

The Hokonui Harvest

March 2025

The Newsletter of the Anglican Parish of Gore & Districts
"Where Faith and Life Meet"



Holy Trinity Gore

Mataura, Riversdale, Tapanui & Waikaka

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The office is open 10am—12pm Tuesday and Thursday

Our Vicar writes

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ. I trust and pray that you are all well.

I write this in the immediate aftermath of the unexpected passing of our dear Lois Shallard. As sad as her passing is, the overwhelming outpouring of grief and support is very comforting and reminds us of how loved she was. It also highlights the importance of being a part of a faith community and playing an active role in that community.

Lois led by example. She certainly lived her faith and consequently many people were blessed and experienced first-hand the transformative power of Jesus Christ because an ordinary person did the ordinary things extraordinarily well. Jesus is not looking for super saints. Jesus is not looking for supremely gifted Christians. Jesus wants you and me to be faithful and generous with our love and time in our community. A vital part of this lifestyle is to be an active member and participant in the life of the church.

I have always been very interested in politics and the role of the church in that realm. Growing up in apartheid South Africa certainly kept this front and centre as the church and the state were constantly in conflict over racist legislation and the abuse of human rights. The church was a powerful force in the dismantling of that regime. But, sadly, for a long time it was also a powerful force in propping up that regime. This must serve as a reminder to all of us that our interpretation of the scriptures is very important. Good can be manipulated for evil. "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). A battle is being fought for your soul and it begins by trying to wrest control of your mind. "For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

It is my opinion that the church cannot and must not remain silent in the affairs of the nation and local community. I was reminded of this when the Bishop of Washington Cathedral bravely challenged Donald Trump to be a kind and compassionate President of the USA. She reminded him that he himself believes that God saved him from an assassin's bullet so that he may lead the nation. The backlash was swift from many quarters as it always will be, but that must not deter us from being the prophetic voice in civic affairs. One of the great lies of the devil is that the church should not involve itself in the affairs of the state. This gives evil people free reign to approve legislation that deprives people of their dignity and an equal chance to make good in life by affording equal opportunity to all people. At its worst, it openly classifies some as inferior to others (e.g. Apartheid, the Nazis and slavery).



The hardening of attitudes along racial lines in our country is deeply concerning. The church (the Anglican Church in particular) played an important role in the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi and it still has an important role to play in finding a way forward for the nation. We cannot abdicate this responsibility. All of us must pray for all of those who are trying to find common ground, we must pray for respectful and honest dialogue and also that the rhetoric is not as inflammatory as it has become. This is a time for peaceful, respectful nation building and you and I are a part of this process. Let us choose our words carefully when standing around the bbq or any other social gathering.

We also have a role to play at the local level. I see that the mayoral candidates are beginning to announce themselves. God cares deeply for Gore and Districts. Who is the right candidate? This is something that we must commit to prayer. Our prayers will be far more effective if we stay informed.

Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday. May I suggest that a part of your Lenten discipline is to pray for the leaders of the nations and for those in authority at all levels of government. Pray that they will remember that they have been elected by the people to serve the people. Not every country has the luxury of free and fair elections, and I pray that those oppressive systems will be dismantled. These are troubling times, but I leave you with the words of Jesus to encourage you: "You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved." - Gary



Lent & Easter Services



LENT / EASTER SERVICES

Wednesday 5 March - Ash Wednesday

9.30am Eucharist

7.00pm Combined Ash Wednesday Service at St Andrews Presbyterian Church

Sunday 9 March - Lent 1

10.00am Family Eucharist

Sunday 16 March - Lent 2

10.00am Family Eucharist

Sunday 23 March - Lent 3

10.00am Family Eucharist

Sunday 30 March - Lent 4

10.00am Family Eucharist

Sunday 6 April - Lent 5

8.00am Eucharist and 10.00am Family Eucharist

Lent



Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

at Holy Trinity

Sunday 13 April - Palm Sunday

10.00am Family Eucharist

Tuesday 15 April - Chrism Eucharist

6.00pm at Holy Trinity Church

Wednesday 16 April

9.30am Eucharist

Thursday 17 April - Maundy Thursday

6.00pm Agape Meal and Service

Stripping of the church and half hour vigil

Friday 18 April - Good Friday

9.00am Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday 19 April - Easter Eve

5.00pm Celtic Service

Sunday 20 April - Easter Day

10.00am Family Eucharist

Guide to Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.



