

**WISHING YOU  
A BLESSED AND HOLY  
CHRISTMAS**



*from the Clergy and Staff  
of the Anglican Parish of Lower Hutt*

*On the Way*  
*with the*  
*Anglican Parish of Lower Hutt*

*All Saints' Church and St James's Church*



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With grateful thanks to all our photographers and contributors.

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# Weekly diary

Day	Time	Event
Sunday	8am	Eucharist at <b>St James</b>
	9am	Service <b>All Saints, Belmont</b> - Eucharist 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays,- Morning Prayer 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday combined with <b>St James</b> at 9.30am
	10am	Family All-age service at <b>St James</b> , with Eucharist – 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays at <b>9.30am</b> Combined service held at <b>St James</b>
	Evening	5pm Choral Evensong at <b>St James</b> - 2nd Sunday (No Evensong in January, April, December)
Monday	7.45am	Morning Prayer, Chapel, St James or ZOOM
	4pm	Youth Choir practice, St James hall (term time only)
Tuesday	7.45am	Morning Prayer, Chapel, St James or ZOOM
	1.30pm	Association of Anglican Women (AAW) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 1.30pm
Wednesday	9am	Morning Prayer, Chapel, St James or ZOOM
	7-9pm	Choir practice (weekly) recommencing end January 2022
Thursday	7.45am	Waffles for young people, <b>St James</b> (during term time)
	8am	Morning Prayer, Chapel, <b>St James</b> or <b>ZOOM</b>
	10am	Holy Communion at <b>St James</b> (Book of Common Prayer)
	10am	Chirping Cherubs pre-school music group ( <b>St James hall</b> ) - (not held during school holidays - <b>\$4 per family</b> )
	10am	French Conversation (fortnightly) at <b>All Saints</b>
	12pm-3pm	Thursday Club – Lunch at Naenae Bowling Club Contact: Gill Berridge 021 488 682
Friday	7.45am	Morning Prayer, Chapel, <b>St James</b> or <b>ZOOM</b>
	7-9pm	Youth Group <b>St James hall</b> – Intermediates and high schoolers (during term time)
Saturday	8.30am	Prayer time at <b>St James</b>

Note: Events in church buildings are dependent on COVID restrictions.

# Clergy Corner



Dear friends

In ancient times, the prophet Isaiah looked beyond the suffering and distress of the exiled people of Israel to the hope that he found in God. He spoke God’s words to the people: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (*Isaiah 43:19*)

The last two years have been tough going. We have experienced many hard things as a nation and we have been troubled by news of other great hardships for people around the world. It is true that some terrible things have happened. But there is a deeper truth that underlies the whole of human history. God loves us and will not give up on us. God is always doing a new thing.

This year we have taken “a new thing” as our Advent theme.



In the season of Advent, we find God’s new thing first of all in the child Jesus, who was born to people of humble status on the first Christmas Day. Through his life, death and resurrection, he showed himself to be the Saviour of the World – the one whose life transforms and renews our lives.

As people of faith, we find this 'new thing from God' not only in a marvellous event that took place 2,000 years ago. We find it in our relationship with Jesus now as our life path changes and turns. Next year, a major change is happening for Helen and me as we leave the parish after 17 years here. We will move to what could be called 'semi-retirement' in Silverstream, and I plan to work part-time as a Counsellor with the Wellington City Mission's Transitional Housing Service, Te Punaha Pa. Helen hopes to reduce further her part-time teaching hours.

These changes for Helen and me will of course cause a change for the parish as well, and the Parish Nominators are already seeking the next Vicar for the parish, in collaboration with Diocesan leaders.

Taking a new path means moving on and leaving the old. Helen and I have made deep connections in this parish. Our lives and yours have been interlinked over a long period of time. As Vicar, I have valued my close relationships with the other clergy in the parish, the parish staff and lay leaders, the many, many committed parishioners, and with all whose stories and journeys of faith I have shared. We have worked together and achieved together. We have rejoiced together and wept together.

Now, with our going, change will come. Helen and I naturally feel sad about that, even as we look to travel with hope in God into the next stage of our lives. And I guess that others too might feel the sorrow of parting. But just as God has been with us in the past, God will be with each one of us in the new thing ahead – and, in the final analysis, God is the only one who travels with us forever.

