



PARISH OF ST MARK, REMUERA

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH FOR 162 YEARS

1847 – 2009

The Messenger

February/March 2010

From the Vicar

Happy New Year!

I wish to pay tribute to the many people who contributed to our Advent and Christmas worship. Christmas is a season so full of expectation and hope that it presents two challenges: firstly to ensure that our worship is familiar, recognizable and distinctly Anglican, and secondly that it is different enough so as not to be seen as the same as last year.

In fulfilling these tasks I am greatly appreciative of the ministry of music at St Marks, especially the expertise of our Director of Music, Nick Sutcliffe, and our choir. We are one of the few churches in the Diocese that enjoys strong choral liturgy. The maintenance of this requires great attention and energy and I believe that our November and December liturgies reflected the very best of Anglican worship.

Liturgy is defined as "work of the people". Traditionally services were priest-led with very little lay involvement, the priest filling the role of an intercessor between God and the congregation. Altars were jammed hard against the Sanctuary wall and the minister alternated between facing "God" and the people so that the Holy Spirit of God might indeed flow through that person.

The advent of New Zealand Liturgies in the late 60's encouraged participation as never before. Altars were moved from walls so the priest could face congregations, and the role of Lay Reader was extended to just about all parts of the office. Rather than an intercessor, the

priest prays the liturgy on behalf of the people, in fact a priest is only required to preside over about 5 minutes of the Eucharist, the rest can be led by any baptized member of the community of faith.

From time to time murmurs of discontent arise about the familiarity and regularity of our worship. Worshipping God is not so much about the words we repeat, its more about the opportunity for us to reflect liturgically upon the events that have captured us since we were last at church. In effect, every service is different because no week is going to be the same as the last.

And so with these thoughts in mind I return to my earlier comments about our Christmas worship and the importance of it being different from last year but in a sense also the same.

To all who worked so hard to make our church beautiful, our liturgy vibrant and our grounds welcoming and our Advent and Christmas special, thank you. I am pleased to report that we were 8% up in attendance from last year. This is wholesome and sustainable growth.

Bryan has left us at the end of January to begin a new ministry as Vicar of Halswell and Prebbleton in the Diocese of Christchurch. This will

leave us short staffed for a while, so, to help fill the gap, the following initiatives have been introduced:

- Currently we are in negotiations to have a second priest to join us one day a week. His responsibilities will be largely pastoral, but hopefully will include one Sunday each month.
- I am pleased to announce that several young people have offered to assist us with Youth Group on Friday nights. The new programme will hopefully encourage family participation, worship organization (for family services), service to the community of faith and of course fellowship.
- The office hours will be increased and perhaps the staff increased. (It may be that we move into a job share situation.) The practice of staffing the office with volunteers in the afternoon will continue but with a cross over for about an hour each afternoon.
- From time to time, it may be necessary to "empower" some to take on extra responsibilities. To this end I am hoping to organize a lay pastoral team to assist with visiting. If you feel called to such a ministry, please contact me for further information.
- Each week invitations are being sent to people on the roll to join us for our Wednesday service

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which will be followed by refreshments in the vicarage. This will ensure that all on the roll feel a sense of incorporation and inclusion.

I am confident that the normal flow of ministry, familiar to all at St Marks will continue essentially as before. Please feel free to call me with any suggestions as to how we can meet the needs of the individuals and this community more fully.

We have had several of our younger members "graduate" from Sunday School and we welcome them to our regular worship. Over the coming weeks they will be taking up Serving responsibilities in our worship. We look forward to their joining us at all of our Sunday services.

We invite you to join with us for two important occasions in February. The first is **Shrove Tuesday Pancakes** which will be held in the Parish Centre on **Tuesday 16 February at 6pm**. Please bring your own ingredients. Volleyball on the lawn will follow.

The second is the following night for our **Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30pm**. Each year we alternate with St Michaels, this year it is at St Marks. We hope you will join us for Ash Wednesday services which mark the beginning of Lent.

During Lent we are holding a book study, based upon "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time", by Marcus Borg. Please call the office if you are interested in joining us for this as we need to order books. There will be a small charge to cover the price of the book.

November marked my first anniversary at St Marks. This has been a huge year for the family as we make the transition into a new parish and new accommodation. It is my hope that you are as happy having us here as we are to be amongst you all. Thanks for the small acts of kindness and gifts

which we received from so many at Christmas and for the care you show your Vicar. I wish you every blessing as we begin this New Year together.

