

## Homespun Parable by Bishop Eleanor

After her ordination, Bishop Eleanor came up with a parable for how the church might go forward in mission.

The story dates back to when she was leading services at Wellington Cathedral while pregnant with her son, and the women of the cathedral linen guild came to her with a treasure: lengths of brocade given by the parish of Pauatahanui.

To Ellie, the cloth looked like nothing more than a set of old curtains. But the women saw something entirely different. They felt the cathedral's traditional copes, lined with lead, were too heavy for her to bear. So they wanted to make her a new lightweight cope.

"It seems to me that this image is one we need to take with us," Bishop Eleanor says. We must be careful to share the treasures of the old - even things we can't see have value, like that fabric looked to me. We need to listen to our elders who may be able to show us treasures whose worth is not visible to those preparing to birth the new.

"And many of the ministries in our church are like that child as yet unborn. God is birthing new things. At the same time, we need to listen to those who are younger than us, to the children, to the young people. They see treasure in different things.

We must make sure not to overburden them by weighing them down with fabric that is too heavy for them to bear."



## From the priest in charge

Dear parishioners in the Rangitikei

This will be my final article for the Herald before you welcome The Reverend Tim Duxfield as your Priest in Charge in February. I am thoroughly enjoying my time amongst you, although the vegetable garden at home looks a bit neglected and my croquet is suffering!!

A few weeks ago I attended the Diocesan Ordination Service and Hui in St Paul's Cathedral, Wellington. The 'event' was a wonderful celebration of ministry and life in our diocese. It was also a privilege to be present at The Reverend Kim Duxfield's priesting. Some of the students from Nga Tawa School were there to support their chaplain and sing a lovely waiata after Kim was presented with her Ordination Bible.

When I think back to my ordination in the Christchurch Cathedral over 40 years ago, I marvel at how much the Anglican Church in NZ has changed in that time. I was 'made Deacon' as the Book of Common Prayer puts it, with three other Kiwi born white males. The Dean led us in a chanted Litany as we processed around the Cathedral. There was no clapping, cheering, dancing or children present in comparison with the service in Wellington. There were still processions (and a Chinese Dragon dance) in Wellington but no Litany. Of the 14 ordinands, five were women; four were married couples; eight were born overseas (Africa, China, Malaysia, Scotland and Sri Lanka) and six live in Christian communities. We live in a multicultural and diverse society and it's good that this is reflected in the life of our Diocese.

Of course this may be a challenge for those who like things to be the way they have always been. As we have been celebrating the Festival Days of St Martin's, Greatford, St Andrew's, Bulls and

the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Thomas's Church, Sanson this past month, we have been reflecting on the past and giving thanks to God for the heritage we have received. As the blessing prayer I used at two of these celebrations says, *Through the rich history of this church and the faith, example and the legacy of past generations - grant your blessing, O Lord.* But the prayer also refers to the present and the future. *Through one another here today - the inspiration, encouragement, joy and support found in worship and fellowship, grant your blessing, O Lord. Through all (that) the future holds - plans made, initiatives started, goals achieved - grant your blessing, O Lord.*

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### **From the Parish Nominators**

The Parish Nominators are delighted that the Rev. Tim Duxfield has accepted the position of Priest in Charge in the Rangitikei Parish.

The Nominators first met Tim informally, consulted his referees, and then interviewed him. Tim's referees spoke very highly of him, and the Nominators were very impressed with him at the interview. He had spent time finding out about the parish, and knew about the different churches and (the different) services.

He has a passion for rural ministry, pastoral care, and for building up lay leadership. Tim can appeal to younger people, but is also respectful of older people. He believes in discipling others, and at St Oswald's, where he has been Priest Assistant, he and his wife chose to "model" community with two other couples, with shared rhythms of prayer and hospitality.

