

# THE ROCK



Anglican Parish of  
Cabersham Saint Peter,  
Dunedin, New Zealand

April 2022—Eastertide



## Change of coat

By The Reverend Natalie Milliken, Vicar-designate

**W**hen sorting through my wardrobe I pulled out my favourite full-length woollen coat. I had worn it for years during my career as a school teacher—it had kept me warm as I walked around the playground in winter. I hadn't needed it in June and was looking forward to wearing it again. Sadly, the coat had been attacked by moths and had been eaten along the hem, down the collar and sleeves. It had served me well but I had to dispose of it.

I will need to find something else to cover me this winter. The old is no longer suitable.

I also had to take serious consideration of what books, in my library, were worth keeping, sharing and throwing out.

Change isn't always sought out, especially when we believe that what we have is appropriate. Whether it's material things, knowledge or habits we need to regularly assess its value.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6: 19-21 "Do not strive for yourselves treasures on

earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Irrespective of our life experiences, most of us find change a challenge. The letting go of treasures which distract us frees us to open ourselves to new possibilities.

Easter reminds us that Christ's gospel isn't easy. Christ was crucified by those who refused to let go of their power, influence, riches and understanding.

"We can experience anxiety, trepidation, shame, the lash, the crown of thorns, the mockery, the stripping and the nails. Life has equivalents of all these for us. God asks a love for Himself and his children."  
( Evelyn Underwood)

If we practise the love and grace of God through the Holy Spirit, we can accept and survive all that comes toward us.

My daughter Tegan and I went shopping and found a new coat. It's nothing like the old one but will probably be even better in keeping me warm as I walk through this different climate and marvel at the beauty of God's provision.



*The Reverend  
Natalie Milliken  
will be installed as*

*Vicar of Saint  
Peter's*

*at a Service in the  
Church in  
Hillside Road*

*at 7pm*

*on Friday, 6 May  
2022*

*Followed by a social  
gathering*



# Saint Peter's People

## Bruce Aitken's Story



Bruce Alexander Aitken QSO LLB ARSCM  
Master of Knox College 1995-2012

In recent weeks our Bishop has been assisted while celebrating many of our services by a relatively new face to Saint Peter's. Just who is this (often masked) man? The Reverend Bruce Aitken introduces himself.



Left: The author's official portrait upon retirement as Master of Knox College. Right: in Saint Peter's (with Bishop Steven Benford) upon ordination as a Deacon.

IMAGES: SUPPLIED.

Although I was born and went to school in Invercargill, Dunedin has always utterly fascinated me. As a special treat in the May school holidays my sister and I, as children, frequently travelled on the express train to Dunedin to stay with our cousins. The trip climaxed when the train exited the Caversham tunnel and we were in Dunedin! As we drew into the splendid Railway Station our eyes feasted on the magnificent architecture of this wonderful city—the Law Courts, St Paul's Cathedral, the Town Hall, various banks and office buildings and the huge bronze statue of the Bard himself, all visible from Lower Stuart Street.

In 1969 I came up to University and I'm still here—I haven't grown-up yet! I met Wendy in 1971 and, apart from a year or two when I went through what she refers to as my undergraduate "weird, hippy stage", we have been together ever since. We were married in Dunedin in 1976 and here we have lived and brought up our four children, James, Emma, Christina and Julia.

As an undergraduate, I lived in Knox College for three years, the last as President of the Students' Club. I returned in 1976 as Assistant Master, was elected a

Fellow in 1977 and two years later appointed to the College Council. In 1994, I was appointed Master and held that position for almost 18 years. I reckoned being Master of Knox College was the best job in the University—I just loved it.

I was not a good student. I enjoyed undergraduate life far too much! I describe my degree as being a "thorough" one and I enjoyed some subjects so much that I thought I should repeat them! After graduation I was elected President of the University Court of Convocation and Graduates' Association and, shortly afterwards, to the University Council. I remained a member of the Council for 22 years, the last three as Pro-Chancellor. It was a great honour and privilege to serve the University in this way and I loved it. I have participated in more than 200 graduation ceremonies and was as proud as Punch seeing my Knox students, including my wife and our four children, crossing the Town Hall stage.