Mark Sullivan

OBITUARIES

William Anthony (Tony) Ewen *4 April 1923 – 27 October 2009*

One of St Mark's oldest and most respected parishioners, William Anthony (Tony) Ewen died late last year at the age of 86. Born in 1923 at his parents' house in Remuera within sight of the church tower, Tony was educated at King's School and Wanganui Collegiate School. His early studies at University were interrupted by the war and Tony saw service with the RNZAF in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and other parts of the Pacific theatre of war.

Tony was always a great all-rounder, bright academically, and a notable performer at tennis, horse riding, shooting and perhaps most of all fishing. He used to keep a horse in a paddock at the bottom of Arney Road and was a member of the Pakuranga Hunt for many years.

After the war Tony joined the family firm of Sargood Son and Ewen and played a large part in the development of the Onehunga Woollen Mills. As Director and Manager of that enterprise he earned the high respect and devotion of the staff for his wise and considerate leadership. He was also active for many years in managing a large charitable organisation called the Sargood Trust. In 1948 he took what proved to be the most important step in his life when he married Jocelyn Pascoe, daughter of Alfred Pascoe who was the organist and choirmaster at St Mark's for many years. They had five sons and the Ewen family was a strong and happy band. Tony had an infectious sense of humour and their busy social life endeared them all to a wide circle of friends.

He was always good-humoured and thoughtful of the needs of others,

and he possessed a determination which was never more evident than in his last few years when he was faced with and overcame serious physical difficulties with a wonderful and courageous spirit which was an example to us all.

His funeral took place at St Mark's on the 31st October 2009 and was attended by a large gathering of family and friends.

Patrick Towle

Ivan Hamilton Ralph

*24 January 1923 –
22 November 2009*

Ivan was born in Wellington, the second son in a family of four. Raised in Wanganui he attended Wanganui College and, on leaving, his father declared Ivan should complete a trade and work for a government department as this would ensure him a job for life. So Ivan duly completed a cadetship with the Post and Telegraph.

During his cadetship war was declared. Too young for active service overseas, he joined the Territorials. Whilst staying at the YMCA in Auckland his new friend Spencer Cocks talked him into joining the NZ Scottish Regiment whence he later transferred into the Wellington West Coast Regiment and entered camp at Trentham. He eventually became a Small Arms Instructor, a position he held for the duration of the war in the permanent force. He was discharged as a Staff Sergeant and returned to civilian life.

After the war Ivan chose teaching as a new career so moved to Wellington in 1946 to attend Teachers Training College. He began teaching at Wanganui East Primary School then at a school in Lower Hutt. He was highly regarded for his very relaxed but firm style.

In 1952 Ivan met Dawn Mazengarb, who was about to sail to England to attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. On

continued on next page...

her return they were married in St Paul's cathedral on 13th March, 1954.

Ivan attended Victoria University during the years 1954-1956 completing his BA and later MA Hons in Economics.

He also taught as a Sunday School teacher in Karori. His first daughter Margaret-Claire (Margy) was born in 1955; in 1958 a second daughter, Elizabeth Mary, arrived and Christopher Mazengarb completed the family in 1960.

His next work was as a trade envoy for the NZ Government in Europe. He maintained this year had been the favourite job of his career. He was then offered a job as Marketing Manager at Felt and Textiles in Auckland so in 1966 the Ralph family moved north. With 3 children at home Ivan excelled in his fatherly duties, and the family became the centre of his life, right up until the day he died.

Auckland of course offered Ivan the opportunity to hone his boating skills... which were zero!! There are many family stories of reefs scraped, dinghy's overturned or fallen out of after a couple too many on a neighbour's yacht; or waking up in the night to find the yacht lying at 50 deg because "someone" had misread the tide chart !!

Ivan and Dawn gave everything they had to their family, private school education, endless caravan trips, boating holidays, Fiji holidays - the result being a very close-knit family.

Ivan was a man of deep thought, extremely high standards and was always immaculately dressed in appropriate fashion for the occasion. He had perfect manners, would always look you in the eye, often had a tale to tell to ease any situation - truly a gentleman.

He also gave unlimited time to his other family - the Church.