The final section of the prayer refers to what the Lord *is doing and will yet do.*

The parish certainly faces some challenging times ahead, especially on the financial front as outlined in the Warden's letter in the last magazine. But as you begin a new chapter in your life together and prepare to welcome Tim and Kim into your communities, I pray that you will focus on what the Lord *is doing and will yet do* in this wonderful part of God's creation.

May God richly bless you in the exciting journey that lies ahead.

Tim's wife Kim was ordained a priest at the cathedral on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> and is Chaplain at Nga Tawa School. At the recent Diocesan Training Day in Palmerston North, Ngaire was fortunate enough to see Tim and (his wife) Kim lead the service before the day's workshops started. Tim showed himself to be sincere and passionate, leading a heartfelt service which was exactly right for the occasion.

Please pray for Tim and Kim as they leave their current position at St Oswald's, and enjoy a holiday before Tim takes up his new role.

#### **Parish Nominators:**

Ann Hammond, Linda O'Neill, Ray Sisley, Ngaire Wishnowsky.

**Tim's commissioning service will be in St. Stephen's Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 3pm. Everyone is invited to be present to welcome our new vicarage family.**

## What's been happening around the parish.....



On Saturday 4 November and Sunday 5 November 2017, St Thomas Church, Sanson, celebrated the 140th anniversary of its consecration in 1877 by Bishop Hadfield.

On Saturday the church hall was opened showing a history of the church with photographs and illustrations, kindly arranged by the Bull's Museum.

In the church a magnificent floral display was arranged around the walls and at the front. This was arranged by the Bulls Floral Art Group.

A good number of visitors arrived to see both the hall display and the church and to enjoy the organ music being played.

The church service on Sunday was attended by over 100 people with past and present clergy also there. The service was led by Archdeacon Robert McLay (Interim Priest in Charge).

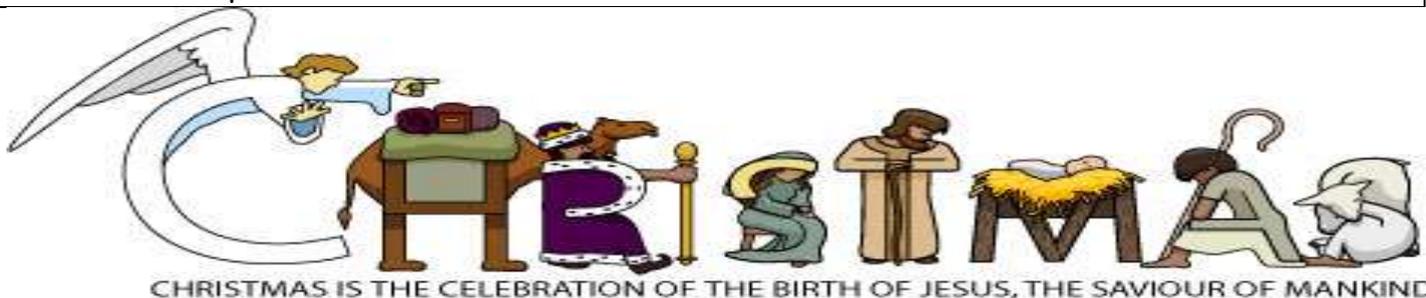
At the conclusion of the service Reverend John Vickers gave a talk on the history and architecture of the church, which was followed by the planting of three trees in memory of Keith Henson, Gwen O'Regan and Brian Collier.

Lunch followed in the hall with the cutting of the anniversary cake and a vote of thanks given by James O'Regan for all who had contributed to this special occasion.

