



The Pulse

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

November 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

Hi everyone, it is great to have another edition of our 'Pulse' three-monthly magazine. Many thanks to Julie, our Editor, for all her hours of faithful work in producing it.

Helping people to connect with God through faith in Jesus Christ is incredibly rewarding and a real privilege. It is faith-building as we see God's Spirit working in our lives in ways that only he knows how to – after all, he is our Creator!



Two groups of people are particularly on my mind as I write this. Firstly, the group that I would call 'mothers and fathers of the faith'. These are people who have been followers of Jesus for many years, who have been faithful readers of God's Word, who know what it's like to be dependent on God, to pray from the heart as well as the head, and who have experienced the tough times, the blessings, the successes and failures of life. These people are well equipped to be mothers and fathers of the faith. They are people who are qualified to nurture those young in the faith. Are you a mother or father of the faith? Who can you get alongside to encourage and help develop in the faith you have known for so long? If you need some 'how to' resources, please contact me.

The second group on my mind are those who are stepping out in Christian ministry leadership in some way. This may be community-focussed, or serving within the church. We are privileged to have many taking the initiative in this way. When people step out and use their God-given gifts, they experience a variety of emotions – great satisfaction, fulfilment, in tune with God's purpose for their life, anxiety, and vulnerability. There is always a lengthy learning and shaping period during which trust in God and confidence in his faithfulness increases. Please support such people, respect their vulnerability, resist the temptation to criticise, and enjoy what God is doing in and through them!

May this summer be a time of blessing for you and your loved ones – Paul.

Message from Campbell McMath of the Leeston Sector Group



We would like to welcome some new faces on sector. We would also like to thank those which have given their time and more to sector, but are now helping sector in other ways. At our first meeting of the year we appointed roles and Monica has stepped into the role of secretary a special thank you to her, after many fantastic years from Hilary, who we would like to thank for her time.

With our spring cleaning done we are ready to welcome in summer. Thank you for all who helped out.

Murray Doak is continuing his work on the new building for which we are asking for prayer and help.

We would also like to thank Jan for all her time and effort that she has put into the cleaning of the church and organising the cleaning roster. We are now in search of someone to take on her role for cleaning and organising the roster. Please let someone from sector know if you feel you are being called for this.

Our new Sector team are:

Francie Baylis
Paul and Lois Birkett
Murray Doak
Paul Eden
Campbell McMath
Bernie and Kath Mentink
Andre and Liz Rankin
Elaine van Roon
Merv and Julie Taylor
Wouter and Monica Verwoerd

Message from Shirley Barron of the Trinity Community Church Dunsandel



The Dunsandel Community Church has had some fantastic happenings in the past two months.

On 1st August Heather Gullery organised a Fire Party, which was attended by between 50 - 60 people. On Sunday 2nd August we had our annual Soup and Sermon service which was very much enjoyed by all.

Beverley and Bruce Johnstone entertained us on the 28th August with a very interesting talk on their trip to Gallipoli.

The Parish service on 30th August found the church full to nearly overflowing, a great service with great fellowship. On 20th September the Rev. John Major from Akaroa preached. On the evening of the 26th September Mothers for Christ with about 50 adults and lots of children enjoyed a great fellowship time. On 11th October Emily Sheat gave us a talk on her Ellesmere College trip to Cambodia where she had been doing volunteer work with children. Another Fire Party was held over the weekend of the 16th and 17th October with around 60 people attending. This was another event organised by Heather Gullery which included a speaker who came especially from Australia.



Home Groups


St. David's Afternoon Fellowship

In August we joined with other fellowships at Dunsandel, to hear Marjorie McLachlan speak of her life and walk with the Lord, and a faith ministry with her husband at Radio Rhema.

Margaret Brown spoke of Myanmar reflections in October, and their return to pack and sort their belongings and to say goodbye to colleagues and friends. A quantity of pantry items was presented to the family.

Our combined fellowships met in October, when Lois Birkett brought us up to date on items of interest at Church and an insight into the workings of North Canterbury Rural Support. It was most interesting and informative. Her Save the Children stall had a good variety of items for sale.

Upcoming events: November – visit from St. John.
 December – Christmas function.



For
God so
loved the
world He gave
His one and only
Son that whoever
believes in Him shall not
perish but have eternal life
John
3:16

Men's Fellowship



Men's Fellowship has been going for over a year now, and it's such a blessing to have this group. We meet the first Thursday of the month in the hall at St. David's.

