

Cashmere Connection

Cashmere Presbyterian Church— The Stone Church on the Hill
Linking with its community since 1928

Issue number one hundred and twenty—Autumn 2026

From the Minister Gospel & Culture

“Don’t get sucked in to the worldly culture of the day!”

This was the basic plea of St Paul to the young Christians of Corinth 2,000 years ago. As we have studied 1 Corinthians at church in recent weeks we have learnt that the culture was dominated by loose sexual morals, proud reliance on human philosophy, and factions, arguments and polarisation.

That sounds very familiar. You could be talking about the worldly culture of today! The big question then is, how do Christians engage with this culture? Certainly don’t get sucked in by it. However, Paul modelled an approach that enthusiastically engaged in a conversation with it. There is an old saying that a wise Christian holds the bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other... they need to talk to each other.

The culture and politics of today throw up big questions for us. One recent example is the situation in Gaza. The big question for me and many others was, how do I respond to the actions of Hamas and of Israel? What does Christianity have to say to this?

In the context of great polarisation around this I came across an excellent article by Graham Joseph Hill from Charles Sturt University called *“Between Two Tears: Christian Spirituality and the Israel-Gaza war”*. It is an excellent example of good, balanced, incisive Christian commentary on a big issue of our day. It reminds me to keep looking out for this kind of commentary. It helps to shape my own ability to engage as we should!

Hamish

Communion Service

We extend an invitation to our **Easter Communion Service** on **Sunday 5th April** at 10am.



SERVICES FOR EASTER

Palm Sunday - 29th March
Morning Worship at 10am

Maunder Thursday - 2nd April
Service at 7pm at Cashmere Presbyterian

Good Friday - 3rd April
Gather at Cashmere Presbyterian at 9am to walk the Cross down to St Augustine’s, with the service at 10am

Easter Day—Sunday 5th April
Communion Service at 10am

Approaching Easter

**A retreat day at Sister Evelyn Retreat Centre, Scarborough
Monday 30 March 9am - 4.30pm.**

You are welcome to join us for this time of reflection. Please register with Hamish Galloway.

Midday Prayer

Monday-Friday at 12:15pm

Join us for a moment of stillness in the midst of your busy day. Our weekday Midday Prayer offers a way to consecrate the day at its centre and realize God's presence in the heart of life. The service lasts approximately 20 minutes and is focused on silent prayer but also includes a psalm, scripture reading, meditation, and the Lord's Prayer. You're welcome to arrive early to sit with God and/or stay afterwards in silence.

Editorial: Christianity and culture

Our theme of Gospel and Culture brings a creative edge to this issue of Cashmere Connection. Mark challenges us to reflect on Christianity and Culture through an image. The image that came to my mind is a Braided River of the Canterbury plains. Like the flow of Christianity across the cultures of the world, the water in braided rivers finds many streams that weave across the plain supporting the evolution of many different ecosystems. The braids split and also join together again. Hamish encourages us to engage with worldly cultures while taking care not to get sucked in. He advises balance, engaging with the bible in one hand and the media in the other.

Many varieties of Christianity have evolved through the interaction of culture and faith, including our own Presbyterianism. Given our common start, it is not surprising to find variations in the Christian practice of Lent. Fasting aims to strengthen our Christianity and thus prepare for Easter. This issue includes Eco Church's novel strategies to help us fast in new ways to improve our care for creation this Lent. In our last issue we reported on the glorious day we had reflecting on the approach of summer. Approaching Easter is our next retreat day at Sister Evelyn Retreat Centre, Scarborough, on Monday 30 March 9am - 4.30pm. Come and join us if you can.

Our parish engages with Ōtautahi Christchurch Share Kai initiative to increase understanding between the cultures in our city. Many of us greatly enjoyed our previous Ukrainian Share Kai, so we are pleased to advertise that they are returning on Saturday 7th March 2026. I am looking forward to their delicious sustainable meal, informative conversation, and Ukrainian folk songs performed in traditional costume. No booking - come along and enjoy conversation while you queue! (www.sharekai.nz)

Returning to my image of a braided river: after a snow melt the river braids disappear as whole river surges with water carrying debris across the Canterbury plain. Floods wash away pollution feeding a great variety of ecosystems with clean water and nutrients. Without that cleaning, the life and energy of ecosystems drains away (e.g. The native fish that foretold a river collapse, Press February 7, 2026). Kāi Tahu is calling for collaboration to improve health of our rivers and lakes in South Island. Could it be that Christianity would also benefit from better collaboration within and beyond communities so that we can better face the great challenges of today?