Over the 42 years he and Dawn were faithful parishioners of St Marks, Ivan happily served in almost every capacity possible - as

sidesman, lesson reader, Vicars Warden, vestry member, treasurer, and Diocesan Synod representative.

He also gave great service to the Diocese, serving as a member of Standing Committee, of NZ General Synod, of the Cathedral Chapter and latterly of both the Melanesian Mission Trust Board, and his beloved St Johns Trust Board which even with his bad eyesight he chaired until early in 2009. He only resigned because he felt he couldn't give it full justice any longer. Ivan also spent a lot of energy and time helping re write the New Zealand prayer book and was extremely proud of that.

Whilst extremely dedicated in his service to the Church, his son Chris can never remember that he was "missing"- he was always there at every school or family event for each of his children.

He told Chris he wasn't afraid of death, he didn't want to die but knew the inevitability of it, and was calm that there is a place - another sphere he said - where he would go and meet his Maker.

His 9 Grandchildren stood by his side at his funeral and led by his eldest Benjamin Jordan, recounted how their beloved Papa was so ever-present in their lives and spoke of his ability to communicate with them no matter their age.

Ivan is survived by his wife Dawn. They were a wonderful team for 57 years, and spent their lives supporting each other in unbroken devotion and being truly amazing parents.

His was certainly a life well lived, and well loved.

Chris Ralph

Who's Who at St Mark's:

Warwick Settle *Crucifer and Chorister*

Warwick was born in Matamata in 1941, the younger of twins and their mother's life was never quite the same afterwards! As the family were

part of a vital country community, the twins and their older brother enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities which were popular at the time in a country town. In short, it was an idyllic life for boys. Although she was strict in many aspects of motherhood - in particular good manners - Mother Settle did allow some unusual freedoms such as permitting the twins to drive the family car to and from Cubs. However she was well aware of just how mischievous her younger sons could be from time to time.

Warwick attended Te Poi Primary School and Matamata College, but moving to Auckland with his family and attending Auckland Grammar brought about a sharp awakening educationally and deepened his interest in Physics. Growing up on a farm had already allowed his naturally creative and constructive mind to develop and after spending three years at University studying engineering Warwick decided that life behind a desk was not for him so he joined the workforce. He was fortunate to find a job with an employer experienced in many of the traditional skills of tool and die making who allowed him, and indeed encouraged him, to contribute his own ideas. In 1963 Warwick and Jenny, with much assistance from Warwick's father, began to build their first home on a section they had bought in Pakuranga and a year after they married in 1964 they moved in. Their first two children, Garth and Anna, were born in the early years of their marriage and the family became active members of St Peter's Pakuranga with Warwick serving on the Vestry and as People's Warden and singing in the choir.

On his 30th birthday Warwick formed his own manufacturing company which was initially involved only with the local market. Around 1980 contact was made with an American market for his manufactured marine fittings. In 1993 a second company was formed to include England Holland and Australia with the local market. These simple sentences cannot begin to describe the effort

that went into building these companies. Warwick built several of the machines in the plant himself and all the tool and die making continues. His work has also provided opportunity for travel in those countries.

In 1971 when Ewen, the younger son, was born the family bought an old villa in Remuera and became members of St Mark's. Warwick, who had earlier studied singing and voice production with Oliver Nicholson, recognised that membership of the choir would give him the opportunity to take part in something soon to become, and remain, a most important aspect of his life. He regrets that his business commitments have prevented him from taking a more active part in church life, though he did serve on the vestry for a number of years in the seventies. Pressure of business had also made it difficult for Warwick to enjoy to the full the 36 ft steel motor sailer which he built over a period of seventeen years but his interest in navigation fostered an interest in astronomy. He reports that he has always wanted to build a telescope but only time will tell whether that wish is ever fulfilled.

As a parish we would be very much the poorer without the help of people of Warwick's reliability, willingness and steadfastness. They may be sure that their contribution to the life and work of St Mark's is greatly appreciated.

GM

Nativity Play

December 13 saw our second 'Back-to-Church Sunday' for 2009 which happily coincided with the occasion when the younger members of the congregation present their Nativity Play. The text used was the same as in 2008 and the young performers threw themselves into their parts with gusto. The play was organised and directed by the Sunday School

The Parish Centre in 2010

Activities have now begun for the year in the Parish Centre; we have some new groups as well as all but one of our former "regulars" returning.

