



The Pulse

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

February 2016 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



My daughter in Australia sent me a card recently with a photo of a man on a jig, chopping a huge Blue Gum tree down with an axe. The man wanted to catch up on his workload in 1936, Long Creek, Kyogle, NSW, so he decided to work on a Sunday. It was necessary for him to pay the local council one pound to cut the tree down on the Sabbath.

Imagine our government of today enforcing a rest day to honour God one day a week!

It is when we rest that our minds settle down, our priorities get sorted, and we draw close to God.

I don't do it enough – do you?

I have just finished reading Billy Graham's latest and last book, 'Where I am – Heaven, Eternity and our life beyond'. It is a wonder-filled and hope-filled book. I guess at the age of 97 he has had time to rest, settle his mind down, and have the top priority of eternal life with God sorted.

As I write this, Jo and I are preparing for a holiday in Northland as the first part of my seven week long service leave. I am looking forward to my mind settling down, my priorities getting sorted, and drawing close to God. This is the first time I have taken long service leave after twenty four years in pastoral ministry and forty five years of working in caring roles with people. That is not something to boast about. It would have been healthier for me to take other long service leave that had been due in the past. But, possibly like you, we just carry on because we believe passionately in what we are doing.

Over the last few years I have had an interest in the Te Waiora Christian Retreat ministry at Hororata. I see it as a little bit of sanity in a crazy world. A spacious place, peaceful and quiet. It is a place that provides the rest that settles minds, restores priorities, and reveals that God is really close.

1 Chronicles 4:40 "They found rich, good pasture, and the land was spacious, peaceful and quiet."

It was around this time that Jabez cried out to God, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." (1 Chronicles 4:10)

This is likely to be the cry of some of the guests at Te Waiora. It is good that a spacious place of peace and quiet can be provided for them. We all need places and times of rest so that our mind can settle down, priorities can get corrected, and we find ourselves drawing close to God.

Can our parish increasingly become a provider of refuge for those whose minds are racing, whose priorities have become messed up, and who don't know our Lord Jesus and the love of God?

May 2016 be an exciting and surprising year of discovering afresh the closeness of our God.

Blessings, Paul.

Message from Campbell McMath of the Leeston Sector Group



- The Painting is complete for the church.
- Murray and Merv completed some tree trimming around the church.
- Lifetouch Fellowship continues.
- Wendy Christie's Piano Performance on the 5th December was successful.
- Youth Café held at the McMath's Farm for the end of the year 2015 had a good turnout, and fun was had by all.
- The Christmas Eve service was enjoyed by a reasonable crowd.
- There is concern about people not turning up for their duties, please remember to check if you have any duties coming up.
- Newcomer's lunch is looking likely to be around April 2016.
- Wouter Verwoerd is doing a great job on the church website, many thanks to him. www.churchatellesmere.org.nz

Message from Robbie Stewart of the Trinity Community Church Dunsandel



November started off on a sad note with the funeral of Pam Frampton on the 12th. A large number gathered at Trinity to farewell a much loved and respected member of the Dunsandel Community. As well as being a longstanding member of both Trinity and The Women's Fellowship, Pam was well known

for her great love of gardening, her garden was always much admired by all who passed by.

The Trinity Carol Service on the 20th was very well attended, arguably the largest turnout for several years. Huge thanks to all who helped. The short play performed by pupils from Dunsandel School, ably guided and assisted by Jill Chamberlain and Rosaline Brown, was particularly enjoyed. The Carol singing was superb.

Trinity had its usual Christmas Eve Service which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Several of those attending were visitors to the area.

The Women's Fellowship broke with tradition and invited men along to their December meeting at Jean Rowe's. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed Jean's wonderful hospitality and the tour of her well-manicured garden.

Trinity members have, as always, enjoyed the January Parish Services. Well attended, plenty of volume in the singing, a thought provoking message from either Lynn or Paul and enjoyable banter at the cuppa afterwards. A great way to start the year.

Best wishes to Paul and Jo for many, many happy years in their new home at Staveley.

After all the business over Christmas and the New Year, Trinity members are settling back into their usual routine and are in an optimistic mood looking forward to the rest of 2016.

Ellesmere Community Care

Thank you to all those who gave so generously, including the St. David's Evening and Afternoon Fellowship groups. The Ellesmere Lions and Santa's Workshop (Wooden Toys) in Christchurch also contribute handsomely to the ECCO Hampers.



This year we delivered 47 parcels to those living alone, families in need and some who needed encouragement. This is an increase again on 2015, and ECCO is pleased to bring some Christmas cheer to those in our Community. The hampers are delivered by ECCO Committee throughout Leeston, Southbridge and Dunsandel districts, and it is a pleasure to see the delight on the recipients' faces.

Thanks again to all who contributed so generously.

Home Groups

St. David's Afternoon Fellowship

Julie Holmes from St. John, came to our November meeting and spoke about medical alarms, caring caller, and lock boxes. Her relaxed style and sense of humour made for an informative and entertaining afternoon.