Parish Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Parishioners of **The Parish of Gore & Districts** will be held in the **Narthex** on **Sunday 16 March 2024 following the 10am service** for the purpose of:

- Appointing a Vicar's Warden
- Electing a People's Warden
- Electing not less than three or more than eight Vestry Committee members for the next year
- Receiving the audited accounts of the Parish of Gore & Districts
- Transaction of any other business connected with the Parish

at which time and place all parishioners, being of the age 16 years and upwards, who shall have been registered for a period not less than two months on the Parish Roll and are not registered on the Roll of any other Parish, are entitled to speak and vote.

Eligibility for election to Vestry

- Communicant
- 16 years upwards
- Not serving on any other Vestry

Make sure you are there to share in the future of our Parish

Nomination forms are in the Narthex / Nominations close mid-day 14 March

CHRISM EUCHARIST – Tuesday 15 April 7pm at Holy Trinity

This is the service where laity and clergy renew their Baptismal and Ordination vows before each other. Chrism Oil is consecrated and people are commissioned for any appropriate tasks. This service has been well attended in recent years and most parishes will have participants in varied parts of the service.

The pot luck tea starts at 6pm.

Maundy Thursday 17 April at Holy Trinity commences at 6pm with a shared Agapè Meal enjoyed by the family of Christ (*The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship)*)

You are invited to bring a plate—either salad, cold meat or dessert.

Would you please add your name to the list in the Narthex so that we will know numbers for setting up, and also tick off what you will bring.



Donations of Hot Cross Buns for Morning Tea at Easter are welcome.

Annual Offertories

A memo for those who make annual offertories - the end of the tax year is coming up - 31 March

For those on the **Parish of Gore & Districts planned giving system who wish to continue using numbered** envelopes for cash giving during 2025/2026 please let Eleanor know so that these can be delivered late March/early April

Receipts for all offertories given between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 will be delivered mid—late April.

Direct credit or online deposits

Account name Holy Trinity Church

Account number 06-0923-0004683-00

Reference Please use either your name or your envelope number (or both) If not on the Planned Giving (envelope system) use '**offertory**' for the reference

If you wish to donate

- to the Dunbar's fund use 'Dunbars' in the reference
- to the Lenten Appeal use 'Lent Appeal' in the reference

If anyone wishes to join the regular offertory system - either by envelopes or direct credit please phone the Recorder, Eleanor Groves 208 4027 or 027 688 7000

Receipts may be used for tax purposes.

Flowers for Easter Services

If anyone has white or gold flowers they would be appreciated for the Easter decorations. Please leave at the Church on Good Friday.



AAW (Association of Anglican Women) meets on the first Monday of the month at 2pm in the Narthex commencing with a short service and either a speaker or an activity following the short meeting.

On Monday 7 April at our AAW meeting at 2pm we will be making palm crosses ready for Palm Sunday. All are very welcome to join us in the Narthex.

Monthly Parish Fellowship Dinners at Croydon Lodge



Dates for the diary —18 March, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 21 October and 18 November. Phone the hotel 208 9029 by 3.00pm on the day to book in with the Holy Trinity Group. Remember we receive a 25% discount off the meal cost. 15 April clashes with the Chrism Eucharist so we will change the date.



Croydon Lodge very generously give each person having a birthday, a free lunch during the month of their birthday. If you would like to be part of this group please let Anne Gover know, so that you can be added to the birthday list. This is a women-only group, but men could consider setting up a men's birthday lunch group if they were interested.

**The Anglican Missions 2025
Lenten Appeal will be
launched on
Ash Wednesday 5 March**



This year we are asked to support two appeals:

Resilience Project

In a partnership with the Anglican Church of Melanesia, we're bringing safe water, sustainable agriculture and disaster preparation to one of the world's most remotely inhabited places.

