



## The Pebble

April 29, 2012

Easter 4

I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild animals from the land, so that they may live in the wild and sleep in the woods secure. I will make them, and the region around my hill a blessing; and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing. The trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its increase. They shall be secure on their soil; and they shall know that I am the Lord when I break the bars of their yoke, and save them from the hands of those who enslaved them. They shall no more be plunder for the nations, nor shall the animals of the land devour them; they shall live in safety, and no one shall make them afraid. I will provide for them a splendid vegetation so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land...You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture and I am your God, says the Lord God.

*Ezekiel 34: 25-31*

### A Warm Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship this morning. The Ministry of Healing and Wholeness is offered in the Lady Chapel during Communion. Everyone is warmly invited to Morning Tea in the Parish Lounge after the Solemn Eucharist.

### The Liturgy for Today:

**8:00 am** Holy Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

**10:30 am** Solemn Sung Eucharist and Procession (The Taize Mass setting)

### HYMNS:

- |     |                                       |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 334 | All people that on earth do dwell     |
| 77  | The God of love my shepherd is        |
| 296 | Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour. |
| 282 | Faithful Shepherd feed me             |
| 105 | Christ the Lord is risen again!       |

**Organ Prelude:** *Tune in c.* George Thalben Ball (1896-1987)

**Organ Postlude:** *Toccata in f.* Dietrich Buxtehude (1639-1707)

### READINGS FOR TODAY:

Acts 4:8-12

1 John 3:1-2

John 10:11-18

### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Acts 9: 26-31

1 John 3: 18-24

John 15: 1-8

### Parish News

**The Holy Eucharist** and Devotions of Our Lady of Walsingham will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel at 10am on Thursday.

**Parish forum** There will be a parish forum next Sunday after the 10.30 am Service. The new arrangements for provision of the parish's financial services will be discussed, together with topics arising from the Vicar's Rock article on the rise of New Zealand's retirement population. If time permits there will also be comments on recent developments in the Anglican Communion.

**The Rock** The April edition of the Rock is available for collection at the back of the Church.

**Friendship group** The Friendship group meets in the Lounge at 2 pm on Tuesday 8 May. Donations for a raffle to raise funds for the interior repainting of the hall may be left in the lounge. Contact Gay Webb 476 1613.

**Harvest Festival** Harvest Festival will be celebrated next Sunday as the gospel reading from John focuses on the appropriate theme of Christ the true vine. Please bring offerings for harvest Festival to the Church on Saturday.

**Pentecost Vigil Service** On Saturday evening 26 May, the eve of Pentecost Sunday, there will be a celebration of the Eucharist at 5.30 pm according to the rite of St Basil, incorporating a Vigil of readings similar to the Easter Vigil. This will be followed by a potluck meal in the hall. Pentecost is one of the most important feasts in the Church's year – the Eastern Orthodox would argue that it is on a par with Easter, a conviction the Vicar shares – and this Vigil Service provides an opportunity for deep Scriptural reflection and further teaching on the significance of this high point in the liturgical year. Please let the Vicar know if you would be available to read a lesson at this Service.

**Covenant woes** Last weekend the Christchurch Diocesan Synod rejected the Anglican Covenant making it virtually certain that the General Synod will also do so when it meets later this year. Indeed the Covenant seems in trouble in a major way since a narrow majority of the dioceses of the Church of England have given it the thumbs down, despite the endorsement of a majority of the Church of England's Bishops. Taken together with Rowan William's impending retirement as Archbishop of Canterbury at the end of the year it seems hard to see how this new Communion structure can come in to existence with its major patron off the scene. It is true that some Provinces have endorsed the Covenant, but none of them are major players in the Communion. However sudden reversals and unexpected developments are the order of the day in Communion affairs now. And the underlying pressures that gave birth to the suggestion of a Covenant have not gone away, namely the proliferating and unchecked diversity within the Communion, and the need for some system of mutual accountability and wider authority in the face of Provinces who go it alone with controversial measures that give offence to others and appear to be major departures from Christian faith and practice. Suppose for instance that John Sentamu, the present Archbishop of York, who is widely tipped to be the front-runner for Rowan's job, moves in to the top slot, and then proceeds to pursue his more conservative agenda on issues of personal morality with energy and determination. He could do this through the existing

Communion structures such as the Primates meeting, and if he was unafraid to seek closure and enforce decisions achieved, in contrast to Rowan William's vacillating style, might persuade the GAFCON Primates to come back inside the Lambeth Conference tent, and to pursue their agendas from the centre of Communion structures, rather than seeking to create their own alternative ways of being Anglican on the periphery.

**Pray for the Sick and Infirm:** Rita Marlow, Louis Hourlier, Nell van Laar, Adrienne Garrod, Claire Johnson, John Peterson, Hannah Scott, Lil Bedford, Meg Dunbar, Cherry Gordon, Ben Chisnall and Denise Walker.

**Pray for those who have Died:** Those from this Parish who have died in war.

**Film evenings** A series of four films about Churches and Church architecture will be shown on four successive Monday nights running from 7 to 28 May. These will be shown in the Vicarage preceded by a Mass at 7 pm in the Church. The first film will be John Betjeman's "A Passion for Churches," a BBC documentary focusing on unusual churches in the diocese of Norwich.

**Hall heaters time switch** Concerned at the number of times the heaters have been left on by hall users the Vestry resolved to fit time switches that need to be pressed each hour to keep the heat on. These have now been fitted. To operate depress the switch at the top, then press the button beneath until a blue light comes on.

**Vestry news** This month's Vestry meeting agreed to accept Danielle Harrison's offer to provide the parishes financial services pro bono. This new system will replace the diocesan provision of financial services which has become increasingly fragile and unsatisfactory, and which is highly likely to attract a service fee in the future. The changeover date will be 1 June 2012. More about this at next Sunday's parish forum.

**New Signs** These have now been installed, and the one near the Church door is currently being used to advertise next Sunday's Harvest Festival.

### **Parish Contact Details:**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Hugh Bowron – 455- 3961

**Vicar's Warden:** Tubby Hopkins – 455-3613

**People's Warden:** Joy Henderson – 456-1141

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