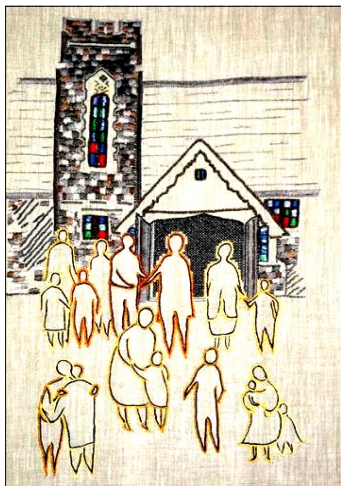


Cashmere Connection

Cashmere Presbyterian Church—linking with its community

Issue Number Eighty nine—Spring 2017



From the Minister

No two the same

In 1885 a Vermont farmer called Wilson Bentley took the first photograph of a snowflake. After some trial and error (and no doubt many, many hours in a freezing cold room!) he managed to rig up a camera with a microscope. Over the next 45 years he took 5,000 photos of snowflakes, and no two were the same. Here are just six of his stunning images, taken with the most basic of equipment.



It's been a cold winter. Our family was privileged to get snowed in at Castle Hill in July. It was awesome! The snow was so dry and soft. Sure, by the fourth day we were a little 'over' the whole business of boots and gloves and happy to come home. But it was so very beautiful.

Here are my two 'big boys', Daniel & Aaron. You can tell they're brothers; they're similar in some ways but not the same, not at all.

Snowflakes are pretty good evidence for the existence of God. Their endless variety based on the same basic structure reveals to me a glimpse into an infinite and infinitely creative mind. Why should tiny bits of water form into spectacular 6-sided crystals in cold air? And it reveals God alive in the human mind that we find them so beautiful. The mix of rock and light and tree and light shining off fresh snow is 'up there' as one of the most astonishing experiences.



People are also made in an infinite variety, on the same basic pattern. No matter how old we are or what we look like, we are all made to look like God. And the more we know and follow Jesus the more we are shaped in his pattern: grace and truth, love and more love. But each one quite different. Crazy ha. That's why we need each other—can't make a snowball with just one flake!

Parish Annual General Meeting

This will be held on **Sunday 10th September**, following the morning service.

The Annual Report will be available from 25th August to be collected from the Church, or it can be downloaded from our website's "News" page: www.cashmerechurch.org.nz/news

Communion Service

We extend an invitation to all to join us for the quarterly Communion Service on **Sunday 3rd September**.



Silvia

Family Ministries Co-ordinator

Your generosity in supporting this has been incredible. We have raised the funds to appoint a new staff person for our church, in leadership of children, youth and family ministries. Unfortunately we have not yet found the person to take up this job, and are still calling for applications. If you know of anyone who might be interested please invite them to contact the church office for more information.

Delving into Psalms ... all 150 of them!

I'm back into Psalms again. In fact, it's something of an obsession. I am determined to get through all 150, and 150 is quite a lot!

Over the last few years I have been 're-working' Psalms. If you look at my conversations.net.nz website you'll see heaps on there. I do all sorts of weird and wonderful things with the Psalms. I turn them into responsive prayers for worship, or family prayers. I turn them on their head and shake them, see what falls out. I squash them together with bits of the New Testament and ask how Jesus is in the Psalm. I pick out random words and translate them into Kiwi talk. My current passion is to publish a full set for kids.

Psalms are amazing. They are some of the oldest and greatest poems ever written. They are packed with emotion and mixed metaphors. Many of them are pain-filled. Many of them have a persecution complex – great if you feel like someone's out to get you! Some of them are downright nasty. And many of them lift the soul to heights of joy and praise like nothing else can.

I hope to get people reading Psalms, and reading them with fresh eyes and fresh questions. I hope that children will come to know them and love them.

Here's a couple, to show you some of the variety. Go back and read some Psalms for yourself!

Silvia Purdie

Psalm 124: If it wasn't for God

If it wasn't for God

we'd be a wreck!

If God wasn't on our side

we'd be wiped out by our enemies.

If God had not been there for us

anger and fear would have swept us away.

If Christ had not saved us

we would be totally lost.

Thank you, thank you Lord

for you rescued us from the trap we were snared in.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

who made heaven and earth

and is on our side!