### From Bishop Eleanor to the congregation at St Thomas's

*Greetings to you all as you celebrate 140 years of fellowship together in the Sanson community. These celebrations are naturally a time of looking back; celebrating the joys and acknowledging the legacies of the past. In looking back, we also look forward to continuing to explore what it means to be the community of Christ in this place: actively seeking to find where the Spirit is moving in order to make God's kingdom known and to identify and serve the deepest needs of the people of Sanson. May you all know this day how much you all as individuals, and as a community, are loved by Christ, and share that love with others.*

**ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER** This is going well with over \$500 raised so far. Envelopes are available at the back of churches until 17 December. Don't forget to take an envelope and fill it with the amount on the front (or more) and put in the offertory plate, return to the parish Office, or bank by internet to a/c 010681 0004698 00 with your name so you can receive a receipt.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

## Christmas A B C's - for wet days after Christmas!!

Give each person a piece of paper and instruct them to write the alphabet vertically from A-Z. When you say "Go!" they are to write a Christmas word that starts with each letter. The first one(s) to complete the list wins. To make it harder make this the 'Nativity ABC's' where children must think of a word from the nativity story for each letter.

For example:

A: Angel  
B: Bethlehem  
C: Census



A BETHLEHEM  
A-B-C

## Three faces of Christmas

"What does Christmas mean to you?" I asked a young child.

"Baby Jesus came to earth."

She looked at me and smiled.

"The shepherds sat around a fire  
and angels filled the skies.

"It's a happy time because he came,"  
with wonder in her eyes.

She tilted her head.

"Christmas is - JOY,"  
the little girl said.



"What does Christmas mean to you?" I asked  
a busy wife.

"Food to buy - gifts to wrap.

The warmth of family life.

Sometimes." she whispered,

"I forget the Babe in the manger stall.

But then I remember Emmanuel  
he wanted to be with us all."

She paused to tuck her child in bed.

"Christmas is - LOVE"

The young wife said.



"What does Christmas mean to you?" I asked the one bereaved.

She did not answer for a while -

tears flowed as she grieved.

"Christmas is birth and death and life,"  
she carefully explained.

"He came to live and die and rise,

to be here in my pain

there's hope now in the path I tread.

Christmas is -PEACE,"

The widow said.



## **"I've been thinking"**

### **"One Cannot Function in Isolation from Others and Still be a Christian"**

contributed by Ngaire Wishnowsky

Traditionally in the Anglican denomination, church members were urged to read and interpret scripture in community. In his preface to the first "Book of Common Prayer" (1549), Cranmer emphasised that Biblical reasoning was not based on what just one person said, or even what one person preached. A reasoned approach to scripture needed to be communal.

I know that this still applies for me today. I have found that Biblical study in study groups, and particularly in EfM, is essential for me to really develop an understanding of scripture. The insights of others, and group discussions, help me to grow in understanding and in faith.

Archbishop Brian Davis wrote "communal worship is at the heart of Christian life... we remember who we belong to, and we are empowered for the work of God's Kingdom". Joining with my church community is essential for me, both to worship God and be strengthened for his work.

At a recent Diocesan Training Day, Assistant Bishop Eleanor asked us to reflect on three questions: 1. who are you sent to? 2. Who are you sent with? 3. Who are you sent for?

And in answer to question 2), Bishop Eleanor reminded us that we can't do God's mission on our own. We must work together, as the disciples did when Jesus sent them out in couples or in groups. So in Biblical study, in worship, and in doing God's work in the world, I need to be part of my Christian community to be effective in growing the Kingdom of God.

contributed by Richard Peirce

I'm into chapter 11 of Richard Holloway's "Doubts and Loves", and have just read the following sentence":

*The perfect sect is probably a solitary individual with no one around to disturb his absolute sense that he alone is right.*

The chapter is called The Old Firm, and contrasts institutions (like the church, Israel today, Israel under Caiaphas, etc.) with individuals like Jesus. In order to save the institution the leaders find the individual expendable. So who is right?

Richard Holloway was the Episcopal Bishop of Edinburgh.

Keep thinking! Challenge everything!

contributed by Sue Wells

- Prisoners/ hostages eg Terry Waite - use it to survive - become more contemplative, more aware of the greatness of God, less concerned with the 'man' side of it eg church ritual
- What feeds your faith in church? Rituals, preaching, music, prayer?  
(in brief from EFM discussion)

I believe you can have Christian-type beliefs, but to be a Christian you need to be living them out (or trying to). If you live in isolation you are not following the Christian calling to spread the message of God's love through your community and to model this love and concern for God's creation to those around you. Living in isolation by choice is a copout as a Christian! Hopefully those forced to be isolated will have support from the Christian community.