Whilst still a student I managed to secure a law clerkship with a local law firm before being called to the Bar in 1975. For 20 years I thoroughly enjoyed legal practice with my firm, which ultimately became known as

(Continued on page 3)

# Saint Peter's People

(Continued from page 2)

McKinnon Aitken Martin. My clients were generally just ordinary folk with ordinary concerns. I don't imagine I would ever have set the Thames (or the Leith) on fire as a solicitor, but I really liked the work and the people and would probably have remained in the Law throughout my working life had not the Knox College opportunity presented itself.

The Church and Church Music have been part of my life since early childhood. I became a probationer chorister at First Church, Invercargill nearly sixty years ago and was admitted to



the Cathedral" led Wendy and me to transfer our parish and denominational commitments to St Paul's. Although I had decided my church committee days were over, since then I have happily taken on the posts of Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of Vestry, Dean's Warden, Chairman



The author with his wife Wendy at (left) a Selwyn College ball in 1971 and (right) a Knox College ball some 40 years later.

the Choir on Advent Sunday 1962. On arriving in Dunedin, I joined the Knox Church Choir, later becoming Assistant Organist and Choirmaster there, and then Organist and Choirmaster. I held several other leadership roles during my Presbyterian days, including Elder, Commissioner to the General Assembly and Convener of The Theological Hall Committee. I have also been a member of the Council of the Royal School of Church Music, NZ since 1991 and am currently chairman of the Otago and Southland Branch.

About twenty years ago, the "call of

of the Music Foundation and Licensed Lay Minister. In more recent years, my journey to ordained ministry has been the result of a strong calling and a natural progression of a life serving God's people in a variety of ways. Hopefully, there's still a bit of useful life left in the old dog yet.

Wendy and I are truly blest. Our son and three daughters and their families all live either in Dunedin or in the Nelson/Marlborough region. We keep good health and are thankful for so much that we are able to enjoy. 📧

## Letters

Dear Sir,

How easily information is lost!! The chasuble [featured in last month's ~~Rock~~—Ed] was made while my father, the Reverend Canon John Teal, was Vicar of Caversham.



It is made of very fine linen and was embroidered by Mrs Rae Reed, a parishioner. She was a member of the local Embroiderers' Guild and had, if I remember correctly, completed her City and Guilds qualification in embroidery. If my recollection is correct, it is an interpretation of the Coventry Cathedral Crown of Thorns.

Why this colour material? Because the Sarum liturgical colours included unbleached linen during Lent, rather than the usually worn Purple ( which was adopted from the Roman liturgical colours).

Originally there was a stole associated with the chasuble, but in that I read a replacement has been made, obviously it has been lost.

I hope this information will acknowledge the skill of Rae Reed.

Kind Regards,  
Jane Teal,  
Lyttelton.

## The Frolicsome Friar



"No one is watching our glorious battle. They are all staring at their tablets. I hope citizens in the future aren't so easily distracted."

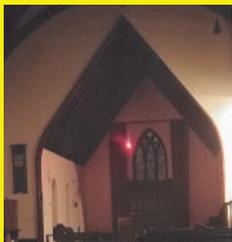
SOURCE: WWW.HOWTOGEEK.COM..

### Maundy Thursday

Commemoration of the Institution of the Lord's Supper, Stripping of the Altar and Vigil

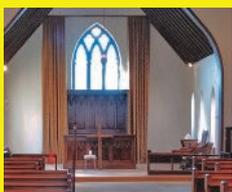


The Altar of repose and the church in darkness



### Good Friday

Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Veneration of the Cross



The Cross at rest and in procession



### Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil, Service of Light and the First Mass of the Resurrection



The new fire in preparation and refreshments following the Service

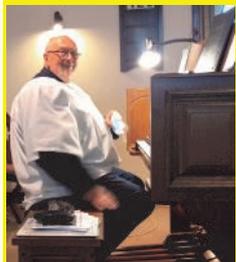


PHOTO'S: JENNY MAFFEY AND INFORMATION SERVICES OTAGO LTD.

