

St David's Union Church, Allenton, Ashburton

Minister: Rev Henry Mbambo—minister@st-davids.org.nz

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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

13 MARCH

2026

St David's Union Church Allenton, Ashburton

Parish Newsletter MARCH 2026



FROM OUR MINISTER

LENT 2026

The season of Lent prepares us for Good Friday and Easter. There are various traditions in following and observing Lent that Christians over centuries have practiced. Lent in some traditions starts with a service called Ash Wednesday service which this year was on Wednesday, February 18.

Even though Ash Wednesday is not a biblical requirement (just like Christmas and Easter, which are not commanded in Scripture) it can be a meaningful day to observe in one's faith to mark the start of Lent. Again, in some Christians traditions, the season of Lent, is marked by the imposition of ashes on the believer's forehead in the shape of a cross by a *minister*. This is a sign of repentance and forgiveness of God in Christ Jesus. The Biblical reference for this comes from

**Why I abhor myself, and
repent in dust and ashes.**

—Job 42:6

Parish Visitor

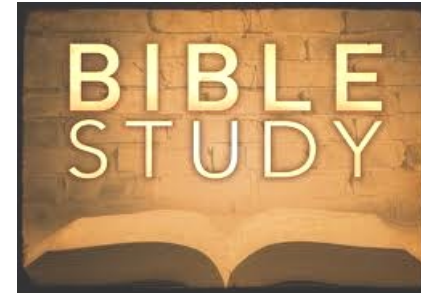
In Presbyterian or Methodist circles, Lent has started coming back and is being observed by many people. I have observed in the recent past that during Lent, Social Agencies linked to the Presbyterian (Presbyterian Support) and Methodist Churches (Methodist Mission) highlight issues of social justice during Lent. This, it seems, makes a lot of sense because when you consider the season of Lent, it is those 40 days (46 if you included Sundays) when Christians used to *Pray, Fast and Do good works* as a way of preparing themselves for the Passion of Christ who has brought God's justice. This year, we have not marked the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service but we will certainly observe the Maundy Thursday event and so I invite you to plan to attend that service on April 2, 2026 at 7pm where we will conclude the Lenten season. Towards the of Lent, we will see a lot of purple colour in church which symbolizes Jesus' pain and suffering, representing the mourning and penitence of the season. I hope that you will observe the season of Lent with a spiritual discipline that will help you prepare for the Easter event this year. I hope that observing Lent this year will give us the space to continue to grow in our faith as we reflect on the magnitude of God's gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. Best wishes and God's blessings.



Henry Mbambo

Prayer Gatherings and Growth Groups

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



CHILDRENACTIVITIES

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.



FITNESS AND EXERCISE GROUPS

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

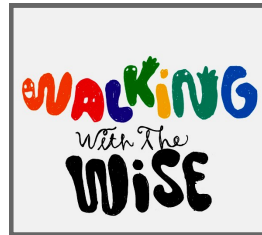
Sweaty Bettys Exercise Group meets in the hall



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 every second month

Parish Council Executive—meets occasionally as
required

Christian Education & Worship Committee meet as required

Pastoral Committee, Finance Committee & Property Committee
meet as required.

Invitation

Please keep Monday afternoon, April 13, free and join our
1936 birthday girls and friends in the church hall for fun and
nostalgic entertainment.

Lorraine Kerr

Share The Wealth

The greatest heritage we have to give is the heritage of lives
lived. And these can only be told in stories.

So often we hold back.

We think others don't care to hear our stories,

aren't interested in our joys,

have no time to pray over our pain.

But if the stories are not shared,

the joys are not celebrated,

the pains are not revealed,

**the work grows dim and cold
and empty**

**and something of the precious gift
is lost.**



CWCI^{INC}
SUMMER RETREAT TOUR 2026

..... what does the **LORD**
require of you but to do justice,
to love kindness, and to walk
humbly with your God. *Micah 6:8*

Julie Potts
MELBOURNE

Julie has a passion for equipping women and sharing God's Word. She was born in Hawkes Bay but moved to Melbourne in 2002. She is married with 3 grown children, 3 grandchildren and is a registered nurse, currently working as an endoscopy specialist.

Queenstown weekend: 6-8 March
Ashburton: Tuesday 10 March
Nelson: Wednesday 11 March
Auckland Day: Saturday 14 March
Gisborne Day: Tuesday 17 March
Havelock North: Thursday 19 March
Matamata Day: Saturday 21 March
for more information see cwcinz.org.nz

WWW.CWCINZ.ORG.NZ CONNECTING WOMEN TO CHRIST

Communion Wafers Introduced from March 1

At our March 1st Communion Service, our parish will transition to the use of communion wafers at all communion services.

This decision was made by Parish Council after thoughtful discussion and careful consideration of both the practical and pastoral needs within our community.