Psalm 117: The Shortest Psalm

*If you count every chapter in the Bible
from beginning to end,*

Psalm 117 is right in the middle.

And right in the middle of this, the shortest

Psalm, is the greatest word –

LOVE.

Great is God's love for us!

Unstoppable is God's faithfulness!

All people in every land, honour God!

Praise the Lord!!

Psalm 128: Live long and prosper

May you live to be old

May you live well with God

May love fill your home and your family

May you enjoy your work and do well

May you live to enjoy your children's children

May happiness find you, and peace rest upon you.

The Lord bless you!

Coming up ... Sundays @ Cashmere

Sunday 3 September, 10am: Thanksgiving Sunday, with Quarterly Communion. Special appeal to assist with our church ministry and mission.

Sunday 10 September, 10am: Annual General Meeting and Spring Flower Service. Family service, with floral display (please bring flowers!) followed by AGM after morning tea.

Sunday 17 September, 10am: Morning Worship, with Silvia Purdie preaching, followed by **Healing Service** at 11.30am

Sunday 24 September, 10am: Paul Morrow and team from St Andrews College, on Youth Wellbeing

Sunday 1 October, 10am: World Communion Day

Sunday 8 October, 10am: Pet Day! This Family Service will celebrate our pets and the animals of the world. Bring pets if appropriate, or send a photo to the office beforehand for a display.

Sunday 15 October, 10am: Morning Worship, with Sandra Wright-Taylor preaching (Burwood Hospital Chaplain) followed by **Healing Service** at 11.30am

Sunday 22 October, 10am: Morning Worship, with Silvia Purdie preaching.

Sunday 29 October, 10am: Reformation Sunday Honouring the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther and the Reformation. An all-age service led by Robin Humphries

Healing Services

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

In every act of worship, the Church celebrates the grace of God who desires wholeness of body, mind and spirit for all people. At a service of healing, we focus on that aspect of God's character. We bring to God our own frailty and brokenness, felt not just in physical illness, but in guilt, anxiety and all the burdens which weigh us down. We also bring our concerns for others and for the world. Above all, we come to the God who knows our needs before we ask, and whose love revealed in Jesus Christ is stronger than suffering and death. All are welcome to attend this service, to come and pray for your own needs, or those of others.

Youth Wellbeing Seminar

The topic for this year's Cashmere Conference came out of talking with my kids (Aaron is 17 and Ben is 15). They told me that what stresses them out the most is when their friends say they are thinking about killing themselves. I was stunned; it seems that this is a common thing that teenagers are dealing with. Mostly we adults feel afraid and helpless in the face of youth suicide, but our church leadership team decided to tackle it. So what are we doing about it?

1) A Community Seminar

First, we are giving parents and grandparents of teenagers (and anyone else who is interested) some good input about what to do if you are worried about a young person. What are bad signs, things to look out for? How to talk about it? What helps young people cope with difficult emotions? Who can you call for help?

Friday 22 September, 7.30-9.30pm: Free seminar, in the Rata Lounge at Cashmere Presbyterian Church. A team of speakers from various agencies dealing with youth mental health and suicide prevention.

2) The Worship Service on Sunday 24 September will be led by St Andrews College Chaplain, Paul Morrow, with some young people from STAC; a faith perspective on youth wellbeing.

3) A Youth Seminar

All teenagers welcome: **Sunday 24 September, 5-9pm.** This **FREE** training event includes dinner (with many, many thanks to the Rotary Club of Cashmere for sponsoring the meal!!).

What should you do when a friend is suicidal?

What helps you stay on top of things?

Information, skills and resources.

Space to share your concerns and questions.

Please register: either online or txt Paul: 027 520 3513

For more info go to: cashmereconference.weebly.com

Whareora House

The Whareora House of Life at 8 Athelstan Street has long played a part in the local community. The Annual meeting held last October introduced new members to the Trust, of which our own Elizabeth Taggart is one.

Whilst the partnership with St James Presbyterian Church in Barring ton Street—a founding member of the Trust—ceased with the closure of that church, some representatives that remain on the Board have long associations with St James.

Whareora House is open for people to drop in; a Clothing Op shop is run from the premises; community lunches are held regularly, along with a Craft group. The monthly bus trip is a very popular activity, and in all the activities at Whareora friendship and fellowship is encouraged.