Hope for the Holy Land

War has once again torn this part of the world to pieces. You can help restore hope to the Holy Land through access to healthcare, education and community support.

Donations may be placed in an envelope labelled Lenten Appeal and placed in the Offertory Bag at church or by direct credit into the church bank account with your name and Lenten Appeal shown.

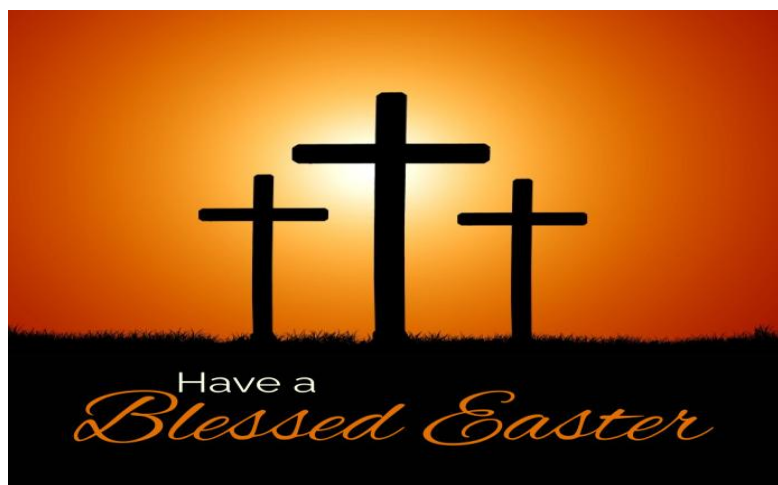
Starting Thursday 10 April
through to Thursday 27 November

SOUP AND BUNS LUNCH EVERY THURSDAY AT 12 NOON IN THE NARTHEX

You are welcome to come after the 10.30am Bible Study
or to just come for lunch at mid-day.

