



The Pulse

“The heart of God to the heart
of the community”

August Issue

Welcome to The Pulse

In this issue we have a message from Paul reflecting on readings from Dr Ravi Zacharias and how God can use Ellesmere Cooperating Parish as a powerful way to connect people with his hope and life.

We have sector reports from Leeston and Dunsandel and updates from some of our home groups.

In this addition we have introduced “Chatting With” as we begin to profile some individuals within the Ellesmere Cooperating Parish as a way for us to get to know each other better.

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

We hope you enjoy this issue of The Pulse.

Quarterly Newsletter produced by Ellesmere Cooperating Parish

Message from Paul

I have recently finished reading a book by one of my favourite authors, Dr. Ravi Zacharias. He grew up in India, and moved to Canada in his early twenties. If you want to hear him, check out www.rzim.org

I heard him speak at a church several years ago and was impressed by his brilliant mind and humble, pastoral heart. Having now read his autobiography, "Walking from East to West" (Zondervan), I now understand more, why he impressed me like that. Here is a quote from the next book of his I am now reading, "The End of Reason"- his response to what is called, "The new atheism". (pg27) (Ravi is reflecting on his early years as a young man in India, before he came to faith in Jesus), *"Tragically, two of my close friends at college had already succeeded in their suicide attempts – one the heir to a highly successful business, the other a person who acted out of sheer aimlessness. Then it was my turn – a botched attempt in which I ended up in a hospital room in New Delhi, with doctors battling to keep me alive. It was in that lowly condition that I was handed a Bible, and the story of the gospel was read to me. All I can say is that Sam Harris (well-known atheist writer) was not my mentor or his tirade not my inspiration, for my life would have ended then and there. Instead I trusted the Christ of the Scriptures, and today, four decades later, having travelled this globe dozens of times, speaking in numerous countries and lecturing in scores of universities, I find Jesus to be more beautiful and attractive than ever before."*

The song comes to mind ...

You are beautiful beyond description, too marvellous for words,
too wonderful for comprehension, like nothing ever seen or heard.

Who can grasp your infinite wisdom? Who can fathom the depth of your love?

You are beautiful beyond description, majesty, enthroned above.

And I stand, I stand in awe of you. I stand, I stand in awe of you.

Holy God, to whom all praise is due, I stand in awe of you.

This is our God who brings hope and life where both these are threatened. The ministry of Ellesmere Cooperating Parish is one powerful way that God is connecting people with his hope and life. We can look everywhere but to Jesus while we hold tightly to our pride, but when brokenness comes, and humility enters, God breathes a sigh of relief, and the angels rejoice, as they see a loved one infused with hope and life that results in finding Jesus to be more beautiful and attractive than ever before. This is the privilege we have

as we involve ourselves in providing a Christian environment, where people can be free to be open to God's Spirit and experience his hope and life. May God bless you as you continue to take an active interest in the work of your local church.

If you have just stumbled across this newsletter, or only recently heard of the Cooperating Parish in Ellesmere, check out our website – www.churchatellesmere.org.nz

Blessings, Paul
(Paul Eden, Minister)

Message from Murray Doak of the Leeston Sector Group



The annual fish and chip night was restarted on Friday 20th June, and was a roaring success. Despite a bit of a longer wait for the greasies than was anticipated, a large crowd was easily able to pass the time with several items and skits. Our children produced dance routines, sang songs and played instruments. Older members recited poetry and told jokes, while one even managed a circus strongman act – good on ya Merv. Games

of table tennis, drawing and lots of fellowship made for a great night, and will probably be enough to ensure the next one is indeed only a year away!

We also hosted another newcomer's lunch, a couple of years after the last one. With another 15 or so additions, the congregation is indeed growing which is absolutely wonderful and bodes well for the future. With growth comes new opportunities and ideas which may need some encouragement to be put forward.

The congregational meeting will be held on 3rd August, and the Sector AGM follows on Thursday 14th. This is an opportunity for anyone to put themselves forward for the Leeston Sector committee, to assist with the governance and

direction of the church. There are likely to be some retirements from this year's sector group and there are exciting times ahead, so if the Lord is giving you a nudge, please consider whether you would like to become involved.

By the time you read this, we will have held a discussion on the 3 concept plans that have been developed for the extension to the church buildings. To recap, when the foyer was added to the church some 30 years ago, plans were developed to relocate the kitchen, hall and toilets as a further extension and to remove the current hall and small office/storage buildings. With a growing congregation, the additions now look realistically achievable. A series of focus groups were held in 2013 to get ideas on what our church family want from the additions, and a plan was drawn up based on that original one by Ian Wells, the original foyer architect. This was displayed for several months, with attention more focussed in May 2014. A further concept plan was developed by Ian and independently of this, several congregation members put their heads together to come up with another plan.