We start with a meet and greet, followed by a welcome, particularly for new men. We then have a shared dinner of yummy variety and polished off with a dessert. The meeting then starts with an ice breaker, then maybe some songs before or after the main topic. We have discussed lots of interesting topics, watched some inspirational DVDs and had some great blokes' stuff.

This group is not just for men of St David's, but for the Ellesmere and wider community. It's a great way to meet men who want to share blokes' fellowship with Jesus as our inspiration.

I really recommend the group as a friendly bunch of guys having fun and fellowship together.

Blessings from Merv, on behalf of the Men's Fellowship committee.

MOSAIC Prayer & Worship Ministry **Connect, Create, Worship, Serve**

Over the last year there has been some lovely growth in the area of prayer and worship here in Ellesmere. We have really enjoyed the variety of gatherings that are bringing together people from different churches and providing opportunities for people new to the area and those who may not feel ready to come to a Sunday service to connect and build relationships and

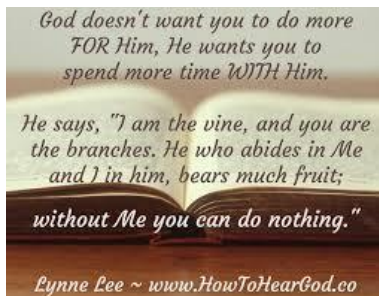
be encouraged in their creative giftings. Here is an overview of what has been happening:

The **Wednesday afternoon prayer group is on each week from 12.30pm to 2.30pm** at a home in Ellesmere. We kick off with a cup of tea and a catch up before a time of worship (often accompanied by harp) and prayer time together. We regularly pray for people and organisations we know are involved in challenging work in the community in Christchurch. These include social workers, mental health nurses, Hillmorton & Princess Margaret Mental Health Wards, Open Home Foundation and CYFS workers and families (Child protection), medical clinics, local schools, Lincoln University, our local ministers & leaders & National leaders in Parliament. We love to welcome people new to Ellesmere as we know it can sometimes be difficult to make friends when you are new to an area. We also make meals from time to time when people are ill or going through a tough time. We are currently preparing to visit some of the places we frequently pray for and are looking forward to worship and prayer times at Lincoln University, Open Home Foundation and Princess Margaret & Hillmorton Hospitals in the near future. If you'd like to pop in for a cuppa one Wednesday please contact Nicole Garner - 0212 882 091 (text preferred) or chchconnect@gmail.com

The monthly **Time of Worship** has been a real blessing for all those involved over the last year and it's been great to watch how it has evolved. Worshippers and musicians have gathered from different churches around Christchurch (Ellesmere Co-Operating Parish, Hope Presbyterian, Harmony, Lydia Fellowship and Lincoln Baptist) to worship together on the third Friday each month at St David's and a small committed core group has been developing. We now have nine music books which have a mix of almost 80 classic hymns and contemporary worship songs suitable for both the older and younger generation. One month we worship with the band (drums, keyboard, vocals, guitar & bass) in the church which is a louder, contemporary style of music and the next month we worship acoustically (no amplification or microphones) in the foyer on the piano, harp, guitar, recorder or violin. For the acoustic worship we include a number of the older, well known hymns and choruses which longer term members of the congregation would enjoy. Please continue to pray for this initiative and for all the budding musicians and worshippers the Lord is bringing together to celebrate and thank Him for His goodness, to praise Him and to draw us into deeper relationship with Him and with each other.

If you would like to be involved in this developing community of musicians and worshippers please contact Nicole Garner or Bernie Mentink. Beginners and rusty guitarists are most welcome!

No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.



THE CITY OF BREAD

Tune: Heart and Soul

Bethlehem:
The town of David's line;
Bethlehem
The star above gave sign
Jesus: You came to us on Earth
And chose this town for Your birth:

Nazareth:
The home of Christ our Lord;
Nazareth:
Men came and heard Your word
This day, the prophet's word come true
I stand among you;

But, oh those words compelling, - too compelling
They cast him out with stony hearts and yelling:

Calvary:
He died forgiving you:
Bethany:
He rose redeeming you
Gladly: The bread of life for men
Began in Bethlehem.

AMEN AMEN Amen.

Recommended New Bible Commentaries

As you read your Bible, have you ever come across passages that you don't understand, are not sure of the cultural context, what it meant to the people at the time of writing, and what it means for you today?

Recently, the Langham Partnership, previously led by well-respected theologian, Dr. John Stott, and now led by Dr. Chris Wright, have recently made available two excellent commentaries which are different to many that have usually come out of Europe. Both are single volume commentaries on the whole Bible.

