



BUSH TELEGRAPH

St James Presbyterian Church
May 2004

Contacts : English Language Congregation

Minister: Alan Shaw, 235 Adelaide Road, Newtown 389 8597

Session Clerk: Tom Law, 134 Hansen St, Newtown 389 8202

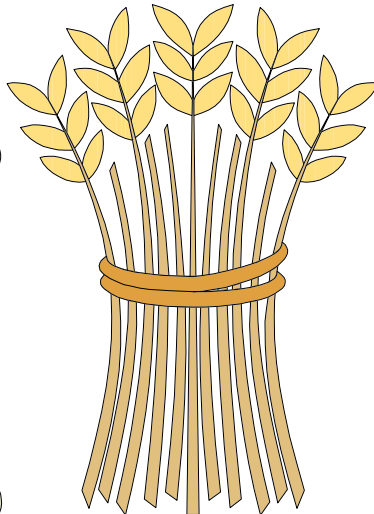
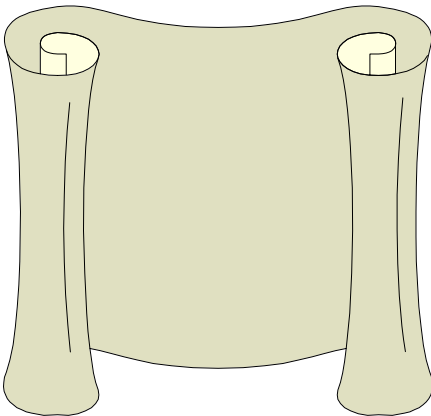
Treasurer: Robert Hunter, 26 Orr Cres, Lower Hutt, 569 7953

Newsletter Editor: Valerie Hagan-Pratt, 14 Southgate Road, Island Bay, 383 7071

Contacts : Niue Congregation

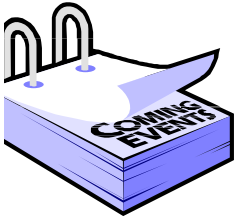
Minister: Lagi Sipeli, 170 Moxham Ave, Hataitai, 386 1989

Pahe Vilipaama, 13 Sidlaw St, Strathmore, 388 1650



We encourage our people to express their faith in God in
the community

Parish calendar



2 May Bring and share lunch
5 May Session meets

Further details on all but regular meetings are included elsewhere in the newsletter.

Bring and share lunch



On Sunday 2 May we will resume having our monthly bring and share lunches. So pack something tasty to share and join your fellow parishioners for lunch after church.

Shaw family

Alan and Lesley have reached the stage that all parents with university student children look forward to – graduation. They will be in Dunedin from 5 to 12 May to attend Odette's graduation. We extend our congratulations to Odette who is graduating BSc with first class honours, second degree. She is currently continuing with further study. If you should need a minister while Alan is away contact Tom Law in the first instance.

Niue St James

With the impending retirement of Rev Lagi Sipeli Presbytery will be conducting a visitation of the Niue St James Parish to discern the people's intentions for its future direction. At this stage we have no indication of when this will take place but it is not too far off. We offer our prayers to support them during this important but potentially stressful time.

Organ safari



Those of you who didn't make it missed a good series of recitals at St Marks, St Pauls Lutheran and St James, and especially at St James. Stuart provided the highlight of the series despite having to overcome a spot of wilfulness on the part of the organ which necessitated a few changes in the programme. He played with skill, passion and commitment.

Lectionary

Date	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
2 May	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelations 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
9 May	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelations 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
16 May	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelations 21:10,22-22:5	John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
23 May	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelations 22:12-14,16-17,20-21	John 17:20-36
30 May Pentecost	Genesis 11_1-9	Psalm 104:24-34,35b	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8-17(25-27)
6 June	Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31	Psalm 8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15

News from Trinity

On 14 April the induction service for Rev Desmond Cooper was held at Trinity. He commenced his work as parish minister there on Monday 12 April. He is working part time for Trinity and part time for Wesley. Des is married to Lorna who is a schoolteacher and they have a grownup family.

Cancel the Debt Now

Jubilee Aotearoa has launched a new set of four postcards asking the New Zealand government to strongly promote debt cancellation for developing countries, as part of a strategy to help eradicate poverty. The postcards are addressed to Michael Cullen, Helen Clark and Marian Hobbs. A fourth postcard invites people to join up to the next stage of the campaign. Postcards are available from Christian World Service, which continues to be the contact point for the campaign. Please order the required number from CWS (see back page) or gillian.southey@cws.org.nz Contributions towards the cost of production and postage are very welcome. A new issue of the magazine, Debt Action, providing the most recent information on debt issues, will be available shortly.
From Christian World Service April newsletter

Israel/Palestine: Escalating the Violence

The story above of two-year-old Mohammad is just one of hundreds of incidents caused by the wall: people deprived of medical care, of work or of their land to grow food. He died of a curable illness because his parents could not get him to hospital in time – the gates in the wall were closed and unmanned. The wall still does not keep suicide bombers out of Israel as it is supposed to do – it only makes innocent people suffer, creating more bitterness and hopelessness.