Forthcoming Services

Sunday 1 March	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 8 March	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 15 March	10.00am 11.30am	Morning Worship Healing Service
Sunday 22 March	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 29 March	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 5 April	10.00am	Easter Communion Service
Sunday 12 April	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 19 April	10.00am 11.30am	Morning Worship Healing Service
Sunday 26 April	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 3 May	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 10 May	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 17 May	10.00am 11.30am	Morning Worship Healing Service

Healing Services

Healing Services, with Communion, are held each month, usually on the 3rd Sunday, at 11.30am. All are welcome to attend this service, to pray for your own needs, or those of others.

People Events

Weddings

We congratulate and extend best wishes to:
Tali-Jo Blessing Tia & Fa'atuatua Paulo Tuala
(13 December)

India Wellesley & Sam Cogger
(13 December)

Simeon Grice & Anna Chan
(28 December)

Serena Morgan & Isaac Paul
(17 January)

Jasmine Fletcher & Henry Poynter
(7 February)

Ruby Barnes & Brydon Wheatley
(22 February)

Baptism

We welcome into the family of the Church:
Niko Sean Arat, son of Renata & Matthew
(25 January)

Deaths

We extend our sympathies to the family of
Nick Dudley Ward
(9 December)

Les Snape
(1 January)

Tim Davis
(17 January)

Share Kai in Solidarity with Ukraine

5.30 - 7.30 PM
Saturday March 7th

DOOR SALES,
PAYWAVE OR CASH.

Join us for dinner and an a capella performance of Ukrainian folk songs and show your support for Ukraine.


Humanitarian fundraiser with all proceeds to people in need in Ukraine.



Traditional Ukrainian menu with halal meat and vegetarian options. Visit our website for the full menu.




ENTRÉE, MAIN AND DESSERT \$30
DRINKS \$5

 Cashmere Presbyterian Church
2 MacMillan Avenue, Cashmere

We use kai to bring people together.
www.sharekai.nz

Earthquakes and the Alpine Fault

 Cashmere Presbyterian Church
2 MacMillan Avenue

 Tuesday 10th March
7pm

- Causes and consequences of earthquakes
- How to keep safe during earthquakes
- Alpine Fault magnitude 8 (AF8) programme
- Alpine Fault rupture scenarios and potential impacts



Fabric & Craft Sale



Saturday 18th April 2026, 10am to 2pm

**Cashmere Presbyterian Church
2 Macmillan Avenue**

ph: 03 3327129

email: office@cashmerechurch.org.nz

Contact us to:

- donate Fabric or Craft supplies
- book a table to sell your own items

Go Green (er) for Lent

How can we become better at caring for creation and improving our lives and the lives of others through healthy, eco-friendly and sustainable living?

The Lenten 40-day period before Easter gives us the opportunity to reflect on the practice of fasting and commit to giving up something that brings a real benefit to nature and helps address climate change. Below are some changes you could make that will help the environment. Take time to pray, reflect and consider these options – pick one or two or however many you'd like (you never know the changes might just stick!) You can find out more about these and others on the UK Eco Church website: ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/go-green-er-for-lent/

- **Go plastic free.** Even if you can't become totally plastic-free, make it your goal to at least reduce your use of plastic.
- **Switch off from digital.** Explore technology-free times or areas of the house, switching to 'airplane mode' for the first hour in the morning and the last hour at night, 'switch off Sundays', reaching for your Bible over your device(s) and writing a list of outdoor things that you enjoy.
- **Boycott fast fashion.** Buy locally, or make your own – there are lots of tutorials online.
- **Buy less or second hand.** Start with small changes: using Facebook marketplace and TradeMe more to invest in second hand clothing and toys.
- **Buy local or in bulk.**
- **Become zero waste.** Slowly try to reduce your waste a bit every week. Consider giving a home-made gift instead of buying a present, upcycling items or looking at your food shop and seeing what items you could buy differently, spending a bit more on loose fruit and veg for example.
- **Spend more time in nature.** Connect with God as Creator and celebrate his creation in different ways over the Lenten period.
- **Invite wildlife into your garden or church green space (with permission!).** Where possible, invite and encourage others in your church community to be part of the journey, for example, planting seeds as part of the children's ministry.
- **Grow your own** - whether you have a garden or sunny windowsill, there will be ways that you can sow and grow.
- **Change your method of transport.** How about walking or cycling for repeated errands, choosing one day a week to walk, cycle or take public transport to work where you are able to.
- **Take a step to save energy in your home** - draught-proofing windows and doors; swapping your bath for a shower; using the tumble dryer less ... there are many ways to do this.