The key differences between the plans are the floor levels, the location of the kitchen and consequent arrangements for the hall, lounge/youth area, and the internal steps/lift/ramp that would be needed with a lower floor level. Another key idea to emerge is turning the current Sunday school rooms into the offices/shop and locating the Sunday school in the new extension.

Once all these discussions have taken place and any further concepts received, the building committee (comprising Murray Doak, Campbell McMath, Paula Pullan, Andrew Sykes and Peter Withell) will develop a view on what the congregation are collectively wanting, and take recommendations to Parish Council. Draft plans will be developed based on these, for pricing, detailing and final consideration by the congregation.

By having this iterative process, it is hoped that everyone will feel they have had input and that the resulting plans will not change from that point through to construction.

Attention will soon turn to funding options. As we all know, buildings do not come cheap these days, so there will be challenges.

With God's will however, and everyone's support and commitment, the time is right to give it our best shot.

Message from Judith Wason of the Trinity Community Church Dunsandel



It is certainly very obvious winter is in full swing with some very bleak days, but the upside has to be Spring and Summer are on the way. At the end of May the Trinity Ladies combined with the Fellowship Ladies catered for a group of sight impaired people from the Blind Foundation. All ate very heartily of the sumptuous roast meal and enjoyed the sing-a-

long between courses. Many thanks to those who once again did a superb job.

It was with deep sadness that we heard of the illness and subsequent death of Suzanne Bodeker (nee Chatterton). Our sincere and heartfelt condolences are extended to her family.

On the 3rd Sunday of May, instead of our usual Anglican service, we had three dedicated women from Sheffield to lead us in a new type of worship, 'Café church', where 32 people attended! On the next 3rd Sunday Elizabeth led us. We thank her for her effort.

In June when Paul and Jo were on holiday, Shirley Barron led our services and we enjoyed a stirring sermon from Duncan Graham. We hosted the combined parish service on 29th June. How good to see our church full, listen to wonderful singing and Paul's message, and to catch up with friends. We are sorry to hear that Bruce and Bev Johnston are leaving us and moving to Barrhill. We thank them most sincerely for their input, cheerfulness and willingness. We wish them well.

On the 13th July we gave God thanks for, and blessed little Elsie, the daughter of Mark and Charlotte Stevens. What a joy. We look ahead to the development of Café Church and other good things God has in store for us!

Home Groups

Southbridge Home Group

When Paul and Jo were away in June Margaret Clearwater organised communion, with Bev serving it to us.

The theme for this month was contentment. An anonymous quote says "To be content with a little can be difficult; to be content with much, is impossible".

Janice reported that their numbers are still growing and there is still room for more.

St David's Afternoon Fellowship

Our May meeting was combined with evening fellowship, when we shared a finger food luncheon. Jo and Paul Eden were welcomed and blessed the food provided.

Margaret led a reflective time with the singing of the hymns followed by a short meditation on each hymn. A time of singing of favourite hymns followed, which rounded a pleasant occasion.

Our AGM in June opened with prayer followed by general business. Elaine led us in a challenging devotional, concluding with the singing of "I will sing the wondrous story". Noeleen took the chair for election of officers with the following elected; President: Janice Speirs, Treasurer: Maree Johnson and Secretary: Margaret Clearwater.

The programme for 2014/2015 was discussed and arranged.

The meeting closed with "Jottings by an 8 year boy about God", followed by a "cuppa".

St David's Fellowship

In June we enjoyed a finger food luncheon at Ruth Cridge's home in Southbridge of which Paul Eden was able to share with us. We had a great time of sharing together.

Upcoming events include:

August: Visit to Dunsandel fellowship

September: "My Apron"

October: Ecco: Lois Birkett Save the Children stall.

Chatting with Janice Speirs

Janice, can you tell us about your family who are working overseas?

They are my daughter Margaret and her husband David and their children Timothy who is 13 years old and Jonathan who is 10 years old. Margaret and David both teach English, Margaret as a preschool teacher, and they help people in that community where they can.

What country and region are they in?

They live in Mandalay in Myanmar.

How long have they been in Myanmar?

Originally they were over for four years and then home on furlough for one year. Since then they have been over for three years and then home for nine months. They are due home again in November.

Why Myanmar?

They have always had a desire to be there. They enjoy mixing with the Myanmar people teaching English and also being taught the Burmese language.

What challenges do they face?

