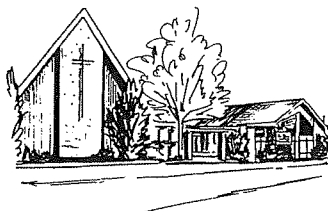


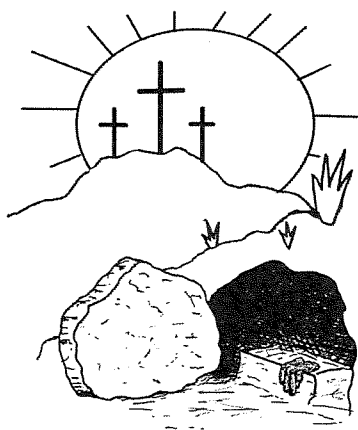
St David's Union Church Allenton, Ashburton

Parish Newsletter APRIL 2024



FROM OUR MINISTER:

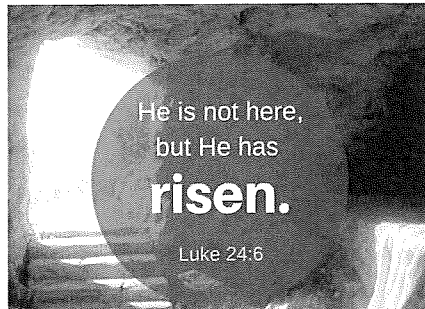
Greetings



The Easter holiday for some of us is an opportunity to be with family and also an opportunity to join a worshipping congregation for Good Friday and Easter services. While Easter is a time for some people to catch up with family and friends, for Christians Easter time gives us an opportunity to reflect on why Jesus Christ of Nazareth came to us.

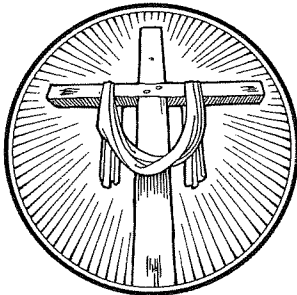
Some people have said that Christmas is a time of good will and hope. I agree with this thought, and I also believe therefore, that Easter is a time of renewed hope and peace, forgiveness and reconciliation. While Christmas marks the birth of Christ among us, Easter on the other hand marks our rebirth into the household of God, if we believe in Jesus' life, work, death and resurrection. Easter for many Christians is about the renewal of life, because of Christ who died and rose again. Easter is also about the celebration of a morning of light, hope and relief for the women and the disciples who went to the tomb of Jesus Christ which they found empty.

Your Parish Visitor



In Luke 24: 2-6 we read-

When they (the women) found the stone rolled away from the entrance, they went in. But they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus, and they did not know what to think. Suddenly two men in shining white clothes stood beside them. The women were afraid and bowed to the ground. But the men said, "Why are you looking in the place of the dead for someone who is alive? Jesus isn't here! He has been raised from death.



As the early followers of Christ found joy and peace when Jesus arose from the dead, followers of Christ today can find peace and joy in the Lord not only at Easter time but always.

After a long night of despair and fear, we have testimony in the Gospels and Acts that the disciples became courageous and proclaimed the message of renewed hope in Jesus Christ. This was possible because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter gives us courage to face life and know that it is possible to overcome the challenges of life strengthened by the resurrected Lord.

Christians ought to see Easter as a *festival* that celebrates the greatest of all victories: the triumph of life over death. In overcoming death, Jesus has brought reconciliation over estrangement and freedom over the power and bondage of sin.

Today in our world where there is a constant threat of war, violence and oppression, Easter then must remind us that we ought to give our lives to the works of hope, healing, reconciliation, and peace as exemplified by the Lord. Our world today is desperately in need of these gifts of hope, healing, reconciliation, and peace. It is these gifts that bring about renewal in people's lives. May I therefore humbly encourage you to work for renewed hope, healing, reconciliation and peace in our families and wider community.

Peace and Grace to you all and may you have a blessed Easter.

Rev. Henry Mbambo

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World Day of Prayer Report

Thank you to all those who attended World Day of Prayer 2024 and a big thank you to Joy who spoke. The Service went well and there were comments it was very moving. Offering amounted to \$546.70.

2025 service will be prepared by WDOP Committee, Cook Islands, theme "I Made You Wonderful" it will be held at the Catholic Church.

Thank you.

Kathleen Vessey

*Thank
you.*

MODERATOR'S 2024**EASTER MESSAGE**

I have been in ministry for 26 years now, and every Easter, I find myself experiencing the same dynamic. I cannot begin to write my Easter Day sermon until I have led/attended the Good Friday service. I need to first go through the Good Friday experience. It is a process of following the story, and not engaging with the resurrection account until after the crucifixion. Without reflecting on the events of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion, we cannot fully appreciate the joy and significance of the resurrection.