Ladies Island Retreats

A monthly Mini-Escape to pause, breathe, and connect for women juggling life's beautiful chaos in their midlife-years.

What we do (1.5 - 2 hours): We start with an icebreaker and devotion, then you'll get around 30-40 minutes of solo time with God. This is meant to be a silent time exclusive for you and Him—read, pray or reflect at church, the library or in the garden, journal, doodle, knit, draw or even nap on one of the cosy sofas, beds and nooks around the house (yes, really! God holds you tight even and especially when you're "doing nothing"). Afterwards we reconvene to share our thoughts, close with prayer, and enjoy food together. Stay longer for chats and shared strolls around the Green if you like! Join anytime, even if you come just for snacks, talks and walks around 2:30pm.

2026 Dates - always Saturdays, 1:00pm

March 14; April 11 (Saturday after Easter - mid school holidays); May 9; June 13; July 4 (first weekend of school holidays); August 8; September 12; October 10 (last weekend of school holidays); November 14

Location: The Old Church House, 2A MacMillan Ave, Cashmere

Come as you are – tired self, bubbly mind, longing for peace, and all the rest of you. Can't make every date? Come when you can!

Enquiries to theoldchurchhouse@icloud.com

If your experience with Christianity has left you with more guilt and less joy, then you found religion, not Jesus.

Religion shackles and binds.

Jesus releases and frees.

Religion can bring guilt and shame.

Jesus brings forgiveness and joy.

Religion is about what you do for God.

Jesus is about what God did for you.

Gospel & Culture: Animation For Life

Every time I have an opportunity to preach at church or speak to an audience in a different setting, I spend much time reflecting on word pictures or stories that help convey key points of my talk. I now invite you to my sermon prep time to develop a word picture. Just one. What comes to mind when you think of Christianity and Culture? How do you feel about that which came to your mind? If you connect your thought or feeling to an image, what image would that be? There we are, short and sweet! The image that comes to mind is my youngest son's transformer dino toy! He flips one or two robo arms and it turns into a sports car, a few other moves it's a charging dinosaur. Stay with me. I will tell you how this image applies.

The Christian faith has a core message referred to as the Gospel, which means Good News. The news is that God, who created humanity and the world out of love, has reached out through Jesus to restore a dysfunctional relationship with humanity. Culture on the other hand emerges out of humanity's relationship with each other, as well as with the rest of creation, forming norms and customs to guide belief and behaviour. To me, the Gospel has a dynamic influence upon human cultures. It has an animating element to it that creates different ways to look and interact with culture. It is a relevant tool that helps me engage with what's happening around me. Let's have a look at some of the ways this happens through the following four 'animations'.

The first 'animation' is culture as a photo/snapshot of human life and culture. The Good News signals that love and dysfunction are clear elements about human life. It implies a coexistence of both beauty and brokenness. One of the podcasts I listen to that captures the beauty of humanity is the BBC's Happy Pod: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct5hvr.

Give it a listen, you might just become the newest subscriber in town! On the other hand, true crime tv shows display the underbelly and dysfunction that exists in our society. This first 'animation' has on it the realities of life on this world.

The second 'animation' is culture as a mirror. It reflects back to us our individual contribution to culture and society life. In this mode, we don't just see cultural realities of love and dysfunction, we see cultural realities as a constructed entity where each person makes a contribution to it. The Gospel prompts us to ask, 'In what way does human life and culture reflect the inner world of my thoughts, desires and passions?' The love and dysfunction we witness are coming from human choice, for the most part! From this acknowledgement we develop education and justice systems. One helps us to learn the values we agree to live by, the other holds us accountable to those values.