During this year "One off" activities for children will be run, the first just before Christmas to introduce children the meaning of Christmas.

The House is run very ably by Rosemary O'Regan with Dorothy Heyward assisting her.



Exploring together

On Sunday 6 August our worship was led by Robin and Paul Humphries. Robin connected beautifully with the children in telling of Jesus feeding the 5,000, using Godly Play. Godly Play is a careful and evocative style of story telling which encourages people of all ages to find themselves in the Bible story.

"In Godly Play, the invitation is given not for play in general but for play with the language of God and God's people: our sacred stories, parables. Liturgical actions and silences. Through this powerful language, through our wondering, through the community of players gathered together. We hear the deepest invitation of all, an invitation to come and play with God"

"Godly Play is a movement to influence the Churches' support of spiritually rich practices with children and adults."

"In most religious education children are told who God is. In Godly Play children discover who God is."

- Jerome Berryman (The Complete Guide to Godly Play Vol 1 How to Lead Godly Play Lessons)



Robin Humphreys and the children, engaging in Godly Play

Godly Play session coming up

We're holding a special time for preschool children and their families on **Sunday 17th September at 2pm.**

Come and explore with us!

Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 3rd September will be a Thanksgiving Service, and this will be held in conjunction with our quarterly Communion Service.

This is an opportunity to give thanks to God for all that He is doing in and for our community through Cashmere Presbyterian Church, and for you to give a special thanksgiving gift to help us to meet our anticipated expenditure.

Special Thanksgiving envelopes are included with this edition of the Cashmere Connection, or you can contact the Church Office for an envelope.

Water of Life

Rev Martin Cleland's sculpture *The Water of Life* has graced the front of our church for some years now. At the time of sculpting it he got his granddaughter, Louise, to model the arm for him. Here she is on a recent visit to Christchurch, recreating the pose next to the sculpture.



People Events

Weddings:

We congratulate and extend our best wishes to:

Ellen Cooper and Neil Weston (20 May)

Leona Raines and Tony Beasley (27 May)

Sarah Lineham and David Markley (3 June)

Georgie Cotton and Kenny Turner (10 June)

Joella Bernard and Daniel Corbett (8 July)

Philippa Edwards and Ben Ching (15 July)

Baptisms:

We welcome into the family of the church:

Max Oliver Argyle, son of Kieran & Kate Argyle (11 June)

Eleanor Grace Morrison, daughter of Genna & Luke Morrison (9 July)

Deaths:

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Jean Lilian Hobson (2 June)

Catherine Eleanor Hyde (11 June)

Esme June Bennett (19 July)



PLANTARAMA

@

Cashmere Presbyterian Centre
Cnr Dyers Pass Rd & MacMillan Ave

Saturday 11th November 2017
Sale starts - 9am to 12 noon.

Stalls: Vegetable & Flower plants: Herbs:
Annuals: Shrubs: Natives: Decorative Pots: Tools:
Garden Art: Food: Sausage Sizzle: Coffee: and
more.... Eftpos available on site.

Competition for all ages: Best article made
from recycled plastic bags.

Wanted now! Lots of clean plastic pots
for potting up: all things garden orientated ie: hanging
baskets: pots: decorative planters & ornamental
garden art (everything must be in good condition)

Ring Church office: 332 7129 for Drop-off details.

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness;
it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."

Gertrude Jekyll

“Muddling Through” or muddling through?

If you have goals, and are making decisions to achieve them as you move forward, step by step, then you are using a well-recognised, effective management technique—“Muddling Through”. But if you do not have clear goals, then you are muddling through, as used in the pejorative sense. Where do you think we are as a country?

Goals matter, but are influential ones of self-interest—even to the point of selfishness, and perhaps influenced by the economic reforms—adequate for our society?

What say the cornerstone of our society was a moral one, where there were the values of caring, community and creativity, bound together by love; would they result in a different society, a more healthy country, a national life consistent with the radical vision called for by Jesus?