Current regular bookings are as follows (weekly unless otherwise noted):

Monday:

Mr Mac's Art Classes at 3.00 pm
(for children)

St John's Bridge Club at 7.30 pm

Tuesday:

Communicare 9.00-1.30

Alpine Sports (1st Tue) 7.30 pm

Remuera Lions (2nd & 4th Tue)
7.30 pm

Wednesday:

Probus Club of Newmarket (2nd
Wed) 9.30 am

Academy of Dance: 3.00 pm
(children)

Qi Gong (alternate Wed) 7.00 pm

Toastmasters (alt. Wed) 7.30 pm

Suzanne Vesty Seminars (4th Wed)
7.00 pm

Thursday:

Guides and Brownies: 6.00 pm

Saturday

Yoga 9.30 am

Sunday:

Mandarin Class: 2.00 pm

As you can see, the Parish Centre is very well used during the week; it is also in demand for post-wedding celebrations at week-ends. If you are interested in any of the groups that currently meet in the hall, Benneth in the office can give you contact details.



teachers who appeared to enjoy seeing their charges perform every bit as much as the congregation's warm applause showed their appreciation.

From the Registers

Baptised into God's Church

November 2009

Estella Antoinette Hipkins
Jack Bernard Hipkins
Isla Elizabeth Crow

December 2009

Alexander George Morawitz
Grace Sarah Anna McLachlan
Anna Cristina Henry Davies-Khan
Nicola Rose Hamilton
William James Hamilton
James Blair Hamilton

January 2010

Thomas Evan Parry
Olivia Jocelyn Halliday
Charlotte Olive Rennell Larkin

Joined in Holy Matrimony

November 2009

Sara Osborne & Fraser Wilkins
Felicia Leong & Christian Wood
Alaina Riley & Andrew Luxmoore
Josie Wright & Travis Cattermoul

December 2009

Kate Larkin & Richard Darrow
Claire Phillips and Joseph Smeath
Ann Nicholl & Bradley Mooar
Krystal Saunders & Gregory Randall

January 2010

Diana Howat & Andre Van Der Walt
Shylah Loose & Andrew Bell
Yang Song & Xi Chen

Committed to God's Care

10 November

Ian David Walker

21 November

Elizabeth Sullivan

26 November

Ivan Hamilton Ralph

The Museum of Methodism

Shortly before we last visited London, that high quality English publication "The Week" (a weekly summary of world news) classified the Museum of Methodism as "the best small museum in London" — very high praise indeed — so off we went one weekday morning to find one of London's undiscovered jewels.

The Museum is built in the crypt of Wesley's New Chapel in City Road, an easy kilometre walk north of St Paul's Cathedral. A pleasant surprise was the absence of dense traffic — praise be for the traffic congestion legislation! I had been to a service in the New Chapel in 1951, when my father preached from the same pulpit used by both John and Charles Wesley. It must have been very moving for a man who had a lifelong intellectual interest in Methodist history.

Although John Wesley's life spanned almost exactly the 18th Century, this chapel was not built until 1778 when the Methodist Society had to move from the dilapidated Foundry Chapel. In a side chapel in the New Chapel are some original pews and some furnishings from the Foundry and Charles Wesley's own pipe organ which is still in use today. The main chapel is kept beautifully, and it is lined with monuments etc to famous names. The pulpit is central and unusually sited in front of the sanctuary reflecting the central place of preaching in the Methodist Evangelical Revival. Despite the moribund state of the Anglican Church at the time of Wesley, many concerned churchmen had already started moves to revitalise the Church by means of an evangelical revival. Both John and Charles Wesley remained Anglican priests proudly throughout their lives, never intending to initiate a new denomination.

When Wesley began his lifelong habit of open-air preaching and extraordinary journeys in all weathers throughout the country he insisted that Methodist

preaching services should be at times different from those of the parish churches. But by the time that the New Chapel was built the Methodist movement was drifting away from the Anglican Church, despite Wesley's striving to stay within it.

From the chapel we moved to Wesley's own house — a Georgian townhouse on the City Road frontage, alongside the Chapel forecourt (the New Chapel was built back from the road; only "proper" churches were allowed London street frontages). He lived here for the last eleven years of his life, increasingly preoccupied with a frugal lifestyle, as he thought of the poor. His living quarters, three small rooms, are on the first floor. In the crypt are displayed relics of Wesley's family background, of Charles Wesley's preaching and hymn writing, of Methodism's involvement in social work, in politics and in education. There are also Wesley memorabilia, pottery busts, crockery and plaques of the 18th and 19th centuries, Gilray political cartoons, items of clothing, old manuscripts, the pulpit from the old foundry, and so on.