The third 'animation' is culture as a window. I quite like this mode. Imagine yourself overlooking the city through the window of a house high up the hills of Cashmere. The panoramic view filled with all that we aspire to be as humanity. Even on grey winters and days of low cloud, we hold in our minds the image of bright sunny days where industry, colour and majestic landmarks warm our hearts. The Gospel prompts us to ask 'what does a humanity fully restored with God really look like?' It presents Jesus Christ as the model of humanity. Some have said that to become a follower of Jesus is a choice to become fully human. That is, to be in right relationship with God, self, others and nature. It suggests a flourishing and a fully thriving humanity.

The fourth and final animation is culture as a doorway. Inventors and motivational speakers share a common impulse to create forward motion. New and better ways of doing things come up as we respond to both opportunities and challenges. The Gospel prompts us to ask 'How do we move from dysfunction to love in action?' It suggests inquiry into God's intent of creation and implies a need for spiritual awakening.

The Gospel for me, animates my perspective of culture. Each mode elicits fresh ideas to maintain a healthy and resilient engagement with realities of culture and human life. It engenders humility. When confronted by mystery and complexity, I discover unexplainable peace. In other words, the intersection of Gospel and Culture has become a place of encounter, an encounter with God. Let's revisit your image of Christianity and Culture one more time, how may it be impacted by the description of the four 'animations'? (If you are open to sharing your reflections, I would love to hear from you; mark@cashmerechurch.org.nz).

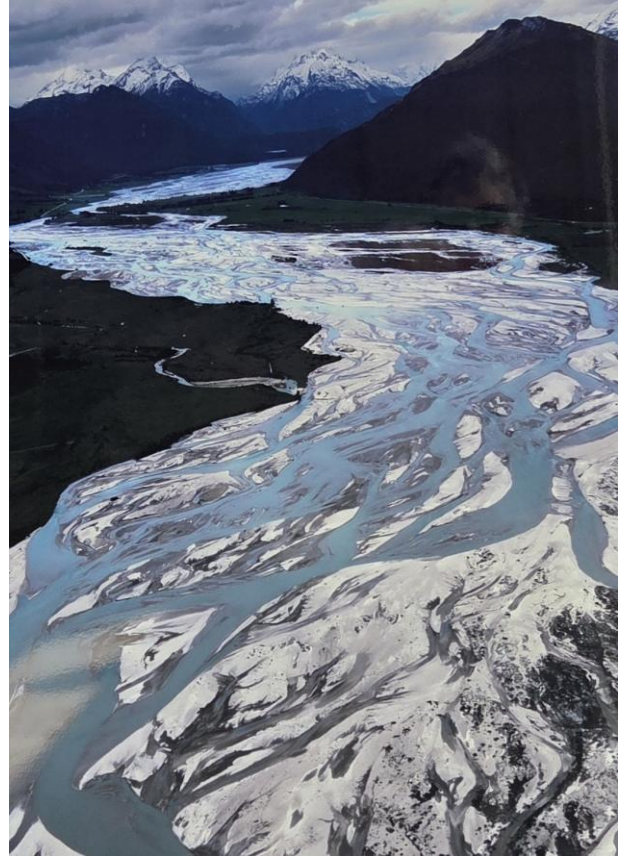


Creation Care – a call to unite across cultures

Unutai e! Unutai e! harnesses the power of contemporary art to shed light on an urgent environmental crisis: the deteriorating state of fresh water in Canterbury and the whole of this island. When my brother and I visited this exhibition in Christchurch Art Gallery I was shocked by the evidence and I could see my shock reflected in other people who were there at the same time. The rivers are the arteries of the land we live on and in. The degradation over the last decade has been dramatic. Good to see some action underway, but if only we had taken action 15 years ago!

Although the Māori word *unutai* sounds like unity, the title of this exhibition in Christchurch Art Gallery exclaims: What has transpired? Imposing photographs of leading experts stand alongside descriptions of traditional practices that had previously cared for these waters; they also describe the impact of that loss of care. Colleagues who supported my work at UC and my growing awareness of the Māori worldview speak for Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere (Liz Wood) and Rakahuri/Ashley River (Te Maire Tau). “What began as a photographic assignment (for Anne Noble) evolved into an extensive visual archive, illustrating not only the devastation but also the resilience of *whānau*, *hapū*, and *iwi* striving to restore *wai māori*, uphold *rakatirataka*, and protect *mahika kai* practices.”

