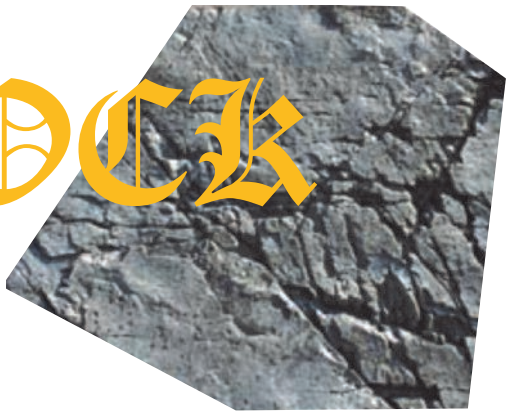
THE ROCK



Anglican Parish of Caversham Saint Peter, Dunedin, New Zealand

October 2025—Trinity

Window replaced

By The Reverend Joel Stutter, Priest in charge

The newly replaced tower window.
PHOTO.: PETER MACKENZIE .

It was a dark and stormy night, or so the story goes, when Father John Graveston received a call from the Police to say one of the windows from the bell tower at Saint Peter's had blown out. He arrived at Saint Peter's to find the upper-level window in pieces on the ground. Since that night in 2021 we have had a sheet of plywood filling the void left by the storm.

This month the temporary plywood protection was replaced with a new window. It does not normally take

(Continued on page 3)

Blast from the past

By The Webmaster

Saint Peter's website provides a general-purpose email address for people who wish to contact the parish but do not know exactly which of the church officers to approach.

A wide variety of messages arrives there, from notification of religious gatherings to requests for pastoral care to offers of products and services no church would wish to entertain.

At the end of last month though, a most unusual message arrived, from Mr Peter Jones in the United Kingdom.

From: Pete Jones <[redacted]> Sent: Tue 30/09/2025 1:31 p.m.
To: WebContact@stpeterscaversham.org.nz
Cc:
Subject: Fr Carl Somers Edgar - Recordings from Wallasey, UK

Hi,

I have a recording of Fr Carl's BBC Radio Merseyside broadcast 'United in Song' from 1985 if you would like them for the archive on the website. United in Song was a weekly church service broadcast, half an hour long, and there are nine tracks that I split from the original broadcast. I can email them in two or three emails and they are MP4 files, good quality.

I remember Fr Carl fondly from his time here on Merseyside and remained in contact with him for many years.

Please let me know if you'd like the recording.

Yours,

Of course we replied with a grateful "yes please" and the recordings duly arrived, along with this story of how Mr Jones came to have them.

> "I was a parishioner there [at St Mary's Liscard] during Fr Carl's time and it was as you can imagine an extraordinary time of teaching and liturgical excellence. It was also hilarious, and his dedication to keeping a congregation entertained while successfully running a parish was inspiring.
>
> "Somebody must have recorded the radio program on tape because I can remember having it digitized and splitting it up into tracks some years ago in the 2000s. I work in sound and music, so mastering the original recording paid off.

(Continued on page 2)

Blast from the past

(Continued from page 1)

"It was only when I heard the sad news of Fr Carl's passing that I searched for information from St Peter's website. I didn't know there was an archive of his preaching, so during this past month in the midst of a clear-out of storage drives I came across the St Mary's recording and thought of you all.

"I played them to test their quality and although I don't have the original wave forms I would have worked from originally, what survives is more than acceptable.

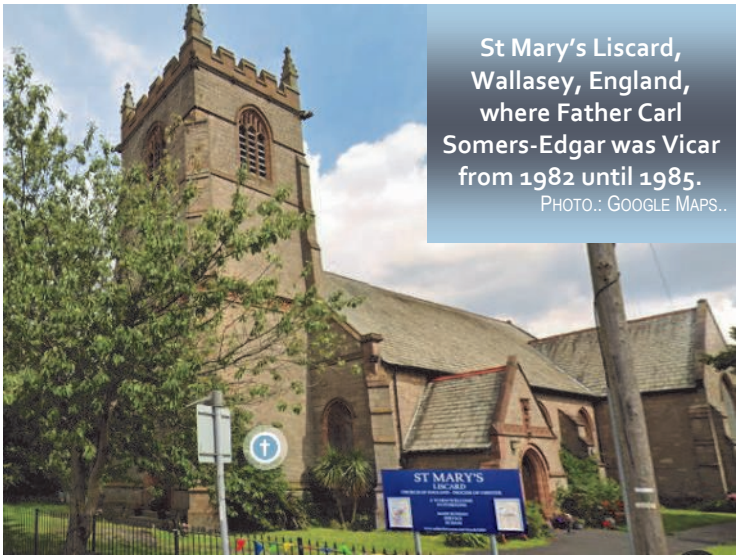
"We all met up with Carl in the early nineties during his visit to the UK and he stayed at my parents' house which was lovely. After that, some of us kept in contact and read his blog, and emailed pretty frequently. A great man, and a treasured time."

