were running steadily in August, and we were in the middle of a series which was looking at *Identity* through the resource of “Life of the Beloved” by Henri Nouwen. The book has a perceptive lens into what it means to be beloved of God and how this plays out in a person’s life, but because of lockdown this series has been limited sadly.

In lockdown we have been catching up pastorally and running zooms for the usual youth group nights, but we are trying to not overload our young people as they are bombarded with different zoom calls for school through out the day and so at times the last thing they might want to do would be to get on another zoom call. We have learnt from last year that the first week or so of lockdown is often fun and relaxed for young people, but after the novelty wears off the pastoral needs start to develop.

We have continued to run our leadership huddles through the School



of Good Soil during this time which has been fruitful! Developing leaders is essential for the longevity of ministry and so lockdown has meant that we are able to prioritise this well.

Lastly, if you attended church on the 8th of August, you would have heard that we have begun a St Mary’s Halswell, and St Martin’s St James combined worship team. We had our first opportunity to play together, and it was great fun! We have met together to practice and investigate developing the team together which is very exciting! We hope to develop some young musicians into capable worship leaders through this initiative and both Peter (St. Mary’s Vicar) and Victoria (head of worship at St. Martin’s St. James) are encouraging us to see where this might go.

If you are wanting to support the community at this time, prayer would go a long way for young people as they go through lockdown. This can be an especially lonely time for our young people so if you would like to pray intentionally for these young people, please get in contact and I can give you some people to pray for!

**October Report:** It has been a disrupted last couple of months with the COVID lockdowns, but since coming out of lockdown it has been great to see our young people again and interact IN PERSON! We have been running a series on friendship with the communities which has been incredibly fruitful. We have been discussing the

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ways to maintain, grow and restore friendships and talking about the nuts and bolts to what makes a successful friendship. It has been special to see young people really desiring to make good friendships with others and as a leadership team we have been greatly encouraged by the openness and willingness from our young people. We think that particularly with lockdown it has shown young people how important being in relationship with other people is and so we are already seeing great fruit in the growth of youth friendships with each other.

Many of the youth leaders were very disappointed about the postponement of The Abbey that is a national leadership conference for Anglican Youth Leaders. We are excited to be going at the beginning of November and we are still taking up a 15 strong team, which is great! It is awesome

training in the growth of young leaders and getting a sense that they are part of a wider body.

Lastly, we have seen a great solidifying of our two basketball communities since coming out of lockdown with great regulars committing more, and new faces still coming through the doors. I would appreciate it greatly if we would continue to pray for young people to come and call St. Martin's home and feel the identity of being part of our community, and would you continue to pray for their hearts as they hear and see the gospel.

If you would like to be involved in the youth community, I am sure we can find a way! Please get in contact with me and I would love to chat with you about the different possibilities that are available to us!

– Tom Johnston

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## ANGLICAN CARE ENERGY POVERTY PROGRAMME

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The Anglican Care Energy Poverty Programme has grown exponentially in 2021 due to the generous funding received from MBIE (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment) under the Governments 'Support for Energy Education in Communities' programme (SEEC).

Anglican Care were one of the nine recipients nationwide, out of 36 applicants, to receive the first round of funding to assist families living in high deprivation areas within the Canterbury Westland Diocese to achieve warm and healthy homes, as well as saving

money on their power bills.

The funding has enabled Anglican Care to engage with low income, vulnerable communities helping them in achieving these goals.

With local community doorknocks alongside local parishes, and one-off community events, Anglican Care have visited or met with 1,176 families since the funding started on 12th April 2021. The areas doorknocked to date are Bromley, Avonside and Ashburton with further doorknocks planned in Rakaia, Hoon Hay, Bromley (again) and

# ANGLICAN CARE ENERGY POVERTY PROGRAMME

Woolston.

Of those families we have connected with, we are undertaking, or have completed, over 80 Power Assessments and 40 Home Assessments. These assessments enable us to advise families on best ways to heat and ventilate their homes as well as check to ensure they are not paying too much for their power bills.

