



The South Calling - Ko Te Tonga kei te Karaka

Ko Te Tonga kei te Karaka - The South Calling: 14 January

2021

Welcome to our first issue of 2021 with and message from Bishop Steve and hear about a significant appointment along with other important news.

[Click here](#) for a printable version of this newsletter. If you have any articles for inclusion in the first edition of 2021, please forward these to registrar@calledsouth.org.nz by 9 am 18 January. We appreciate any news and photos you have to pass on.

Remember that opportunities for daily prayer can be found on our [Prayer Resources](#) web page.



A New Year to Experience God's Favour

Bishop Steve has been reflecting on Advent and Christmas - how we can bring our lives back into a new light?

As the excitement and celebration of Christmas night drifts into pleasant memory, I find myself pondering on the echoes of the angels declaration before the shepherds: that message of Glory to God in the highest heaven, and then

peace offered on earth to those whom God favours....

Christmas imagery for me is very much associated with the night – the shepherds on the hillside, the Magi seeking to understand the stars, the dreams given to Joseph – all features of the darkness, stillness and waiting of night. And it's into this darkness that we get to hear of the birth of Jesus Christ – Emmanuel, God with us, the hope and desire of nations. For me this is imagery of comfort and intimacy: it's when we are living in the dark that "the light and life of all people", as John's Gospel puts it, comes to shine on us.

And then this reminder of God's **favour**. God coming into the world because God favours us. Humanity with all its faults and failings is, at heart, favoured by God.

Towards the end of 2020 I was increasingly reminded that the gospel is good news, and that the church needs to preach this good news in both word and action. When others look at the church – whether they like what they see or not – they need to know that we are proclaiming GOOD NEWS.

My prayer for the start of 2021 is that we both realise for ourselves, and then share with others, the reality of God favour for us: that we are loved, delighted in, and cherished by God.

And as a result of this recognition we be enabled to see ourselves and those round about us in a new light. A light which encourages us to grow in love back to God, and towards others as we too delight in God as God delights in us.

May you be blessed with the knowledge of God's favour this year

+Steven



Appointment of Diocesan Community Ministry Enabler

I'm delighted to announce that Rev'd Dr Anne Van Gend has been appointed as our new Diocesan Community Enabler.

This is a new role resulting from a successful application to St John's Trust which made resources available to Dioceses looking to explore new ways of enabling faith following the impact of COVID-19, especially in more rural areas of the Diocese.

Anne has a wide range of experience including an undergraduate degree in music, and postgraduate in education and theology, including a cross-disciplinary PhD (theology and literature). She was ordained 25 years ago, and has worked as a secondary teacher and priest cross-culturally in Zambia, South Africa and the Northern Territory of Australia prior to returning to Aotearoa New Zealand in 2013. She is more recently known to more of us in her role as Executive Director of the Anglican Schools Office and Deputy Vicar General (from 7 July 2020). She is married to the Ven. Dr Michael Godfrey, Diocesan Ministry Educator.

Anne will be beginning work with us on 1 March - more details to follow. Please join with me in welcoming Anne to this exciting new position and keep her in your prayers as she transitions into this role.

+Steven Benford.



St Hilda's Collegiate School 125th Anniversary

St Hilda's Collegiate School is turning 125 this year. It is celebrating this milestone with Old Girls, families, staff and supporters from Friday 19 March to Sunday 21 March.

The 125th is a wonderful opportunity for our St Hilda's community to come together and celebrate this special milestone in the history of our school.

The weekend will begin at 4pm on Friday, March 19th, 2021, with registration and a cocktail function at the school. On Saturday, March 20th, there will be a schedule of activities taking place at St Hilda's including school tours, decade group photos, a morning tea for all former staff and Board members, film screenings, exhibitions, performances and a Gala Lunch at the Glenroy Auditorium at the Dunedin Town Hall.

On Saturday evening, there will be a '125 Years of Inspiring St Hilda's Women' event in the Arts Building at St Hilda's, where a panel of influential St Hilda's Old Girls will talk about their career and life journeys since leaving St Hilda's.

On Sunday, March 21st, there will be a Chapel service and morning tea at the school, and then a lunch and tours at Tolcarne. There will also be merchandise available to purchase throughout the weekend, including a limited number of the St Hilda's Rose especially grown for this 125th celebration.

To find out more and purchase tickets, [follow this link.](#)



Advent and Christmas 2020

A video compilation of shared photographs (including social media) give a snapshot of Christmas celebrations last month.

[Christmas 2020 Diocese of Dunedin](#)



A Mainly Music Christmas at Taieri

Some photos to wrap up the Christmas season from Mainly Music at St Luke's, Mosgiel, where over 50 adults and (mainly) children met on 17 December 2020.

This was timed at 10 am to include older brothers and sisters.