Timothy and Jonathan often struggle with the heat. Every ten weeks the family has to leave the country due to work permit and visa requirements and then can be out of the country for a couple of weeks before they can return home. This is a very expensive exercise and is quite disruptive to

family life. All four of them have to go, so nearly half of their funding is used in travelling.

Tell me about furlough

The reason for furlough is for them to rejuvenate their batteries and get away from the excessive heat of the country where it can be 30 – 40°. They come home to fund raise to return and travel up and down NZ giving talks. This can be a challenging time as the boys need to cope with the huge change in temperature in NZ and Margaret still needs to home school them.

How are they supported financially?

They have to find their own support and they are not allowed to go unless they have a specified amount of money. There always seems to be people who provide them with money at the very last minute so that they can go back to Myanmar.

What can we as ECP do to support them?

In practical ways; the boys always need warm clothes and shoes when they return to NZ. When David and Margaret return to NZ they are often provided with cars and accommodation for their stay which is much appreciated.

Do you think they will live in Myanmar for a long time.

Yes, until they retire.

A reflection from Rev. Heather Stewart of St. Stephen's Church, Ashburton; written for the "Christian Comment" section of the Guardian newspaper July 26th.

Oh my goodness! What is a Christian Comment in this week's world? What a week it has been! Do you sometimes ask, "Where are you God?" I do –

An airliner downed in the Ukraine; horror in Israel and Gaza; turmoil in Syria; girls kidnapped; floods and earthquakes; people still suffering in Christchurch; domestic abuse; child abuse ... and so the list grows. Violence and despair in our world and in the streets and homes of New Zealand ... and more. Then God's precious gift to us, the Dean of the Cathedral, died this week. I sometimes feel helpless and I do say: "Where are you God?" Even though I know our God doesn't use us like puppets and manipulate us.

Sometimes I feel as if the best thing I can do is lift the situation to God, in love, knowing that our combined prayers make a difference.

What does our faith say to us?

My Old Testament reading on Monday was 'Micah's Song', from the book of Micah chapter 6, verse 8: "Hear what your God requires of you: To live justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God." How different the world would be if we all did that! It's the way of Jesus ... and I believe it is the only way the world will work.

When we walk closely with our God, the rest falls into place.

I think winter gives us a clue. The four seasons tell a story of transformation every year. There are reasons for the seasons and we need them too. Winter is an inactive period, a fallow time, when everything looks dead – seeds are hiding, creatures hibernating. Picture our present winter scenes! I love the skeletal trees in their nakedness – an artist at work there! Yet what looks like death is really 'sleep' – a necessary rest in which life renews itself. This inactive period is essential as earth waits patiently for her eventual revival in spring – which comes with a burst of creative energy. In my garden the snowdrops, up already, are the first to flower and other spring flowers are poking through the dark soil – the promise of things to come.

In winter creation has a "Quiet time". We'd all do well to emulate winter and be still for a 'season' in our daily living. A Korean theologian wrote that the Korean character for busyness (and I think Chinese also) has the elements destruction of the heart. Makes sense, doesn't it. Something dies when we are too busy.

Walking humbly with our God requires being still enough to really listen to God and to one another as we too gather 'resources for the spring'. I know that if we all did that we would see more clearly, live more justly and love one another better. You and I can make a difference.

Let it begin with me.

(Note from Paul Eden – Heather was, until her retirement recently, the vicar at Rakaia Anglican Parish. She was a teacher for many years before going into full time ministry. She spent several years as vicar on Waiheke Island. Heather has a strong personal faith and a wonderful pastoral gift.)

Listed below are the services and church events planned for the period August – October 2014