With a bigger presence within the diocese, we have been able to make stronger connections with the Christchurch City Mission Financial Mentors and Community Connectors, as well as other outside agencies. We are receiving regular referrals to our team seeking our assistance in ensuring their clients are best supported with an all-round holistic approach.

This funding has enabled us to distribute 1575 LED lightbulbs to date. These lightbulbs have a lifespan of 30 years and the projected energy savings of these bulbs alone, are in the region of \$1.8 million. The bulbs also have the added benefit of reducing CO2 emissions with the project effectively taking a small car off the road, for its lifetime, for every 201 bulbs we issue.

To date, with this funding, 8 cars have effectively been taken off the road.

We have also been able to distribute other energy saving equipment which is assisting families reduce moisture, and



harmful toxins from their homes thereby reducing the need to visit GP's and hospitals with respiratory illnesses. These devices have been very well received with families liking the fact that they are very easy to use and make a huge difference to the warmth in their homes.

The current funding is until 31 December 2021, but we pray that the results we are achieving will enable us to receive further funding in 2022 to enable us to continue our programmes.

**Our Team:** Janette Sprott who is the Project Coordinator has over 15 years' experience in community outreach having worked in Christchurch after the 2011 Canterbury Earthquakes. She is also involved with NZ Red Cross after the Kaikoura earthquake before joining the Anglican Care Team in 2018.

Liz Kilduff is the Power Assessor, and she has over 30 years' experience working in the electricity retail sector and brings a very specialised set of skills to the team. She is responsible for analysing in great detail power bills to determine savings that can be made for families.

Chris Stevenson our Home Assessor has extensive Healthy Homes experience here and in the UK. He is currently working on his Home Fit qualifications which will enable him to better advise families on ways to have warmer and healthier homes.

—Anglican Care Report 2021

### September Report

As we are again in national lockdown in NZ we can dare to imagine just what our Mission partners are living with in their difficult situations in Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Cambodia. Working with the poor communities who struggle to have finance to buy food, as well as keep their families well, and home school children, is not an easy task for the communities and our families there.

In **BANGLADESH, Ajit & Lorna DAS** are still in hospital and Lorna's latest message reads...

"Most grateful for your prayers and for caring notes over our one month plus journey with COVID. We are now both Covid negative so were transferred to a non-covid ward whilst Ajit has his IV antibiotics for pneumonia in his left lung. He sustained 47% lung damage from Covid.

We long to go home but Ajit is still needing oxygen 24/7 so value your prayers for the continuing reduction of amount needed. Two days ago friends were praying for us when I rang to thank them. As they prayed Ajit's oxygen requirement reduced from 4 to 2lts.

Our specialist has ordered a chest xrays, ECG and blood tests today and will come to discuss the results. Please pray for wisdom as he decides on further treatment and a date for going home.

Internet from our provider is being blocked somehow in this location so may be not able to reply till we are

home again."

Ajit and Lorna both greatly appreciate our parish prayer support. Please continue to uphold their situation in prayer – **that Ajit's health will improve, they will be able to leave hospital, and when well there will be an opportunity for them to travel to NZ.**

In **CAMBODIA, Neill & Rebekah DUNBAR** continue in lockdown and their children, Jonathan, Aaron and Emily, are being home schooled.

The answer to prayer is that they have bookings in MIQ on 15 November and flights booked. There are a range of uncertainties which need our prayer covering. First that they all get clear COVID tests to enable flying, that the flights happen for them to get to NZ. Once back in NZ in quarantine they complete their 14 days and then there are no movement restrictions in NZ so that they are able to get home and be able to spend time with family here. A lot to worry about- we have the easy part in ***covering them with prayer that all will go well for their trip.***

In **ZIMBABWE, at the Munyuku Secondary School.** Speaking with Robson, he reported that the villagers have now made 120,000 bricks which are being fired in kilns. The levelling of the ground has been prepared in readiness for constructing the administration block which will enable the school teachers to have their space and the room to work with individual students.