**You can check out the Langham Partnership at
<http://nz.langham.org>**

The first is the 'Africa Bible Commentary', written by 70 African Scholars. The second is the 'South Asia Bible Commentary', written by 92 Asian Scholars. Both volumes also contain numerous articles on life issues from a biblical perspective.

These are easy to read, and a great help for you to understand and absorb God's life-giving Word.

I would highly recommend these to you to assist you in the ongoing growth of your Christian faith.

– Blessings, Paul

These can be purchased by using the Book Depository website. This source provides free postage!

www.bookdepository.com

Search for: Africa Bible Commentary,
 General Editor Tokunboh Adeyemo

 South Asia Bible Commentary,
 General Editor Brian Wintle

New DVD Series from Australia 'Towards Belief'

Now available for personal or home group use

Leading Christian thinkers defuse the belief blockers of our time

'Towards Belief' follows Australian pastor and host, Karl Faase as he travels to the U.K., U.S.A. and Australia to interview more than thirty leading authors, speakers and scholars as they seek to defuse the top belief blockers to the Christian faith of our time ...

- Suffering
- The Bible
- Supernatural
- Religious violence
- Church abuse
- Science & God
- Homosexuality
- The church

TOWARDS BELIEF - Feedback from a Church in New Zealand

"This week we started watching Towards Belief in our small group. We started with the episode on Suffering. It promoted some very interesting discussion and deep questioning of the topic. A number of women shared personal stories of terrible events of anguish and they said they were helped by the points covered in episode. It also gave us some concise ways to discuss the issue with those who don't know Jesus. We're looking forward to the rest of the series. I'm excited about facilitating a group with such a valuable resource. So a big thank you to you!" Judy

**To borrow this DVD series, please contact Paul
02108293546**

ellesmerecp@xtra.co.nz

From 'The Grand Weaver' by Ravi Zacharias (Zondervan Publishing 2007 pg 183)

How can I see God's pattern in my life unfold, even when I am in pain?

Step 1: Allow God to make your heart tender. Responding appropriately to hurts and disappointments makes one sensitive to God's personal interaction. God uses your hurts and disappointments to shape your heart and the way you feel about reality. The hurts you live through also shape you; there is no way around it. At the end of your life your heart will either have become coarse and desensitised, have been crushed under the weight of disappointment, or have been made tender by that which makes the heart of God tender.

Step 2: Make your mind strong through faith. Learn to trust in God's control and depend on his providence. Acting out such a faith helps avoid tension with respect to God's purpose. Faith is a thing of the mind. If you do not believe that God is in control and has formed you for a purpose, then you will flounder on the high seas of purposelessness and drown in its rushing currents. God has made it imperative, in the design of life, to be willing to trust beyond yourself. Walking by faith means to follow Someone else who knows more than you do, Someone who is not only all-powerful but also good.

Step 3: See the world through the lens of Jesus' sacrifice. Fix your tender heart and your faithful mind on the cross of Jesus, and through it, see the world through God's pattern. You must learn to see the world of pain through the eyes of the One who best understands it, not merely as pain but as brokenness and separation. God shows us through his love, demonstrated at the cross, that he alone bridged the distance between him and us. That's how God enables us to see this world through Calvary. If you don't see it this way, you will never see it God's way and the threads of the masterpiece he is weaving of your life will always pull away from the design. Once you take these steps ... you can begin to see God's pattern in you. In this way you can become an instrument of consolation to others who hurt.

Service details Nov 15 to Jan 16

NOV	
Sun 1 Nov	9.30am Leeston - Communion 11.00am Dunsandel - Communion 5.00pm Youth Café Leeston 7.30pm Brookside – Anglican service
Thurs 5 Nov	7.00pm Men's Fellowship Group Leeston
Sat 7 Nov	7.30pm Leeston Lifetouch Fellowship
Sun 8 Nov	9.30am Leeston – Worship service 11.00am Dunsandel – Worship service
Thu 12 Nov	7.30pm Leeston Sector meeting
Sat 14 Nov	7.30pm Leeston Lifetouch Fellowship
Sun 23 Nov	9.30am Leeston – Worship service 11.00am Dunsandel – Anglican service 7.30pm Brookside – Communion service
Thu 19 Nov	7.30pm Parish Council meeting at Leeston
Fri 20 Nov	7.30pm Time of Worship - Leeston
Sat 21 Nov	7.30pm Leeston Lifetouch Fellowship
Sun 22 Nov	9.30am Leeston – Worship service 10.45am Dunsandel Café Church
Sat 28 Nov	7.30pm Leeston Lifetouch Fellowship
Sun 29 Nov	9.30am Combined Parish at Leeston
DEC	
Thu 3 Dec	7.00pm Men's Fellowship Group BBQ
Sat 5 Dec	7.30pm Leeston Lifetouch Fellowship
Sun 6 Dec	9.30am Leeston - Communion service 11.00am Dunsandel – Communion service 5.00pm Leeston Youth Café 7.30pm Brookside – Anglican service
Sat 12 Dec	5.00pm Dunsandel Saturday @ 5 7.30pm Leeston Lifetouch Fellowship
Sun 13 Dec	9.30am Leeston – Family service (end of term) 11.00am Dunsandel – Worship service
Sat 19 Dec	7.30pm Leeston Lifetouch Fellowship
Sun 20 Dec	9.30am Leeston – Worship service 11.00am Dunsandel – Anglican service 7.30pm Dunsandel – Community Carol service
Thu 24 Dec	8.00pm Leeston – Christmas Eve service 10.00pm Dunsandel – Christmas Eve service