Soup and buns will be supplied - silver coin donation

SEE YOU THERE



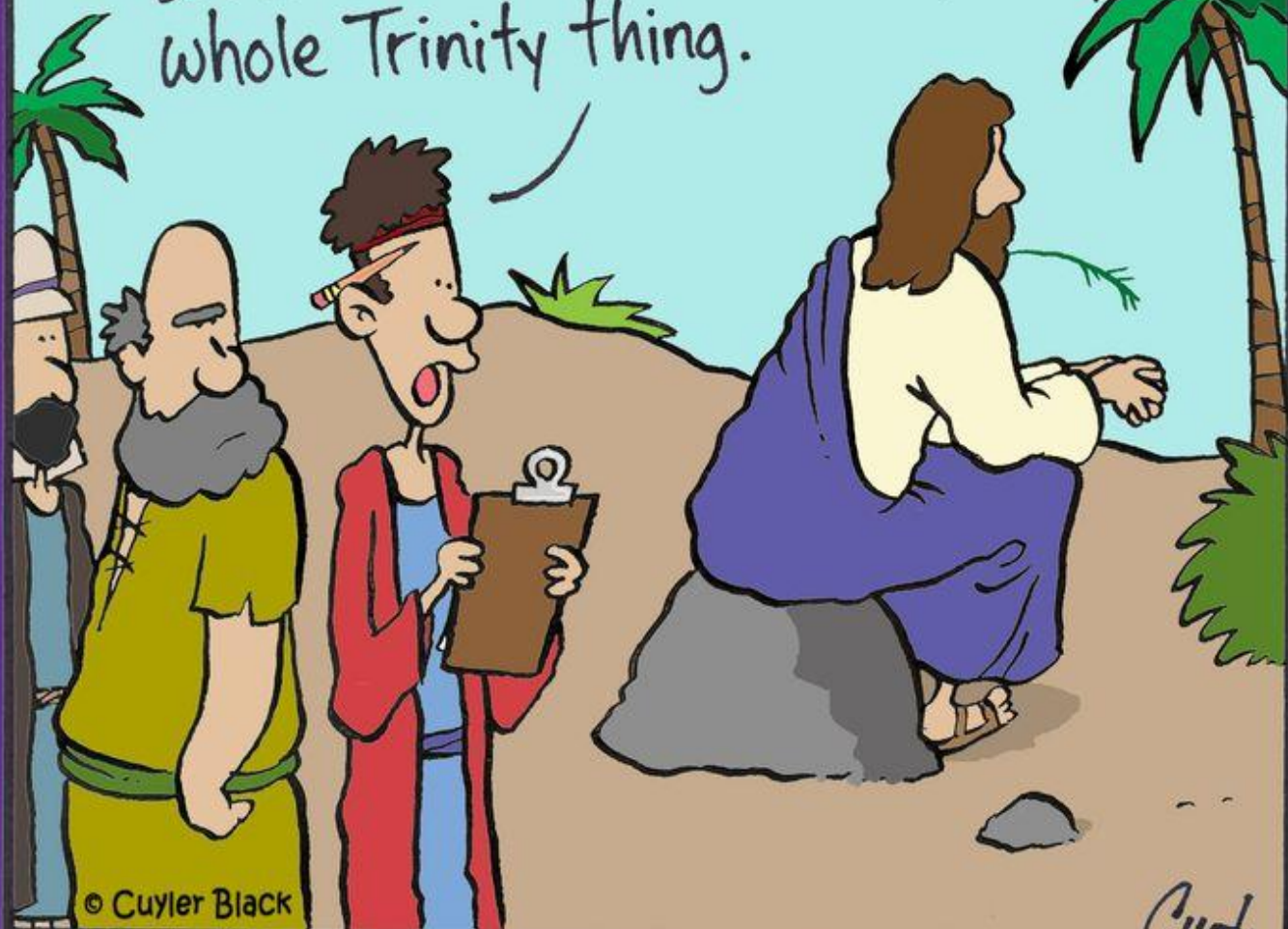
Pastoral Care in the Parish



If anyone is in hospital could a family member or friend please let us know so that pastoral care and support from the Hospital Visiting Team can be arranged. Also if you know of anyone who is sick or is unwell at home and requiring a visit or home communion please let us know. Pastoral Care is co-ordinated from the Office and passed on to either clergy or an appropriate visitor.

THE 13th DISCIPLE, REUBEN THE POLLSTER, TURNED OUT TO BE AN IRRITANT AND WAS SOON DISMISSED.

91% of people want to see more miracles, 58% believe your Sermon on the Mount could have opened with a better joke, and 100% don't understand the whole Trinity thing.





We are rostered to assist with delivering Meals on Wheels during the week of July 7-11 2025. If you can assist, please fill in the roster on the Narthex Noticeboard when our week is announced in the Link.



CHURCH ROSTERS

Anyone interested in joining any of the following church rosters please contact the following people to find out what is involved.

Silver Cleaning / Sanctuary / Morning Tea / Hospital Visiting / Welcomers / Readers / Intercessors – contact Hannah Stewart 208 7366

Flowers - contact Davina Prattley 208 6141

Power Point – contact Anne Gover 208 5235 or 027 311 0625

We would really appreciate more members on these rosters.

Residential Homes Services

If you are interested in joining the team taking services around the Rest Homes on a Sunday afternoon, please contact Gary Griffith-Smith Phone 032087366



NEWS FROM THE DUNBARS



We have continued with our donation of \$1,000 each year to support the Dunbar family, who are working in Cambodia -

Neill and Rebekah Dunbar, Jonathan (14), Aaron (12) and Emily (9)

Neill and Rebekah answered the call to join the Church in Cambodia. They began their ministry in Melbourne in 2018 attending the 5-month Australian CMS training programme to prepare them for cross-cultural mission in Cambodia. They are now integrating into the life of the Anglican Church in Cambodia and their children (Jonathan, Aaron & Emily) are attending HOPE International School. They plan to be involved long-term with the life and ministry of the international and Khmer congregations. Cambodia is a youthful nation with a rapidly rising urban population and rate of development. Still in recovery from its recent turbulent past, this predominantly Buddhist nation is in desperate need of the Good News of Jesus. Language study has been their main priority. They spent time in New Zealand during 2022. On their return to Cambodia in September 2022 they became involved in a church plant in their part of the city. This includes a live-in dormitory situation where young men from the provinces can come to Phnom Penh for work/study and have a place to stay which will look after them. Neill's main role is the pastoral care of the guys as well as to discern ways to link between the dormitory and the Khmer church. In 2024 we sent \$1,500 to support them, much of which was raised at a fun 'Jokes and Junk Food' evening.