## MISSIONS

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*Regular prayer covering for our Mission partners is so much appreciated as they strive to do the Lord's work in the parts of the world they have been sent to. Thank you for praying.*

### **October Report**

As our country continues with various levels of lockdown and the challenge of getting most of the population vaccinated so that our borders to the world can again open, please remember those on the Mission field in countries struggling to have sufficient supplies of vaccine and to enable the distribution into far flung areas.

We continue to uplift in prayer those Mission partners we specifically support as they continue the Lord's work to the poor in Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Cambodia.

In **Bangladesh, Ajit and Lorna DAS** are out of hospital but still recovering from COVID and Lorna's latest prayer update is.....

"Many of you are asking for an update to refuel your prayers! So here we are!

Last week we visited our Specialist again and he was very pleased to see Ajit looking so much better. He changed around his medications and we see him again in one month's time. He did say that there will be some lung damage that will not recover. Let's believe for total healing as a witness to what our God can do!

Ajit's oxygen consumption has reduced from 4 litres in the night to 1 litre. In the day from 2 litres down to just ½ litre. So this is great progress and he will soon

only be taking oxygen at night for the next month. We can now sleep through most nights as one cylinder takes us through the night. Whippieee! Ajit was delighted that he climbed the stairs last night unassisted for the first time and without exhaustion or huffing and puffing!

You have been praying for us to get a voucher for isolation we can return to NZ for rest and recovery. Our travel agent David has once again requested prayer as tomorrow morning MIQ has opened up a portal which is much more fair than the previous system. Please pray that he will get us a voucher only if Ajit will be well and able to fly the last 10 days of December. Our Specialist said he will check Ajit out thoroughly at the end of November to ascertain if he is ready to fly or not.

I, Lorna have pain that could be a stone in the urinary tract and would value prayer for this to resolve naturally.

Thanks for praying for Shireen. She was so sick they reduced her night shifts from 10 to 5 and now she has taken annual leave for 15 days. The day you commenced praying for her she felt amazing well that night on duty and I had the opportunity to share of Jesus love for her. She is on complete rest at home and her family have now started doing all the cooking and housework. Please pray for complete healing of the lung damage she has sustained. She coughs if she tries to talk. We sent one meal over and will send another tomorrow.

Schools have opened at last after 543



days closed! They closed in March 2020 and have now opened. We will have our children from the fishermen villages over to receive their fees as soon as Ajit is feeling up to it.

So appreciate your care and prayer. Thanks for your letters and gifts. Sorry I am finding it hard to keep up with correspondence with all that is going on.

*With hearts full of gratitude to God and you, Ajit and Lorna"*

In **Cambodia for Neill & Rebekah Dunbar** and children Jonathan, Aaron, Emily, please continue to pray for their wellbeing and that all goes well for their planned travel home to NZ in November.

In **Zimbabwe for the Munyuku Secondary School**, the health of the children and their ability to achieve their school levels. Also the work being

undertaken to build a teachers' block.

Please also remember in prayer the translation work being undertaken by **Elaine Robson** to finalise scripture passages into everyday speech.

At home here, sadly another of our faithful praying Mission support members has been called home to be with our Lord. **Don Giblin** spent much of his nine decades with a deep commitment to giving support to those who ventured overseas to spread God's love. With a second round of COVID 19 NZ level 4 lockdown we have not been able to yet meet together and share our farewell love for Don.

Much to pray about as we support those working overseas. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer.

*Blessings, As reported by: Sharon Rees, Missions Co-ordinator*

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## PRAYER LIFE

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I started the Good Soil Programme last year and found it difficult to cope with at my age as I am slowing up in everything I do. However, it has really changed my quiet time with God each morning and I am hearing from God more and more. I had been going through a slack time being reminded about old truths of the faith but not hearing anything from God to improve my daily walk.

I have found that God has been convicting me more now of my faults and failings. I hope it is beginning to renew my prayer life. As one gets older

and less and less able to do things then prayer and worship become more important (or they should).