"Our" Father Carl obviously had a following which extended beyond Saint Peter's in both time and place.

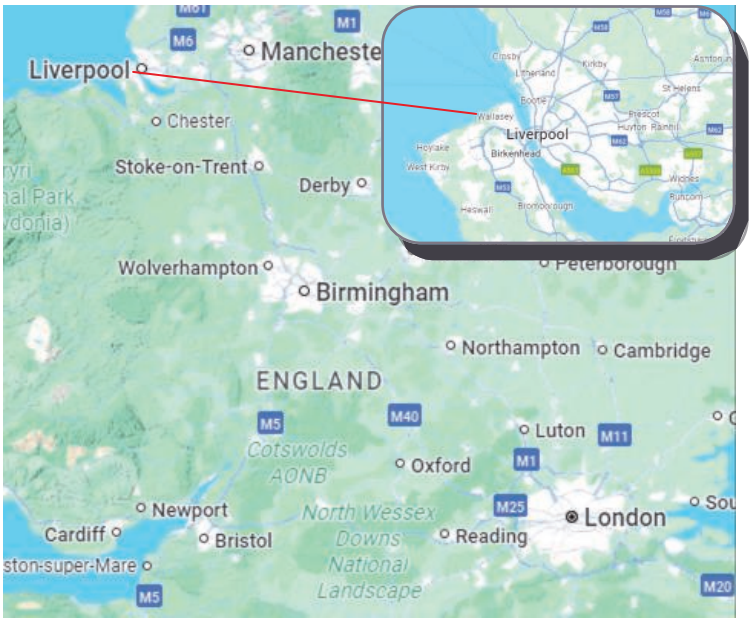
You'll find Mr Jones' recordings by following the link on the Pulpit page of our website.

More online at

https://www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz/pulpit.html



St Mary's Liscard, Wallasey, England, where Father Carl Somers-Edgar was Vicar from 1982 until 1985.
PHOTO.: GOOGLE MAPS..



THE CAVERSHAM LECTURES 2025

4 NOVEMBER PETER READ, CURATOR TOITU OTAGO SETTLERS MUSEUM: "SHOW TIME"

11 NOVEMBER BRIAN MILLER, AUTHOR: "THE GEOLOGY OF THE WAITAKI WHITESTONE GEOPARK"

18 NOVEMBER DOUG HART, ARTIST: "ART IN CHRISTIANITY" AND "CATHEDRALS"

25 NOVEMBER JOHN HAMILTON: DENTIST. "THE LANGUAGE OF CARE"

ALL LECTURES AT 7.30PM IN THE PARISH CENTRE.

The Frolicsome Friar

"Well, that's it. I have visited every website on the Internet. Now what will I do with my time?"

SOURCE: WWW.HOWTOGEEK.COM..

Window replaced

(Continued from page 1)

four years to replace a window, but when you have a 140-year-old heritage building to maintain there is an obligation to do things properly.

Part of this obligation, in fact a legal requirement, is to 'replace like with like'. For example, we cannot replace our slate roof with long-run steel or even modern tiles which look like slate tiles. Any replacement roof must be slate tiles.

This rule applied to the glass we used in the replacement tower window. One option we considered was a printed polycarbonate sheet which from the ground would look like the original window. While significantly cheaper, this option was rejected as it was not in line with our heritage status. We were struggling to find the right grade of coloured lead glass to build a new stained-glass window within our meagre budget.

God must have heard our plight and answered our need. St Paul's Cathedral, just up from the Octagon, was installing a new set of windows depicting the Nativity and very generously offered us the glass from the windows being removed. You see, God does answer our prayers, even the obscure ones for coloured glass.

