



The Pulse

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

February 2015 Issue

Welcome to The Pulse

The Pulse is a quarterly 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 three congregations, Leeston, Dunsandel and Brookside, draw people from all walks of life, with a high proportion involved in farming or associated services. 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.

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.

Message from Paul



I remember someone saying to me some years ago, that when they came back from holiday it was like stepping onto a fast-moving escalator, and it took a while to feel as though they had caught up with it. I can identify with that! Jo and I had a lovely holiday for two weeks, travelling through the dry Central Otago and tasting beautiful apricots, experiencing the rain forest of Haast Pass, and the native bush and sunshine of the West Coast. We camped, using our new tent and car arrangement. The tent fits over the back of the open station wagon – very cosy! Two weeks of **simplicity** reminded us of the importance of experiencing that from time to time. Life can become very complicated. One of the 'spiritual disciplines' is that of simplicity. Every now and then we meet someone who has responded to God's call to a life of simplicity, and God's peace emanates from them. I met such a person last week – Sr. Diadema, of the Evangelical Sisters of Mary. This is a Protestant order founded by the Lutheran Church in Germany after WW2. Sr. Diadema is part of the order in Sydney, providing a place of retreat, spiritual support and discipleship. Sr. Diadema's father was a Presbyterian minister and served in several parishes around NZ. We had the privilege of Sr. Diadema speaking to us at St. David's Church in February.

For many of us, the thought of '**retreat**' for a time of drawing close to God, is not one we have entertained. From time to time I 'retreat' and find it refreshing, energising and my priorities are tweaked. We have such a place in our own backyard. Te Waiora Christian Retreat Centre is in Hororata. The facilities are excellent with private rooms each with an ensuite. The grounds are peaceful. The hosts are welcoming. Payment is by voluntary contribution. Perhaps you may benefit from a time of retreat and simplicity! Their phone number is 03 3180789, and email is tewaiorahouse@xtra.co.nz. The website is www.tewaiorahouse.org.nz

Recently the Dunsandel congregation affirmed the mission strategy of the '**Café Church**' style of church for their 4th Sunday of the month, reviewing it in six months' time. This is 'church' like you wouldn't know it! An informal

'café' setting in the church hall, with good food, coffee and tea, and a format where there is considerable interaction around a theme relevant to today. Last year a good foundation was formed with many people coming from all over the district. This year, the organising group have clarified the mission target group as 'young families'. The challenge is to learn how to communicate the Christian faith in a way that connects well with young families in the local community. I congratulate the Dunsandel congregation for taking this courageous step which for many is well out of their comfort zone. As they say, "Watch this space".

While on holiday I finished reading Philip Yancey's latest book,

'Vanishing Grace – What ever happened to the good news?' (2014, Hodder & Stoughton, London.) I have many of Philip Yancey's books including his first book on the subject of grace – 'What's so amazing about Grace?' His second book on the subject is outstanding! I would fully recommend it to you. It is available from Christian book stores. I can get them for you at 15% discount if you would like to contact me.

From the back cover ...

"Like a sudden thaw in the middle of winter, grace happens at unexpected moments. It stops us short, catches the breath, disarms.

Yet, not everyone has tasted that amazing grace, and not everyone believes in it. In a time of division and discord, grace seems in vanishing supply.

Why? And what can we do about it?"

May God bless you and your loved ones as you embark on a New Year with an expectation that God is doing good things!

Message from Murray Doak of the Leeston Sector Group



As I type this, the Cricket World Cup is about to start, the rugby Super 15 is underway, a drought has been declared, rain is possible in the morning, our leaders face a very difficult decision on sending some of our most capable people to help defeat

evil in Iraq, and some other capable people are running across the Southern Alps for fun! What a crazy mixed up world.... thank God that we can find some peace in amongst the chaos and confusion to reflect and feel safe with Him.

Many of the Leeston Sector group met together in early January for a shared evening meal and fellowship. During a time of reflection after the meal, some observations and ideas were gathered that we can work on during the coming year. A strong view came forward that we need to communicate more with the Leeston congregation, and also encourage more feedback from you all too. So this is a start down this track. Please feel you can approach any of us with concerns or indeed with positive feedback, or with ideas on how we can all continue to grow together and with the community. It is sometimes hard to raise concerns, but as long as they are made out of God-given love for the betterment of all of us, then there should be no need to withhold. So, just to remind you, the sector members are Murray Doak, Hilary Boal, Lois and Paul Birkett, Campbell McMath, Teena dela Cruz, Julie and Merv Taylor, Elaine van Roon, Wouter Verwoerd and Francis Baylis. You are also welcome to attend any of our meetings, which are held on the second Thursday of every second month, from March.