This exhibition calls for all cultures to care for God’s creation: “Water is the essence of life, binding us together across cultures and generations. The images you see are not just records of loss but calls to action. They remind us that with knowledge, persistence, and collective effort, we have the power to heal our waters, restore our ecosystems, and honour the legacy of those who have come before us.” *Unutai e! Unutai e!* by Kāi Tahu and Anne Noble continues to 19th April in the Christchurch Art Gallery. See also <https://christchurchartgallery.org.nz/bulletin/222/unutai-e-unutai-e>



Unutai e! Exhibition Poster

Niki Davis

Job Vacancy

Parish Office Administrator – Part Time, Job Share

Cashmere Presbyterian Church is looking for someone to work alongside our long-standing Parish Office Administrator as she looks to transition to fewer hours. Our hope is that this person will be open to taking over completely in a few years when the existing administrator fully retires.

This will be a job share role, with exact division of hours to be negotiated with the successful candidate (we are open to split weeks or week and week about). The office is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 12.30pm

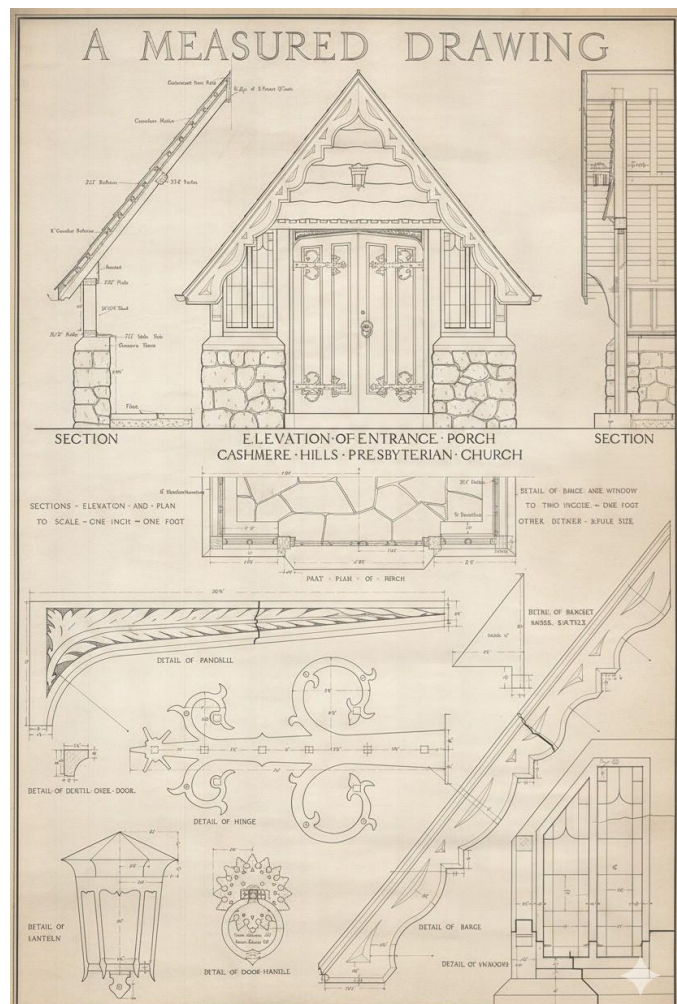
The job covers all aspects of running a busy parish office, including weekly and quarterly publications, banking and invoicing, website and social media updates, maintaining parish role information, taking enquiries for and bookings of weddings and other uses of the parish facilities.

A good working knowledge of Word, Excel and PowerPoint is needed. A familiarity with Infoodle and Xero would be an advantage, but training will be given.

The ideal candidate will have a friendly and welcoming attitude and be self-motivated.

Applications, with a current CV, to be submitted by 31st March, to office@cashmerechurch.org.nz

For more details, go to: www.cashmerechurch.org.nz/files.html



We recently unearthed this wonderful architectural drawing of the main front door of the Church. It is very large – A1 size – and had been store rolled up, in the back of a cupboard for many years. It has now been framed and is in pride of place in the Church Office – make sure to check it out next time you are here!

