



Welcome to 'The Pulse'

The Pulse
“The heart of God
to the heart of the
community”
March 2018 Issue

The Pulse is newsletter produced by the Ellesmere Cooperating Parish. We are three congregations that make up a rural parish in the south-eastern part of the Selwyn District of Canterbury, NZ.

Our congregations gather folk from Leeston, Southbridge, Dunsandel and Brookside, drawing people from all walks of life, with a high proportion involved in farming or associated services. Our main worship centres are at St. David’s, Leeston and Trinity, Dunsandel. Our Brookside congregation has shared use of St. Luke's Anglican Church at Brookside.

Purpose Statement: To spread the good news of Jesus by committing ourselves to work and worship together, to love and care for one another, and to be of value to God in our community.

To find out more about the Ellesmere Cooperating Parish, please take the time to visit us on line at www.churchatellesmere.org.nz

We hope you enjoy this issue of The Pulse.

Your newsletter was delivered by:

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Phone:.....



tion from Rev. Heather Kennedy

Since this just after our Ash Wednesday service, I thought that it would be helpful to share an explanation of what the season of Lent

The season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day between Good Friday and Easter Day. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'lencten', which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.



Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Parish Council Report from Rev. Heather Kennedy – January 2018

To begin this report, I would like to say how much I enjoyed the myriad of celebrations, gatherings, social occasions and Christmas services through December. The sense that Christ's birth is important for our expression of faith was effectively borne out through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Those that helped with the sausage sizzle on the night of the Leeston Christmas Parade did very well, and having the church open with music and graphics displayed, saw a steady trickle of people passing through and visiting the church. It was good to chat with these folks.

We celebrated the final Home Group meeting at Ruth Cridge's home in Southbridge in December, with her now happily settled at Abbeyfield.

Home group meetings at Bev Gilbert's will commence on the first Tuesday in March.

The time and talent put into the children's presentations at St. David's and Trinity were greatly appreciated by all who attended. I also enjoyed singing along with the Selwyn Singers. I have posted some of the photos I took of these events on the parish website.

I provided a Communion service at Ellesmere Hospital for some residents, family and friends, just before Christmas. As well as that, there were the extra services for Christmas Eve and Christmas and all the lovely fellowship enjoyed by all for those occasions.

Jim and I enjoyed the time we had away after New Year's Day and made the most of opportunities to catch up with our North Island family and friends, as well as enjoying the warm weather and some hot and 'not-so-hot' swims.

It has been encouraging to see so many attending worship services for the combined services for New Year's Eve and January. I am looking forward to the events of this year and all that we are going to be involved in prior to the end of my employment contract.

The Pastoral Care committee have practically completed the process of contacting those who were sent the 'Count Me In' forms and have contacted most of those who had not responded. We have concluded that 126 parishioners have indicated that they are members, we will welcome 6 'new' these at the Covenant Sunday services. Of those contacted, 40 have indicated that they do not consider themselves members but are willing to continue being connected with the parish by receiving The Pulse and are happy to receive pastoral care if this is required. There are 24 children in total who are connected with the parish. The number of Pulses to print each time and how many people we need to deliver them, had dropped by 50 copies.

We are still looking into the requirements of up-grading the parishes technology requirements and is heading towards downloading some software updates for the laptops next month.

The team working on the Parish Profile is working well, so they hope to circulate for comment some of the material they produce, in due time, so that we can then fulfil all the requirements of the Methodist Stationing process.



News from the Leeston Sector Group

-from Frances Baylis

Firstly, the children's Christmas presentation was a wonderful interpretation of the story of Jesus's birth, I would like to commend all the children on how well they acted their parts. I'm sure the congregation enjoyed watching the children. Thank you to the adults who helped.



Thank you to those who helped me with the sausage sizzle the night of the Christmas Parade with \$190.00 added to the building fund.

There was a feeling of warmth at the services combined with the Anglicans in January.