### Easter Day



8am Holy Communion sunrise



10.30am Solemn Sung Eucharist



5pm Evensong and Benediction

See more of our Easter Festival photo's in our website Photo Gallery.



# Nutritious



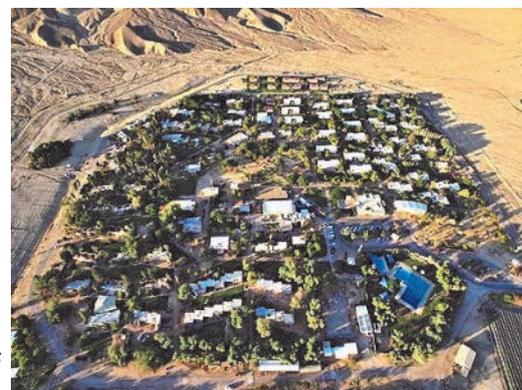
## Ancient dates come alive again

By Alex Chisholm

The many date palms seen in Israel today are not indigenous to the region but are modern varieties which were imported after the founding of the state in the 1950s.

However, a handful of date seeds from fruit which ripened around the time of Jesus have been successfully planted and grown in southern Israel, researchers have revealed.

The project, which has been underway in the middle of Israel's Arava Desert at Kibbutz Ketura since the early 2000s, is bringing back to life trees like those bearing fruit in the time of the Bible, around 2000 years ago.



Kibbutz Ketura.

PHOTO: WWW.KETURA.ORG.IL

Dr Sarah Sallon, of Hadassah Hospital Natural Medicine Research Centre, explains:-

"The seeds that are found in archaeological sites in this country—nothing much has been done with them, they have been examined, of course, but no one has tried to grow them. So I thought it would be interesting some years ago to see if they could be grown. Why because many of these species that were here two thousand years ago have now disappeared so why not try and grow them from ancient seeds?"

Many thought this task was impossible. But Dr Sallon and her horticulturalist partner Dr Elaine Solowey succeeded in growing a tree from the oldest date seed ever germinated. The first tree (Methuselah) was a male so couldn't produce dates. "A few years later we grew another seed from the Judean desert, and this was a female and I called her Hannah after my Mum. She grew into a beautiful female tree and started flowering, so we took Methuselah's pollen and pollinated Hannah and this is what we got, the first Judean dates in 2000 years." The dates are drier than most Israeli dates, but Dr Sallon says they may have medicinal properties as they were used to treat bowel problems and depression.

(Continued on page 5)



## Nutritious Ancient dates

(Continued from page 4)

Jonathan Price, Professor of History at Tel Aviv University, says the renewal of these dates can make history come alive. “It does give us a unique perspective or contact with the world of 2000 years ago. These were seeds of actual dates the people ate. Dates were a staple of the Mediterranean diet, part of the triad with olive oil and wine, which were also found at Masada. Dates were used in many dishes and were one of the main sources of sweetness, so this brings us closer in a very physical, tangible way to the people who lived 2000 years ago. “



Dates growing on Hannah.

PHOTO: MARCOS SCHONHOLZ VIA WWW.ISRAEL21C.ORG.

“This ability of the date seeds, and maybe not only dates, to remain dormant for so many thousands of years then spring back to life is, I think, a vitally important part of nature’s ability to restore and renew itself. In an age of

species decline and climate change this is like a bright light in an otherwise difficult period the world is going through now” says Dr Sallon.📷

### More online

Watch or listen-to more about this research project at

<https://www.voanews.com/a/israel-harvests-dates-from-2000-year-old-seeds-/6269266.html>



### REFERENCES:

[HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCE.ORG/CONTENT/ARTICLE/ANCIENT-PALM-RESURRECTED-2000-YEAR-OLD-SEED](https://www.science.org/content/article/ancient-palm-resurrected-2000-year-old-seed)

## Early date cultivation

The Kingdom of Judah, established around the 11<sup>th</sup> century BCE (from 1100 BC to 1001 BC), was renowned for its dates both in quantity and quality, being large, sweet, able to be stored for extended periods and having medicinal properties. They were grown in plantations around Jericho and the Dead Sea.