An interior view of the new window.
PHOTO.: PETER MACKENZIE.

We engaged two craftsmen to construct the new window. Arlo Hammond constructed the frame from imported Canadian Oregon using the original frame as a template. Stained glass conservator Peter Mackenzie used the glass donated by St Paul's Cathedral to construct the window so it fitted in the new frame. Peter then installed the window. It is now protected by a sheet of bulletproof polycarbonate on the outside.

Not only are we grateful to have the services of two amazing craftsmen, but Saint Peter's Church also specifically thanks St Paul's Cathedral and the Very Reverend Dr Tony Curtis for the generous donation of the antique glass, without which the new window would not have been possible.

Benediction

By The Lay Liturgist

The origin of this service is closely associated with the feast of Corpus Christi. However the inspiration for this devotion goes back to the start of the13th century, i.e. before that feast was recognised, but there was a desire to gaze on the Host and to show respect for the Eucharistic Presence.

There are three elements to the devotion of the Blessed Sacrament: public exposition and veneration; chant, prayer, and music; and incense.

The Host – a consecrated priest's wafer- is in the monstrance and remains covered until the appropriate time for it to be exposed

Evensong often accompanies Benediction, so the elements of prayer, chant and music are a part of the service. Incense signifies among other things the rising of prayers to heaven, also of course the magi presented Jesus with incense.

The covered monstrance on Saint Peter's altar during a Service in 2019.

The sounding of the bell is a signal to the congregation to look up to the altar at the moment when the Host is exposed in the monstrance and later when the priest holds the Host up and makes the sign of the cross to bless the people, usually to the centre, right and left towards the congregation.

Evensong And Benediction

First Sunday of each month at 5pm

Join us for this quintessentially Anglican close to the weekend

The Service includes:

Evensong

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Shrine Prayers

REFERENCE: REV JAMES L CONNOLLY. *THE ECCLESIASTICAL REVIEW*. THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA NOV 1931.

Pointing towards the holiness of God

By Father James Harding

Two of my favourite hymns are *And Can It Be* and *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* both written by Charles Wesley. Few hymns capture so well what the Christian life is all about and the glory to which we are called, through God's wonderful grace.

These are uncertain and unsettled times for the Church of England. Following the departure, in sad and unpleasant circumstances, of Archbishop Justin Welby late last year, a new Archbishop of Canterbury has been chosen, the Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally, currently the Lord Bishop of London. Whatever gifts and experience she may bring to the position, her appointment has already proved to be divisive, not simply because she will become the first female Archbishop of Canterbury (though that will obviously be an impediment to some), but because her position on certain moral issues has put her quite at odds with the majority of the Anglican Communion. For both of these reasons, there is sadly very little hope that this office can again be a focus of unity for the Anglican Communion.

Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London and next Archbishop of Canterbury".

PHOTO.: ARCHBISHOPOFCANTERBURY.ORG

At the same time, a minor scandal has been brewing around Canterbury Cathedral itself. There is currently an installation made up of graffiti affixed to the interior of the cathedral, which has provoked widespread outrage.

Example of graffiti in Canterbury Cathedral.

PHOTO.: WWW.CANTERBURY-CATHEDRAL.ORG

Whenever something happens which provokes public outrage, it is both tempting and rather easy to take sides and to jump on the bandwagon. On this occasion, it is worth thinking through why one might be justifiably outraged by this. I recently watched a short video on the subject by Dr Gavin Ashenden, a former chaplain to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, subsequently a convert to the Roman Catholic Church. Although it would be tempting to dismiss his objections as reflecting the embittered zeal of a convert, that would be quite unfair. His objections, in fact, take us to the very heart of what Scripture says about holiness.

Although the Anglican Church does have a very important tradition of holiness—indeed, an excellent anthology of works of Anglican spirituality is entitled *Love's Redeeming Work: The Anglican Quest for Holiness*—it must be said that the idea that the Christian life is to be marked by, and a reflection of, the beauty of God's holiness seems to have largely disappeared from the Anglican Church. It has been replaced by a kind of managerialism and by a shallow and short-term obsession with "relevance."

Yet if there is anything truly relevant in the Christian life, it is relevant not because it is plausible or popular but because it is truthful and rooted deeply in Scripture and Tradition.