We are pleased to report that the organ previously from the Southbridge Presbyterian Church has now been moved to Abbeyfield after being carefully housed in Ruth's home for ten years.

I would like to thank Kathy for painting the toilets at St David's which now makes them look very respectable. Kathy has also organised a new sign for the Mission Shed.

I am working towards repairing and reinstating the marble font into the church. The children's program is up and running for Term One. Please look out for new roster lists and if you are able to help with any of the duties to make us ready for worship please let me know.



News from Dunsandel Sector group

- From Jill Chamberlain

In November the kitchen at Trinity benefitted from the addition of a new (to us) fridge. Thanks to Roger and Jeanette Doak for making this possible.

On the 28th November a successful outdoor working bee was held and the grounds looked better after a general tidy up. Morning tea was a highlight. Athol Wolff has been doing a great job keeping the lawns under check. An indoor working bee was held on the 29th January and

a good start was made on tasks. There will be a follow-up hopefully before Easter.

The Community Carol night was a week earlier than usual this year on the 11th December. Maybe there was not the atmosphere of Christmas being imminent but soon everybody was enjoying the traditional carols and entertainment. The choir set the mood with "Look Towards Christmas." The children were excellent with their performance of "The One That Counts." Don Clearwater gave an entertaining slant on the words of "While shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night," and Margaret sang with the children. Gabby and Douglas Michael, as MCs, kept the evening rolling along. As usual the evening concluded with amazing supper.



There was a good turnout for the Christmas service followed by a traditional Christmas supper.

On New Year's Eve Trinity hosted the combined Anglican/ Cooperating Parish service with Rev. Heather officiating. This set the tone for all of the January services to follow. It is wonderful to see the churches full and join in worship with the district as a whole. Seeing the fellowship as people linger over the morning teas, it is evident that these services are popular.

The funerals for Tony Tyson and John Reid were catered for on 9th January and 2nd February respectively. The people of Trinity were complimented on their hospitality in providing a wonderful welcoming atmosphere and abundant, delicious food.

We look forward to the joys and challenges the coming year.

Jill is seen here with Mavis Barnett as they thanked for their involvement in the Community Carol Service at Dunsandel.



Hugs

Sometimes its nice to get an unexpected hug for no other reason than just because you are loved and cared for.

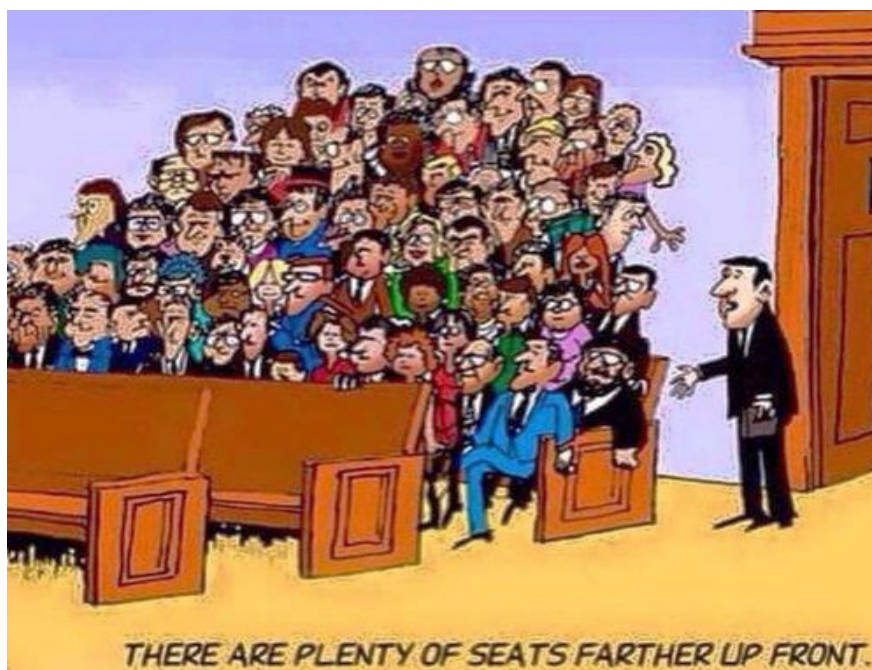
So while your are reading these words,
don't think of them as just words...
Think of each one as a hug for your heart from mine!