One of the things I have begun to realise it that one's relationship with God is more important than what one does for God. If time does not exist in Eternity then it's the Relationship that is most important and that is what I have realised is my weakest part. I have always been a doing person and I have to change (Is this why I am still here at my age?) God wants to see me change and develop in my 'being' rather than my 'doing'. —Allan Bean

Daily Zoom Silent Prayer together 12-12.15

# PRAYER AND FASTING

An invitation to pray & fast. Each day at 12pm and Wed Fasting to 16 Oct  
Monday 4-5 Neave Room & Zoom Meeting

- Church House Tenants 67 Riccarton Road
- Love Riccarton Missional Residents
- Healing Peace & Provision

## SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

## OCTOBER 2021

Sunday October 3	Pentecost
8.30am Traditional Service with HC 10.30am Family Service 10.30am Kids' Church:	Psalm 26 Job 1:1, 2:1-10 2 Timothy 2:14-26 Luke 17:1-10
Sunday October 10	Pentecost
8.30am Traditional Service with HC 10.30am Family Service with HC 10.30am Kids' Church:	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31
Sunday October 17	Pentecost
No Parish Breakfast under Covid level 2-4 8.30am Traditional Service with HC 9.15-9.30am start Parish Breakfast \$3 10.30am Family Service 10.30am Kids' Church:	Job 38:1-7, (34-41) Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 36b Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45
Sunday October 24	Pentecost
8.30am Traditional Service with HC 10.30am Family Service with HC 10.30am Kids' Church:	Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22) Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52
Sunday October 31	Pentecost
8.30am Traditional Service with HC 10.30am Family Service 10.30am Kids' Church:	Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34

*Please check with group leaders when Covid 19 level restrictions are in force.*

- **Mondays—Prayer Meeting:** 4-5pm, Neave Room, St Martin's. This is a time of pray and praying for prayer requests.
- **Wednesdays—Service of Holy Communion:** 11am in the Thompson Lounge, St Martin's. Morning tea at 10.30am.
- **Sunday 10 October—Q & A:** after both morning services
- **Thursday 14 October—AAW:** 7.30pm in the Thompson Lounge.
- **For the Blokes—Blokes Pie n Pint night:** Date to be confirmed.
- **Saturday, Date to be confirmed—High Tea:** 2-4pm, Thompson Lounge. Tickets can be purchased from Catharine
- **Healing Ministry Training—Postponed until level 1**
- **Saturday 16 October—Karaoke Party:** 6pm, St Martin's St James 6th Birthday Karaoke Party and shared dinner.
- **Sunday 24 October—Day of Giving**
- **Saturday 13 November—Parish Fair**

**GROUPS & ACTIVITIES**

- **Mondays—Strengthen and Stretch Exercise Class:** A Low Impact class combines yoga,

Pilates, balance and very low impact. 6.00-6.30pm. General exercise class at 6.30- 7.15pm on Monday nights, school terms. St Martin's gym. \$5 per session or \$45 per ten week term. All welcome. Contact: the physio team at TuneUp Physio Village Health 338 8595 or visit [www.tuneupphysio.nz](http://www.tuneupphysio.nz) .

- **Tuesday's—Craft Group:** 1.30-3.30pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesday's of the month. Neave Room, St Martin's Church. Helen Williams 338 9336.
- **Tuesday—School of Good Soil:** Disciple training: 2.30pm & 7pm
- **Wednesday mornings—school term time: Wednesday Playgroup:** Contact Ted & Jenny 322 9541.
- **Wednesday mornings—Breadline:** 9.30-11am: Helen Williams 338 9336 or Joan 339 7135.
- **Friday mornings—school term time: St Martin's Playgroup:** Any enquires to Cindy 339 2939 or via the facebook page.
- **Harvest Rangatahi (Youth):** <https://stmartinsstjames.church/youth>
  - Harvest Stags (Basketball) – Gym: Seniors: Wednesday 3:30pm-6pm, Juniors: Thursday 4-5:30pm
  - Harvest Thursday – 7-9pm: The Loft

**Riccarton-Spreydon Anglican Parish  
St Martin's St James - 50 Lincoln Rd**

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**Associate Minister:** Rev'd Victoria Askin

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# PHOTO GALLERY