Our Christmas luncheon was held at the home of Cheryl Hall in Southbridge, when members and friends enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas meal and fellowship together.

Sadness has come to our group, in the passing of Ngaire Wilson and Bill Speirs, our President's husband.

Our meetings commence in February, and we pray God's blessing on our group, as we start another year.

St. David's Fellowship

Our November meeting was held at Francie Prosser's warm home on a cold afternoon – methinks spring has passed us by!

Noeline led our Devotions – with an article published in Time Magazine – entitled "Eight steps toward a More Satisfying Life". Most interesting steps and well worth following along life's way. Lorraine Bampton was our speaker telling us about her travels in South America visiting Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil. She had always wanted to visit the Sacred Valley of Inca and Lake Titicaca with its reed islands and was not disappointed – the mountains and scenery too were just amazing. To see the Statue of Christ the Redeemer – the highest statue in the world was another amazing highlight.

December – our Christmas luncheon meeting was held in the foyer with Hilary leading the meeting and devotions. The recreated Christmas story – 'Let us keep Christ in Christmas' – narrated by Hilary with members reading the characters' story lines interspersed with appropriate carols brought the true Christmas message to us all. Following the meeting, the members enjoyed a delicious festive lunch.

Members donated a lovely collection of Christmas gifts and groceries for ECCO to distribute to local families.

Who Does What?

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should make the coffee each morning.

The wife said “You should do it because you get up first and then we don’t have to wait as long to get our coffee”.



The husband said, “You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it because that is your job and I can just wait for my coffee”.

Wife replies, “No, you should do it and besides it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee”.

Husband replies, “I can’t believe that, show me”. So she fetched the Bible and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages that it says: “HEBREWS”.

What's happening at St David's Place?

For months now many people have been asking, "What's happening". Since both partners of our Cooperating Parish pulled out of Retirement villages the committee have worked hard to resolve the non-compliance status we are in with the Retirement Villages Act.

It has become clear in our discussions that the original vision of St. David's Place to provide low cost housing to over 60s who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford good quality housing, is coming to an end. This is due to the unintended consequences of the Government's reaction to abuse of elderly people's financial situation in residential care by some large organisations, and the subsequent formation of the Retirement Villages Act.

This is a broad sweep Act which has meant that many small operators are not now able to operate.

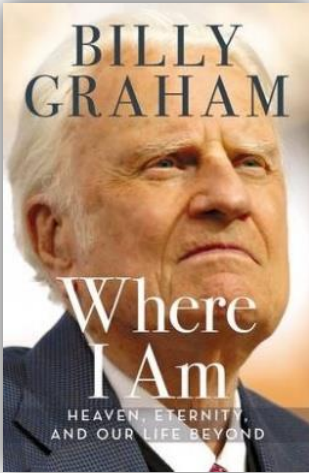
The Presbyterian Property Trustees became very nervous about our non-compliance status and recommended that the Parish either use their own investment monies or get a loan from the Baptist Investment Fund, in order to pay out the licensees. The restrictions of the Retirement Villages Act means we can for the present only rent the three vacant units.

The other recommendation of the trustees was to develop Unit Titles. We have started this process by engaging a professional consultant. It will take several months to complete the process before we can sell units on the open market. It is a two-stage process – stage one being an Agreement to Rent. Stage two will be an Agreement to Sell.

The trustees of both our partner churches encouraged us to try and see the great value that St. David's Place has been over the years and that this is not a failure of that ministry, but the results of a wider issue which we cannot change.

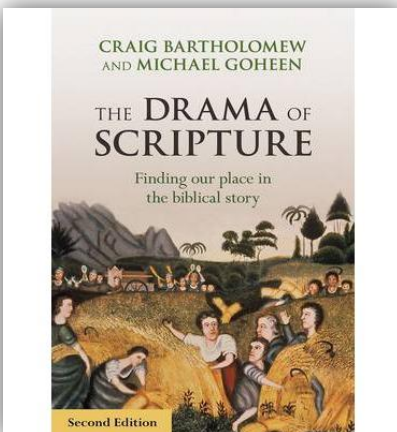
We will be working through a property manager with the renting of the three units. If anyone has any other queries please phone Noel Dalley 329 1877.

Recommended Reading:

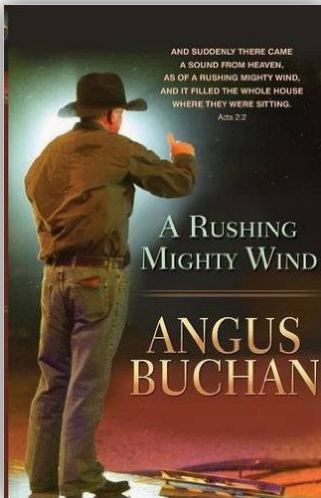


Great for helping to get our priorities right!

Good reading to remind us what it is to be a Christian.



If you want to dig in a bit to discover the big story of the Bible, this book is for you! Laidlaw Theological College has used this book as a basis for a course on telling the big story of God interacting with his people.