Much earlier, date palm cultivation had begun in southern Mesopotamia over 6,000 years ago. Exiles returning after the collapse of the Babylonian empire in 539 BCE may have brought back selected cultivars and the specialised knowledge of how to grow them. (In 539 BCE King Cyrus "the Great" of Persia marched into Babylon, freeing Jewish captives and allowing them to return home).📷

## Dates from Jericho

Jericho is described in the Hebrew Bible as the "city of palm trees" (Deuteronomy 34:3). The palm was taken by the Hebrews as a symbol of the righteous man. Psalm 92:12: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon". In Biblical times date palms were referred to as palms, so people waving palm branches were waving date palm branches.

Located in the West Bank, Jericho is one of the earliest continuous settlements in the world, from perhaps about 9000 BCE. Archaeological excavations have demonstrated Jericho’s lengthy history. The city’s site is of great archaeological importance; it provides evidence of the first development of permanent settlements and thus of the first steps toward civilisation. Traces have been found of visits of Mesolithic hunters, carbon-dated to about 9000 BCE, and of a long period of settlement by their descendants.📷



Dates from Jericho can even be purchased in Dunedin!

PHOTO: ALEX CHISHOLM.

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By Deirdre Harris  
Bishop's Warden

**S**aint Peter's vicarage has been vacant for a year now.

Joan and Ken Ferguson have been busy working over the past few weeks painting and repairing parts of the interior of the building. Vestry and members of the wider parish and community have willingly donated furniture and furnishings for our new vicar. The Reverend Natalie Milliken and her husband Dan are arriving soon with suitcase only so we are preparing to make the vicarage comfortable for them.

Some windows have been replaced and quotes sought for insulation and also for painting of the exterior woodwork.

Maintenance of the vicarage had lapsed over the past few years and there are several matters to be dealt with, especially in the light of new tenancy requirements.

We hope to have the pantry stocked with basics for our new vicar. There has been a great rally-round from parishioners and we are grateful for all the help we have received. 📧



The vicarage basking in sunshine.

PHOTO: INFORMATION SERVICES OTAGO LTD.

## I haven't sung that hymn in a while! Rock Music

(Continued from page 8)

9,000 we know of, including *Blessed Assurance* and *To God be the Glory*. While many of her hymns could be highly complex regarding metre, she preferred to compose simple, almost sentimental, verse which became immensely popular. In her 95<sup>th</sup> year she wrote *You will reach the river brink, some sweet day, bye and bye* as her last.

The wonderful, striding tune was composed by the distinguished American hymn-writer and choirmaster, William Howard Doane. He was born in Preston, Connecticut in 1832 to wealthy parents involved in cotton manufacture.



William Doane 1832-1915.

He became an early collaborator with Fanny Crosby, composing some 1,500 tunes to her lyrics. One intriguing and large-scale piece was a cantata on the legend of Santa Claus! He was noted throughout his life for extensive public charitable works.

*To God be the Glory* became immensely popular in Great Britain and throughout the Empire but garnered little interest in the USA. However, Cliff Burrows included the hymn in a US Billy Graham Crusade in the early 1950s and the rest, 'as they say', is history. It has become so popular not only because of the direct appeal of its highly musical

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tune, but by the equally direct address of Christian faith in attractive poetry.