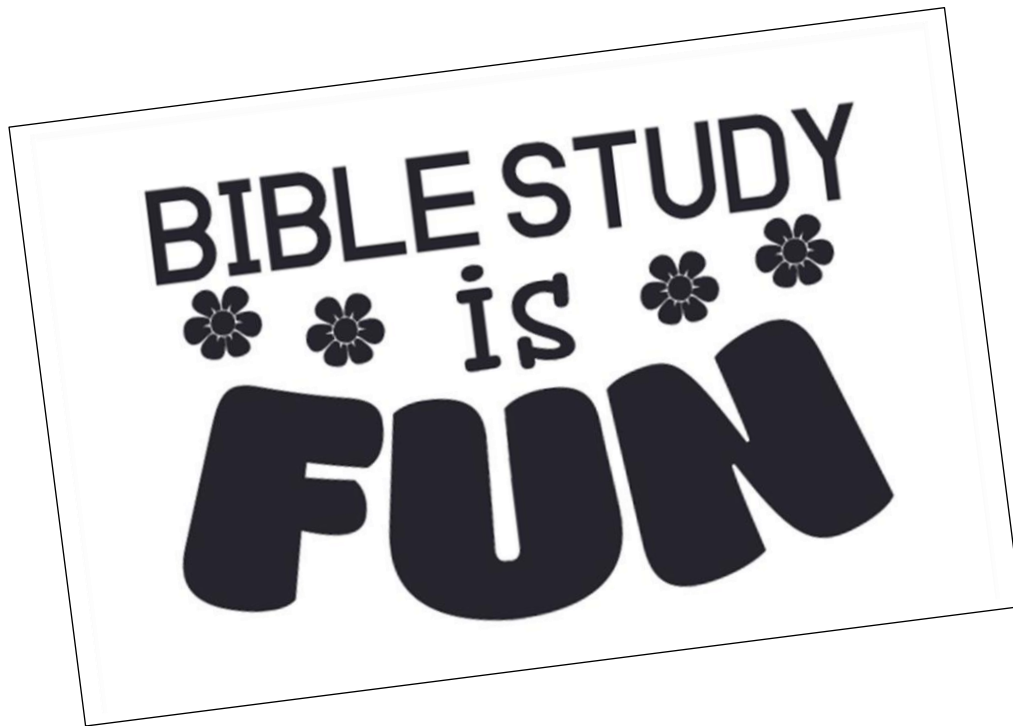
Keith Gover, Mission Representative.

Mission Sales Table - raising funds for the Dunbar family

Items for sale are always welcome for this fundraiser — baking, jams, fruit, vegetables, books, trinkets, etc, etc

Our support for Neil and Rebekah Dunbar and their children Jonathan, Aaron and Emily is by way of our sales table, donations, and a Mission Evening during the year.

Our annual target is \$1,000 and runs from 1 November — 31 October.

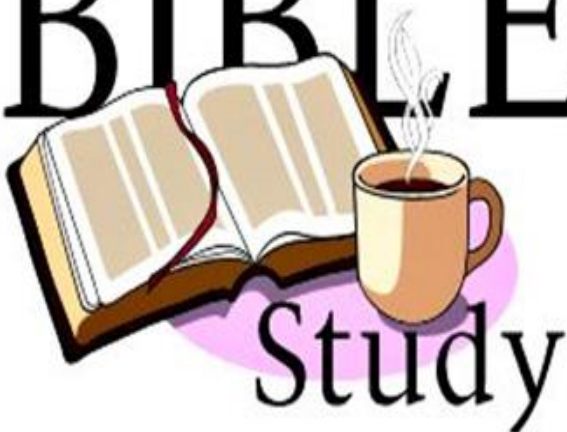


We meet

on a Thursday at 10.30am in the Narthex &
on a Friday at 4 Lennox Street at 10.15am