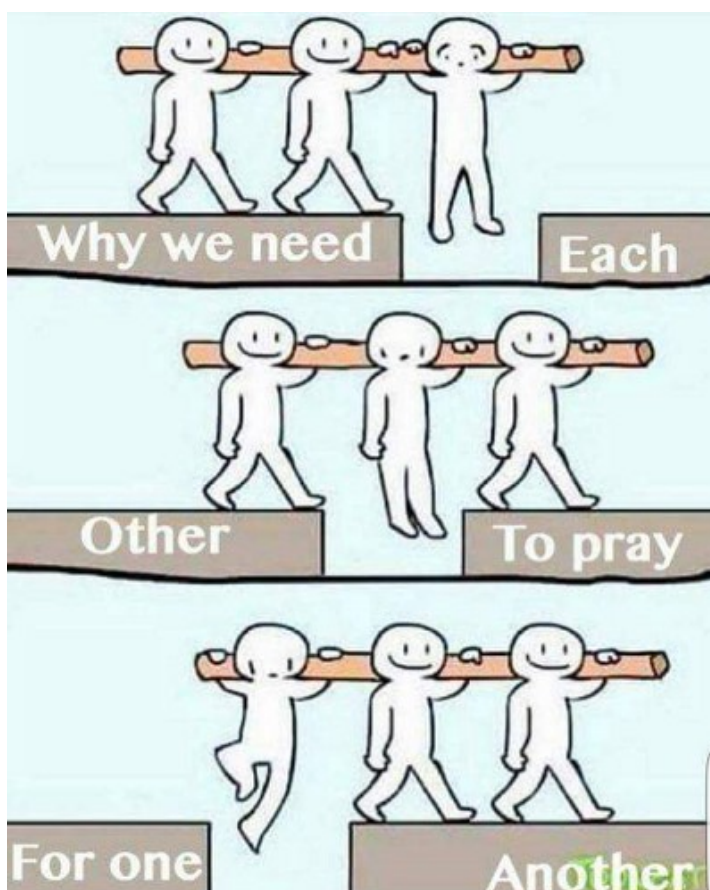
The goals would be values based. *“Values are principles we hold dear that contribute to a life well-led: principles like care, community, and creativity. They connect to the heart as well as the head. They lie behind all policies—and they can help to make politics more accessible for all of us.”* That is what Max Harris advocates in a very thought-provoking book, *“The New Zealand Project”*.

- **Care** would mean concern for the well-being of others, and by this including freedom, equality, dignity and integrity.
- **Community** would include identity, security, responsibility and inclusiveness.
- **Creativity** involves the imagination to develop new solutions to the problems of society, and can be in tension with tradition. This invites playfulness as well as earnestness.

But there is a need for love. It is warmer than care, more than empathy. It is not rhetoric to get votes. Anger can be an expression of love. It is bigger than politics, and would influence how the government departments function.

Harris is talking about questions that are bigger than party politics, that are asking what our ultimate expectations as a nation are to be. They deserve to be discussed. We do not want to be just muddling through. Our goals will be based on values—which values?

(David Troughton)



Psalm of the Cat

A Contextual psalm

The Lord is my cat.
He trips my feet. I stumble into
unexpected places and I land in
surprising ways.
I trail a piece of string, and he
haunts my footsteps.
A mighty hunter pursues me.
His claws discipline me.
We lie down together to rest, he curls up beside
me, his purring comforts me.
In the watches of the night he demands my
attention. I rise to meet him.
He does not fear the rain and the cold by day.
He knows his territory.
He enters through the window, he scratches at
the door and announces himself.
I delight to hear his call. He returns to me and
I welcome him.
Surely he will be my company every evening.



Andrew Smith

Bits making sense

It's tough making sense of the bits these days, but they can be put together to make a picture.

Here we are on an amazing planet. Plus we are alive! Is there anything like it anywhere else in the universe? Possibly.

No matter, we know that what we have is special, and precious. It is to be treasured and enjoyed.

It has all come about by processes. Have you heard people saying that because we can describe some of those processes then life is meaningless? How could that argument ever make sense!

Then you will have heard that other hoary, ridiculous objection to faith: if I cannot explain it in the light of present scientific knowledge, then it is not believable. Just think of how much has been discovered and explained in the last fifty years. Who knows what will be discovered in the next fifty!