Barbara J. Hall (supplied)

A Hug takes all the nicest feelings – love, friendship, happiness and appreciation – and wraps them up in one beautiful package. A hug is warmth and comfort for the sad days, a sharing of smiles for the happy days, and a special reminder that someone cares for every day in between.



And now for something funny...



News from St. David's Friendship Group.

Our November meeting was held in St. David's in the Evening, when Hilary Boal welcomed Don (Heslop) who with his commentary and power point presentation took us on his recent overseas tour. His travels this time took him on a River Cruise, beginning in Amsterdam cruising along the Rhine through Austria, Germany and ending on the Danube in Budapest in Hungary. An interesting leisurely journey seeing each Country's landscape, towns and cities and centuries old architecture. Don ended his trip with a visit to Scotland, where he attended the Edinburgh Tattoo – a memorable event to end an interesting journey.

Our Christmas get-together was a Luncheon Meeting combined with the Afternoon Fellowship Members. It was good to have Jim Kennedy join us too. Our meal was at Cheryl Halls home in Southbridge; it was her usual delicious Roast Meal, with Dessert of berryfruit, icecream and Christmas Pudding to follow. Members brought along their Gifts and Goodies for "ECCO".

We met at The Manse in February, when Hilary lead the Meeting. Rev. Heather lead Devotions reading Psalm 149 A Hymn of Praise, she also read a passage on Creation from a book written by Sylvia Purdie-Minister at Cashmere Presbyterian Church entitled "Psalms in a Fresh Voice" telling us how through God we can be creative with our own Talents.—Social time followed—" Bring a favourite Book, Piece of Art or Craft to talk about—what an interesting time we had with all contributing with their special Article/ Creation/Book.

During Afternoon Tea we celebrated Nancy Lowery's 90th Birthday and including Francie Prosser's recent 90+ Birthday too, with a Cake complete with Candles to blow out and sing Happy Birthday.

St. David's Afternoon Fellowship Report

On 1st November 2017 the Afternoon Fellowship joined the Friendship Group at St David's in the evening to hear Don Heslop talked about his latest trip overseas. Don travelled through a number of countries on a boat down rivers between Amsterdam and Slovakia,

he as usual gave us an informative talk which was appreciated by all who attended. The evening finished with a lovely supper.

On 6th Dec 2017 a group of ladies meet at St David's and carpooled to Southbridge, along with Rev. Heather and Jim Kennedy, to enjoy a lovely meal at Sheryl Halls. Gifts and Groceries were donated to be distributed by ECCO to worthy people.

On 8th Feb 2018 Ten members went to visit the new residents of Abbeyfield and after a short meeting we shared a lovely afternoon tea with them. The fellowship members were so generous that the residents would be able to have morning and afternoon tea for several days. It was great to see how well the residents have settled into their new abode. This visit was appreciated and we have been invited back later in the year.

Southbridge Home Group



Those who attended the final Home Group service in December at Ruth Craft's home in Southbridge. This was followed by morning tea at the Southbridge Café.

ELLESMERE COMMUNITY CARE ORGANISATION

A Big **Thank You** to all those who contributed items of food and gifts under the Christmas Tree at St. David's. Special thanks to

the Friendship Group and the Afternoon Fellowship, and others from our congregation for their generosity. The Christmas Hampers were delivered by Volunteers of ECCO to all parts of the Ellesmere District prior to Christmas – they are received with great joy and excitement by the Families. Each child and adult receives a personal gift along with Christmas goodies and food for the family. This year 38 families including 60 children received parcels, and they made a joyful difference to their Christmas celebration.