A Christian Peacemaking Team (CPT), an ecumenical US-based organisation committed to violence- reduction in areas of conflict, has been living in Hebron on the West Bank since 1995. They listen to many different people, observe, document and publicise the situation, protest at human rights abuses and support Palestinians in their every-day lives.

They work with both Israeli and Palestinian groups whose concern is peace with justice. Among them are “Rabbis for Human Rights”,

the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (a form of collective punishment meted out by the Israelis in violation of international law),

the Women’s Coalition for Peace and Justice,

the Palestinian Centre for Liberation Theology,

“Refuseniks” (young Israelis who refuse to do national service in the Occupied Territories) and

the Bereaved Parents’ Circle, uniting Israelis and Palestinians.

A Dunedin Quaker, Christina Gibb, took part in a short-term CPT delegation to the West Bank in September last year, to see for herself the facts on the ground. Christina says that Israeli policies have an all-pervasive, oppressive impact on all aspects of Palestinian life. She saw the contrasts of good roads for Israeli settlers only, but road blocks for Palestinians, cutting off most normal routes. New West Bank settlements for Israelis, but land expropriation for Palestinians. Continuous house-building in the settlements, but refusal of building permits and house demolitions for Palestinians. The Wall, supposedly ‘security’ for Israelis, but cruelly separating Palestinians from each other and cutting them off from their farmland, from education and health care, from families and work.

“We were again and again told that terrorism is not the problem,” Christina says. “The occupation is the problem. We saw its impact everywhere. Many people told us, ‘We could live together. The problem is not between Israelis and Palestinians, Muslims and Jews, but between those on both sides who want a just and lasting peace and those who do not’.”

A young Israeli after his three years' conscription has said how bad it is for young men to be put in a situation where they are highly-armed and all-powerful. They can harass, abuse and even kill innocent Palestinian civilians, including children, testing the limits of their own propensity for violence. This undermines core Jewish values, such as justice for all and recognition that everyone is made in the image of God.

Asked about prospects for change, Christina says opposition within Israel is increasing. The number of Refuseniks is increasing. Prominent Israelis, even in the security service, say their current government policy is counter-productive and is inciting the suicide bombings. Non-violent resistance by whole villages is widespread and increasing in face of the relentless building of the Wall. Israeli peace groups stand in solidarity with them. Near one village where Palestinian land is under threat, the Israeli settlers have joined the protests. They say, "We are not farmers, but we don't want to deprive our neighbours of their land and livelihood."

Christina insists we should avoid demonising and stereotyping anyone. "However," she says, "We must not be afraid to speak out against extremes of Zionism (which claims all the land from the Mediterranean to the Jordan for Israel. Those who support this position have a distorted theology, far from our understanding of God as love) for fear of being branded anti-Semitic or anti-Jewish. It is important to make the distinction and to criticise the oppressive and colonialist Israeli government, just like we would any other."

Where to from here? Christina says lasting peace must be peace with justice for all. This could mean two states side by side – though it may be too late for this; or one state with equal citizenship for all; but not continuing domination and total control of Palestinians by Israel.

-Christina Gibb (cgibb@ihug.co.nz) is available to speak until July when she hopes to return to Hebron for another stint with the CPT. See also www.wcc-coe.org and follow the links to "Security or Segregation".

From Christian World Service April newsletter

Good causes

1. The Food Bank. We collect non-perishable food and grocery items for the Wellington City Mission food bank. Please put your donations into the cane laundry basket in the church lounge. Every little helps.
2. Used stamps. Please save them from all your mail fromwork and at home and put them in the box in the church lounge or give them direct to Yvonne Curtis.
3. PSDS. Presbyterian Savings and Development. If you have money you would like to invest at a competitive rate and do some good for the church at the same time, see Yvonne Curtis

Rosters

Date	Door	Bible Reading	Morning tea	Flowers
2 May	Lesley Shaw	Stuart Gordon	Paul & Jenny	English Language
9 May	Valerie Hagan-Pratt	Robert Hunter	Robyn McCully	Niue St James
16 May	Eleanor Law	Paul Satherley	Valerie Hagan-Pratt	Niue St James
23 May	Harry Graafland	Tom Law	Gillian Gordon	English Language
30 May	Jennifer Couper	Valerie Hagan-Pratt	Karen Rhind	English Language

Thank you to those who serve on our rosters. Without you people would not be welcomed and there would be no cup of tea which everyone so obviously enjoys.

If for any reason you can't perform your roster commitment, please try to arrange a swap with someone else on the list before contacting the roster co-ordinator.

Morning teas: Eleanor Law 389 8202

Bible reading and door duty: Eleanor Law 389 8202 or Valerie Hagan-Pratt 383 7071

Bush Telegraph



The third issue for 2004 will be available on Sunday 30 May 2004. Contributions for future issues are welcome. Please see Valerie Hagan-Pratt no later than the service Sunday 23 May for inclusion in the next issue. or 383 7071 phone or fax at 383 7091. My email address at work is Valerie.hagan-pratt@LexisNexis.co.nz

St James Presbyterian Church
235 Adelaide Road
Newtown