Sue McCafferty writes: "Our own children sang "Hallelujah, I've heard about this baby boy" and the first verse of "Away in the Manger" on Christmas Eve...."



Connecting with Young People

The Diocese of Waikato-Taranaki have shared some resources from Strandz that look forward to the start of school this year...

While the Strandz resources are predominately made with the parish leaders of children and families in mind, they are very easy to adapt for home use and offer a great way for parents, grandparents and extended whānau to connect with young people and their faith journey. The website is easy to navigate and offers loads of free downloadable resources (created by Strandz and other vetted organisations).

As our kids head back to school, Strandz want to ensure they know they are supported by their local church whānau. They have put together some great ideas and resources to help you pray for our students and teachers, giving them the best start to the academic year. Strandz Back to School Blessing Kete includes fun, creative and simple ways to inspire ANYONE to, not only pray for others, but let people know they are in our prayers. Check it out [HERE](#).

Likewise the [PRAYER](#) and Seasonal sections (check out all the amazing Epiphanytide ideas [HERE](#)) are jam packed with ideas and downloads that are not offer fun ways of connecting with the spiritual journey of the young people in your life.



Relationships and Conflict Training Day

You are invited to participate in the 'Relationships and Conflict' Training Day to be held on Saturday 13 February 2021 at St Mark's, Balclutha.

It is open for anyone in the diocese who is interested in attending, but is recognised as an essential part of the Lay Ministers' training requirements.

This year we will be looking at the following topics:

1. **Justice and Peace** (Anne Van Gend)
2. **Techniques for dealing with tricky situations** (Kelvin Wright)
3. **Mediating Dangerously** (Michael Godfrey)
4. **Conflict management Syles** (Anne Gover and John Graveston)

Morning and afternoon tea will be provided by the Balclutha Parish - please bring your own lunch, Bible, Prayer Book and pen.

Registrations are being accepted up to Monday 8 February. Complete and send the form in the poster attached below to Anne Gover, 4 Lennox Street, Gore 9710, or email the completed form/details required to annegover@xtra.co.nz

St Marks is located at 19 Renfrew Street, Balclutha:



Dunedin Diocesan Trust Board (DDTB) Trustee Vacancies

Could you contribute to the Diocese of Dunedin by being a Trustee of the Dunedin Diocesan Trust Board?

Applications for membership of the DDTB will be considered by the Diocese of Dunedin Trusts Board on 26 January 2021. Please send any applications for this before 19 January 2020.

Under Statute 26 each Trustee of the DDTB is appointed for a term of three years and hold numbered seats. At the end of each financial year "the number of members nearest to one third of The Board shall be deemed to have retired but shall remain in office until their successors are appointed". At it's November 2020 meeting, three members of the DDTB were deemed to have retired: they may choose to reapply for another term, but also may choose to stand down.

We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a Trustee. We are especially interested in people who have an interest and (preferably) experience in governance and who can add to the diversity of this Board.

The board has two main roles:

First, it manages two investment funds (the Income Fund and the Growth Fund) as trustee for diocesan institutions, e.g. social services, residential and community based services, educational institutions and so on. These bodies deposit funds with it. The total funds under management in the two Funds is currently over \$32 million dollars.

The second major responsibility of the Board is the legal ownership of all Diocesan properties: it acts a trustee for all Diocesan institutions including local churches and parishes, who are the beneficial owners, i.e. they make use of these resources for their mission and ministry. In this capacity, the Board arranges insurance of properties. It has also taken a leadership role in the assessment of properties for seismic stability.

The Board meets monthly, as does its subcommittee known as the Investment Committee. The Investment Committee monitors current investments to ensure the best returns possible and that they meet ethical business standards. It frequently conducts business by email outside of its monthly meetings as necessary. Board members are able to meet remotely (teleconference, video conference) for anyone who is not in the immediate Dunedin area.

If you are interested, please contact the Diocesan Registrar registrar@calledsouth.org.nz and complete the following forms as part of your application:

[Application form to the Diocese of Dunedin Trusts Board](#) (the Board which appoints members onto Diocesan Organisation Boards or Trusts), [Charities Declaration](#) and [Declaration of Adherence for Trust Boards](#).

Have a look also at our [Boards Orientation Letter](#) for more information



round is taking place with the closing date of midday Friday 11 Feb 2021.

Grants are made by the Diocesan Council on the recommendation of the Social Justice Committee and are expected to be sought on a quarterly basis, with the ability to consider urgent applications outside that time-frame on a one-off basis.

Child Care Funds

Social Service Funds

Disadvantaged Youth Funds

The closing date for applications for all grants is midday 11 February 2021.