God is the one who is faithful. God is the one we can always rely on. We have seen God's goodness in the past, and we can be confident of God's goodness in the future. Thank you to all who have shared our journey over the last 17 years. And thanks to God too, who has granted us this journey, and has blessed and sustained us all along the way.

## *From the registers...*

*(June 2020—November 2021)*

### **Baptisms**

Eden Tzu-Sui TSENG

Rei DIMASAPIT

Hazel Elizabeth O'SULLIVAN

Sophia Isla Rose HENDERSON

Mila Sera COLLINS

### **Marriages**

Uli Thie to Kerstin Wagner

### **Funerals**

Richard Selwyn JEBSON

William (Bill) Newton SHEAT

Michael Bruce JAMESON

James (Jim) Houghton DOHERTY

Judith Hazel NORMAN

Frances Anne OLSEN

Pauline STANDEVEN

Irene Stella SALES

Jocelyn Dorothy Alice LAMBOURN

Sharon Kamleen KRISHNA (memorial)

Bronwen Rosemary WALL

Edna Irene BLUCK

## Down memory lane ...

Sixty years ago, on 9 December 1961, the wedding of John Hulston and Patricia Quinn took place at St James Anglican Church, Lower Hutt. It was the beginning of a commitment to each other and to their family. Now, 60 years on, John and Patricia Hulston still worship at St James. John assists when he can with sound and vision, particularly for the AAW Group meetings.

For the record, here is the photo!



**Congratulations, John and Patricia!**

We wish them a wonderful anniversary with many thanks for their valued contribution to our church :  
from the St James congregation.



“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (*Lamentations 3:22-23*)

Your friend and Vicar

Peter



You are invited  
to attend Peter and Helen’s

**Farewell Service**

to be held at  
St James’s Church

Sunday 30 January 2022

Commencing 9.30am

Followed by refreshments / lunch \*

\* subject to what restrictions are in place at the time

# Chilton St James School News

*New Principal : Kate Pollard*



Kate was previously an Assistant Principal at Kristin School in Auckland, one of the larger and most highly-regarded independent schools in New Zealand. Kate had been in a leadership role there for a number of years and integral to the success of various initiatives and projects across the school. Kate has previously been a teacher and tutor at Kristin and a teacher at Glenfield Intermediate.

Kate earned her Bachelor of Education from Auckland University and is nearing the end of her Masters in Educational Leadership. She is passionate about independent education and being at the forefront of this ever-changing and innovative landscape.

The School is based on strong Christian tenets of empathy, respect and compassion. This allows Chilton students to grow into creative, courageous, confident citizens. Service to the community and others is the embodiment of Christian spirit and we are proud of the School wide service programme that enables their students to serve others in an inclusive manner.

Becoming part of the school is the first step on the pathway that enables students to take their place in the world as responsible members of society.

The former Principal, Kathy Lloyd-Parker, ended her tenure at the end of Term 2. We thank Kathy for her leadership of the School over a number of years, and wish her well for the future.

I really like the book of Lamentations. It starts with expressing the depth of the people's despair, but then has this beautiful passage in chapter 3, quoted also in Peter's column:

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'* (vv. 22-24)

When I read these words, I always think of that moment I spot a rainbow suddenly at the end (or beginning) of a period of heavy rain. The rainbow is a great metaphor for the place of God in human emotion. When we feel the sun of joy, or the rain of despair, God is there in the fullness of God's glory – just as was promised in Genesis 9:13. Our hope in God is well placed.



The reason I developed the title graphic ("A note from your PEL...") is to remind myself – and you, if you are so inclined to think of these things – that there is always hope. It doesn't matter how many news articles I read or how many conversations I have about the difficult parts of the Covid response, I can remember that God is present in each and every one of these situations.

It is this hope that we all carry into the Advent season. This is a season of remembering the hope, peace, joy, and love, which we all experience from the Incarnation of Christ on Earth.

May we all experience God's hope, peace, joy, and love this Advent.

Arohanui,

Raewyn Berkahn, Pandemic Emergency Leader

## A note from your PEL ...

Although there had been occasional short-term movements from Alert Level 1 this year, the return to Alert Level 4 lockdown for the whole country in August may well have come as a surprise for many. We all knew that the Delta variant was 'out there' – after all, Wellington had experienced a brief Alert Level 2 shift in June, when a tourist from Sydney brought more than their tourist dollars with them!