The introduction of wafers will help ensure that all members of our parish family, including those who are gluten-intolerant, can participate fully and safely in Holy Communion.

The meaning and significance of Holy Communion remain unchanged. We continue to share in the body of Christ with reverence, unity, and gratitude.

We appreciate everyone's understanding as we make this small but meaningful adjustment. If you have any questions, please know that you are welcome to speak with the minister or any member of Parish Council.

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

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

Worship Services March 2026

Sunday 1 March Rev Henry Mbambo	9:30am	Worship & Communion Service
Wednesday 4 March Rev Henry Mbambo	11.30 am	Midweek Service, Communion & Lunch
Friday 6 March	10:30am	World Day of Prayer Service @ St David's
Sunday 8 March Rev Henry Mbambo	9:30am	Worship Service
Tuesday 10 March Rev Henry Mbambo	11.00 am	Rosebank Rest Home Service
Sunday 15 March Rev Henry Mbambo	9.30 am 11.15 am	Harvest Festival - St David's Harvest Festival - Greenstreet
Tuesday 17 March Rev Henry Mbambo	11:00am	Radius Millstream Service
Wednesday 18 March Rev Henry Mbambo	11.30 am	Midweek Service & Lunch
Sunday 22 March Rev Henry Mbambo	9:30am	Worship Service
Tuesday 24 March Rev Henry Mbambo	11.00 am	Terraceview Rest Home Service
Sunday 29 March Rev Henry Mbambo	9.30 am	Combined Worship Service @ St David's

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

The Hope Booklets

Being distributed again this Easter. It is every second year now. Thanks for St David's folk for helping in distributing them again this year.

Hope Project is about keeping stories of faith and hope alive in a nation that has been significantly shaped by them — through over 200 years of local history. The media efforts began from the united Christian celebrations in 2014 marking the bicentenary of Chief Ruatara's invitation to the Rev Samuel Marsden to bring the Christian message — among other teachings and trades — to his people here in New Zealand. This moment marked the beginning of a hope-filled bicultural partnership between Māori and Pākehā. Early connections were remarkably positive.

Through Hope Project, we revisit that positive spirit which so strongly marked our early beginnings — sharing stories of hope and faith from both past and present, with the desire that together we continue to make New Zealand a more hope-filled place.

Many people are struggling to find hope, while this faith offers a uniquely hope-filled view of life. Spirituality is often being downplayed while we believe it has great value.

WHY OF HOPE PROJECT?

Hope Project started in 2014 and exists to share messages of hope, mostly from a Christian viewpoint. It also exists to maintain an awareness and knowledge of our history as a nation connected with our national values, biculturalism and cultural festivals.



What sort of people do we need in NZ Parliament and politics?

It's a timely question, because this is an election year, and in the next while all parties will be choosing and ranking candidates. We all have the privilege of voting, and who is in Parliament does help shape our country – for good or for ill.

Regardless of where MPs may sit in the political spectrum, and whether or not they are Christians, we need MPs who are discerning, honest, and respectful, who are not driven by extreme ideologies or vested interests, who are fair-minded and reasonable, who will help protect the environment, who have a love for people of all cultures, and who seek the wellbeing of all (not just some). We need those who understand moral and spiritual issues, who have the courage to think for themselves, and who will resist the pressures towards even more liberal policies in such areas as doctor-assisted suicide, abortion, drugs, marriage, and sexual and gender education. We also need MPs who genuinely respect people of faith, and who will better safeguard freedoms of conscience.

As for Christians, we always need Christian candidates and MPs who hold firmly to God's truth, have the courage of their convictions, and conduct themselves with much Christian wisdom and grace. We need committed Christian believers across as many political parties as possible, shining the light of Christ in very contested contexts. We need Christians to be active in helping select candidates, and in helping formulate party policies. Pray for those dedicated Christians who are already Members of Parliament. Pray for more to join them, at this year's election.

Some relevant scriptures:

- 'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven' (Matt. 5:16)

- 'Open your mouth, judge righteously, plead the cause of the poor and needy' (Prov. 31:7-8)

Called, Equipped and Sent

- 'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect' (1 Pet. 3:15)

- [Pray for] 'all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness' (1 Tim. 2:2)

Dr Stuart Lange
(Sent by Jim Young)

WORLD DAY of PRAYER

WDOP Service this year is being held at St David's Church on **FRIDAY 6th MARCH at 10am**. St David's is required to provide morning tea so all who attend from our parish are asked to bring a plate of something buttered, slices or biscuits. The service has been prepared by WDOP Nigeria "I Will Give You Rest: Come"

As hosts it is important to have a strong attendance from St David's parishioners.

I am looking for some help on the day **please** ring Kathleen 3086247 or 02735367190.

Thank you.

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

FUNERAL

Joy FLEMING 22 December 2025



Sympathy to family and friends