Application forms/further information:

- [**Social Service Funds Grant Application Form \(pdf version\)**](#) (a form you can write on and send back, see attachments at the end of this article) or [**Social Service Funds Grant Application Form**](#) (Word version that you can type into and send in – also attached at the end of this article)
- [**Application for Funding for Disadvantaged Youth \(pdf version\)**](#) (a form you can write on and send back, see attachments at the end of this article) or [**Application for Funding for Disadvantaged Youth**](#) (Word version that you can type into and send in – also attached at the end of this article)



The Times May Have Changed But Our Purpose Remains The Same

2021 marks the 50th year of Anglican Family Care and we are planning a year of celebration! Beginning with a **HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR** on 14 February, we have an array of stunning homes to view & gardens to stroll

through on the Taieri.

One of our featured gardens has a collection of heritage roses that have been recognised as “A Garden of National Significance” (5 stars), as assessed by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

Tickets are \$30 per person, available from our Dunedin office (266 Hanover St), De Winkel Mosgiel (128 Gordon Road, Mosgiel), Simply Flowers & Events (70 Musselburgh Rise) and our website anglicanfamilycare.org.nz/house-and-garden-tour

A fantastic gift idea!

Attached below is a poster - print it out and put it somewhere to be seen...



Vacancies: 14 January 2021

A regular update of Diocesan vacancies and those further afield.

Anglican Family Care:

For current vacancies see their website [here](#)

Diocese of Dunedin Otago Peninsula Parish

PART TIME PRIEST IN CHARGE/VICAR

The Otago Peninsula Anglican Parish is seeking a permanent part-time Priest in Charge/Vicar.

The post is open to any Priest in Anglican Orders who is entitled to live and work in New Zealand.

The parish is able to support a 50% stipend, and the appointee would be ably supported by a strong team of lay-leaders and a number of retired clergy. The appointee would be a person who values and enhances this leadership, and the appointment would be for a three-year term in the first instance. Accommodation and/or an accommodation allowance on a pro rata basis would be arranged with the successful applicant.

The Otago Peninsula is on the edge of Dunedin City, which provides rich experiences of arts, sports, academic and other cultural benefits. The parish includes suburban and scattered rural communities, and has reflected that diversity over its long history. The story of the parish since its conception has been one of creative and adventurous approaches to ministry and mission. The parish has a strong record of exploring creative and inclusive models of ministry, empowering lay-leadership, engaging actively in social justice issues, affirming women's priestly and other ministries, all underpinned by often innovative yet always faithful sacramental and liturgical worship. In July 2019 the Parish voted to consolidate its ministry, mission and outreach and its liturgical life at St Michael and All Angels' Church in Andersons Bay. The appointee would lead the cooperative amalgamation of the individual faith communities (and their differing traditions), while continuing the parish's developing connections with the various communities that form the demographic of the Otago Peninsula.

The Bishop of Dunedin is looking to appoint Priests who are practising and modelling lives of prayer, a commitment to the Bible, and witnessing to the risen life of Jesus Christ.

To request a Parish Profile or to make informal enquiries please contact:

Rt Reverend Steven Benford (Bishop of Dunedin) PO Box 13170, Dunedin 9052 New Zealand.

Email: bishops.pa@calledsouth.org.nz Phone: (03) 488 0826

To apply, please send a formal letter of application, your CV/resumé, and the details of two referees to the above address.

Vicar of St Matthew's Church in the City of Dunedin

St Matthew's is looking for a full-time Vicar. We are seeking the right person to lead our team of committed lay people to make disciples, equip the church and reach out to impact and transform the local community.

We have a long history as an evangelical, charismatic church, with a missional focus, deeply valuing good biblical teaching. We are affiliated to the AFFIRM Christian Community, and any applicant would need to be a member, or able to subscribe to the beliefs and discipline of the Community.

Our facilities are well resourced and we are looking for someone with a passion for the gospel, good relational and management skills, and is a genuine team worker.

The post is open to any Priest in Anglican Orders who is entitled to live and work in New Zealand.

To request a Parish Profile or to make informal enquiries please contact:

Rt Rev'd Steven Benford (Bishop of Dunedin) PO Box 13170, Dunedin 9052 New Zealand. Email: bishops.pa@calledsouth.org.nz Phone: (03) 488 0826

To apply, please send a formal letter of application, your CV/Resume, and the details of two Referees to the above address.

The Bishop of Dunedin, is looking to appoint priests who are practising and modelling lives of prayer, a commitment to the Bible, and witnessing to the risen life of Jesus Christ.