Fri 25 Dec	8am Brookside – Christmas Day service (combined parish)
Sun 27 Dec	9.30am Leeston – Worship service (combined parish)
JAN	
Sun 3 Jan	St. John's Anglican Church, Leeston (combined Ang / Coop parishes)
Sun 10 Jan	St. James Anglican Church, Southbridge (combined Ang / Coop parishes)
Sun 17 Jan	9.30am St. David's Cooperating Church, Leeston (combined Ang / Coop parishes)
Sun 24 Jan	9.30am Trinity Community Church, Dunsandel (combined Ang / Coop parishes)
Sun 31 Jan	9.30am Hone Wetere Church, Taumutu (combined Ang / Coop parishes)

CONTACT DETAILS	
Minister	Phone
Paul & Jo Eden	324 3315 or 021 0829 3546
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 January 2016
Contact person	Julie Taylor, Ph: 324 2347

IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two -
If He came unexpectedly; I wonder what you'd do.
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured Guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have him there -
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?
And I wonder - if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

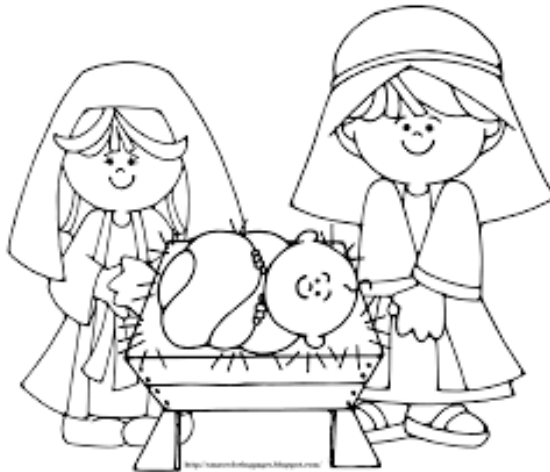
Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

Lois Blanchard Eades

CHILDREN'S PAGE

JESUS
IS
BORN

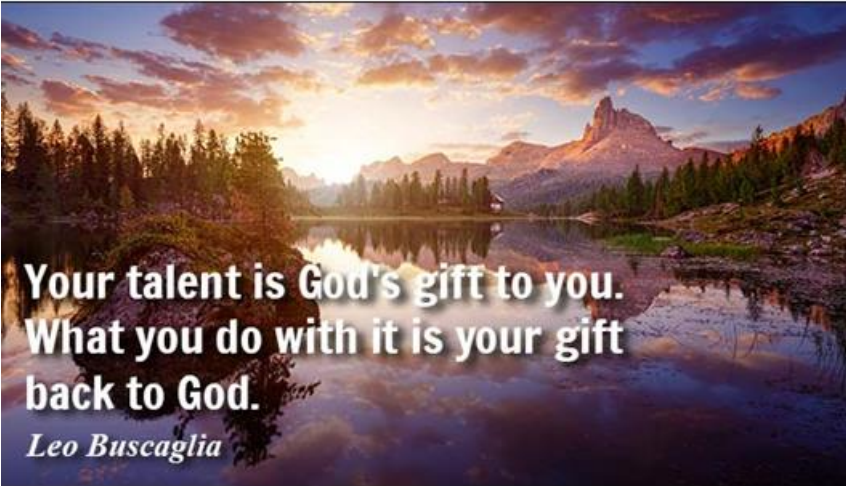
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NAME:

AGE:

Once coloured we would love to see your artwork on our Church noticeboard.



**Your talent is God's gift to you.
What you do with it is your gift
back to God.**

Leo Buscaglia