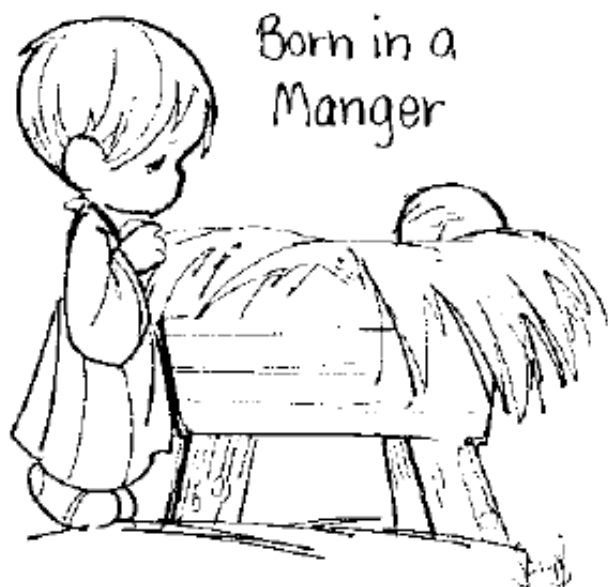




# The Rock



## An Irish Christmas Blessing

The light of the Christmas star to you  
The warmth of home and hearth to you  
The cheer and good will of friends to you  
The hope of a childlike heart to you  
The joy of a thousand angels to you  
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.

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## Of Special Interest

Christmas in China 7

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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES



*'O Come all Ye Faithful'*

- **Christmas Eve: Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib 11.00 pm  
Thursday 24 December**
- **Christmas Day: 8.00 am 1662 Eucharist**
- **Christmas Day: 10.30 am Parish Eucharist**



## The Vicar Writes

I give up. For the last twenty-four years as the Vicar of Caversham I have set my chiseled features, flint-like, against the anticipation of Christmas in the weeks (even months!) before 25<sup>th</sup> December. Indeed, those same chisled features turned flint-like on the subject for a good many years before that. But I give up. What is a carol here or there, a cracker pulled before its time, or the occasional mince pie out of season? I am the easy-going and tolerant type. I don't make a fuss about things, I just go with the flow. Or not, as the case may be.

Time brings change, whether we like it or not, and age brings aches and pains as well – some of which loom larger in the consciousness than the occasional rogue mince pie. And as time goes by there are a number of personal, psychological, even spiritual, aches and pains as well. But that's always the case with time: stuff just happens without asking our permission first. Of course, we're not always happy about it – who would be? Change can be hard to cope with, and even when we do manage to get our heads around it, we don't necessarily like it very much.



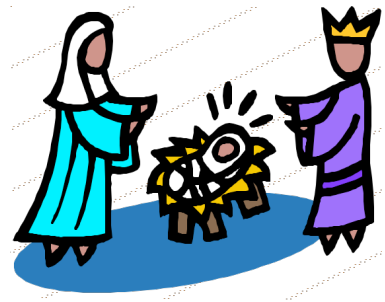
So (and here we come to The Author's Message) there are two things we might like to remember that might cheer us up a little. The first is that growth requires change. Sorry

about that, but it does. And we are here to grow, painfully or otherwise, whether we like it or not. We are in a School for Immortals, and our teacher is experience – the experience which only a world in which change is possible can give us.

And secondly (now this really is The Author's Message!) all this change should inspire us to seek something which does not change. You know Who I mean I have no doubt. The One who entered a cruelly unpredictable world as a helpless infant, so we could face the New Year (every New Year) in the confident expectation that whatever has happened, is happening, or will happen, in the end it will all make sense because it has a purpose – which is that we should come to share in God's unchanging joy and glory for all eternity. And who would have thought that a helpless infant could change into the Hope of the World?

May God grant you and yours a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Fr CARL



### A Christmas Prayer

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all  
over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every  
greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with  
clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make  
us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us  
to our beds with grateful  
thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus'  
sake. Amen.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson



## Ladies Guild

It is with regret that we note the passing of Joan Tubman on November 3rd. Although unable, through ill health, to attend for a long time, Joan had been a loyal member for countless years. Joan was President for 14 years and a long standing committee member as well. A good and faithful worker. A large number of Guild members attended Joan's funeral Eucharist.