1st week of month					
Wed			1 Oct	9.45am	Pre-school music and Parent's coffee
			1 Oct	2.00pm	St. David's Fellowship
			1 Oct	6.30pm	Boys Brigade Dunsandel (school term)
Thu			2 Oct	12md	Lunch Bunch Dunsandel
Fri	1 Aug		3 Oct	9.30am	Bible Study Group Leeston
Sat	2 Aug		4 Oct	7.30pm	Life Touch Fellowship Worship Service
Sun	3 Aug		5 Oct	9.30am	Leeston
	3 Aug		5 Oct	9.30am	H2O Children's Ministry Leeston (School term)
	3 Aug		5 Oct	11.00am	Dunsandel Communion Service
	3 Aug		5 Oct	7.00pm	(7.30pm Daylight saving) Brookside Anglican
	3 Aug		5 Oct		
Mon	4 Aug	1 Sep	6 Oct	7.30pm	Rawstron's Home Group
Tue	5 Aug	2 Sep	7 Oct	9.30am	Southbridge Home Group
	5 Aug	2 Sep	7 Oct	7.00pm	Intercessors Leeston
Wed	6 Aug	3 Sep	8 Oct	9.45am	Pre-school music and Parent's coffee
	6 Aug	3 Sep	8 Oct	2.00pm	St. David's Fellowship
	6 Aug	3 Sep	8 Oct	6.30pm	Boys Brigade Dunsandel (school term)
Thu	7 Aug	4 Sep	9 Oct	12md	Lunch Bunch Dunsandel
Fri	8 Aug	5 Sep	10 Oct	9.30am	Bible Study Group Leeston
Sat	9 Aug	6 Sep	11 Oct	7.30pm	Life Touch Fellowship Worship Service
2 week of month					
Sun	10 Aug	7 Sep	12 Oct	9.30am	Leeston
	10 Aug	7 Sep	12 Oct	9.30am	H2O Children's Ministry Leeston (School term)
	10 Aug	7 Sep	12 Oct	11.00am	Dunsandel Worship Service
Mon	11 Aug	8 Sep	13 Oct		
Tue	12 Aug	9 Sep	14 Oct	7.00pm	Intercessors Leeston
Wed	13 Aug	10 Sep	15 Oct	9.45am	Pre-school music and Parent's coffee
	13 Aug	10 Sep	15 Oct	6.30pm	Boys Brigade Dunsandel (school term)

Thu	14 Aug	11 Sep	16 Oct	2.00pm	Trinity Women's Fellowship Dunsandel
	14 Aug	11 Sep	16 Oct	2.00pm	Afternoon Fellowship Leeston
Fri	15 Aug	12 Sep	17 Oct	9.30am	Bible Study Group Leeston
Sat	16 Aug	13 Sep	18 Oct	7.30pm	Life Touch Fellowship Worship Service
3rd week of month					
Sun	17 Aug	14 Sep	19 Oct	9.30am	Worship Service Leeston
	17 Aug	14 Sep	19 Oct	9.30am	H2O Children's Ministry Leeston (School Term)
	17 Aug	14 Sep	19 Oct	9.30am	Girls Youth Group Leeston
	17 Aug	14 Sep	19 Oct	11.00am	Café Church Dunsandel
	17 Aug	14 Sep	19 Oct	7.00pm	(Winter) 7.30pm (Summer) Worship Service Brookside
Mon	18 Aug	15 Sep	20 Oct	7.30pm	Rawstron's Home Group
Tue	19 Aug	16 Sep	21 Oct	7.00pm	Intercessors Leeston
Wed	20 Aug	17 Sep	22 Oct	9.45am	Pre-school music and Parent's coffee
	20 Aug	17 Sep	22 Oct	6.30pm	Boys Brigade Dunsandel (school term)
Thu	21 Aug	18 Sep	23 Oct		
Fri	22 Aug	19 Sep	24 Oct	9.30am	Bible Study Group Leeston
Sat	23 Aug	20 Sep	25 Oct	7.30pm	Life Touch Fellowship Worship Service
4th week of month					
Sun	24 Aug	21 Sep	26 Oct	9.30am	Leeston
	24 Aug	21 Sep	26 Oct	9.30am	H2O Children's Ministry Leeston (School term)
	24 Aug	21 Sep	26 Oct	11.00am	Dunsandel Communion Service
Mon	25 Aug	22 Sep	27 Oct		
Tue	26 Aug	23 Sep	28 Oct	7.00pm	Intercessors Dunsandel (last Tuesday of month)
Wed	27 Aug	24 Sep	29 Oct	9.45am	Pre-school music and Parent's coffee
	27 Aug	24 Sep	29 Oct	6.30pm	Boys Brigade Dunsandel (school term)
Thu	28 Aug	25 Sep	30 Oct		
Fri	29 Aug	26 Sep	31 Oct	9.30am	Bible Study Group Leeston
Sat	30 Aug	27 Sep		7.30pm	Life Touch Fellowship Worship Service
5th week of month					
Sun	31 Aug	28 Sep		9.30am	Combined Parish Service
Mon		29 Sep			
Tue		30 Sep			

Upcoming events

Parish Council Meetings:

Dunsandel (AGM) 28 August at 7.30pm

Leeston 25 September at 7.30pm

Brookside 23 October at 7.30pm

Congregation Sector Meetings:

Leeston 14 August at 7.30pm

Leeston 9 October at 7.30pm

Dunsandel 18 September at 7.30pm

Brookside (as required)

World Mission Week:

Sunday 23 November to Sunday 30 November

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CHILDREN'S PAGE



♥ teach me to walk in the light of His love © 2011

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CHILDREN'S PAGE



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Smile !

God loves you !

Keep smiling and others will too !