In the Old Testament, which is the bedrock of the Jewish and Christian traditions alike, holiness is fundamental. In the book of Leviticus, which I fear is far too little studied by Christians these days, the people of Israel are to be holy because their God is holy (Leviticus 19:2). Their lives are to be morally and spiritually ordered.

This is not simply a matter of doing the right thing, but a matter of living a life which is ordered towards the very being of the God who brought order out of chaos (Genesis 1:1–2:3). The holiness of God is such that to come too close to God is to risk being consumed by God, hence the warnings to the people in Exodus 19:16–25 to avoid approaching the mountain. Two of Aaron's sons are burned up when they offer "strange fire" before the LORD (Leviticus 10:1–3), and when the people of Jerusalem and Judah offend against God's holiness through lives of immorality and false worship, God's glory leaves the Temple (Ezekiel 8–11). Other biblical traditions speak of the

(Continued on page 5)

Lincoln Cathedral.
"Christian buildings are meant to point towards the holiness of God by means of their order and beauty."
PHOTO.:HTTPS://ENGLISHCATHEDRALS.CO.UK/CATHEDRAL/LINCOLN-CATHEDRAL/.

(Continued from page 4)

LORD "hiding His face" from the people, because of their sins.

Christian buildings are meant to point towards the holiness of God by means of their order and beauty. Jesus Himself, who in the Gospel of John replaces the Jerusalem Temple, which is under judgement, with the temple of His own body, embodies the holiness of God. It is by virtue of this that He brings healing to wounded and disordered bodies and souls, as in the story of the Gerasene demoniac, a man possessed by demons who, after being healed, is left clothed and in his right mind (Mark 5:1–20).

Christian lives are, by extension, meant to reflect the beauty of God's holiness through their order, integrity, and love. This comes about at God's gracious initiative, not through our own effort, though we are without doubt morally responsible in the highest degree for how we behave and conduct ourselves. We cannot pass the blame onto others for our own shortcomings, as the prophet Ezekiel made abundantly clear (Ezekiel 18:1–32).

We are called, in and through Christ, to be transformed moment by moment into His likeness, so one day we may be found worthy to enter His presence, whole and in our right mind, clothed in His righteousness (2 Corinthians 3:1–18).

More online

more about the new Archbishop at

https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/rt-revd-and-rt-hon-dame-sarah-mullally-dbe-become-106th-archbishop

more about the Canterbury graffiti at

https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/news/posts/delight-and-displeasure-art-installation-s-questions-to-god-divide-public-opinion/

Favourite Date Loaf

By Raylene Ralston, People's Warden

CHURCH WARDEN CORNER

- 1 ½ cups chopped dates
- 1 ⅛ cup boiling water
- 1 tsp baking soda

Mix all together allow to cool, then add

- 2/3cup Brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 ½ cups flour

Bake in a slow oven at 275-300 ^{0}F (135-150 ^{0}C) for 1 ½ hours

Hello Everyone

Welcome to Spring—a very changeable time. This is a lovely Date Loaf, cheap and easy to make. It stays fresh and can be frozen.

I hope you will try it and enjoy it.

Nutritious

Heart health and nutrition myths

By Alex Chisholm

October is National Cholesterol Month according to Heart UK so this is a good time to check out the best type of diet for heart health. One which aims to keep our blood cholesterol at a healthy level. This year, they are highlighting a few "nutrition myths" and busting them with science! There is a lot of misinformation around and this can be confusing and lead to unhealthy eating, so let's see what their evidence says.

"A low-fat diet is needed to lower blood cholesterol" Incorrect!

We need fat in our diet for several important functions, including a healthy immune system and good brain function. What is important is the type of fat we eat rather than the total amount. The reason for this is that fats in our diets are used by the body in different ways.

Saturated fats, found in red and processed meats, full fat dairy products, coconut oil and palm oil, as well as foods made from these such as cakes, biscuits and pastries, can raise the amount of LDL cholesterol in our blood. Too much LDL cholesterol can lead to increased risk of heart disease. For example, instead of fatty meats and sausages or bacon, go for lean meat, chicken (with the skin removed) and fish. Rather than reducing our daily total fat intake we can increase the amount of unsaturated fats we eat.