A faith-stimulating book!
If you have doubts or
questions about the present-day
power and wonder of God, then
this is for you.

These books can be ordered online ...
(just google the title and author),
or from Manna Bookshop, Amyes Rd., Hornby
(Next to Hope Presbyterian Church), Phone 349 8870



Message to those on our Rosters



The Rosters for the tasks involved in keeping St. David's Church running smoothly and efficiently for 2016 are now in the process of being updated. These include Cleaning, Morning Tea, Bible Readers, Door Stewards and Lawn Mowing. Included on these rosters is a list of duties and other instructions.

Please read carefully and carry out as suggested, especially contacting those on duty the following week. This ensures all the tasks are carried out and shared amongst the congregation.

If you would like to be added to these Rosters in the future please contact: Campbell McMath, ph 324 4075; or email: campbell@keaenergy.nz



Upcoming Event

**Parish Service, Picnic and BBQ,
Sunday February 21st, 11am,
Community Hall, Killinchy
On wet or fine**



We will again join with the Anglican Parish for a time of fellowship.

BBQ's, sausages and bread will be provided, and you can bring your own other meat if desired. Please bring lunch to share, along with plates, cutlery etc. Folding chairs and sun umbrellas will also come in handy. The hall is available for tea making facilities.

There will be some Old Time Games and Competitions for all to partake! Bring your family and friends for worship and fun! Everyone is welcome.

Service & Events details Feb 16 to Apr 16

FEB	
Sun 7 Feb	Communion Services 9.30am at St. David's, Leeston – including H2O Children's Programme 11.00am at Trinity, Dunsandel 7.30pm at St. Luke's, Brookside (Anglican)
Sun 14 Feb	Worship Services 9.30am at St. David's Leeston including H2O Children's Programme 11.00am at Trinity, Dunsandel
Fri 19 Feb	7.30pm A Time of Worship at St. David's, Leeston
Sun 21 Feb	11.00am Combined Parish Service & Picnic at Killinchy
Thu 25 Feb	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm at Trinity, Dunsandel
Sun 28 Feb	Worship Service at 9.30am St. David's, Leeston Café Church at 10.45am Trinity, Dunsandel
MAR	
Tue 1 Mar	9.30am Southbridge Home Group at 83 High St
Thu 3 Mar	7.00pm Men's Group at St. David's Hall - \$5 for meal
Sun 6 Mar	Communion Services 9.30am at St. David's, Leeston including H2O Children's Programme 11.00am at Trinity, Dunsandel 7.30pm at St. Luke's, Brookside (Anglican) Pizza Café (for Youth) 5.00pm at St. David's, Leeston
Thu 10 Mar	Leeston Sector meeting 7.30pm at St. David's
Sun 13 Mar	Worship Services 9.30am at St. David's Leeston including H2O Children's Programme 11.00am at Trinity, Dunsandel
Thu 17 Mar	Dunsandel Sector meeting 7.30pm at Trinity, Dunsandel
Fri 18 Mar	7.30pm A Time of Worship at St. David's, Leeston
Sun 20 Mar	Palm Sunday 9.30am at St. David's, Leeston including H2O Children's Programme 11.00am at Trinity, Dunsandel (Anglican) 7.30pm St. Luke's, Brookside
Thu 24 Mar	7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity, Dunsandel

TBA	Parish Council meeting at Brookside – date to be decided
Fri 25 Mar	10.00am Good Friday Combined Churches service
Sun 27 Mar	Easter Sunday services at 9.30am St. David's, Leeston 11.00am at Trinity, Dunsandel
APR	
Sun 3 Apr	Communion Services 9.30am at St. David's, Leeston including H2O Children's Programme 11.00am at Trinity, Dunsandel 7.30pm at St. Luke's, Brookside (Anglican)
Tue 5 Apr	9.30am Southbridge Home Group at 83 High St
Thu 7 Apr	7.30pm Men's Group at St. David's Hall - \$5 for meal
Sun 10 Apr	9.30am Family Service at St. David's, Leeston 11.00am Worship Service at Trinity, Dunsandel
Fri 15 Apr	7.30pm A Time of Worship at St. David's, Leeston
Sun 17 Apr	Worship Services 9.30am at St. David's, Leeston including H2O Children's Programme 11.00am at Trinity, Dunsandel (Anglican) 7.30pm at St. Luke's, Brookside
Thu 21 Apr	Dunsandel Sector meeting 7.30pm at Trinity
Sun 24 Apr	Worship Service at 9.30am St. David's, Leeston Café Church at 10.45am Trinity, Dunsandel
Thu 28 Apr	7.30pm Parish Council meeting at Leeston

CONTACT DETAILS	
Minister	Phone
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Email	ellesmerecp@xtra.co.nz
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Teena Dela Cruz	324 2240
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 2016
Contact person	Julie Taylor, Ph: 324 2347

CHILDREN'S PAGE



NAME:

AGE:

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

"Be careful how you think;
your life is shaped by your
thoughts."

Proverbs 4:23

