

Welcome to the first edition of the Cashmere e-Connection, which is being sent to all those who previously received print editions of our quarterly parish magazine, and for whom we hold email addresses.

Feel free to pass this on to others who may be interested in what is going on.

The Invitations of Lent

Lent is a time of **instruction**, a time of **invitation**, **illumination**, **intention**, a time when God, who always takes the **initiative** in our faith journey, may be drawing us deeper into himself.

Barbara Sampson has put together a booklet of studies for the period of Lent 2018, and copies can be obtained from the Church Office, or download it here: [The Invitations of Lent](#)

Barbara was a Salvation Army officer in active ministry for 40 years. Her final official appointment before retirement was as director at Hornby Community Ministries where she worked with staff and a large team of volunteers dealing with broken people and helping to rebuild community in the aftermath of the earthquakes.

She is a published author, spiritual director and retreat giver. She has one husband, two children and eleven grandchildren. Barbara delights to call herself a contemplative and is daily nourished by prayer in her relationship with God. She loves encouraging other people's personal growth through spiritual direction, supervision and the conducting of retreats and prayer days. She says, 'What I love most of all is opening a door so that people can grow in their relationship with God.'
Barbara will be preaching at Cashmere Presbyterian Church on Sunday 25 February.

*Hi Everyone,
I'm Paige Wilke and I've taken up the job here at Cashmere of creating fun and engaging Children and Youth programmes. I'm really excited for the potential growth that Cashmere has in this area.*

I have a Diploma in Youth and Community Studies from Praxis New Zealand and spent two years doing an internship under a youth pastor at South West Baptist.

If you have any dreams, thoughts, or questions feel free to contact me on the details below.

*Please keep our programmes and young people in your prayers.
(Contact Paige: paigeforbes96@gmail.com; 0278204087)*



From the Minister

Sorry to sound morbid but I'm thinking about death. It is Ash Wednesday as I write this; I've been to a service this morning and had a cross marked on my forehead with ashes and oil. Traditionally the start of Lent is a challenge to remember our own mortality and limitation: 'ashes to ashes, dust to dust'.

The husband of a dear friend of mine is dying. He is a Professor of Accounting and a really cool guy. Kerry has most courageously shared his thoughts about the whole dying/cancer thing with his friends on Facebook. Yesterday he wrote: "As I sit here on the oxygen breathing machine - the coma stage is a reasonable prospect. And despite protests from friends, little things like whisky and coffee are nearly

beyond my ability. The challenge on most counts is to let go graciously."

We've all been in that place of having to let go of someone we love, and one day we'll all be where Kerry is today, tackling the challenge of letting go graciously. Death is not the enemy and death is not the end, but our culture is 'dead scared' of it. The Christian faith claims that God is outside of time and space, alive beyond life as we know it, and that through Jesus Christ we are welcomed with open arms into everlasting love. This does not in any way deny the pain of loss and letting go, but it immerses our pain into a much bigger story.

Lent draws us into the story of the cross, as the pattern for our faith, our life, and our death. In full confidence in the resurrection of Jesus we can be courageous about death. Don't get tangled up in the anxieties of other people. Dance your way out of this life and leap into the next!

It is really helpful to talk about it with your family, and with your minister. I recommend that you fill in a funeral plan. Gail has them in the office and you can download it [Funeral Planning Form](#)

This Lent at Cashmere we are exploring the 'invitations of Lent', which are ways to deepen our faith through deliberate spiritual practices. It is about making space for God in everyday life. We've printed a booklet with readings and suggestions for each week. Don't worry, none of the studies are about death!

Silvia Purdie

Homemade Treats

On the second Sunday of each month, the COOKIE GIRLS will have some homemade treats to sell as an ongoing Parish Fundraiser. Keep an eye on the weekly Bulletin for details of each month's treats. There will be the opportunity to order in advance, if you want to ensure you don't miss out, or just buy on the day.



In February our clever cooks made these delicious quiches - ideal for casual summer lunches!

Plantarama, held at the beginning of November, was our last fundraising event, and it was a great success, with lots of plants for sale, as well as crafts, gifts and, of course, food!

Thank you to all who assisted, and to all who came and made purchases. The total profit from this event was just over \$3000!



Healing Services

Healing Services are held each month, usually on the third Sunday, at 11.30am, and include communion.

All are welcome to attend this service, to come and pray for your own needs, or those of others.

Death and Taxes

(a response to Psalm 49 by Silvia Purdie)

*"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."
(Benjamin Franklin)*

No one can avoid death
even by paying tax to God.
No one could pay enough
to escape the grave.
Rich or poor, wise or stupid,
death will claim you one day
and you walk over empty-handed
leaving your money behind.
So don't trust in your cash
or boast of your assets,
for none of it truly belongs to you.
These bodies of ours will wear out
and then what will you be?
Just a rotting carcass
like a dead sheep in a ditch?
Or will you step through the gate,
cast aside your wallet and your skin,
into light, into glory?
to be loved utterly,
utterly free, wildly alive,
no more fear, no more taxes,
just God.