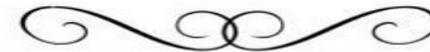
In some ways this current lockdown (Auckland) and restrictions (the rest of the country) has felt very different. In terms of the 'toolbox' of Covid outbreak responses, we now have vaccination in addition to public health measures and lockdowns. Although the whole country was initially in the same Alert Level, there has since been regional differences, with Aucklanders carrying the brunt of the restrictions. For the first time since the beginning of the Covid response there has been a sense that maybe we are not, in fact, a team of 5 million. The difference between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' is becoming larger, along with the size of the group who 'have not'. The work of many, many social agencies, especially foodbanks, has been a critical part of the response.

In my role as PEL, I have needed to keep up to date with the latest information regarding the Government's response to the spread of Covid in our communities. Often news media reporters focus on the negative – those who are struggling, those who disagree with the restrictions, and those who are 'missing out'. I have sometimes needed to step away from the reporting because the sense of hopelessness was becoming too much. Those times I have simply prayed, "God of hope, be present."



A new Chaplain for the School has also commenced at Chilton this year. Natalie Moreno commenced her role as Chaplain at the beginning of Term 2. Natalie retains her role as the Administrator for the Diocesan's Children and Families. Team. She is a trained teacher and a skilled musician. Natalie has been involved in lay ministry to young people for many years, and currently worships in the Parish of Johnsonville.

We welcome both Kate and Natalie to the School, and look forward to our continued association with them both in their new roles.



When Uli asked the Vicar if it would be okay for Kerstin and him to be married at St James' Church on Easter Sunday, Peter was unsure whether that combined service would work together well. In fact, it was a complete success. Easter is a celebration of new life through Christ, and Kerstin and Uli were entering into a new life together, with Christ at the heart of their relationship. It was lovely to witness the wedding of regular members of the congregation, and to see the joy that their wedding brought to them, to their invited guests and to the whole congregation.



*What a delight it was  
to share in  
Uli and Kerstin's  
wedding on  
Easter Sunday!*

# All Saints' News

Another year of lock down challenges in and out of being able to worship at our beloved church.



This year we introduced a *Care ring Tree* to keep in touch with the congregation members who we felt needed some support during the lockdown. We reinstated our House services as soon as we were allowed and have had between 12 and 15 people most Sundays. We had 8 different hosts and had lovely bring and share morning teas and conversation to follow. (The things we found out about each other!!!) Music by Derek on keys, Raewyn and Phil on fretted strings. On All Saints Day we enjoyed an outdoor service at the church. (Who was concerned about the weather? O ye of little faith!)



Our roof project was completed and blessed by the vicar (a couple of weeks after the date on the plaque—lockdown !!)

On St James Day festival Colin White and Philip Gibbons were presented with Bishop's medals for their service to the Parish.

Special thanks to Derek, Raewyn and Harry for their Service leadership and pastoral care throughout the year. We celebrated a significant birthday milestone with Derek, much to his surprise.

The French club continues to meet and the Thursday club is currently meeting at the Naenae bowling club.



the bells are rung to announce the commencement of Choral Evensong, a service and tradition that is maintained at St James's.

Our ringers on the Bicentenary Day were Graeme Ross and Megan Richter. Megan is a student at Chilton St James School and has been learning bell-ringing for a number of years. She is now proficient at bell-ringing and is able to play the bells before services or on other special occasions.



On the Ellacombe Chimes' Celebration day, about 15 seconds before noon, the Westminster Chime was played. Then right on midday, the first of twelve strikes played on the largest bell. Then followed the playing of hymns and peals.

When the bells are rung before a church service, peals and hymns are played – usually followed by the Westminster Chime and the striking of the hour. Other occasions the bells have been played are: after weddings; following a funeral service – a joyful sound of hymns and peals celebrating a person's life; on New Year's Eve – the Westminster Chime and then at midnight, welcoming in the



New Year with the twelve strikes and peals. When playing the bells on a windy day, it's marvelous hearing the sound of the music echoing in the bell tower.

*Photos by Dean Pemberton*

## Ellacombe Chimes ring out !!

On June 26th 2021, St James Church bells rang out at 12 noon to celebrate and commemorate the Bicentenary of the invention and installation of the first Ellacombe Chimes in St Mary's Church, Bitton, UK.