Unsaturated fats on the other hand, found in nuts, seeds and avocadoes and oils made from plants, such as olive oil and rapeseed oil, have been found to lower our blood levels of LDL cholesterol and decrease the risk of heart disease. Oily fish has very special healthy fats. Rather than reducing our total fat intake, we need to choose the healthy alternatives.

"Nuts are high in fat so should be avoided"... Incorrect!

They are high in unsaturated fats. As 22 October is International Nut Day, I will have more to report on nuts and other healthy fat sources next month as well. Healthy fats can often raise the level of HDL cholesterol. This type of cholesterol in our bodies is sometimes referred to as the good cholesterol and increased levels have been linked to lower risk of heart disease

"Coconut oil is healthy" Incorrect!

It is made up almost entirely of the unhealthy saturated fat. It contains a huge 92% saturated fat which is more than any other fat, including butter which contains 52% saturated fat.

"Eggs should be avoided" Incorrect!!

Eggs are low in saturated fat and have many other nutritional benefits, so they can be included as part of a heart-healthy diet. Eggs are high in dietary cholesterol, but this does not influence blood cholesterol except possibly in people who have a certain type of raised cholesterol. The main thing to watch with eggs is how they are cooked. Poached, boiled, scrambled, baked, in omelettes are much better than fried.

Raylene's favourite loaf recipe in our Church Warden Corner on page 5 is a good example of healthy baking. It has only a small amount of butter, one egg and the dates provide fibre as well as adding sweetness.

References:
https://www.heartuk.org.uk/healthy-diets/healthy-food-facts
https://www.heartfoundation.org.nz/wellbeing/healthy-eating/nutrition

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: 1st Sunday of each month: Evensong and Benediction

First and third Monday of each month:
1pm: Holy Communion at Radius Fulton Home

First Tuesday of each month:
11am: Holy Communion in the in the lounge of Frances Hodgkins Retirement Village, Fenton Avenue

Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month:
11am: Holy Communion
in the chapel of the Home of St Barnabas, Ings Avenue

Wednesday:
9am: Morning Prayer
10.30am Bishop"s Companionship Programme
- Studying the Bible, prayer and life in Christ

Thursday:
10am: Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer

Special Services

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

Parish Contacts:

Priest in Charge:
The Reverend Joel Stutter : (03) 455 3961
AssistantPriest@stpeterscaversham.org.nz

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The Rock is published by The Anglican Parish of Caversham, Dunedin, New Zealand

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Pre-print services : Information Services Otago Ltd.

Printed by: Dunedin Print Ltd.

For your diary

Tuesday, 4 November : *The Caversham* Lectures : Peter Read, Curator Toitu Otago Settlers Museum: "Show Time"

Tuesday, 11 November : Vestry meeting at 2.30pm

: *The Caversham* Lectures
Brian Miller, Author: "The Geology of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark"

Tuesday, 18 November : *The Caversham* Lectures
Doug Hart, Artist:
"Art in Christianity" and "Cathedrals"

Friday, 21 November : Deadline for the November Rock

Tuesday, 25 November : *The Caversham* Lectures
John Hamilton, Dentist:
"The Language of Care"

Why do we sing hymns in church?

Rock music

(Continued from page 8)

century, many hymns addressed the theological concerns of the incipient Anglo-Catholic movement by drawing the singer into a deeper relationship with the sacramental life of the church.

In the 1960s and 1970s many hymns sought to engage with various global and local social movements, the poor, hungry and homeless. New images and understandings are offered as we move closer to God in a world of tumult and change.

With the Pentecostal movements of the 1970s and 1980s, a renewed expression of the Holy Spirit came to be expressed with a joy the church had rarely experienced in singing. The lyrics of hymns also began to engage the singer with the communities in which we live and work. Shirley Murray's fine hymn addressing Anzac themes is an excellent example.

We sing to remember and celebrate that we are part of a much larger community of faith. We are part of the thread which binds diverse people together. We sing, and what we sing matters.

Why do we sing hymns in church?

