



Ellesmere Anglican Parish

Pew Sheet Sunday 23 July 2023

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am St John's Leeston with Rev Margaret Neate

Message from Margaret...

I write this in the aftermath of the Auckland shooting, and on the same day news that a real estate agent (known to one of my family), has gone missing while doing her job.

Further afield war still rages in Ukraine and unprecedented heat rages over Europe. Is it your inclination to ask – WHY? Why do these things happen, why does God allow these things to happen, why is God silent?

People have been asking this for millennia – even the psalmists and prophets of the Old Testament – and Jesus himself on the Cross, echoing Psalm 22: “My God, why have you forsaken me?”

I rather like Tom Wright's answer to this: would people really want God to rule the world so directly and immediately, so that our every thought and action were weighed and instantly judged and if necessary punished, in the scale of his absolute holiness? If the price of God stepping in and stopping a campaign of genocide meant restraining every other evil impulse, including those we know and maybe even cherish within ourselves – would we be prepared to pay that price?

This week's parable in Matthew 13 is about waiting, waiting as the farmer does for harvest time; watch with frustration as the weeds grow, and leave God to be the judge.

God bless you all.

READINGS: Isa 44:6-8, Ps 86:11-17, Rom 8:12-25, Matt 13:24-30,36-43

SENTENCE: You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. *Psalm 86:15*

COLLECT: God of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYERS: We pray for all those in our parish who are coping with health challenges and other problems. Give them courage and hope in their distress; bless all those who minister to them.

In our Diocesan prayer cycle we pray for the parishes of Highfield, Kensington and Otupua, and Christchurch Cursillo and its lay director, Mike Morely-Bunker.

PARISH MISSION PRAYER - *Leading your church into growth*

Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with wisdom, vision and joy to help our church grow your way. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the parish of Ellesmere, commit ourselves to living out our Christian faith as a welcoming, inclusive, compassionate community, unconditionally loving others as we ourselves are loved by God.

2023 CALENDAR

JULY

Tues 18 7.30pm Vestry in the Parish Hall
Wed 19 3.00pm *Exploring our Faith*, Parish Hall
Sat 22 7.00pm Irwell dinner, Sudeley Park
Sun 23 3.00pm Recital with Evening Prayer and refreshments a St James' Church

Wed 26 3.00pm *Exploring our Faith*, Parish Hall
Thurs 27 10.00am CAMEO Leeston Coffee Co
Sun 30 9.30am St Mark's Sedgemere service and pot-luck lunch with Mark Chamberlain

AUGUST

Tues 1 4.30pm *Exploring our Faith* - To be confirmed
 7.30pm Alexa Evenden installation Holy Trinity, Darfield
Mon 7 7.30pm St John's Committee, Parish Hall

MONDAY COFFEE AND CHAT with Margaret

10.15am to 11.15am at Leeston Coffee



TOMORROW!

**St James' Church
Recital and
Evening Prayer**

3pm Sunday 23 July 2023

Sea-Am Thompson, a multi-talented St Andrew's College music scholar, is coming to perform for us. His concert will be interspersed with Evening Prayers and light refreshments.

Sea-Am is on a music scholarship for violin playing and is a Transitional Cathedral organ scholar as well as singing alto with its choir.

Some earlier organ performances include Oxford Christ Church, Oxford Town Hall and Worcester College in Oxford, UK and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland.

PARISH SINGLES LUNCH

Our next shared lunch is
12 noon Sunday 13 August
 at Sally's, 29a D'Arcy Street
All welcome

PARISH SERVICES - February to December

1st Sun	9.30am	St James' Southbridge	4th Sun	9.30am	St John's Leeston
	7.00pm	St Luke's Brookside			
2nd Sun	9.30am	St John's Leeston	5th Sun	9.30am	St Mark's Sedgemere
3rd Sun	9.30am	St Mary's Irwell			
	11:15am	Trinity Dunsandel	Wednesdays	10.00am	St John's Leeston

Vicar	Rev Margaret Neate	021 173-3006 - revmargaret.neate@gmail.com
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Vicar's Warden	Mike Morley-Bunker	324-3466
People's Warden	Shirley Everest	324-2841
Finance Liaison	Murray Stephens	finance.ellesmere.anglican@gmail.com
Pastoral Secretary	Jenny Hercus	324-3955

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Offerings for Ellesmere Parish gratefully received **Bank Account 02-0860-0048506-00**
 Please include your surname and purpose of deposit - eg donation.