Things change so much it is hard to plan for the future. We would like to plan a career path, but circumstances change and we cannot live with security. Companies buy each other out and are not loyal to their employees. We may be displaced by robots. Our tertiary training may be more important because we are being taught how to think and analyse, and to solve problems, rather than for the specific information we are learning. We have to relearn constantly in the light of the additional information and new paradigms coming through, and it may be a condition for our registration that we document our involvement in continuing education.

That means that we have to make the best, most

The Scarlet Pimpernel of Cashmere

*"We seek her here, we seek her there,
Cashmeries seek her everywhere.
Out in the sun? Out in the rain?
That damned elusive Quartermain."*

If you follow Leta's Facebook you will realise she pops up all over the place. In addition, she has set up a Facebook page for the Cashmere Hills Christchurch Community Business Network. All sorts of information come up on it, about the various programmes and activities, the different shops, features from our church services. If you want to know about it, it may well be on this site. For example, what awards did Cashmere Cuisine win this year?

We seem to see just clouds when she sees rainbows! And the rest of the South Island be warned. When you least expect it—so the photo trail reveals—our Scarlet Pimpernel of Cashmere may very well pop up!

responsible decisions for the moment, taking care of ourselves and our families with responsible self-care, at the same time adapting and changing as we go along. That is called 'living by faith'; and for Christians, along with many other people of faith, there is the awareness that God is with us in all this.

So it is hugely important for us to learn how to live by faith, especially a spiritually-based faith—and Christian, for good reason.

There is another sneer that is well and truly outdated. They used to say, and maybe still do, "How can we expect a God of the universe to be personally interested in individuals? Just imagine what that involves. It is impossible?" Nowadays, with thousands using GPS simultaneously, it is not at all hard to imagine. There are so many people and groups who have had personal experience of God's promptings and direction—and I am not just thinking of Dunkirk, but of personalised intervention.

Putting the pieces together we form a world-view. It may be in our unconscious, which is the real one, or one we try to put into words. But whatever it is, it will never be adequate, so we keep reforming it over the years as we have fresh experiences and face new challenges. We will have built into it expectations of other people, who may die or betray us. And we ourselves change.

But through it all, God is, God cares, God is with us in tough times, God is our source of hope.

With God, the picture is different, the bits make sense.

David Troughton

It's funny: I always imagined when I was a kid that adults had some kind of inner toolbox, full of shiny tools: the saw of discernment, the hammer of wisdom, the sandpaper of patience. But then when I grew up I found that life handed you these rusty, bent old tools—friendships, prayer, conscience, honesty—and said, "Do the best you can with these, they will have to do." And mostly, against all odds, they're enough.

Source: *Anne Lamott—Traveling Mercies:
Some Thoughts on Faith*

The Back Page

for the young and young at heart

Jesus Calms the Storm

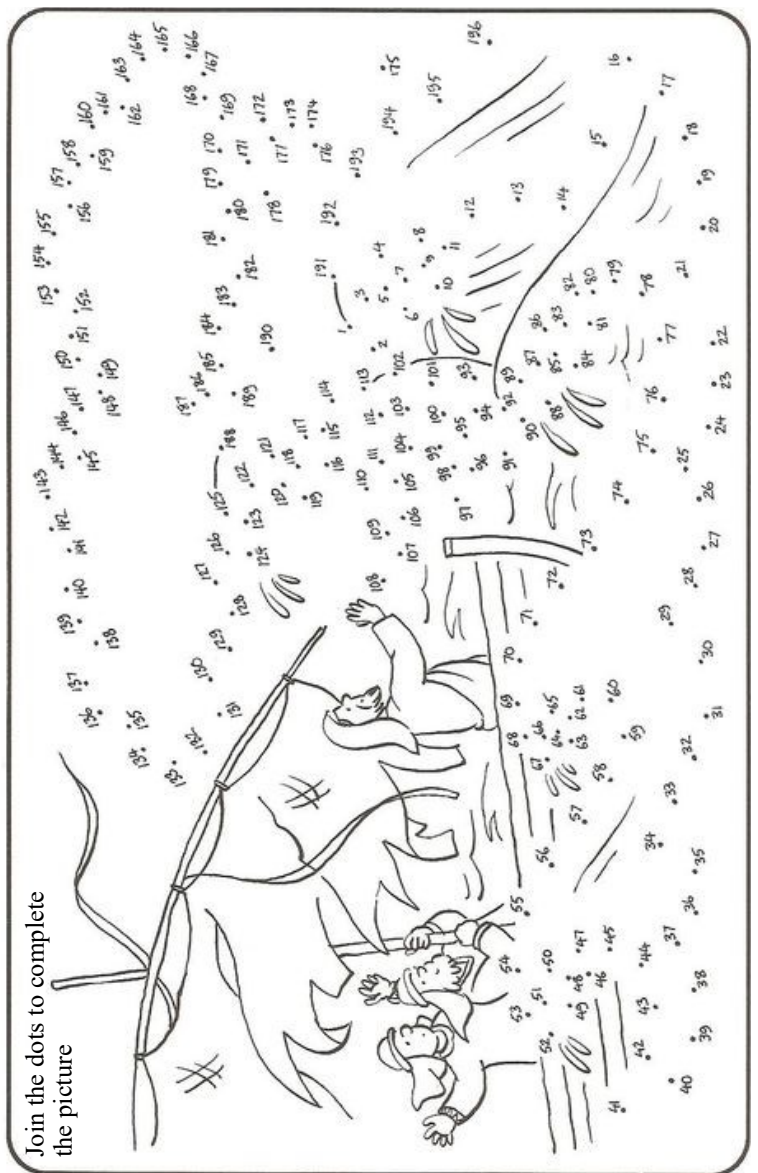
He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Mark 4:39