Please accept our grateful thanks to all of you who gave so generously.

Lois Birkett on behalf of ECCO



'Change of Lifestyle'
UNIT FOR SALE
30 High St., Leeston



Have you thought of down-sizing while you're still active and have the energy to do something different?

ST. DAVID'S PLACE has a home waiting for you – to accomplish some of those 'MUST DO' adventures.

No lawn to mow, a small garden, friendly neighbours and warm, sunny home that is easy to keep.

We invite you to come and have a look and make an offer to purchase.

Contact: Noel Dalley 03 324 3171

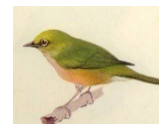
Or John Lay 03 329 1617

Koha



Christ is born; the heavens ring, “let the world in every corner sing.
Hear! All Nature rejoice, each with one voice resounding.”
Bring him gifts from near and far, come and lay them beneath his
star. So the waking child finds precious gifts of God’s designs.

Aoraki standing proud, high above the brooding white cloud.,
Hear! The dawn chorus cry from floor to sky, ascending:
Carry voices from afar, come and lay them beneath his
star. So the waking child hears Korimako’s gift so clear.



Pohutukawa glowing bright spreads her leaves and
flowers to the light. See! Her crisp red bouquets, the
crimson rays, descending:

See them carpeting the sand, come and lay them near his hand.
So the waking child sees Tane’s gift of rare beauty.

Haere mai. Haere Mai.

- Don Clearwater



A page for the children to colour-in

Palm Sunday



Services & Events – March 2018 to May 2018

March 2018		
Thursday 1 March	7.00pm	Men's Fellowship – Leeston Library
Saturday 3 March	7.30pm	Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 4 March	9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm 7.30pm	Communion Services – Lent 3 St. David's, Leeston Trinity, Dunsandel Youth Pizza Café – Leeston Brookside (Anglican) Service
Tuesday 6 March	9.30am	Southbridge Home Group at Bev's
Wednesday 7 March	2pm	St. David's Friendship group and Fellowship Groups combined
Thursday 8 March	2.00pm 7.30pm	Trinity Women's Fellowship Leeston Sector meeting
Saturday 10 Nov	10.00am – 3.00pm 7.30pm	Methodist Synod at Trinity, Dunsandel Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 11 March	9.30am 11.00am	Worship Services – Lent 4 St. David's, Leeston Trinity, Dunsandel
Thursday 15 March	7.30pm	Dunsandel Sector meeting
Saturday 17 Nov	7.30pm	Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 18 March	9.30am 11.00am 7.30pm	Worship Services – Lent 5 St. David's, Leeston – Harvest Festival Trinity, Dunsandel (Anglican) - Harvest Brookside (Communion Service)
Thursday 22 March	7.30pm	Parish Council at Trinity, Dunsandel
Saturday 24 Nov	9.30am 7.30pm	Leeston Feté Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 25 March	9.30am 11.00am	Worship Services – Palm Sunday St. David's, Leeston Café Church, Dunsandel
Thursday 29 March	7.00pm	Passover / Tenebrae service / meal at Trinity, Dunsandel
Friday 30 March	10.00am	Good Friday Community Service,

		Anderson Square, Leeston
Saturday 31 March	7.30pm	Lifetouch Fellowship

April 2018		
Sunday 1 April	9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm 7.30pm	Communion Services - Easter St. David's, Leeston Trinity, Dunsandel Youth Pizza Café at St. David's Brookside (Anglican) Service – Harvest Festival
Tuesday 3 April	9.30am	Southbridge Home Group
Wednesday 4 April	12.00 noon	St. David's Friendship and Fellowship groups combined
Thursday 5 April	7.00pm	Men's Group, Leeston Library
Saturday 7 April	7.30pm	Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 8 April	9.30 am 7.30pm	St. David's, Leeston – Easter 2 Worship Service at Dunsandel and barbeque lunch
Thursday 12 April	2.00pm 7.30pm	Trinity Fellowship group Leeston sector meeting
Saturday 14 April	7.30pm	Rural Ministry International visitors Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 15 April	9.30 am 7.30pm	Worship Services – Easter 3 St. David's, Leeston Brookside service
Saturday 21 April	7.30 pm	Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 22 April	9.30am 11.00am	Worship Services – Easter 4 St. David's, Leeston Café Church, Trinity, Dunsandel
Wednesday 25 April	10.00am	Anzac Day services
Thursday 26 April	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting, Leeston
Saturday 28 April	7.30pm	Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 29 April	9.30am	Combined Worship Service – Easter 5 Trinity, Dunsandel