This was a world-wide event organised by the Bitton Historical Society who prepared and published a book on the event. St James's bells are featured in the 2nd edition. Bells rang out through across the world starting in New Zealand at noon and finishing in Vancouver, Canada, seventeen hours later.

Ellacombe Chimes were invented by Reverend Henry Thomas Ellacombe while he was a curate at St Mary's in Bitton, by creating a frame whereby all the bells could be rung by one person, instead of the more usual "one



person to one rope" system. The set of Ellacombe bells installed in St James's Church in 1953 were purchased from John Taylor of Loughborough for £666. There are eight bells – the largest is 30 and a half inches in diameter and weighs over 6 hundred weight. The height to the top of the bell-tower is 57 feet, and to the top of the cross is 75 feet, 6 inches.

These days, the bells of St James are rung at 8am or 10am most Sunday mornings, and on Thursday afternoons when our current bellringer, Graeme Ross, teaches bell-ringing to students. You may also hear them on the second Sunday of the month at 5pm when



*All Saints' Day :  
in the courtyard at All Saints Church, 31 October 2021*

*Photos by Joan Adam*



# Evensong and Art

We have had a wonderful year of Choral Evensong services in 2021, featuring art from around the world and through the ages. In February, Rev Derek Lightbourne began with Salvador Dali's "Christ of St John of the Cross".



In March, we focused on The Annunciation by Leonardo da Vinci, led by Rev Peter Benge.

No Evensong service was held during April, as our Lenten and Easter services are held instead.



In May the Evensong homily was preached by Murray Wills on the theme picture of The Ascension of Christ by the Italian Renaissance painter Dosso Dossi (aka Giovanni di Niccolò de Luteri) (c. 1489–1542).



The preacher in June was Jonathan Berkahn, who did a fantastic job of switching between being Director of Music to preaching during the service. He presented the art of Edward Hicks "The Peaceable Kingdom" which

represents harmony in the world.



The July picture presented by Rev Ralph Robertshawe was Millet's "The Angelus", a well-known and much loved image of prayers at the end of the day.

St James Church is willing to work with families who wish to upgrade a plot or headstone so that it remains visible for future generations. The Graveyard Committee needs to approve the proposed work beforehand, so please contact the Vicar or Wardens with any proposals or plans.

Recently, in Heritage Week (October 2021) we conducted walking tours through the graveyard. A number of people found this of interest, especially those who had not realised that the graveyard is SO OLD!



Some of the taller headstones are leaning over, or have been vandalised over the years. One gravestone that recently disappeared from view was that of Judith Mary Williams, who died 24 October 1931, aged 35 years. It was visible in 2019 but it is now covered over.

Our records of those in our graveyard are updated with new details when they are provided by current family members, and we are able to provide information to those who are working on their family ancestry. The Hutt City Archive is also a good source for historical information.

At the present time a group of parishioners aim to clean the headstones and surrounding areas each year before Easter and Christmas. Ideally we would like to do this more often. Whilst many grave sites no longer have family living locally there are a good number who still do. It is very rewarding caring for this area that has so many of our faithful parishioners –many of whom gave much to the life of this Parish. If anyone is interested in being part of this group please email : Liz Friend - [wj.friend@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wj.friend@xtra.co.nz).

## Heritage tours in our historic graveyard

Our graveyard in Lower Hutt is situated between St James Church and the Hutt City Council buildings. It was established on this site in 1846 after the first St James Church (which was established in 1841) and its graveyard on the western bank of Hutt River were washed away in a flood. While many of the early gravestones have been broken or buried over the years, there are still around 170 gravestones visible. In addition, to acknowledge all of those buried over the years whose headstones are no longer visible, a *memorial plaque* listing all known names of people in the graveyard was installed on Easter Monday 2019. Of the 832 names on the memorial plaques, there are four who died in World War One (one at Gallipoli, two in action at the Somme and one who died of his wounds in a French hospital just one month before the war ended). These four are not buried in our graveyard but their names are a personal reminder for their families.