Another issue raised is a perennial challenge. The old saying of "many hands make light work" is so very true. Our church depends on the help of many members and families of the congregation on the various rosters, but as the church grows and time rolls on, the lists need replenishing. So please make yourself known to one of us if you can help with morning teas, lawn mowing, weekly cleaning, being on the door or the computer – even writing this newsletter? In the next issue, I will outline a programme of some upcoming events and opportunities for input.

Please also hold in your hearts and prayers those of us who are not well and their families and friends. In particular, our thoughts are with Jean and Don Heslop and their family, long serving and dedicated members of the church and community.

On the building front, the Parish Council have selected one of three quotes from painting firms, and are expecting to have the St David's building and attached Sunday School building painted before winter.

Blessings to all.

Message from Robbie Stewart of the Trinity Community Church Dunsandel



At the end of October a small group of Trinity members thoroughly enjoyed the talk and film show given by Jill and Murray Chamberlain, Athol Wolff and Jack Mackie on their winter trip to Europe.

It's been a period of mixed emotions for some of our newer people. We rejoiced with Anna and Grant McCulloch when they welcomed their first baby, Isabel Kate into the world. Then a family experienced the loss of a loved one. Thanks must go to Paul and our caring congregation who did everything possible to assist them through a very tough time and continue to do so. Our condolences also go to Jill and Murray Chamberlain and family on the passing of Jill's mother at the beginning of December.

We had excellent numbers of people at both the Community Carol Service and the Christmas Eve Service. The Carol Service was arguably the best for a very long time. Thanks go to Shirley and Robert for their jovial leadership; the Selwyn Singers; Rosaline Brown and Dunsandel School pupils for the short play and we hope Donna DID get a hippopotamus for Christmas! The Christmas Eve Service was, as always, excellently led by Paul. All the January Parish Services have been enjoyed by those Trinity members who attended. Great to meet up with others from around the Parish and to see Paul and Lynne working so well together. We are looking forward to the restart of Anglican Services on 15th March. At a meeting in February the Dunsandel congregation has affirmed 'Café Church' as a mission strategy. There will be a review of the effectiveness in 6 months' time. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard at a working bee on 21st January. Great work!!

We hope Paul and Jo have enjoyed their well-earned break.

Home Groups

Southbridge Home Group

A week before Christmas five of our members visited fourteen different people in Southbridge to sing carols. Each person we sang to was given a packet of shortbread which was again made and donated by Marion. We thank Marion for this kind gesture which was much appreciated by all.

As usual in December we emptied out our collection jar to find \$188.00. This was given to the Brown Family who gratefully accepted our donation.

We invite you all to come and join our home group this year. You won't be disappointed. Everyone is welcome.

St. David's Fellowship

November – Our November meeting held at Jill and Peter Lemon's home was a most enjoyable and interesting time of fellowship and learning. Gwyneth McGill led devotions – reading from a Billy Graham book 'What the Bible is About' and from one of her favourite books 'Promises for all seasons of life'. Jeanette told members about a very special afternoon tea held in the foyer to celebrate the 25th anniversary of St. David's Place retirement cottages. Nancy told us about her daughter Clare's 'The Mosaic' giraffe in the Christchurch Stands Tall sculpture trail – Clare's giraffe won the people's choice award.

Jill was our guest speaker who told us about how her painting talents began at a very young age drawing on foggy windows, and progressing through the years to her lovely paintings of today. When her family were grown up she had time to take it up seriously and was able to attend art classes. Her paintings are mainly with pastels and her fingers – much to the amazement of most members who thought all paintings were done with brushes. We learn something every day! We all enjoyed viewing her paintings on display. An added bonus was Peter showing us his steel artworks – made from steel which he chips out of concrete power poles. These pieces of steel art range from small intricate items to useful tools, outdoor furniture and the beautiful octagonal pergola in their outdoor courtyard. All will have admired his gateway at St. David's.