Recycling

As an Eco-Church, we encourage, and are keen to support, recycling.

Are you aware that clear plastic bags, potato chip, cereal, bread, frozen food bags, toilet paper wrap, snack food and lightly foiled bags can be recycled through some grocery stores?

Batteries can be recycled through places like Mitre 10.

Blister packs for medicines can be recycled through Chemist Warehouse.

We have collection points in the church foyer for milk, cream and fruit juice bottle tops, screw caps from wine bottles, and toothpaste tubes.

Muddling Through

People often talk as though you can plan the stages of our straight road ahead, A → B → C → D....

Life is not like that. It is more like crossing a bog, where you stand at A and look around for B, chosen when you have considered it as the best option taking all the factors into account – and probably with a nudge from God. You then take a considered step of faith – emphatically not a blind step, but a trusting and considered step and in the knowledge that God is with us.

Generally God cannot guide us to C from B, much as he may want to in response to our prayers, until we have taken that initial step from A to B. That is what we mean by 'muddling through'.

What would you say to someone who stood in Cathedral Square and prayed that God would send a train, say the Tranzalpine, to pick you up? People do pray prayers like that. You do need to go a railway station!

Then, 'in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths', as it says, inter alia, in Proverbs 3. God is constrained in what he can do because of who he is, even though he can do what seems impossible to us. He can bring good out of all situations.

A favourite saying of mine, (attributed to St Augustine, and others) is 'Solvitur ambulando, cum Deo'. The problem is solved by walking, with God – that is, muddling through, from point to point, accompanied by and supported by God. We have proven that time and again in our lives.

David Troughton



This month, Chef Robert gives us a Polish item from 1948

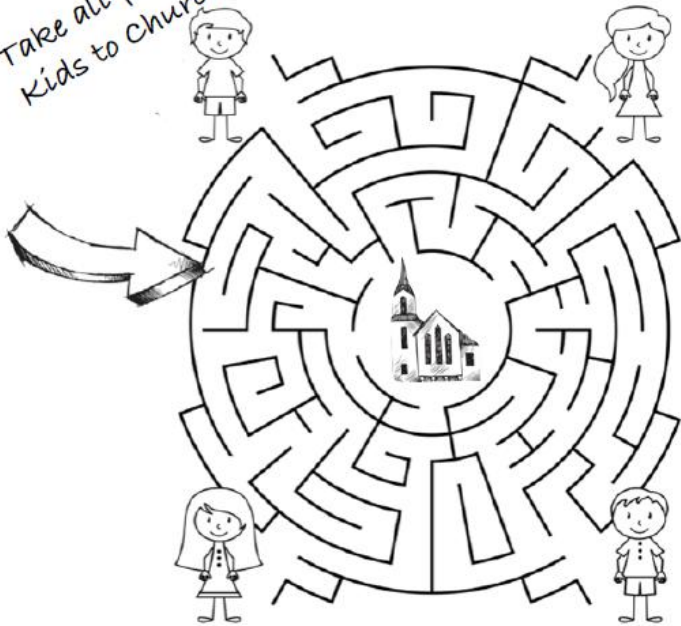
BABKA PODOLSKA
(Babka – Podolian Style)

- ½ cup Sugar
- 1 tsp Salt
- ½ cup Butter
- 1 ¼ cup Milk – Scalded
- 2 Yeast Cakes
- 5 cups Flour
- 4 Eggs – Beaten
- 1 Tsp grated Orange Rind
- 1 Tsp grated Lemon Rind
- ½ cup Almonds – Chopped
- 1 cup Raisins