Some families are well represented in our graveyard: Fleet, Wolland, Russell, Smith, Simpson, Fitzherbert, Abbott, Barber, Ashton, Collett, Cooley, Carter, England, McIntosh, Mudgway, Riddiford, and many others. One family, the Stannaways, all died in a horrendous flood in 1858—mother, father and five children. Perhaps some of these names are familiar - they may even be your ancestors! We also have the remains of former Lower Hutt mayors and previous Vicars interred in a special commemorative area.

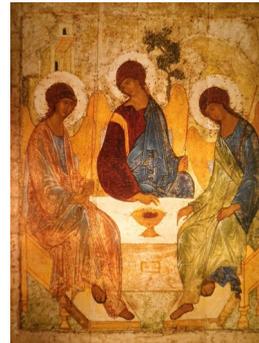


The two lychgates, one at either end of the path through the graveyard, provide information on the church and city history, and list the names of visible graves at this time. Unfortunately, as the ground builds up with leaves and dust, some headstones are gradually covered. It is also sad to see the wording on the headstones being obliterated by weather events. The grounds around the grave sites are maintained but the headstones remain the responsibility of the family members.

Raewyn Berkahn preached at our August Evensong. She presented a message based on “Christ in the house of Martha and Mary” by Johannes Vermeer.



Then Covid-19 hit, and our Evensong was changed to a ZOOM service. Screening from a choir member’s home, the St James choir, bible readers and preacher Derek Lightbourne broadcast the service to those watching from their own homes. Derek presented the icon of the Trinity by Anton Rublev, icon painter of the 15th century.



In October, Rev Murray Wills brought the message ‘Hidden in Plain Sight’, with the 17<sup>th</sup> century painting “The supper at Emmaus” by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, where the painting held special hidden messages for viewers.



The final Evensong for 2021 was presented by Rev Peter Benge. The picture he chose was “Broken”, an original painting by New Zealand artist Zoe Cromwell. Peter spoke of the broken clay pot as an image of the death of Jesus, and the ‘big bang’ behind it representing the power of God to raise Jesus from the dead.



This was a very special year of meditating on our Christian faith with the help of these inspiring works of art.

## All Saint's Church

6 Norfolk Street, Belmont Domain

(all services will be dependent on the Alert Level at the time)

**Café Carols : Friday 10 December : 7.30pm**

**Christmas Day : 25 December 2021**

**9am : Christmas Day celebration**

**Sunday 26 December : Boxing Day**

**9am : Morning Worship**

**2 January 2022 :**

**9am : Epiphany—Morning Worship**

**9 January 2022 :**

**9am : Baptism of the Lord—Eucharist**

**16 January 2022 :**

**9am : Epiphany 2—Morning Worship**

**23 January 2022 :**

**9am : Epiphany 3—Eucharist**

**30 January 2022 :**

**9.30am combined service at St James**

**Farewell to Revd Peter Benge and Helen Benge**

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### Our Christmas Mission Offering

**Afghan Christians** are alone and in danger. They need security, shelter and food. This year's **Christmas Mission Offering** will go to the **Barnabas Fund 01-901** appeal for their support.

**On-line: [www.barnabasfund.org/nz/donate/](http://www.barnabasfund.org/nz/donate/) : Fund 01-901**



## St James' Church

(all services will be dependent on Alert Level at the time :

ZOOM live streaming will be available :

Meeting ID 822 8820 8761 : Passcode 635400)

**5 December 2021 : 10am Children's Pageant**

**12 December 2021 : 10am Advent 3**  
**7.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols**

**19 December 2021 : 10am Advent 4**

**Christmas Eve : 24 December 2021:**

**5.30pm Children & families' service**

**11pm Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day : 25 December 2021**

**8am Christmas Day celebration**

**10am Christmas Day celebration**



**Sunday 26 December :**

**Note:** There will be no St James services on Boxing Day—the only service on Boxing Day will be at All Saints Church—see opposite page.

**2 January 2022 : 8am and 10am : Epiphany**

**9 January 2022 : 8am and 10am : Baptism of the Lord**

**16 January 2022 : 8am and 10am : Epiphany 2**

**23 January 2022 : 8am and 10am : Epiphany 3**

**30 January 2022 :**

**9.30am combined service at St James**

**Farewell to Revd Peter Benge and Helen Benge**

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See opposite page for details on our **Christmas Mission Offering**.  
Donation envelopes are available. No donation receipts can be given  
for overseas missions.