The November meeting was our end of year function with invited guests. Arnold Bachop, along with Helen Scott and pianist Heather Clough, entertained us delightfully. We were truly spoilt.

Our first meeting for 2010 will be on Tuesday, February 9th at 2.00pm in the Parish Lounge.

We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

In the meantime we are holding a 'Sunday Raffle' on December 6th and 13th.

Mary Barton,  
Secretary

**Give someone, whom you don't get on with particularly well, a huge smile this Christmas.**



*Support the 2009 CWS Christmas Appeal and give poor communities the chance to enjoy safe water, healthier food, education, peace, protect their environment and build better lives.*



*Give something very special - hope and change. Choose from ducks, seeds, water, cows, medical assistance and more. Fun to give, meaningful to receive, Gifted helps poorer communities build a better future.*



### **Ring the bells for climate justice**

*13 December 3 pm: The World Council of Churches is calling on churches around the world to use their bells to call people to prayer and action in the face of climate change.*

---

## The Legend of the Robin's Red Breast

A little brown bird shared Bethlehem's stable with the holy family. One night as the family lay sleeping, she noticed their fire was going out. So she flew down from the rafters and fanned the fire with her wings throughout the night in order to keep the baby Jesus warm. In the morning, she was rewarded with a red breast as a symbol of her love for the newborn king.





## DIOCESAN NEWS

### BISHOP ELECT The Ven Dr Kelvin Wright

Fr. Kelvin Wright has been Vicar of St John's Roslyn since January 1999. He grew up in Dunedin, Lower Hutt and Christchurch and was trained for the Anglican priesthood in Auckland. He was ordained in 1979. He holds degrees from the Universities of Canterbury and Otago and a Doctorate of Ministry from the San Francisco Theological Seminary. Before coming to Dunedin he worked in the Christchurch and Waikato dioceses. He is married to Clemency and has three children, Nick (b. 1980), Bridget (b. 1982) and Catherine (b. 1988).

The consecration and installation of Fr. Kelvin as the ninth Bishop of Dunedin is to be held in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 27th February 2010.



### Other Moves

#### Rev'd Fr Michael Wallace

The Rev Fr Michael Wallace has accepted the position of Vicar of All Saints.

#### Retirement

Fr Roger Barker retired as Vicar of the Parish of Port Chalmers/Warrington on the 31st October.

### VESTRY IN BRIEF

At the October and November meetings of Vestry, the following items were of note:

- The cottage has been repaired and repainted. A proper clothesline and fencing around the cottage are to be installed.
- Vestry has taken up Croz' offer to be the Voluntary First Aid Officer.
- A payment of \$900 has gone to Anglican Missions and money for the bishop's present has been sent. A payment of \$163 was made to Anglican Care from the charity box.
- The church doors are to be painted.
- Of the three quotes obtained for vicarage kitchen renovations, the tender from Stewart Constructions was the lowest and accepted. The renovations will begin in March.
- Parishioners are urged to check the Hall Zip has water in it before use, as the element will burn out if switched on while empty.
- At the October meeting, Vestry thanked the Ladies Guild for \$100 donation for electricity and \$100 from raffle (to go towards painting of church doors).
- At the October meeting, Vestry thanked Ray Sisley for his contemplative service while Fr Carl was at the electoral synod.

*Heather Brooks* (Vestry Secretary)



**BEQUESTS** "I GIVE TO THE DUNEDIN DIOCESAN TRUST BOARD, 1A HOWDEN STREET, GREEN ISLAND, DUNEDIN, PO BOX 13 170, GREEN ISLAND, DUNEDIN 9052. (% OF MY ESTATE, OR THE RESIDUE OF MY ESTATE, OR A SUM OF MONEY, OR DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND/OR ASSETS) FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSE (OR FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE) OF ST PETERS PARISH, CAVERSHAM, FOR WHICH THE RECEIPT OF THE SECRETARY OR OTHER PROPER OFFICER SHALL BE FULL AND SUFFICIENT DISCHARGE TO MY TRUSTEES/EXECUTORS.