Methodism and the early trade union movement were closely linked — both Kier Hardie and Harold Wilson were Methodist local preachers — this form of socialism has been much less alarming to the British than the more radical and communist movements on the Continent. I was interested to see Lord Soper's wheeled "soap box", used for so many years at Speakers' Corner and on Tower Hill — he would preach on Sunday, play golf with Harold Wilson on Monday, and argue with a popular crowd in Hyde Park or at the Tower for the remainder of the week.

At the rear of New Chapel is a small graveyard with John Wesley's tomb. The Chapel was Wesley's own and favourite church, and it is his memory that invests it with special significance. Charles Wesley, staunch high churchman, insisted on being buried in Marylebone Churchyard. It is recorded that, many

years later, a high church Anglican expressed surprise that John was buried in unconsecrated ground and was told by the Chapel keeper: "The ground is consecrated, Sir. It is consecrated by the dust of John Wesley."

Roger & Maggie Hames

Communal Garden Blossoms

You may have noticed a number of our young parishioners working hard on a vegetable garden at 85 Remuera Road (former priest assistant's house). This is a community effort and is producing some very fine vegetables. The excess produce is delivered to the City Mission, where it is gratefully received. Well done to those who thought up this initiative, those who are working on it and all who have been involved so far.

Carols on the Lawn 2009

Despite the failure of the East & Bays Courier to include the St Mark's advertisement in its Christmas Services feature, a good crowd, both human and canine, assembled for the annual Carols on the Lawn on 18 December. Sophie Lamb and Hamish Sullivan retold the Christmas story beautifully, assisted by Maddie and Ben Lamb in placing the Nativity figures.

Everyone joined in the singing with great gusto and Nick Sutcliffe was completely unfazed by having no music, but happily played everything by ear.

As a chilly wind blew up, everyone adjourned to the hall for punch, mince pies and Christmas cake. Thanks to all who provided food, drinks and helped with setting and clearing up - another happy and successful Christmas event at St Mark's.

Dates for your 2010 Diary:

(This is not a comprehensive list, but the dates known at time of going to print)

16 February	Shrove Tuesday Picnic	6.00 pm, outside the Hall (if wet, inside!)
17 February	Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service with St Michael's	7.30 pm at St Mark's
20 February	Farewell to Bishop John Paterson	4.00 pm Cathedral of the Holy Trinity
7 March	Organ Recital by Nick Sutcliffe	12.00 noon, followed by refreshments
16 March	St Mark's AGM	7.30 pm in the Hall
28 March	Palm Sunday	
2 April	Good Friday	9.30 am Stations of the Cross
4 April	Easter Day	
8 April	Association of Anglican Women Quiet Day	10.00am-2.00pm at St Mark's
17 April	Ordination and institution of the Bishop-Elect Ross Bay as Bishop of Auckland	1.00 pm Cathedral of the Holy Trinity
2 May	Patronal Festival celebrated	
23 July	Parish Dinner	
15 October	Trivial Pursuit Quiz Night	
20 November	Working Bee <i>(moved from 27 November, to avoid clashing with Diocesan Ordination)</i>	
28 November	Advent Sunday	7.30 pm Advent Carol Service
19 December	Nine Lessons & Carols	7.30 pm (time tbc)
20 December	Carols on the Lawn	8.00 pm

2010 Family Camp

A group of young people and their families went down to Taupo to attend the annual Family camp. We were down there from the 21st till the 24th of January for a weekend jammed pack with fun and adventure. We did endless amounts of activities. These included water skiing, biscuiting, A.C Baths (swimming pools), Kayaking, and going out in the dinghy, volley ball and badminton games, jumping off Billy Point, Mini golf, visiting the trout farm, walks, loads of swimming and endless amounts of card games.

We had so many fun adventures that we couldn't choose a favourite! I reckon that many people enjoyed going out in the boat, having a shot at water skiing and biscuiting. Most people who tried water skiing managed to get up or were really close! It's a hard sport to master! The water was choppy and it was a bit windy so

biscuiting brought on a whole new wave of excitement.