The puzzle is based on Mark 4:35-41 (NIV).

D H P F O T D W G C F L G C U
J D U U E L E N T M X M J O Z
M Y E I L K I R Q E D B S H U
U U Q I O P S K R U A F X H O
T E T W E Q T C H I I C L U R
S S V E Y K E K R N F E H I L
W C L E P F R B C O H I T E J
A S U G N B N D H A W P E Y R
M S X S B I I R Z H L D W D Q
P Q O A H A N P U M N M W A R
E U U B R I T G Q I T M K P Y
D A F F E U O D W A L L C S U
R L A U M Y U N O S F A I T H
R L F A G R R B K T J B F S M
X D R O W N I X U W A V E S T

These words are hidden in the grid—see if you can find them

STERN	CROWD	FAITH	CALM	TEACHER
OBEY	SWAMPED	WIND	AFRAID	DROWN
WOKE	SLEEPING	BOAT	EVENING	STILL
SQUALL	WAVES	CUSHION	TERRIFIED	QUIET



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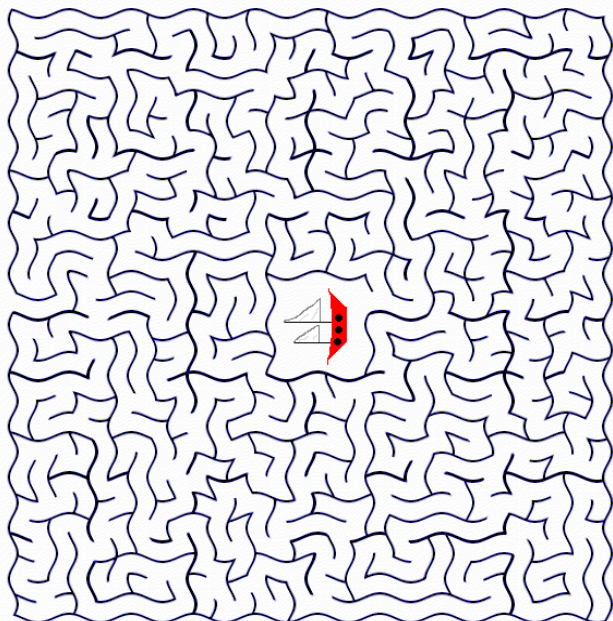
Thanks to Ian (See Mark 4:35-41)

06-23-2006

JUST GIVE ME FIVE MORE MINUTES

Find your way through the storm to the boat

Start ↓



Minister:

Rev Silvia Purdie BA BTheol
Phone 027 242 1113

Parish Office:

Office Administrator: Gail Weaver
2 MacMillan Ave, Cashmere
Phone: 332-7129; fax: 332-7130
email: office@cashmerechurch.org.nz

website: www.cashmerechurch.org.nz

Your Visitor is:

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Phone.....