Diocese of Nelson

Richmond Parish – Vicar (full-time)

Are you the person that God is calling to journey with us in Richmond parish to grow God's Kingdom in our community? Based in an evangelical tradition, we are theologically broad. We have worked hard to become a safe, inclusive place, and want to become more effective in our community with as many parishioners as possible exercising their spiritual gifts. We are looking for a skilled preacher and teacher, a person of prayer and spiritual insight, and someone who is able to communicate vision and bring others into the vision. Parish Profile:

<https://www.nelsonanglican.nz/vacancy/richmond-parish>

Expressions of interest can be made through the Bishop's office by sending a formal letter of enquiry and current CV to the Bishop's PA, bishops.pa@nelsonanglican.nz or Ph: 03 548 3124 . Closing date is Friday 29 January 2021

Blenheim South Parish - Priest in Charge (full-time)

St Christopher's is looking for a full-time Priest in Charge to lead a team of committed lay people to build disciples and reach out to impact and transform the local community. We have a long history as an evangelical church, deeply valuing good biblical teaching and a missional focus. Our church is well resourced and we are looking for someone with a passion for the gospel, good relational skills, management skills and who is a genuine team worker.

Parish Profile: <https://www.nelsonanglican.nz/vacancy/blenheim-south-parish>

Expressions of interest can be made through the Bishop's office by sending a formal letter of enquiry and current CV, to the Bishop's PA, bishops.pa@nelsonanglican.nz or Ph: 03 548 3124 Closing date is Friday 29 January 2021

Diocese of Christchurch

Priest Assistant Parish of Upper Riccarton - Yaldhurst (Half time position)

Serving our community since 1858, the parish is at an exciting phase with the soon to be opened church and the newly established Pre-school.

We are seeking a Priest who has a pastoral heart to complement our work in the community. The position is half time.

Expressions of interest to Vicar and Wardens please: nick.mountfort@gmail.com

Applications close: March 1, 2021

The Northwest Christchurch Anglican Parish are seeking a priest or deacon to join us and our Vicar-led team in mission in the northwest suburbs of Christchurch.

We are offering an exciting new opportunity for mission and ministry among younger generations on the edge of church.

We want to reach out to the families that are connected to the parish through our ministries. These include our Pre-School Music and Movement, our 'Wacky Wednesday' afterschool club, and '237 Youth', our community-facing youth group. There are also families who have come to bring children to be baptised and ones who have been married in the Parish.

For full details please see the attached advertisement.

For a parish profile and job description please contact the parish office at admin@northwestchchparish.org.nz 033521366-9.30am-12.00pm weekdays.

Closing Date for applications 25th January.

We envisage the position starting Feb/March/April depending on circumstances of the successful candidate.

If you would like an informal conversation with the vicar Joanne Latham before you consider applying please contact her on 021 038 0471, joanne.latham@gmail.com.

Please note the office will be closed from December 24th until January 25th and the vicar on holiday until 20th January.

Diocese of Waiapu Priest/Vicar of Holy Trinity Tauranga

The Diocese of Waiapu is seeking a Priest/Vicar to lead the parish of Holy Trinity Tauranga as they explore "new ways of doing church".

HTT is committed to a path of becoming a missional church by growing our connection to the community through service - taking the good news of Jesus to the people and creating disciples of those who seek to follow him.

The parish preference is for a long-term interregnum who has the change leadership skills and experience to take the church into a new stage of existence. The role will be reviewed after a three-year period.

The parish is able to support a full stipend. Accommodation would be available and/or an accommodation allowance on a pro-rata basis would be arranged with the successful applicant.

For full details please see the attached advertisement.

For expressions of interest please contact in the first instance Sandra Gifkins (Office Manager, Diocese of Waiapu) sandra.gifkins@waiapu.com for a copy of the Parish Profile.

Closing date for applications is Friday 22 January 2021.

Diocese of Auckland

Vicar for the Parish of Northcote

This is a **full-time role with** applications closing on Friday **22 January 2021**.

The Parish Profile is attached, and can also be found on the [Diocesan Website \(click here\)](#). Details for the application process are on the final page of this profile.



Events and Calendar

Read on for events throughout the Diocese, including community events which may be of interest.....

Let us know anything that your Parish, community service or other organisation is doing and we will place it here. Make sure you visit this page regularly and keep all that is going on in your prayers.

[Link to Diocesan Office Calendar](#)

Regular meetings and events at/organised by the Diocesan office in a monthly calendar format

[Link to Christian Calendar](#)

Dates for feast days and other Christian observations

Shared Worship Opportunities

[Daily Morning Prayers:](#) Tuesday to Saturday at 9 am via Zoom with Bishop Steve. No computer or smart phone? Telephone 04 886 0026 (it may be a toll call depending on your plan), then key in the meeting ID: 959 771 603 66

[Daily Evening Prayer:](#) Tuesday to Friday at 5 pm with Bishop Steve. Meeting ID: 934 8425 0283

See [our website page](#) for details on connecting electronically and in-person to worship.

Southland Based Events

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE: 7pm @ All Saints Invercargill on the first and third Sundays of each month except January.