May 2018		
Wednesday 2 May	2.00pm	St. David's Friendship group
Thursday 3 May	7.00pm	Men's group, Leeston Library
Saturday 5 May	7.30pm	Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 6 May	9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm 7.30pm	Communion Services – Easter 6 St. David's, Leeston Trinity, Dunsandel Youth Pizza Café at St. David's Brookside (Anglican)
Thursday 9 May	2.00pm 7.30pm	Fellowship groups Leeston sector meeting
Saturday 12 May	7.30pm	Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 13 May (Mother's Day)	9.30am 11.00am	Worship Services St. David's, Leeston – Easter 7 Trinity, Dunsandel
Thursday 17 May	7.30pm	Dunsandel sector meeting
Saturday 19 May	7.30pm	Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 20 May	9.30am 11.00am 7.00pm	Worship Services - Pentecost Sunday St. David's, Leeston Trinity, Dunsandel Brookside
Thursday 24 May	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting at Brookside
Saturday 26 May	7.30pm	Lifetouch Fellowship
Sunday 27 May	9.30am 10.45am	Worship Services – Trinity Sunday St. David's. Leeston Café Church, Trinity, Dunsandel

For all events please check for updates or alterations in the Weekly Bulletins as times and dates may change.

Small Groups for all ages!

Groups for Adults

Intercessory Prayer	7.00pm	Every Tuesday, at St. David's, Leeston, note: last Tuesday of month at Trinity Church, Dunsandel. <i>Contact Mandy, ph: 324 2225</i>
Southbridge Home Group	9.30am	1 st Tuesday of the month at Bev's home in Southbridge. <i>Contact Janice, ph: 324 8202.</i>
St. David's Friendship Group	2.00pm	1 st Wednesday of the month at various homes. <i>Contact Hilary, ph: 324 3823.</i>
St. David's Afternoon Fellowship	2.00pm	2 nd Thursday of the month at the Church. <i>Contact Janice, ph: 324 8202.</i>
Trinity Women's Fellowship Group	2.00pm	2 nd Thursday of the month at Trinity Church, Dunsandel. <i>Contact Mavis ph: 325 4142.</i>
Lunch Bunch	12.00 noon	A Dunsandel Trinity initiative – 1 st Thursday of the month at various local eateries. <i>Contact Mavis ph: 325 4142.</i>
Men's Group	7.00pm	1 st Thursday of month at Community Room, Leeston Library.
Lifetouch Fellowship	7.30pm	Ministry for Filipino families and others. Worship Service every Saturday. <i>Contact Teena, ph: 324 2240 or 021 081 62926.</i>

Groups for Children & Youth

Children's Ministry		During worship each Sunday during the school term in Leeston. <i>Contact Lois ph: 324 3884</i>
Pre-school Music	9.45am – 10.30am	Wednesdays at St. David's Church foyer, followed by coffee and chat for parents and caregivers in the church hall. <i>Contact Naomi ph: 324 4075.</i>
Youth Pizza Café	5.00pm – 7.00pm	1 st Sunday of the month at St. David's Church, Leeston. <i>Contact Linda ph: 324 2166</i>

Deadline for next newsletter - 22 May 2018
Contact person - Rev. Heather Kennedy

Please send your information by email to
rev.heather.kennedy@gmail.com by the deadline date.

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