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE



Study

You're not expected to know your Bible from cover to cover. We are all learning together and enjoy much laughter as we learn new things that we have never noticed before in the Bible. If you have never been part of a bible study group or have had a bad experience in the past, be brave this Lent, and come and join one of these study groups.

PARATA NEWS

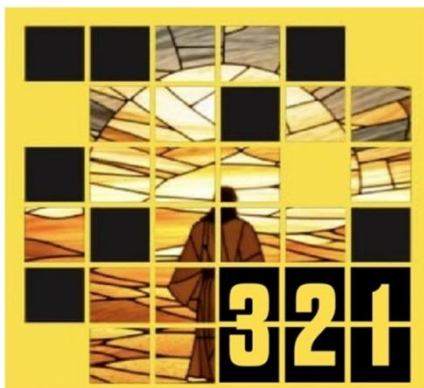
This photo from the Chapel Opening and our RN Jayne O'Neill's poem really sum up Lois. Mary, Alisha and Peter

We'll miss you most dearly
our Pastor and friend,
Your visits to our residents,
the warmth you did send.
To comfort our people
With your Bible or Psalm
And saying a prayer
For some peace and some calm.
We'll miss your smiley presence,
always willing and near
So to you dear Lois
We offer our prayers.



Regular Services in the Parish

These services are listed in the weekly pew sheet, the Link, and will also be shown on the parish website <https://goreanglican.co.nz/> which is being managed by Anne Gover.



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

AT HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

from 7pm to 9pm over four Wednesday evenings

12 March - 2 April 2025

If you are wanting to be baptised or confirmed this year on 11 May it is essential for you to attend this course. However, it is open to anyone who has questions about God, the world and your place in it, as this course will help answer these questions.

Each evening will conclude with supper.

DISCOVER LIFE ACCORDING TO JESUS

321

Over the course of four sessions, Glen Scrivener [an Anglican Priest originally from Australia, but now living in the UK] presents Jesus' vision for life through short interactive videos that help us better understand God, the world and ourselves.



Whether you're just beginning your journey of discovery or you're well established in your worldview, 321 introduces you to Jesus' vision for life in a way that's clear and simple to understand.

You are invited to engage in thoughtful conversations, hosted in a friendly environment, interacting with the videos, where we can chat through our thoughts and ideas and answer questions about life, meaning and purpose.



So that we know numbers attending please fill in this form and drop it into the office or ring 027 311 0625 if you are planning to come to these 321 sessions.

Name:
Phone:

321

It's not too late to join us on Wednesday 12 March for this 4-week course

Contacts in the Parish

Vicar Rev'd Canon Gary Griffith-Smith 03 208 7366 or 027 267 0030

Office Administrator Hannah Stewart 03 208 7366 or 021 203 0828

Parish Office 15 Traftord Street, Gore 03 208 7366

Local Priest Rev'd Bruce Cavanagh 03 208 4538 or 021 0295 1283

Vicar's Warden Patricia Tytler 03 208 5684 or 027 367 6806

People's Warden Robyn Pahl 027 436 4822

Vestry Secretary/Treasurer Anne Gover 03 208 5235 or 027 311 0625

Parish Recorder Eleanor Groves 03 208 4027 or 027 688 7000

Music Anne Gover 03 208 5235 or 027 311 0625

Hospitality Heather Hetaraka 208 5644 or 027 233 4748

Mataura Rosemary Dunlop 203 8050

Riversdale Sue Sanson 03 202 5606 or 027 202 5606

Tapanui Esme Sim 03 204 2272

Waikaka Pat Childs 03 207 2746

HOME BIBLE STUDY - 75 A.D.



"I think Paul wants everyone to say what this verse means to you."