Dunedin Based Events

MUM HEART GROUP

Looking for a chance to develop a fresh vision for your mothering journey? Then join us fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.30pm, at St. John's Roslyn, for food, drink and discussion. Join us for an informal get together, January 14th to find out more and decide if this group is for you! [See this article](#) for more information.

The Salvation Army Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit's report State of the Nation 2021

- **Date:** Thursday 18 February 2021
- **Place:** The Haven – The Salvation Army Dunedin 575 Princes St 5:30pm for presentation – SPPU senior policy analyst Paul Barber
- **Food and drink from 5:00pm** and following the presentation.

RVSP appreciated (but not necessary), contact David McKenzie

david.mckenzie@salvationarmy.org.nz

Equipping for Ministry

Licensed Ministers Training Day Saturday 13 February 2021

This day will focus on Relationships and conflict training and will be held at St Mark's Church, Balclutha. Please register before Monday 8 February (registration form attached in the "Relationships and Conflict poster") plus see [separate article](#).

SOUTHLAND ARCHDEACONRY MEETING: Tuesday 2 February at Holy Trinity Invercargill 12 - 2pm.

All are welcome, bring your lunch. Stay for all or part of the time. John Graveston, the Diocesan Child Youth & Families Educator will be sharing with us.

SOUTHLAND ARCHDEACONARY PRAYER BREAKFAST: The normal date would be Saturday 6 February but this is Waitangi Day in 2021. Stand by for further information.

LOCAL CHURCHES CONFERENCE: Tuesday 27 April. Further information to come

6 DAY SILENT RETREAT, 28 February - 5 March 2020, Orangapai

A 6 day silent directed retreat in the vast open spaces of the Maniatoto.

Date: 28 February - 5 March

Venue: En Hakkore, Orangapai (near Ranfurly)

Time: Sunday 28 February 11.00am to Friday 5 March lunchtime.

Cost: \$510. Registration closes 19 February. Max 16.

Retreat Team: Barbara McMillan, Kelvin Wright, Lex McMillan, John Franklin

Registrations and enquiries to John Franklin, john.franklin94@gmail.com

ORDER OF ST LUKE THE PHYSICIAN - Fellowship and Healing Day

Early notice. Please put in your diaries.

Saturday March 13th 2021, 10 am to 3 pm.

St Luke's on the Taieri in Mosgiel.

Bon Smith

OSL Southern Co-Convenor

THEOLOGY PROGRAMME AT OTAGO UNIVERSITY Pre- Christmas Summer School paper - Christian Theology and Science [see this link](#)

Greetings from the Theology Programme at the University of Otago!

The Theology Programme offers a full range of papers in Theology, both on-campus and through our distance learning programme. Perhaps you, or someone you know, might be interested in studying Theology with us.

Along with our distance learning brochure and a Poster with our 2021 papers, we have also attached a brochure on our Postgraduate programmes. These are in the areas of Ministry, Chaplaincy, and Faith-Based Leadership and Management (with a separate poster on this). These programmes are all designed as professional qualifications for those who are involved in a range of ministries and in leadership.

Further information on our courses is also available at: www.otago.ac.nz/theology

Enrolments for Semester 1, 2021 are open. To enrol go to www.otago.ac.nz

If you have any questions or would like further information, please write to me at paul.trebilco@otago.ac.nz. It would be great to hear from you.

Very best wishes and many thanks

Paul Trebilco, Theology Programme, University of Otago

AFFIRM Training Opportunities - a variety of these are planned for 2021, see the flyer attached below:

- The Big Story of the Bible with Bishopdale College (Bible and Theology people), 6 Tuesday evenings 23 February—30 March
- Prayer and walking in Spirit with SOMA (short-term mission experts), 4 Tuesday evenings 4-25 May
- Worldviews and Communicating across cultures with BTC, 4 evenings in the weeks of June 7-29
- Sharing the faith in practice with Church Army (gospel sharing experts), 3 Tuesday evenings 27 July—10 August
- Prayer Ministry in the Spirit's Power with SOMA (short-term mission experts), 4 evenings in the weeks of September 6—27
- Confidence in the Bible with Bishopdale College, 3 evenings in the weeks of October 18—November 1

Other Community Events

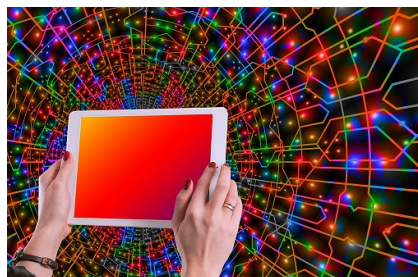
Please let us know of anything worth sharing...

Newsletters

The latest newsletter from Affirm (Christmas letter) is attached below

The latest newsletter from South Centre is on the website: <https://www.calledsouth.org.nz/organisations/>

For Southland News to pass on, contact Keith Gover: keithgover@xtra.co.nz or 027 222 4055
For all other news, contact the [Diocesan Office](#)



I te Pāpaho - In the Media

Keeping up to date with recent news about our parishes, organisations and the wider church.

