

Cashmere Connection

Cashmere Presbyterian Church—linking with its community

Issue Number ninety four—Summer 2018

From the Minister

A Momentous Year

It has been a momentous year for us at Cashmere Presbyterian Church. Three particularly significant things to celebrate:

First, we have welcomed into membership (or associate membership) 16 people, plus 4 past members who have come back into active membership. This is indeed momentous for our parish life, and we give thanks to God for new life and faith commitment.

Second, we celebrate the work that Paige Wilke has done. Paige was employed on a 1-year contract as Family Ministries Co-ordinator, half time. She has been a real asset in getting our children's ministry programme well organised. With Paige's help we have run several youth activities and developed a 'child safe' policy. A major component of her work has been mentoring children at Cashmere Primary School, helping kids improve their social skills and confidence. Her biggest project was running the Cashmere Carnival on 28 October.

Third, our annual conference on public issues was an amazing success this year, with over 120 people attending a seminar

on sustainability and faith, called 'Rich Living'.

And we also celebrate personal achievements within the Congregation: Anne Shave was awarded a PhD, Colin Reid was baptised, Robert Aitken published an astonishing collection of historical recipes, Leith McMurray achieved her Social Work registration.

How about you? Has 2018 been a momentous year for you, or kind of ordinary? Are you celebrating what you have achieved or mourning what you have lost this year? Probably a bit of both, I guess. For me personally it has been a real mix of hard stuff and good stuff. Through it all I have been very aware of the hand of God, upholding me no matter what comes. Now it is Christmas, and a time for celebrating those people who have been important to you this year. As you sing the old carols and hear the old stories, as you eat too much and do too much, may God bring you each day moments of peace, moments of genuine joy. May each day be momentous, because Jesus Christ is born to be with us, saviour of all.

Silvia

Changes in Parish Council

There were a number of changes to Parish Council at our Annual General Meeting in September. Joint Parish Clerks Anne Shave and Bruce Leadbetter stood down after two years in the position, and were warmly thanked for their hard work over that time. Taking their place are Elizabeth Taggart and Colin Reid; Elizabeth has served a previous term as Joint Clerk, but this is Colin's first stint at it, and we know he will bring some unique skills to the position.

After many years on Parish Council and as Convenor of Church & Society Committee David Troughton has stepped down. We acknowledge David's heart for sharing the Gospel, both within the church and out in society, and thank him for his ability to see gaps that need to be met and working towards meeting them—for example, the recent Service for Medical Professionals, and the Cashmere Conferences held over the last few years.

Also standing down from Parish Council is Cecile Pierce, although she will continue to be involved in the Fellowship & Hospitality Committee. She has dealt with a multitude of catering responses and social interactions, and her report in the Annual Report is just the tip of the iceberg of what she does. We thank Cecile for her giving her time, her wise council, her friendship and support to the Cashmere Presbyterian Church family.

Joining Parish Council as a Congregational Representative is Joyce Lockhart, who originates from Ontario, Canada, and has lived in Australia and China. She is a proud Grandma, and is very involved with our pre-school music group.



Christmas Communion

We extend an invitation to all to join us for our Christmas Communion Service on **Sunday 2nd December** at 10.00am

Christmas in Cashmere

ADVENT COMMUNION

Sunday 2 December @ 10am

NATIVITY SERVICE

Sunday 9 December @ 10am
Christmas Brunch party @ 11am

SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Sunday 16 December @ 10am
Healing Service @ 11.30am

CAROLS IN THE GARDEN

Sunday 16 December @ 5pm
In the grounds of 1 Macmillan Ave.
Sing-along community picnic;
free sausage sizzle & kids activities



MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday 23 December @ 10am

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIT SERVICE

Monday 24 December @ 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS MORNING

Tuesday 25 December @ 9.30am
Family-friendly celebration

A Kiwi Christmas

Amongst the many carols and hymns we hear and sing at Christmas time, so many of them originated in the northern hemisphere, where Christmas is very different from our own experience of sun-soaked days spent outdoors, barbecues and days at the beach. Fortunately, we have people like Shirley Erena Murray, one of New Zealand's most prolific and famous hymn writers, who writes hymns that reflect everyday experiences that we can relate to. She states that she likes "language that gives a jolt of reality".