### THE BIBLE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Following the resolution passed at ACC-14 (14.05) 'The Bible in the Life of the Church' a Steering Group has been appointed to take the work forward. It meets for the first time with the Chair, Archbishop David Moxon, Bishop of Waikato, New Zealand at the Anglican Communion Office from November 30th to December 3rd, 2009. The work of the project will be undertaken in six regional groups hosted, in the main, by theological colleges within the Communion and a number of 'user groups' who will test out the work of the regional groups.

### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

A recent review of communications in the Anglican Communion emphasised the need for effective mechanisms to enable the current life of the Anglican Communion to be communicated internally within the Communion, to the wider Christian Community and to society in general. This includes engagement with communicators in the Provinces of the Anglican Communion as well as collabora-

tion with colleagues at the Anglican Communion Office and elsewhere. The Secretary General intends to appoint a Director for Communications to implement this vision.

### ANGLICAN \_ ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONS

Following the meeting between Pope Benedict XVI and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, at the Vatican on 21 November 2009, at which they reaffirmed their desire to strengthen ecumenical relations between Anglicans and Roman Catholics, a preparatory committee met on 23 November 2009 to prepare the third phase of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (AR-CIC).

### ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY ADDRESS



The Archbishop of Canterbury gave an address in Rome, as the guest of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The address is part of a symposium being held at the Gregorian University, to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Cardinal Willebrands, the first president of the Council.

### EDITORIAL

As we congratulate our new bishop elect, The Venerable Kelvin Wright, upon his election, spare a thought for what we actually expect of our bishops. It seems to me that we all too often have wholly unrealistic expectations of our leaders. I often hear criticism of our church leaders over matters that have little or nothing to do with them or their role. Absolutely any flaw, problem, decline, financial problem or anything else that we don't like about the diocese is the bishop's fault and 'they should have done something about it'.

Well, I hold a different view. I expect above all else for our bishops to be people of God. I also expect leadership and things like, decision making, vision, inspiration, setting and maintaining of standards, thinking, teaching and motivation.

We employ others to count things and record things and organise things. Let them get on with those things and leave our bishop the freedom and time to lead.

I am sure that there will be issues upon which I will take a different view to that taken by the bishop. That does not make the bishop or myself wrong, just holding different opinions and that is OK.

I commit myself to supporting our new bishop through prayer and by action. I invite you to do the same.

May God richly bless you Kelvin.

*Ray Sisley*



## WARDEN'S WARBLE



*The festive season is upon us once again with all its rush and bustle. The shops are all displaying decorations and Christmas carols are being played continuously as we look forward to the celebrations of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.*

*All this must be a quite marked contrast to the actual event which occurred in a peaceful stable so many years ago; the birth of a baby boy whose advent heralded a new understanding of God's love and purpose for all mankind.*

*For many of us Christmastide is a joyous time when families are able to gather together and celebrate. Just last week I enjoyed a wonderful family get-together when my five sons arrived unexpectedly*

*in Dunedin and surprised me by celebrating my very special birthday. We had four wonderful days together.*

*On behalf of Tubby and myself I wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year as we remember Christ's birth and look forward to many joyous occasions in the year to come.*

*Joy Henderson, People's Warden*



FROM THE SUNDAY  
TIMES 6 DECEMBER 2009

Best names: Beck Eleven, Christchurch Press; Horse McLeod, New Plymouth District Council; and, at St Peter's Anglican church in Caversham, Dunedin, the vicar's warden, Tubby Hopkins.

## AAW

Following a short service in the Church, 23 members and guests gathered in the Parish Centre to enjoy another fine meal prepared by Barbara from St Barnabas Home. As it is the 40th anniversary of AAW this year Margaret McLenachan and Kate Nicol from

Diocesan AAW joined us to share our celebration. A game involving the singing of Christmas songs was won by 'Corals Team' but only after some healthy competition from the other contenders. Our first meeting for 2010 will be in February, this time

with Gwen in the chair. She will do a wonderful job. I wish you all very happy Christmas with your family and friends.

**Regards and best  
wishes  
Ronda**



### Obituaries.

*The parish has recently farewelled:*

*Joan Tubman and Bill Isaac, (98 years young and still walking to church).*

*'May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory'*





## CHRISTMAS IN CHINA



Dunedin has many residents of Chinese descent and has had a long history of connections with China. Shanghai is our 'Sister City' and we have a brilliant

Chinese garden

next door to the Settlers Museum. NZ has a free trade agreement with China and two way tourism is significant to both countries. But what about life in China, what happens at Christmas.