I hope it lifts the roof on the night. We have not sung it at Saint Peter's for a while. It is always good to welcome back an old friend! 📧



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## Regular Services

(for variations consult *The Pebble* or our website)  
All services are held in Saint Peter's unless noted otherwise

### SUNDAY:

8am: Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer  
10.30am: Solemn Sung Eucharist  
5pm: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month: Evensong and Benediction

### SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH:

11am: Holy Communion  
in the chapel of the Home of St Barnabas, Ings Avenue

### THURSDAY:

10am: Eucharist

### FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH:

11am: Eucharist in the lounge of Frances Hodgkins Retirement Village, Fenton Crescent

## Special Services

Contact The Vicar to arrange baptisms, weddings, house blessings, burials, confessions and other special services.

### Parish Contacts:

#### ASSISTANT PRIEST:

Father Kit Bunker : 021 202 1343  
[Vicar@stpeterscaversham.org.nz](mailto:Vicar@stpeterscaversham.org.nz)

#### CHURCH WARDENS:

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##### People's Warden:

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# Parish officers appointed at AGM

By Deirdre Harris, Secretary to the meeting

A well attended AGM on 24 April was chaired by the Bishop.

Di Best was elected people's warden.

Deirdre Harris remains as Bishop's (soon again the be Vicar's) warden.

After a vote for vestry the following were elected:

- Alex Chisholm
- Ken Ferguson
- Tubby Hopkins
- David Hoskins
- Michael McAlpine
- Eric Maffey
- Jennifer Maffey
- Raylene Ralston
- David Scoular.

David Hoskins and Deirdre Harris were elected synod representatives. 🇳🇿



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FUNERAL SERVICES

## For your diary

Friday, 6 May : 7pm : Service of Installation of the Reverend Natalie Milliken as Vicar of Saint Peter's

Sunday, 22 May : Deadline for copy for the May edition of *The Rock*

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**The Rock**

# I haven't sung that hymn in a while!

**Rock** music



By David Hoskins, Director of Music

**A** long time ago (the mid-1960's actually) I was a smallish member of the choir at St George's, Thames. We became part of a large choir at a combined churches service on a Sunday

evening during that period when thoughts of church union concentrated the minds of local clergy who felt the need to meet in various churches in the town. They were large-scale affairs and, if nothing else, one realised there were traditions other than one's own. In particular, the wonderful hymns which 'others' sang.

I came across the hymn *To God be the Glory* at one such service. It lifted the roof—especially accompanied by Mr. Clarrie Mutton's dramatic organ playing. It is this hymn which concludes the Installation Service for our new vicar, Natalie Milliken. It also has a history worth relating.

The words were written by the great Fanny Crosby who was born in New York in 1820. Within a short time of being

born she became seriously ill, resulting in complete loss of eyesight. However, she became a remarkable writer—especially of poetry. At age 8 she penned:



Fanny Crosby 1820-1915.

Oh, what a happy soul I am,  
although I cannot see!  
I am resolved that in this world  
Contented I will be.

How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't,  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind  
I cannot, and I won't!

She entered the newly-established New York Institute for the Blind at age 15 and began formal education for the first time. She addressed the US Congress regarding the plight of the blind when she was 23. She was contracted by a number of publishers to write three hymns a week, which she did for most of her life—completing some

(Continued on page 6)



Justin Welby  
The Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop's sermon at the Easter Day Sung Eucharist at Canterbury Cathedral, 17 April 2022.

Because Jesus is alive the promise is that the world of darkness is not ultimately triumphant.

This causes us to say to all who perpetuate evil—You will not win.

Your hatred will not triumph. Your lies will be exposed. Your power will be broken and you will categorically fail. You will face justice. Forever.

Dictators who rule by fear, violence and cruelty—you will lose. Despite nuclear weapons, armies which number in the tens of thousands, superior fire power or the ability and will to raze cities to the ground.

Christ Jesus who was crucified has been raised to life by God the Father in the power of the Spirit.

The victory of goodness and love has been guaranteed.

The defeat of evil is assured. 📧



More online :

Read the complete sermon at:

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speaking-writing/sermons/archbishops-easter-sermon-canterbury-cathedral-sung-eucharist>