December – Our Christmas meeting was held in St. David's foyer. Hilary led the meeting followed by devotions – a Christmas Story – 'Room at the Inn' – interspersed with carols. Members lit five candles each with a message ...

1. Expectation, 2. Promise, 3. Faith and Justice, 4. Hope, 5. The Christ candle (centre candle).

Members then enjoyed a delicious finger-food lunch – the Christmas table setting being completed with Hilary's centre piece – a lolly and fruit Christmas tree. A collection of gifts and goodies were given to Lois to be distributed by ECCO to help make some families' Christmas a little brighter.

St. David's Afternoon Fellowship

Our December meeting commenced with a Christmas luncheon, followed by 'The Christmas Story', a narrative interspersed with the singing of carols. The reading of 'The Golden Slipper' reminded each of us of the true meaning of giving.

Fellowship for 2015 commences with an afternoon of entertainment and fellowship. We are looking forward to meeting and sharing together.

Coming meetings:

March Easter Reflection by Paul Eden

April Sharing our faith

May 'Hearing Jogs'

God has blessed us over the past year, and we give him all the glory.

Ellesmere Community Care Organisation

This year there was again a large number of families who needed some Christmas goodies. We had 36 families – 60 adults and 63 children. This is the same high number as in 2013 which was the highest number of people we have delivered to. The hampers bring surprise and joy to these families. This is possible through the generosity of many of our congregation and the St. David's Fellowship Groups who, along with other groups in our community, donate gifts and food items. The Ellesmere Lions are always very

generous to ECCO, along with Santa's Workshop in Christchurch who make and give wonderful, colourful, long-lasting wooden toys.

The hampers are delivered by our ECCO Committee throughout Leeston, Southbridge and Dunsandel districts, and we can assure you, your gifts have made a difference to the Christmas joy and celebration of these families. Please accept our grateful thanks to all of you who have given so generously.

Garden Gathering

A wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by a good number of St David's congregation, family, friends and neighbours of John and Kay Nish at their restful and colourful garden in Lambie St. Leeston on Saturday 7th February.

The day was perfect for enjoying the lovely surroundings, meeting new people and fellowshiping with one another. We all enjoyed cold drinks when we arrived and a cup of tea and delicious afternoon tea later. Donations of \$85 were given by those present towards Parish Funds.

We thank John and Kay for the invitation to share their lovely garden with us all.



If you would be happy to receive your copy of The Pulse via email or link to our website please get in touch with Paul Eden on ellesmerecp@xtra.co.nz

We have a group of people who have indicated that this would be their preferred way of receiving this publication. The added bonus is you get to view The Pulse in full colour.

Chatting with Emma Mentink

Where did you go on your recent trip?

I travelled to Cambodia and Vietnam.

When was your trip?

We went in December and were away for a month.

Who was the trip organised through?

World Challenge who are an organisation who target college students to get them out in the world so each individual can discover their strengths and what they are capable of achieving as a person.



What was the purpose of the trip?

To be on our own and discover what we can do. We had leaders on our trip but each of us had to discover our strengths and more about ourselves. Part of the trip was helping others. You get to help out on a project in each country you visit and your purpose is to serve others in the communities you visit.

How many people went away with you in the group?

In my team there were 13 people and there was another team also from Ellesmere College.

Tell us a little about Cambodia and Vietnam and your initial reaction to the countries?

Vietnam was very different from Cambodia in a lot of ways. The atmosphere in Cambodia was friendlier, it was more in need but the people were friendly.

In Vietnam I felt that some of the people seemed to demand help rather than ask for it. The environment in Vietnam wasn't as nice as Cambodia.

What was the main structure of your trip?

We did have World Challenge leaders who gave us guidelines on what to do and what not to do in each country. However it is a student directed team developed to teach the students leadership skills. In our group we had separate student leaders, who had various responsibilities like finding the accommodation or arranging the activities. Our activities leader got to decide what we were doing for each day so we got to explore lots of places in the area that we were in. We were meant to swap the tasks around amongst the team but we found it better to have consistency in who was in charge of what. Some people were very quick to learn what areas they weren't strong in and preferred to concentrate on what they did well. I was in charge of activities. It was quite hard because of the difference in language. World Challenge has an in country agent who you called and he/she would then deal directly with the places you were arranging activities with.