Latest Videos

Below is a video giving a snapshot of Advent and Christmas 2020, which you can also view [here](#).

An updated Diocese of Dunedin Faith Communities trailer for 2021 featuring some [photographs from the past year](#)

Local Media

[Heritage-listed Goldfields Church of 'aesthetic significance' listed in Clyde:](#) Former churches often come up for sale, due to dwindling congregations and rising costs, but we seldom see 19th-century schist stone churches on the market. (Stuff Media, 4 Jan 2021)

[Highs make up for lows in unusual year:](#) When I reflect on 2020 I think that none of us could have predicted quite what was coming our way! (The Very Rev'd Dr Tony Curtis, ODT, 30 December 2020)

[Nativity story:](#) Children gather around Rev John Graveston at the All Saints' Anglican Church Children's Christmas Crib service on Christmas Eve, to hear the story of the birth of Jesus (ODT, 26 December 2020)

[We must believe the future is bright:](#) What a year 2020 has been! Not only for those of us in Queenstown, Arrowtown, Glenorchy, and Otago but for our world. (Guest Editorial by Rev'd David Wright, ODT, 24 December 2020)

[National Anglican News at Taonga](#) [Mihinare & prisons: 4 things to do](#)

While the standoff at Wakeria prison has been resolved – thanks to iwi intervention – it has once again highlighted the failure of Aotearoa New Zealand's system of imprisonment and justice. Here three Māori Anglican priests lay out four key ways Mihinare can respond

[Polynesia responds to cyclone](#)

The Diocese of Polynesia is putting phase one of its Anglican Missions-supported response and recovery plan into action in Fiji, co-ordinating damage assessments, responding to immediate emergency needs and considering options for longer-term recovery.

[Faith leaders call for LGBT rights](#)

Anglican clergy in Aotearoa New Zealand have signed on to a global interfaith declaration that calls for equal human rights and positive recognition of people's natural diversity of gender and sexuality.

• [Global religious leaders call for ban on conversion therapy](#)

• [Senior religious leaders call for decriminalisation of LGBT people](#)

[Anglican Missions launch Fiji Appeal](#)

Anglican Missions have launched an appeal for the Diocese of Polynesia's Fiji response after category 5 Tropical Cyclone Yasa lashed the country last night.

• [Fiji's Vanua Levu pummelled by Tropical Cyclone Yasa overnight](#)

• [Cyclone Yasa: Category 5 cyclone hits Fiji](#)

• [Two people die due to Cyclone Yasa](#)

• [Cyclone Yasa aftermath: widespread destruction](#)

[Anthology tells clergywomen's stories](#)

Today the Anglican Women's Studies Council held the Christchurch launch of their newly published anthology of women clergy's stories that celebrate 40 years of women's ordination in this province.

(some International highlights below)

- [1000s protest Montenegro religious property law](#)
- [Covid silences Dublin Cathedral's New Year's bells](#)
- [Hong Kong nuns arrested as China turns up heat](#)
- [+Kenya outlines high economic impact of Covid-19](#)
- [+Roger Herft safeguard failures to be reexamined](#)
- [Top German RC Bishop calls for women's ordination](#)
- [Pope appoints +Chch as Archbishop of Wellington](#)
- [Jihadists kill 100+ in Niger village attacks](#)
- [Essex church used for illegal New Year's party](#)
- [Texan pastor killed with own gun by fugitive](#)
- [UN names 'humanitarian crisis' for seafarers](#)
- [S. Sudan conflict must end to stop famine](#)
- [Rowan Williams remembers Rabbi Jonathan Sacks](#)
- [Rage as rape-accused Indian bishop in calendar](#)
- [More US churches take on racism reparations](#)

In the National & International Media

(we will update this section later in January...with thanks to the Diocese of Christchurch)



Antioch Christian Community

Are you a Young Adult moving to Christchurch for work or study? Are you looking for a Christian community to belong to? Antioch could be just what you are looking for.

Antioch is a young adult community that meets together on Sunday nights at St. Barnabas, Fendalton. We're a group interested in Christian community, growing in our faith in Jesus and making a difference in the world. If you'd like to

put your toe in the water why not come along some time – we'd love to meet you!

Antioch, 7pm Sunday nights from 14th Feb 2021. 8 Tui Street, Fendalton. For more info contact Jo Cotton jo@stbarnabas.org.nz ph: 027 545 1185 www.stbarnabas.org.nz or check us out on Facebook, St Barnabas' Young Adults and on Instagram @sbya.nz

Thanks and blessings

Jo Cotton

Pastoral Care Coordinator & Young Adults Worker, St. Barnabas Fendalton

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Email: jo@stbarnabas.org.nz, Website: www.stbarnabas.org.nz

Following Jesus and extending God's love



The Creed and Crossed Fingers?