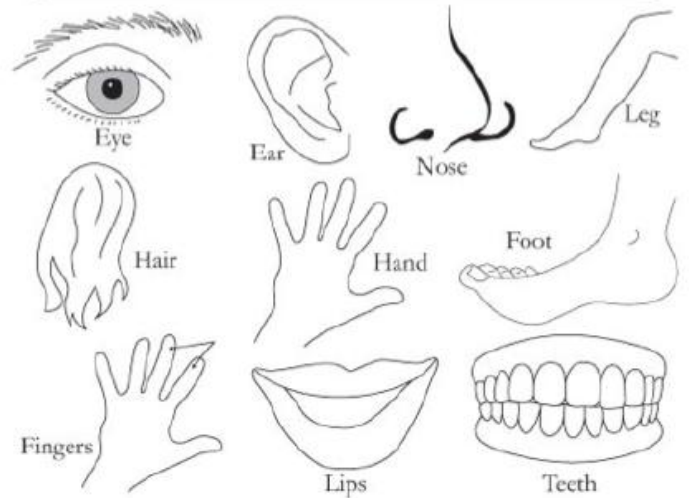
Scald milk, pour over sugar and butter. Cool. Dissolve yeast with a little of the warm mixture and add to remaining milk. Add one-half of the flour and beat well. Add salt to eggs and beat until thick. Add to mixture and mix well. Add remaining ingredients. Knead 15 minutes. Cover and let rise until double in bulk. Place in well-buttered tube pan, sprinkled with fine bread crumbs and bake 45 minutes in 350° oven.

WARE THE BODY E OF CHRIST

Take all four Kids to Church.

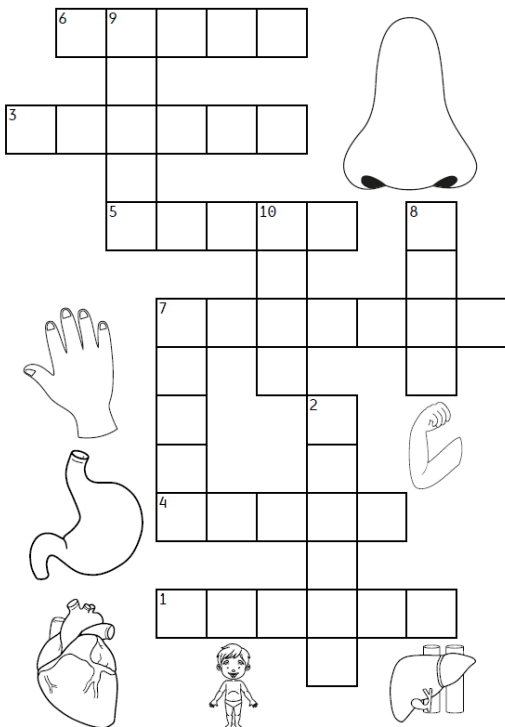


Word Search Puzzle Body Parts



HUMAN BODY CROSSWORD

READ THE CLUES AND FILL IN THE CORRESPONDING SQUARES ON THE PUZZLE.



DOWN

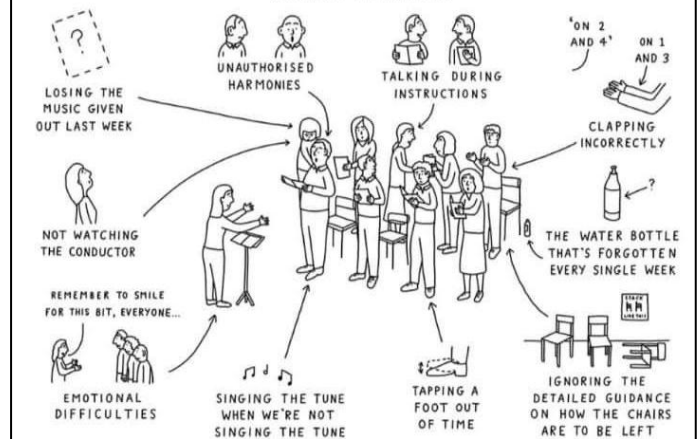
- It's where your voice comes from
- The doorway for food
- Body parts that let us see colors
- Where air goes when you breath in
- This body part helps you sniff things

ACROSS

- What your kidneys and liver are
- These help us know how things feel and taste
- An organ that keeps time to life's beat
- A part of your body that helps you stand straight
- Our body's 'transport system' for oxygen
- Parts of your body that help you move

THE CHOIR REHEARSAL

COMMON PHENOMENA



www.cartoonchurch.com

What Could Possibly Go Wrong? by Dave Walker

Your Visitor is: Phone:.....

Minister: Very Rev Hamish Galloway
Phone 027 603 0063

Email: minister@cashmerechurch.org.nz

Parish Office: 2 MacMillan Ave, Cashmere

Office Administrator: Gail Weaver
Phone: 332-7129

email: cashmere.church@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.cashmerechurch.org.nz

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