Easter is at the heart of our faith. And the narrative it brings to us – that life is stronger than death, that hope is stronger than despair, that the light is stronger than the darkness - makes us an Easter people. People of the resurrection. That large narrative provides a framework in which we live out our lives.

When we have those times of 'walking through the valley of death', we carry with us a sense of that overarching hope. When we are racked with grief, we have the inherent hope that healing and wholeness will come. And through the cross of Jesus Christ, we have the assurance of coming into deep relationship with God our Creator. There is a reuniting, a reintegration of that which has been torn asunder.

The word salvation comes from the Latin root of *salus* or *salvus*, which can be translated as health. To be whole, to be integrated. Reintegrating, reuniting from what we were estranged from, equipping us for the kind of life our Creator intended us to have.

HE IS
Risen

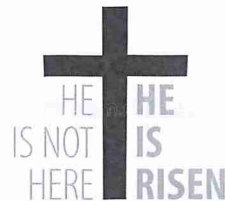
Resurrection is mystery and promise, reality and hope.

The dimension of hope was fundamental to the thinking of the New Testament writers. The suffering of Christ and the suffering Christians were undergoing were the birth pangs of a new age. In Christ, God had begun to move with power. Christian faith was faith in one who had raised Christ from the dead and therefore they could persevere with hope and confidence, joy and expectation.

And that continues to speak to us today. The resurrection event of Easter is not just something we remember as a past event, it is a continuing reality which gives us hope today. We live in a world that is in real need of a sense of hope. Individuals, communities, countries alike. There are many who are feeling disconnected, isolated, overwhelmed with the pressures around them and the polarization of society. The Easter narrative has something important to offer in this space. A word of hope into situations of despair. A promise of reintegration after brokenness. A sense of 'gathering in' as opposed to separating out. Relationship with the Risen Christ who connects with us on this journey of life and holds out the promise of fullness of life. In Christ all things are made new.

This Easter may we all experience afresh the life-giving joy of being people of the resurrection, and may that be something we in turn live out in our communities.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!



Right Rev Rose Luxford

***Moderator of Presbyterian Church Aotearoa
New Zealand***

Bible Study – We will resume in term 2 on Wednesday 1st May at 1.30 pm in the church fellowship room. Thursday evening bible study will resume the following evening at 7.30 pm at Alison Early's home. We will study Leviticus, Jesus and us: Themes of Leviticus.

Leviticus is all about the Lord's intense desire to draw close to his people Israel and for them to draw close to him. But God is holy, and they are not. How could they possibly draw near to him? Through the instructions of Leviticus, God gave his people the answer. Perhaps to our surprise, Leviticus was good news for ancient Israel!



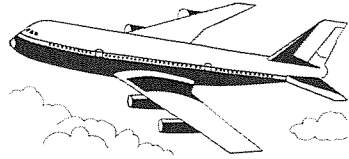
Why then would we study

Leviticus? All of God's word – including Leviticus – teaches and equips us to serve him (2 Timothy 3: 16-17).

Leviticus helps us understand:

- God's holiness and grace
- Our sin and its deep cost
- God's unfolding plan of salvation
- How Old Testament laws expressed God's character
- Our privilege, living when animal sacrifice is no longer necessary
- How much God wants us to live Holy lives
- What we mean when we say Jesus died for us

All welcome to come along. Any enquires please contact Nikki Read 308 8685.



A boy asked his Father—Dad,
what is the size of GOD?

Then the Father looked up at the sky and saw a plane and
asked his son -

What is the size of this plane?

The boy replied— it is very small I can hardly see it. Then,
the father took him to the airport and as they approached
a plane, he asked—Now my Son, how big is this plane?

The boy replied—Wow Dad, it's huge!

Then the father told him—GOD's size depends on how
close you are to him, the Greater and Greater he will be in
your life!

Sent by Isobel Gentle

FUNERALS

Margaret Yvonne MacDONALD 12 March 2024

Sympathy to Family and Friends



Worship Services April 2024

Wednesday 3 April Rev Henry Mbambo	11.30 am	Midweek Service, Communion & Lunch
Sunday 7 April Rev Helen Wallis	9.30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday 9 April Rev Henry Mbambo	11.00 am	Rosebank Rest Home Service
Sunday 14 April Rev Henry Mbambo	9:30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday 16 April Rev Henry Mbambo	11:00 am	Radius Millstream Service
Wednesday 17 April Rev Henry Mbambo	11.30 am	Midweek Service & Lunch
Sunday 21 April Jill Hazeldine	9.30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday 23 April Rev Henry Mbambo	10.45 am	Terraceview Rest Home Service
Sunday 28 April Rev Henry Mbambo	9:30am	Worship Service

Readings and Sermons from worship services each Sunday are available to listen to on the church website—www.stdavidsashburton.org

The Core values below are what will support the vision of our church, shaping our culture, and reflect what our church values.