Did you just work things out when you got to your destination as opposed to having it all planned out before you left NZ?

We had a rough idea of what we wanted to do, a list of places we were going to visit as well as a list of activities that most tourists go to, so we decided from that what we wanted to do.

What was the most exciting part of your trip?

The food and the culture especially at the floating markets, they would use every type of resource, e.g. food as fuel, they would use one product in many different ways.

What was the least enjoyable part of your trip?

There was a lack of alone time and personal space.

Were there any surprises regarding how people lived in the places you visited?

Yes, I was surprised to discover that although they were very poor most people would have to have a flat screen TV and Wi-Fi.

Tell us about some of the strange foods you ate.

I ate rat, snake and tarantula. Out of the three the snake was the easiest to eat.

Did you experience Christianity while you were away?

Yes, on the project we did we were at a Christian school in Cambodia and the people there were noticeably different from other people we had come across on our travels. We stayed with a Christian family during this time and I had the opportunity to talk about church here at home. We built a knee high brick fence around the school.



Fence completed

What impact has your trip had on your life?

I believe I have matured and become more knowledgeable regarding money management.

Has this experience of travel planted a seed for further travel in the future?

Yes, but I would like to travel on my own in the future.

Are there any things in Cambodia or Vietnam that the church can pray for?

I would like to see the people of Vietnam have their self-esteem built up and for them to feel better about themselves.

Emma you belong to the young ladies group in our Church, when do you meet?

Each second Sunday, a group of us leave the church service and fellowship together at a local coffee shop. This is a chance for us to get to know each

other better, discuss our faith and make friends. We usually have between 3 – 6 attending and are really keen for more to join us.



Emma and friends

Recommended
Reading...



If you live in the Ellesmere area, you may borrow these books by contacting Paul Ph. 324 3315

<p>Walter Wink, “The Powers that be” Random House, New York. 1998 “Renown theologian and biblical scholar Walter Wink helps us reformulate our ancient religious concepts – such as God and Satan, angels and demons, principalities and powers – in light of what we now know. Wink’s theology is shaped as much by his study of the Bible as by his involvement in the civil rights movement and the fight against apartheid in South Africa.”</p>	<p>Ravi Zacharias, “Why Jesus? Rediscovering His Truth in an Age of Mass Marketed Spirituality” Faithwords Hachette Book Group, New York. 2012 “We are facing one of the greatest crises in the history of religion. Truth is being cast aside in the name of tolerance and cultural relativism, all under the guise of a New Spirituality. Having become accustomed to abundance and the bliss of multiple choices, we now have a spiritual supermarket before us from which we may select whatever forms of spirituality we desire. But tragically we often choose without knowing how to make a distinction between truth and falsehood.”</p>
<p>Trudy Harris, “Glimpses of Heaven” Revell, Baker Publishing Group, Michigan, USA. 2008 “Tender, heartbreaking, and eye-opening. ‘Glimpses of Heaven’ gives you an intimate look at the final thoughts, words, and visions of terminally ill and dying people. Through the eyes of former hospice nurse Trudy Harris, you’ll experience more than forty true stories that paint a reassuring</p>	<p>Philip Yancey & Dr. Paul Brand, “In His Image” Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1984 “Yancey and Brand show how accurately and intricately the human body portrays the Body of Christ. The acclaimed surgeon and award-winning author unlock the remarkable, living lessons contained in our physical makeup. This book will open your eyes to the complex miracle of the human body, and the even more compelling spiritual truths that it</p>

picture of life's end."

reflects."

More books will be highlighted in our next issue

The total range of books available for loan are found on our website under Life Resources\Recommended Reading at www.churchatellesmere.org.nz

The Shed

(behind St. David's Church, Leeston)

Now expanded!

Last year we were able to send one thousand dollars to each of the missionary families we are supporting in Myanmar and the Philippines, and we nearly have enough to send more support to them.

'The Shed' also provides good, cheap clothing for local families.



Open: Wed & Thurs 10am-12md

Donations of clean second hand clothing in good condition are very welcome.

Please phone Anne 3243091
or Jo 3243315

Home Groups

Have you ever thought there is never enough time or opportunity at church to discuss or ask questions about the Christian faith, the Bible, and the relevance to life experience?