Both Hong Kong and Macau designate Christmas as a public holiday on December 25. Both are former colonies of Western powers with (nominal) Christian cultural heritage. But in China, December 25 is not a legal holiday. The one percent of Chinese citizens who consider themselves Christians unofficially, and usually privately, observe Christmas. But with the world becoming a global village, Christmas has now become a festive occasion for an increasing number of Chinese as well.

Arrival of winter marks the celebration of Christmas in China. People decorate their homes with dazzling Christmas lights, beautiful Christmas tree and mouth watering Christmas recipes. Christmas trees are called "trees of light" and are also decorated with pa-

per chains, paper flowers, and paper lanterns. Children hang up muslin stockings in hopes that Dun Che Lao Ren (China's Santa) will visit and fill them with presents.

Although Christianity is unofficial in China, there are an estimated 10 million baptized Christians (about 1 percent of the population) who celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas time. The popularity of midnight mass has grown so swiftly over the past few years that most Catholic churches cannot hold the numbers who come out Christmas Eve. While Christmas Day is not a public holiday, Christmas celebrations are becoming more popular in China itself. Particularly in urban areas, one can find Christmas trees, lights, and other decorations on the streets and in department stores.

With each passing year, the Chinese



public is becoming more conscious about the significance of Christmas, and more and more people are beginning to participate and immerse themselves in the spirit of Christmas celebrations.

**THANK YOU** to the team that assembles the Rock each month.



## CALENDAR

Sun 13 +ADVENT 3

*Parish Christmas Lunch*  
7pm Compline and Exposition

Mon 14 Monday Club 10am in the Hall

Thu 17 Games Night 7pm in the Hall  
Meditation Group after Mass

Sun 20 ADVENT 4  
7pm Evensong and Benediction

Fri 21 THOMAS

Thu 24 +CHRISTMAS EVE  
11pm Carols  
11.30pm Midnight Mass and the Blessing of the Crib by Candlelight

Fri 25 +CHRISTMAS DAY  
8am Eucharist  
10.30am Solemn Eucharist

Sat 26 STEPHEN

Sun 27 +CHRISTMAS 1  
7pm Compline and Exposition

Mon 28 HOLY INNOCENTS

Fri 1 +CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD

Sun 3 +CANDLEMAS  
7pm Evensong and Benediction

Sun 10 +EPIPHANY 2 *Ordinary 1*  
7pm Compline and Exposition

Sun 17 +EPIPHANY 3 *Ordinary 2*  
7pm Evensong and Benediction

Sun 24 +EPIPHANY 4 *Ordinary 3*



Fri 25 CONVERSION OF PAUL

Sat 30 CHARLES THE MARTYR

Sun 31 +QUINQUAGESIMA  
*Ordinary 4*  
7pm Compline and Exposition

Sun 7 +CANDLEMAS  
7pm Evensong and Benediction

**Material for the February magazine is due today**

We're on the Web!  
See us at:

[www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz](http://www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz)

**Baptisms, Weddings, House Blessings,  
Burials and  
Confessions by  
arrangement with the Vicar**

## Parish Directory

### Parish Priest:

Father Carl Somers-Edgar  
The Vicarage, 57 Baker Street  
Caversham, Dunedin  
Telephone: (03) 455 3961  
Email: [paratus@xtra.co.nz](mailto:paratus@xtra.co.nz)  
Internet: [www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz](http://www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz)

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### All Sundays:

8am Eucharist.  
10.30am Solemn Eucharist.

### Sundays of the calendar month at 5 pm:

2nd, 4th and 5th Compline and Exposition

1st and 3rd Sung Evensong and Benediction.

First and third Tuesdays of the month: 11am Eucharist at St Barnabas' Home.

All Wednesdays and Fridays (except when the Vicar is away): 8am Eucharist.

All Thursdays: 10am Eucharist.



### Director of Music:

David Hoskins

### Churchwardens:

### Vicar's Warden:

Tubby Hopkins

### People's Warden:

Joy Henderson

### Vestry secretary:

Heather Brooks