Rock music

By David Hoskins, Director of Music

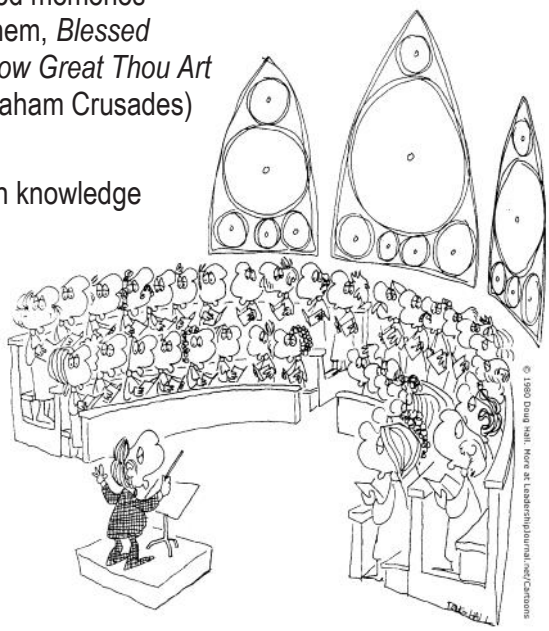
It was once said that most of the sermons one hears are forgotten or stored in the mind's 'database' somewhere, but the lyrics of hymns and songs can stay with people long after they are sung.

As a small boy, I used to help an elderly woman with her gardening. I pulled more plants than weeds but she kept asking me back so I suppose I was of some use. Following time in the garden, there was a hot or cold drink and (always!) a slice of jam roll to be enjoyed. She possessed a small upright piano of 'variable tuning' and I would sit and listen to her play and sing hymns. She loved hymns and they conjured memories and moments of faith in her long life. I still remember how some of them, *Blessed Assurance* (a favourite hymn of Father Carl!), *The 23rd Psalm*, and *How Great Thou Art* (it was the time of the Billy Graham Crusades) featured on a regular basis.

Billy Graham crusading.

PHOTO.: WWW.CHARLOTTEMAGAZINE.COM.

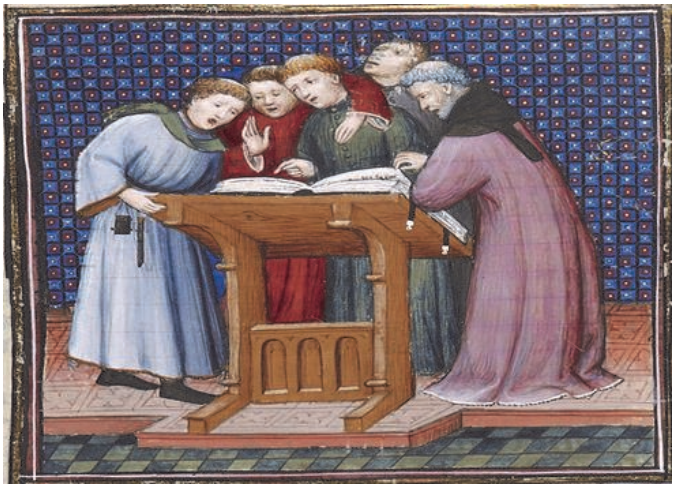
I was too young and lacking in knowledge and life experience to quite comprehend the relationship between the lyrics and tunes of the hymns and songs with the extraordinary gamut of human experience they addressed in their short span.



"The sopranos and altos will sing 'Hallelujah,' the tenors will sing, 'Amen,' and the basses will sing 'Oo-wah, diddle-dee, doo-wah.' "

CREDIT: WWW.PREACHINGTODAY.COM.

The singing of songs of faith has been forever part of the Christian experience of worship, yet now this part of the service belongs so emphatically to the people of the gathered community. Hymns express joy, sorrow, forgiveness and grace. They often challenge us to seek a deeper relationship with God and each other. Hymns are not 'fillers' allowing preparation for the next section of the liturgy. They stand as statements of faith and what we sing is important and always has been.



The early church had examples of the singing of psalms in the context of worship, after their last meal, Jesus and his disciples finished with singing a hymn together. At the Reformation, scripture was sung to both express praise but also educate and nurture—though for a long time this was confined to the words of the Psalms.

Hymns have often denounced the conditions of society around us. In South Africa, *We are marching* (*siyahamba*) celebrated solidarity of a people while protesting oppression. *We shall overcome* became the anthem for more than one generation protesting racial segregation in American society. Hymns were often subversive, in their way. During the 19th

(Continued on page 7)