A significant number of her texts have been carols – "not just snow-free ones, but new ways of looking at the Incarnation". Even a quick glance at the first lines and titles of these carols suggests a writer who does not take the traditional words and stories of Christmas for granted – "The Christmas child is a troublesome child", "Three Faiths Carol", "Upside down Christmas". A large collection of her work is available from www.hopepublishing.com—just search her name.

Cookie Girls Christmas Cakes

The Cookie Girls have been delighting us this year with a selection of baked goodies, and they will soon have Christmas Cakes for sale in a variety of sizes and shapes. All will be decorated—either with icing, or with fruit/nuts.

The cakes will be available to purchase on Sunday 9th December, after the Family Nativity Service. Bring along your cash and take away a delicious treat!

For more information, speak to Cecile Pierce



And here is a taste of Shirley's writing, in one of her most well know Antipodean carols

*Carol our Christmas, an upside down Christmas:
snow is not falling and trees are not bare.*

*Carol the summer and welcome the Christ Child,
warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air.*

*Sing of the gold and the green and the sparkle,
water and river and lure of the beach.*

*Sing in the happiness of open spaces,
sing a nativity summer can reach!*

*Shepherds and musterers move over hillsides,
finding, not angels, but sheep to be shorn,
wise ones make journeys, whatever the season,
searching for signs of the truth to be born.*

*Right side up Christmas belongs to the universe,
made in the moment a woman gives birth:
hope is the Jesus gift, love is the offering,
everywhere, anywhere, here on the earth.*

Sustainability and faith

Do we care about our environment? Of course we do! But what does that mean in practice? How can we make a meaningful impact when the issues seem so huge?

These questions brought 120 people together from across the city, from many different churches, at our annual Cashmere Conference, called 'Rich Living', held on Saturday 28 September. Our church worked in partnership for this significant event with South West Baptist Church and Grace Vineyard, co-ordinated by A Rocha NZ. A Rocha is an international Christian mission organisation dedicated to care for creation. It's worth exploring their website: www.arocha.org.nz



Participants at the Rich Living seminar enjoying spring sunshine and a fabulous vegan lunch in the Church's garden



Lots of keen people biking up the hill for the seminar, including instructions on how to make your own bike trailer out of a couple of rubbish bins!



Andrew Shepherd in one of the small group sessions



Mealtimes were a time to make connections and friendships—and the food was pretty good too!

Working together in a team across churches meant we could pool resources and bring key people from around the country. The Saturday seminar included 11 workshops, each led by experts in a range of areas: waste reduction, enviro-friendly food, farming, houses, through to the big issues of theology and global inequality. We were blessed with glorious weather for the day, which included two guided walks—one in our local Ernle Clark Reserve and one up on the tops at Ohinetahi Reserve, with the Summit Road Society planting team. There was also space for prayer and creativity, and a panel discussion on how we sustain our own commitment to protect the environment. The meal times were special highlights, with new connections and friendships being made.

The Rich Living seminar highlighted some important issues for churches to address, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church also has issued us with the challenge to take action. The specific actions recommended by this year's GA are: eliminating throw-away cups, recycling, and using enviro-friendly cleaning products. We have also been challenged to review our gardens to eliminate noxious weeds and to increase the native plants. Parish Council agreed to a commitment to becoming more 'enviro-friendly' as a church.

A potential local mission project for our church could be the Purau Reserve. This is the gully down from our church, with tracks leading down to Cashmere Road. Helping to initiate a local community group to care for this reserve could be a great way to build relationships, and to make a practical difference for our environment.

The end of the world ...??

Leading up to Advent we have been doing a series on tough questions about life, the universe and everything: What is heaven? Is there a hell? Where do we go when we die? What on earth do we mean by the 'resurrection of the dead'? Will the universe get a second chance? These sermons are available on our church website: www.cashmerechurch.org.nz/news

Here's the end of Silvia's sermon from 4th November:

"What different does it make to us in the here and now? To believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come is an invitation to not be afraid. Do not be afraid of taking your last breath. Do not be afraid of death. Don't be afraid to talk about it, to plan for it, for yourself or for others. Death is a terrible parting, but it is not the end. Death has no victory."

Cashmere Carnival

A marvellous afternoon for the wider community was held on Sunday 28 October. The *Cashmere Carnival* was run by our church in partnership with the Christchurch City Council. With generous funding and support from the Council (thanks Emma Pavey!) we were able to put up safety fencing and several bouncy castles, give away yummy sausages and popcorn.