Continuing the series by Michael Godfrey, journeying through the Nicene Creed.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE ONE BAPTISM FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

What are we saying, here? For matter, what is this saying doing in a place like this (a creed, about God). Why is this an "acknowledge" statement rather than a "believe" statement?

It's easiest to settle the last question first. "Belief in" in the Nicene Creed is applied to only the three members of the Trinity, three persons of the one God. The Church may have sometimes acted as though it thinks it is God, but it is not. We are still speaking at this point of our belief in the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit's location of choice is the Church. The Spirit did not suddenly arrive on the day the Church was born, the Day of Resurrection or the Day of Pentecost (depending whether you follow John or Luke). The Spirit is here, eternal, pre-existing time, hovering or sweeping, as Gen 1.1 puts it, over the dark primeval waters as time burst out of timelessness. The Spirit is present in the stern corrective voices of the Hebrew Prophets. The Spirit "conceived" the Incarnation in the womb of Mary. But the Spirit's location of choice is the gathering of God's people, the lives of God's people as they struggle-walk through life and faith in all its complexity.

Baptism? Baptism does not bring people into relationship with God. The Spirit does that. But baptism (infant or adult) enacts in the minds of believers the manner by which we are brought into relationship with God. Baptism does not "save": Jesus saves. Baptism reminds us of the process of salvation, our dying and rising within the dying and rising of Christ, the "resurrection of the dead."

The unbaptised are not, as once the Church errantly taught, omitted from the saving work of Christ. They and theirs just don't (usually) have the joy of hearing and enacting the resurrection-promise that is in Christ.

Infant or adult? One speaks of promise (and grace), the other speaks of decision (and grace). Though I strongly prefer the first, I acknowledge it can be much abused. The choice, I believe, should be with families, caregivers and faith-sponsors.

Link to the entire [The Creed and Crossed Fingers?](#) series (**Tip:** click on the subject you want to read again on the contents page)



Diocesan Property Consultation 2020-21

Our property consultation is now open wide with an opportunity for people and groups to have their say via an electronic survey before the end of February 2021.

[Survey Link](#) (see below for more information)

Why are we doing this?

The Diocesan Council has been becoming increasingly caught up in property matters but without having an agreed pathway for how to handle many situations apart from what is set out in Statute 3.

In the Synod held in 2019, the following motion was carried: **That this Synod affirms the Diocesan Council intention to undergo a consultation process around the sale or other use of properties, buildings and other assets within the context of future mission within the Diocese.**

Some workshops have taken place in Archdeaconry groupings. They have been open to Clergy and Lay Synod reps as well as Parish Wardens, with substitute places available to any Vestry members who have an interest or contribution to make around this property discussion. As this year has been challenging to organise physical meetings, we are also offering a survey option to help us complete the consultation.

This will help develop a strategy on how we use our property assets to advance God's kingdom.

What do I need to do to prepare?

Information that you need to read before you complete a survey is attached below or click on these links:

- [Diocese of Dunedin Strategic Property Consultation Paper 2020](#)
- [Reading 1](#)
- [Reading 2](#)
- [Reading 3](#)
- [Reading 4](#)
- [Theological Reflections on Church Property](#)
- NZ Anglican paper on [Mission Aligned Investment](#).

Here is the [Survey Link](#)

A paper copy of the survey is attached at the bottom of this article for individuals and groups who prefer to complete it this way (look for Diocese of Dunedin Property Survey 2020-21 below)

If you have any trouble accessing or downloading any of the resources below or want a hard copy of various papers sent to you, please contact us by [clicking this link](#), or email the Registrar with "Property Resources" in your subject line.

The survey has the following questions:

- **What are the particular dynamics you have around properties entrusted to you?** (see pages 2-5 of the Diocese of Dunedin Strategic Property Strategy Consultation Paper 2020)
- **In your setting, what is the most important consideration when thinking about**

property and how it can aid your ministry in the future? (think of this in terms of where you think your Parish might be at in 10-20 years time)

- **What is your take on the Strategic Property Criteria?** Anything not quite right? Anything missing? (see pages 7-8 of the Diocese of Dunedin Strategic Property Strategy Consultation Paper 2020)
- **If you were to rank in order of importance the suggested Strategic Property Criteria, what would this be?** (individual exercise)
- **What weight would you give to each criterion?** (each person will be given 20 dots to "spend" as they want by placing these next to each criteria displayed in the room or entering the numbers into the survey).

After the workshops and the survey has been completed, the combined feedback will be collated and given back to Diocesan Council for consideration. **We would like to have everything completed by the end of February 2020.**

We hope at the end of this process to have some information that will assist the Diocesan Council and Faith Communities in their decision making around property, with the potential for motions/bills related to property to be taken to a future Synod.