**Make a note in your diaries.....**

**The commissioning service for Tim Duxfield our new Priest in Charge will be held in St. Stephen's Church on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 3pm.**



**WORKING BEE ST STEPHEN'S, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 9am.**

This is to keep the church, hall and grounds spruced up - many hands make the task lighter!

Thanks to all who helped at the November working bee, where many extra jobs were done. Phone Sue 327 6533 for more information.

## **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday 17th December, commencing at 6 pm.**

The Parish Choir is practising hard and they are hoping that the congregation will join with them in singing not only the well-known and loved carols, but also some we haven't sung for a while and two new ones.

To make this possible, we will be introducing and learning a carol before each of the first three Advent services at St. Stephen's 9.30am service. They are: *God Rest you merry, Gentlemen*; *Above the Peaks the Angels Sing* (a lovely NZ carol); and the very beautiful *Wexford Carol, Good People All*, this Christmas Time. We are also singing a children's carol with a simple chorus, which we hope all our junior angels will learn and sing with us at the service.



**RANGITIKEI FAITH TRAIL, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 10am - 4pm**

**Cost \$50 per person.**

This will include a car tour around the seven lovely Rangitikei Anglican churches, with historical talks at each, a chance to listen to the varied organs, time (limited) to browse, and morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Get your carloads together now! Tickets available at Parish Office from mid-January.



## **For 2018**

Regular services will continue during January at Marton, Bulls and Hunterville, this includes the 10am Wednesday service.

Lent begins Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Ash Wednesday services will be held at 10am Marton and 7pm Bulls.

## **Take a break from Rush and Hurry**

Join us at our short Eucharist on Wednesdays at 10am at St. Stephen's.

Or enjoy the quiet of St. Stephen's open all day Mondays and Thursdays.

### ***From the Parish registers:***

**BAPTISM:** We welcome into the family of Christ, through the Sacrament of Baptism Payton Lea, Oakley Dean and Lennox Haydon family of Shane John and Jenaya Lea Abel.

**FUNERALS:** We commend into the hands of God and pray for the family and friends of Reverend Robert James Kendrick Sanders, Thomas Frederick Rubery and Ryan Jason Boerboom.



**HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS**, or anyone unable to attend services due to ill health or incapacity, and who would like communion brought to them, please call any of the clergy.

**HOSPITAL OR HOME VISITS**, if you, or someone you know in the Parish, is ill or has to go into hospital, please let us know so a visit can be arranged if wanted. Phone one of the Clergy or the Parish Office.

### ***Prayer Chain***

If you need prayer please contact Sue 3276533 or Marian 3276365.

The prayer chain is a group of people who pray for those who have any prayer needs or requests.

This is confidential and only the members of the prayer chain have details.

### **Priests:**

Robert McLay (06) 343 2211

Cell: 021 163 1604

Robin Peirce 3275951,

Diana Howard 3276350

John Vickers 3277280,

John Sleep 02240689355.

Peter Brown 027 3488800

### **Deacon:**

Judith Tamblyn 322 1278

### **Wardens:**

Francis Twiss 06 3276569 Ann Hammond  
3276267



### **Parish Office**

23 Maunder St. Marton.

Postal address: P.O. Box 9 Marton

### **Office hours:**

Monday and Thursdays 8.30-3.30

Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. Office closed Friday.

### **Contact us:**

**Phone:** 06 327 8398

email: [rangianguiclan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rangianguiclan@xtra.co.nz)

facebook: rangianglicans

If undelivered please return to PO Box 9

If you would like to receive the weekly pewsheets by email please let Jan know in the Parish Office. Office email  
[rangianguiclan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rangianguiclan@xtra.co.nz)