We were blessed with perfect weather, and our event coincided with an open day at the Sign of the Takahe, so there were lots of people who stopped by and joined in.

Congratulations to Kyle who won the 'guess how many gummy bears were in the jar' competition! How many? 93.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped out, especially:

- * Paige Wilke for doing a fabulous job co-ordinating
- * Emma Pavey from the City Council
- * The team from Cashmere High School 'student army'

Also thanks to the volunteers from our church community that pitched in with running a game, supervising a bouncy castle or serving food.

We look forward to putting this event together again next year with more games and activities!

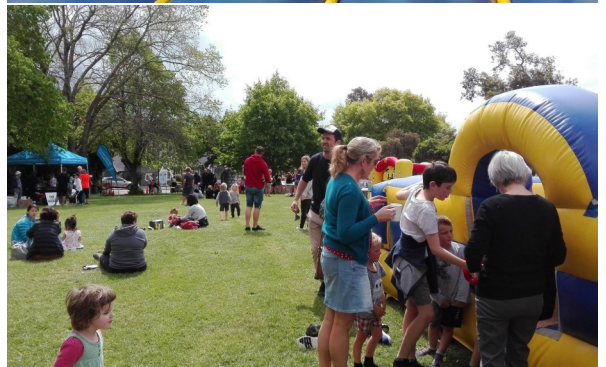
"My role as a Community Recreation Advisor is to help build the capacity within communities, helping them run events with support and guidance to then build the confidence and knowledge to run events for themselves.

It has been fantastic working with Cashmere Presbyterian Church. The reserve is a beautiful space to bring the community together and the event had a lovely relaxed feel and was really well planned by Paige."

Emma Pavey, Community Recreation Advisor

"It was a great chance for families and neighbours to talk with each other and "Catch-up" as well as meeting other people who we hadn't met before even though we knew them by sight but not their names. It's events like this that build a great neighbourly spirit that really strengthens Cashmere as a community"

Phil Clearwater, City Councillor



From top: Paige & Emma promoting the free Cashmere Carnival; A friendly bout of Battle Sticks; The weather behaved itself for the many people who joined in; And of course—there were sausages!

Why do free stuff? Comment from Silvia Purdie

Community mission these days requires a change of mindset on our part. In 'the old days' the church was the heart of the community and centre of many activities. When the church ran extra public events these were often to raise money for the church. Cashmere Presbyterian Church is blessed with a beautiful high-profile building which continues to be well-used by the wider community. But for most people in our society the church has become an alien place, disconnected from their daily lives. Mission in 2018 has to involve us going out from the safety of our building, reaching out, making connections, building relationships. One effective strategy for this is running open community events, such as our recent Carnival, and the Carols in the Park. It's really very simple. We just want to get to know people, no strings attached. It's about hospitality and just being community.

At the Carnival in October so many people commented in amazement that everything was free. As a parent it is depressing telling your children 'no, we can't afford that' when they have to pay to go on rides and get treats. It was wonderful to simply give away sausages, popcorn and cups of tea. It was lovely to sit around the bouncy castle chatting to local families. It was a real gift to our local community, and I hope we can do it again next year.

Plantarama

The Plantarama this year was held on Saturday 13th October, and was again well stocked with plants of all sorts for your garden. With a poor weather forecast, and heavy rain in the days preceding the event, the decision was made to hold it indoors, in the Rata Lounge, with just the sausage sizzle and a few “teaser” plants outside to entice people in. The strategy worked well, and over \$2,400 was raised for the church coffers.

Well done to Cecile Pierce and her team for organising this, and thanks to all those who helped and contributed to making the event a success.



Cecile & Helen at the Plantarama

Coming up ... Sundays @ Cashmere

Sunday 25 November 10am Morning Worship

(See page 2 for services in the lead-up to Christmas)

Sunday 30 December 10am Morning Worship

Sunday 6 January 10am Morning Worship

Sunday 13 January 10am Morning Worship

Sunday 20 January 10am Morning Worship

11.30am Healing Service

Sunday 27 January 10am Morning Worship

Sunday 3 February 10am Morning Worship

Sunday 10 February 10am Family Service

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.



Picking out the perfect plants.



A cheeky Gnome amidst the succulents



The Annual Christmas Appeal from Christian World Service gives families struggling to escape violence, poverty and natural disaster the help they need.