The Centrality of the Gospel

The gospel is the message of hope for the world and grace for the sinner. It is not just a collection of the words of truth spoken by Jesus over 2000 years ago, but the very power of God which transforms, grows, changes, and shapes everything today.

Worship

Encourage and facilitate the worship of God in spirit and truth in order that God would be glorified and His people would find complete satisfaction in Him.

Discipleship

It is God's desire for those who have put their faith in Christ that they become lifelong disciples deepening their faith as God's people who are being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to be Christ like. Discipleship will provide followers of Jesus a safe place and resources to develop a deeper relationship with God.

Prayer

Maintaining a humble posture of prayer both corporately and individually in order to experience the presence and power of God in all aspects of our ministry and life.

Mission and Outreach

Being obedient to Christ's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, we will seek to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ with integrity and in love in the city and to the ends of the world.

Fellowship

Encourage small fellowship Groups in order to strength relationships as brothers and sister in Christ, encouraging one another for spiritual nourishment.

Stewardship

Honoring God with our lives by understanding what it means to manage responsibly and giving generously, cheerfully, and sacrificially of our talents, treasures, and time.

FITNESS AND EXERCISE GROUPS

**Every Monday at 6.00 am and 6.00 pm
and Wednesday and Friday at 6.00 am—
Circuit Training**

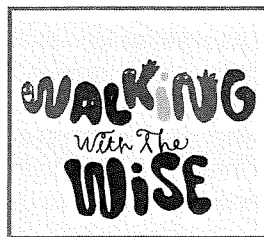
Sweaty Bettys Exercise Group meets in the hall



Every Wednesday at 9.30 am
Steady As You Go Exercise Group
Meet in the Fellowship Room

Every Tuesday at 9.30 am
Walking Group meets at the church

EVERYONE WELCOME



Meetings of Parish Council, Work Groups and Committees

Parish Council

1st Wednesday of the month

Parish Council Executive—meets occasionally as
required

Christian Education

Christian Education Team meet monthly.

Worship Committee

3rd Thursday most months at 2.00 pm in the Lounge

Pastoral Committee

—occasional meetings

Finance Committee

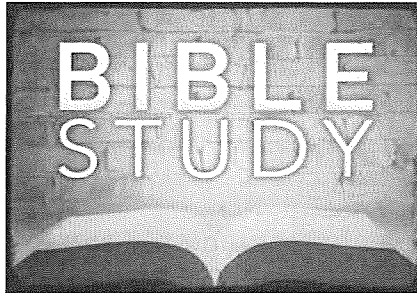
—occasional meetings

Property Committee

—occasional meetings

Prayer Gatherings and Growth Groups

Bible Study Groups: Every Wednesday afternoon from 1.30 pm in the fellowship room and Thursday evenings from 7.30pm at 15 Falcon Drive.



CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

FIT KIDZ

Every Thursday 10.00 am—in the fellowship room—
A music and movement programme for
0—5 year olds and their parents/caregivers.
Cost: \$2 per child and a piece of fruit
for a shared morning tea.



St David's Union Church, Allenton, Ashburton

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Parish Visitors: Janet Fisher 027 413 9326 &

Phillipa Yates 027 308 7644

Office Administrator: Jan Squires

Newsletter Editor: Rae Magson—raejohn@xtra.co.nz

Parish Office Hours: Tuesdays to Fridays 10.00 am to 12.30 pm,

Email: office@st-davids.org.nz

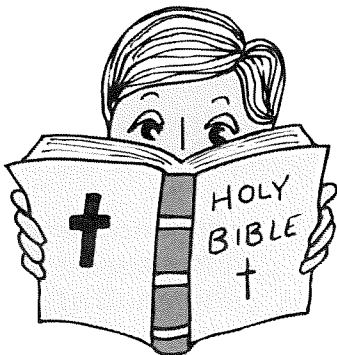
Website: www.stdavidsashburton.org

All staff members can be contacted through the church office, Phone 022 166 9712.

Pastoral: The minister is available for pastoral care needs. Please call the office 022 166 9712 to make an appointment, or talk to Henry after the Sunday worship services to make an appointment. If you know anyone who is in hospital, please let Henry know.

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairperson	David Henson
Secretary	Alison Early
Treasurer	David Fisher
Envelope Secretary	Peter Yates



Closing date for the
next newsletter will be

19 April 2024