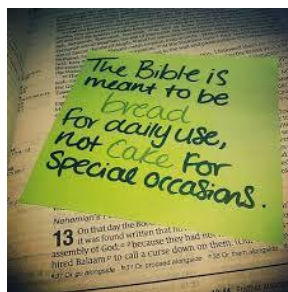
Have you come to a church service but don't really feel you know anyone or have a sense of belonging?

A Home Group could be just the answer!



The Sunday Church service provides for a corporate gathering of believers, a time to join together to worship God through song, Biblical teaching and exhortation, and a sense of being part of God's work in the world. However the Sunday service cannot easily meet personal needs of getting to know others well, asking the questions important to you, and having others support you through life's ups and downs. The trust that develops in a small group setting over time allows for a deeper sharing of beliefs, joys, doubts and sorrows. Support and the growing of our faith through honest discussion and prayer becomes a valuable part of our lives.

If you would like to be part of a Home Group, check out the back page of our weekly newsletters, or phone Paul on 3243315. (Some Home Groups are not yet listed in the newsletter.) If you would like to form a new Home Group, Paul would love to hear from you!



In the spirit of unity, perhaps we should suspend our discussion on the tough passages of Scripture until next week.

Service details March 15 to May 15

LIFETOUCH FELLOWSHIP: Every Saturday at 7.30pm St. David's Leeston	
MARCH	
1 Mar	Communion services at Leeston 9.30am & Dunsandel 11.00am Anglican service at Brookside 7.30pm
8 Mar	Worship services at Leeston 9.30am & Dunsandel 11.00am
15 Mar	Worship services at Leeston 9.30am & Brookside 7.30pm Anglican service at Dunsandel 11.00am
22 Mar	Harvest Thanksgiving service at Leeston 9.30am Café Church at Dunsandel 10.45am
29 Mar	Combined Parish Palm Sunday & Covenant service at Dunsandel 11.00am
APRIL	
5 Apr	Easter Sunday ... Communion services at Leeston 9.30am & Dunsandel 11.00am Anglican service at Brookside 7.00pm
12 Apr	Worship services at Leeston 9.30am & Dunsandel 11.00am
19 Apr	Worship service at Leeston 9.30am Anglican service at Dunsandel 11.00am Communion & Harvest Thanksgiving service at Brookside 7.00pm
26 Apr	Worship service at Leeston 9.30am Café Church at Dunsandel 10.45am
MAY	
3 May	Communion services at Leeston 9.30am & Dunsandel 11.00am Anglican service at Brookside 7.00pm

Upcoming events

Parish Council Meetings:

Brookside 26 February at 7.30pm
Dunsandel 26 March at 7.30pm
Leeston 23 April at 7.30pm

Congregation Sector Meetings:

Leeston 12 March at 7.30pm
Dunsandel 19 March at 7.30pm

Southbridge Home Group:

Invites you to our gatherings on the
1st Tuesday of the month 9.30am at
83 High St., Southbridge.
- 3 March / 7 April

World Day of Prayer:

Trinity Church Dunsandel 6 March 10.00am
St. John Anglican Church, Leeston 7.00pm



Easter:

Maundy Thursday 2 April

Trinity Dunsandel 7.30pm

Good Friday 3 April:

Combined Churches event 10.00am

Easter Sunday 5 April:

9.30am Leeston 11.00am Dunsandel
7.00pm Brookside (Anglican)

CONTACT DETAILS	
Minister	Phone
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Email	ellesmerecp@xtra.co.nz
Website	www.churchatellesmere.org.nz
Lifetouch Pastor	
Teena Dela Cruz	324 2240
Anton Ortiz	022 324 9463
Senior Laypersons	
Paul Birkett	324 3884
Robbie Stewart	325 4535
Pastoral Care	
Lois & Paul	324 3884
Janice	324 2567
Robbie	325 4535
Noel	329 1877
School Chaplain	
Linda	324 2166



Deadline for next newsletter	24 th April 2015
Contact person	Julie Taylor, Ph: 324 2347

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Jesus Loves You!



TwistsyNeedle.com

NAME:

AGE:

Once coloured we would love to see your artwork on our Church noticeboard, extra copies can be picked up at Church.



SEEK GOD'S WILL
IN ALL YOU DO,
AND HE WILL SHOW
YOU THE PATH TO TAKE.

PROVERBS 3:6