Help families recover from disaster. In Haiti natural disasters are common.

Hurricanes, droughts and earthquakes mean families have to start again every time they strike.

Give Hardworking People better Income: Last year saw the first increase in hunger for over a decade. 815 million mostly rural people did not have enough to eat. Often poor, they are on the frontline of climate change.

Build Safer Communities: Women are learning how to stand up for themselves. They want safe homes and to live in caring communities. Working together, they can start small businesses to support their families and confront those who are violent toward women.

Your support for the Christmas Appeal will bring help to all these, and many other, people. Please give generously to the 2018 Christmas Appeal so families have the tools they need to take the next step out of poverty.

Donate by using the CWS Christmas Appeal envelope included with this copy of Cashmere Connection (send to CWS, or leave in the collection plate on any Sunday), or online at christmasappeal.org.nz/donate/

People Events

Baptisms:

We welcome into the family of the church:

Colin Reid (adult Baptism—23 Sept.)

Genevieve Zoe Rose Foster,

daughter of Penelope & Owen (30 Sept.)

Juliet Alice Moore and Rose Edie Moore,

daughters of Katie & Richard (28 Oct.)

Weddings:

We congratulate and extend our best wishes to:

Lauren Gilland & Kieran Davie (25 Aug.)

Sarah Quilty & David Abouhaidar (8 Sept.)

Jessica Gambles & Hayden Newman (16 Sept.)

Amethyst Dequito & Eugene Clemente (22 Sept.)

Deaths:

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

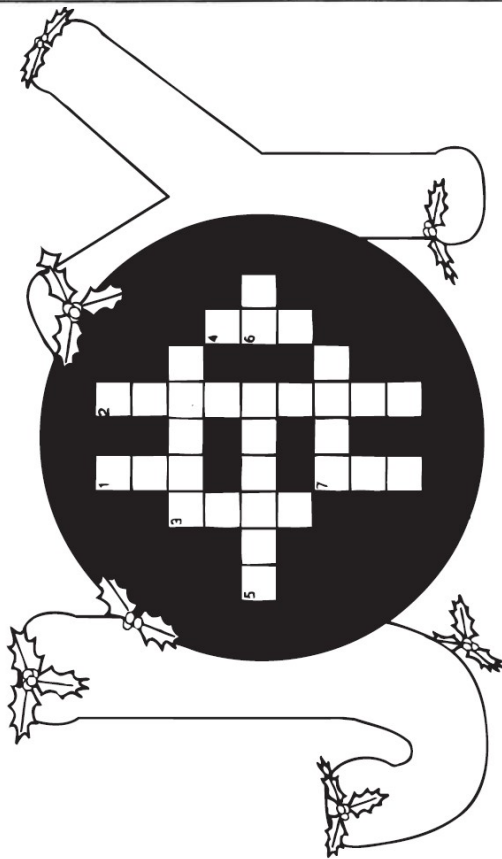
Ngaire Marsden (12 September)

Joan Lawson (30 September)

The Back Page

for the young and young at heart

The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1 - 12



Across

3. In verse 9 the shepherds saw an "_____ of the Lord."
5. "_____ also went up from ... Nazareth" is in verse 4.
6. The word after "because" in verse 4 is _____
7. "And there _____ shepherds" is from verse 8.

Down

1. "Room for them in the _____" is in verse 7.
2. "_____ were watching their flocks in verse 8.
3. The third word in verse 4 is _____
4. "He is Christ _____ Lord" is in verse 11.
7. The fourth to the last word in verse 2 is _____.

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I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT THIS YEAR
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"T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, AND ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE, NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING, NOT EVEN A ...



GENOVA CORRELL

Robert Aitken's Dark Fruit Cake Recipe

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 pound granulated sugar | 4 apples |
| 1 pound butter or substitute | 1 tablespoon molasses |
| 8 eggs | 1 cup sour milk |
| 2 pounds raisins | 1 cup grape juice |
| ½ pound currants | 1 teaspoon soda |
| ½ pound citron (preserved lemon or orange rind) | 2 teaspoons each of cinnamon, cloves & nutmeg |
| ½ pound figs | 1½ pounds cake flour |
| 1 pound shelled nuts | 2 teaspoons baking powder |

Bake slowly.

The recipe comes from 1860s England, and can be used for Christmas cakes, although it would usually have been made well ahead, in mid-summer.

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