*This and other re-worked Psalms can
be found on Silvia's website
www.conversations.net.nz*

Sunday Worship

*All at 10am unless otherwise
noted*

25 February

Morning Worship
(2nd Sunday in Lent)

4 March

Communion Service

11 March

Harvest Thanksgiving
Family Service

18 March

Morning Worship
11.30am Healing Service

25 March

Palm Sunday Service

New Ministry Team at St Augustine's

Welcome to Matthew and Clare Ling, who have just arrived from the UK to take up the ministry at St Augustine's Anglican Parish, just down the hill from us

Christmas at Cashmere



December was a busy month, with Carols, Communion, and Family Service, as well as the usual celebrations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. And this year we revived the tradition of **taking carols to some of the rest homes** in the area. Elisabeth Cooch tells us about that:



"It was a lovely, sunny afternoon when a few of us from church went to the Rhodes home to do some singing - carolling to be exact. Silvia brought all the words, we brought all our voices, and together with some of the residents we sang old favourites and much loved Christmas carols. But then Silvia asked me would I now please read a passage from the bible, as she had asked me earlier in the day. Oops - my feather brain forgot to bring the bible. Not to worry, though, Anne produced her cell phone and, hey presto, here was the text for me to read. Modern technology, eh!

We were generously rewarded for our singing with a very nice afternoon tea.



And then, a week later, a similar group went to exercise our vocal chords, first at Thorington Retirement Home, and then to the Bishop Selwyn Home, ending up outside the house of Jean Walls.

Everybody really appreciated our visits, and quite a lot of the people joined in with our singing. It was lovely to see their faces light up and we got a lot of thanks. And, again, it brought it back to me - if you give with a joyful heart, you get back manifold."

A **Nativity Play** was performed at the Family Service on 10th December, with participation from some fabulous children, and Matt and Charlotte playing Mary and Joseph, with baby Edward as Jesus. Well done to all our actors and musicians, and to the support crew who helped with costumes etc

We were blessed with much music during December, with the traditional **Choir Service on 17th December** featuring, for the first time, a Children's Choir, ably led by Dr David Troughton.

Above: Photos from the Nativity Service



And later the same day saw the **Cashmere community Carols** being held just across the road. What a fabulous occasion! And a big "Thank You" to the wonderful band and choir, and the enthusiastic participation of children on bucket drums! A gorgeous warm evening and lovely sense of community!

World Vision Sponsorship

As our previous World Vision Sponsored child, Elvin, has now grown up, our sponsorship has moved to a new child and a new community.

Vory, who is 6 years old, lives in the village of Chi-Kreng in Cambodia, and speaks Khmer. The economy there depends largely on subsistence agriculture (rice, corn and soy beans), however food shortages are experienced because of low crop production, inadequate irrigation and traditional farming methods.

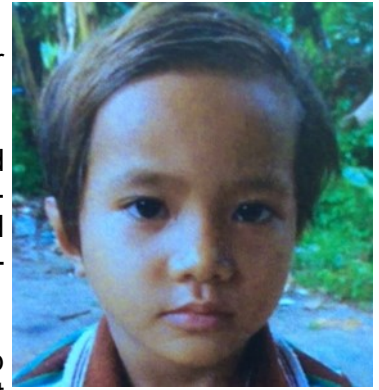
Poverty, inadequate school facilities and children who are required to help parents with household chores, especially girls, cause high dropout rates. Immunisation rates are low and diseases and illnesses such as dengue fever, malaria and diarrhoea are common.

Click here to read [Stories from Chi Kreng Community](#)

Our support to Vory and his community will help to:

- Create economic opportunities
- Ensure they have access to clean water
- Prevent disease and provide access to healthcare
- Ensure children and families have nutritious food
- Give children a chance to go to school and protect them from abuse.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child or community through World Vision, visit their website: www.worldvision.org.nz



People Events

Baptisms:

We welcome into the family of the Church:
Saskia Isla Roberts, daughter of Jason & Angela (28 Jan 2018)

Weddings:

We congratulate and extend our best wishes to:

Zusje Comber & Alex Knowles
(18 November)

Mikaela Mark & Jack Murphy
(25 November)

Ruth Bai & Jacob Hong (2 December)
Erin Paterson & Daniel Redmond
(15 December)

Claire Le Lu & John Tan (28 December)
Fushia Noprada & Craig Clark (1 January)
Annalies Kirk & Daniel Scott (27 January)
Yuen Ke & Kachun Leung (28 January)

Deaths:

We extend our sympathies to the family of:
Kenneth Forne (12 January)

Lent 2018

Welcome to St Anne's Spiritual Gym



During Lent this year, St Anne's invites you to join with them in a journey of spiritual strengthening.

Over the six weeks of Lent the church will be open at certain times, and is set up with 10+ spaces to experience different styles of prayer and praise.

Mentors will also be available to discuss your spiritual life and offer some guidance on how to drill deeper into the love of God and the fullness of your identity in Christ.

Come and experience some of the ancient rhythms of the church. Come and experience new styles of prayer and praise. Come and experience GOD!

Prayer Stations Include

- ~ Lectio Divina
- ~ Praying with Icons
- ~ Daily Office
- ~ Votive Candles
- ~ Spiritual Masters
- ~ Praying with Poetry
- ~ Prayer of Examen
- ~ Journaling
- ~ Penance
- ... and many more

Opening Hours

15 February - 23 March

8-10am Monday, Thursday & Friday
7-9pm Monday

St Anne's Anglican Church (7 Wilson's Rd)

Our neighbours at St Anne's Anglican Church in St Martin's are running a "Spiritual Gym" - a journey of spiritual strengthening, and their invitation is open to all who wish to attend.

What's happening? What's on?
What's being thought about?

The answers to these questions and more can be found on our website: cashmerechurch.org.nz. Here you will find links to our calendar, details of our services and facilities, and you can also download and read recent Sermons, and weekly Bulletins.