Please continue to hold this process in your prayers.



Privacy Act 2020: New Guidelines for Churches

The new Privacy Act 2020 took effect on 1 December 2020. The privacy principles remain the same but there are some changes to the way these are enforced.

We will clarify this information in the New Year in terms of the roles of the Diocesan Office (Peter Mann House) and Parishes/other organisations responsibilities, but here is what has been shared from the InterChurch Bureau (ICB) so far...

What are the changes?

The Act brings new obligations on all of us with regard to collection, access to, and use of personal information. Key elements are:

- if an organisation has a privacy breach that has caused serious harm to someone (or is likely to do so) ii must notify the Office of the Privacy Commissioner
- the Privacy Commissioner can now issue compliance notices if an organisation is not meeting its obligations under the Act.

What is meant by 'harm'?

Harm can include:

- loss, damage or disadvantage
- loss of a benefit or right
- emotional harm (significant humiliation or loss of dignity)

What should your church do?

The key step recommended by the Privacy Commissioner is to designate a privacy officer for your organisation, ministry unit, or parish.

The Privacy Act requires organisations to have at least one person who fulfils the role of privacy officer. Larger organisations may require several officers.

What is the role of the privacy officer?

The privacy officer should be a responsible and practical person, familiar with the principles in the Privacy Act, who will work to make sure the organisation complies with the Act. The officer's role will include:

- being contacted about and responding to privacy breaches
- raising awareness about privacy among staff, volunteers, and congregations

How will the privacy officer respond to a breach?

There are **four steps** in responding to a breach:

- 1. Contain:** find out what has happened and take steps to prevent further harm
- 2. Assess:** make an assessment of the seriousness of the breach
(for help go to www.privacy.org.nz/notify-us)
- 3. Notify:** if the privacy breach is serious, notify the Privacy Commissioner
- 4. Prevent:** when the breach has been resolved, take steps to prevent further breaches.

What other help is available?

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner has developed a range of resources to assist organisations to understand and meet their responsibilities. These include brochures and fact sheets, and a range of e-Learning modules. Essential resources can be found on this link:

<https://www.privacy.org.nz/responsibilities/privacy-resources-for-agencies/essentialresources-for-agencies/>

Direct access to the e-Learning modules is at: <https://elearning.privacy.org.nz/>

Key contacts

Office of the Privacy Commissioner

- Web: www.privacy.org.nz/notify-us
- Email: notifyus@privacy.org.nz
- Phone: 0800 803 909



Supporting Your Mental Health

In the second part of 2020 the Diocese of Wellington had a helpful blog looking at mental health through a faith lens. We have links to all the articles in this series and have placed it on our Community Support and Resources webpage.

[Community Support and Resources](#)

A blessing for anyone struggling at this time

We have covered a wide range of mental health and wellbeing topics with you over these last months. We hope you have found them helpful and to close this series for the year we'd like to offer you [a simple blessing](#).

[How can I help this Christmas to be a good one for you too?](#)

Christmas and New Year can be a difficult and distressing time of year for lots of people. When you offer those in mental distress some respectful support, you're offering a gift that's wrapped up in love

Previous Articles

PLEASE NOTE: Some of the following articles address the topic of suicide. If suicidal thoughts are troubling you or any of these articles unsettles you, please reach out for some help. Talk with someone you trust, see a doctor or counsellor, or call 1737 to speak to a trained counsellor, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- [Loving who God loves this Christmas – yourself](#)
- [Suicide Grief - What makes it different? What support helps?](#)
- [A listening ear: On volunteer mental health support](#)
- [Helping to prevent suicide – who me?](#)
- [Let's talk together about suicide](#)
- [God With Me Through My Mental Health Journey: Jessica's Story](#)
- [How do we respond to difficult or unusual behaviour?](#)
- [Panic attacks are no walk on the park](#)
- [Responding to those in mental health crisis](#)
- [Where was God? – one carer's story](#)
- [Caring for the caregivers](#)
- [The Grace And Provision Of God – Amanda's Story](#)
- [The Road Back to Wellness](#)
- [Pain, Hope and Healing - Suzie's Story](#)
- [Taking the first steps towards recovery](#)
- [Setting Boundaries](#)
- [Here to help - supporting those in mental distress](#)
- [Myth busting Mental Health](#)
- [How's Your Heart - Mental Wellbeing](#)
- [Mental Distress, Addiction and Uninvited Guests](#)
- [Walking With Jesus As We Walk With Others](#)

Each blog has some questions for reflection to help deepen your understanding. You might like to book mark the [Anglican Diocese of Wellington's Blog \(News\) page](#).

[Don't forget we also have resources on our website.](#)