The A.C Baths were also very popular. They had fun waterslides, rope swings, awesome obstacle courses and warm pools to soak in.

All the kids camped out in tents in the back garden so we had a few late nights but that didn't matter. In the time we weren't out and about we played endless amounts of card games – particularly Scum. The food was AWESOME – there was plenty to go round.

This camp was an amazing opportunity to do something you don't do every day. I recommend this camp to everyone who likes to get out there and try something new. It's an adventure you can't miss!

Sophie Lamb

Music Notes: February 2010

It's a curious thought for me to think that I have now been part of the St. Mark's community for over a year! In many ways, it feels like such a long time ago, but at the same time, my new beginning here is very fresh in my mind. So much has happened over this time, and already I look back fondly on what has been said and sung and played in this place. The most present memory in all of our minds will no doubt be the great festival of Christmas, where we welcomed so many people into our midst to celebrate this time. The Choir was - as always - an integral part of our worship at St. Mark's, and I'd like to publicly acknowledge their fine service to the Church, and their huge sense of dedication and commitment to both the Choir itself, and the music we all made together. Along with some more traditional choral anthems for Christmastide, I introduced some slightly different music to add extra flavours to services, such as William Mathias' majestic Sir Christémas, or Philip Moore's more contemplative setting of the Song of Mary (The Magnificat) from his Third Service. I'm sure those who were at these services would agree that the quality of the singing from the Choir was particularly exceptional, and even with these extra services adding to the work-load at a naturally busy end of the year, this never faltered! I am very much looking forward to 2010 and working with the Choir to provide high-quality music to enhance our worship at St. Mark's.

As part of Christmas publicity for services at the Church, this year our Junior Choir spent a few hours on two Saturday afternoons in early December singing traditional Christmas Carols at 277 Westfield Shopping Centre in Newmarket. These occasions were always filled with smiles as shoppers were cheered by the beautiful singing of the Choir as they passed by, and handed a postcard with information about all our Christmas services to attend. This was an excellent way of getting the Church's presence known more obviously in the wider community. I'm sure this will be repeated this coming Christmas so watch out for it and come and hear the children's marvellous singing!

Rebecca and I have very recently returned from a month overseas, where we enjoyed a holiday (officially) in Amsterdam, England, and Paris. This time away gave me the opportunity to revisit many cathedrals and institutions in the U.K. and also to explore several new places to me. Our travels were extensive, visiting a friend studying postgraduate Harpsichord at the Conservatory in Amsterdam, then on to Bristol, Bath, Salisbury, Winchester, Oxford, Worcester, Gloucester, Alnwick, Durham, York, Ely, Cambridge, London, and Wells (!) followed by some time in Paris. Naturally, we made the most of the majestic churches and cathedrals in all of these places, and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. When I have sorted through the 1000s of photographs and video clips taken, I plan to have an evening talking about travels, and something about the "famous organs I have played" -

if people are interested..!! Please do watch for a notice about this if you are interested; there will be supper too if you need some encouragement!

Looking further ahead to the coming year, I plan to start a Recital Series at St. Mark's which will include a wide variety of music from organ, to choral, to jazz, to strings, to students, to professionals, and a mixture of various other concepts! Please do watch for further details about this. The first Organ Recital on the refurbished Parish Organ will be given by myself on Sunday 7 March at 2.00pm followed by refreshments. It would be great to see as many people as possible there to officially welcome the organ back! Please tell all your friends and get them to come along too.

I look forward to another excellent year at St. Mark's! If you know of anybody who is looking for a choir to join, can I personally recommend our Parish Choir to you and them - it's a wonderful ministry in this place with warm, welcoming people, and the opportunity to sing wonderful music regularly is a very special thing indeed. Please get in contact with me by email (music@stmarks.org.nz) or come and see me after a service. I am most happy to meet with any prospective choristers and discuss time commitments for the group and other details. I look forward to receiving hundreds of emails after this newsletter has reached you all!!

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2010!

Nicholas Sutcliffe, Director of Music

Assistant Priest Farewell

On February 3rd the parish celebrated, with a short service of thanksgiving followed by a social time in the Parish Centre, the departure of the Rev. Bryan Haggitt, Assistant Priest, who has completed two and a half years at St Mark's and now takes up the challenge of a new ministry as Vicar of the Parish of Halswell and Prebbleton in the Diocese of Christchurch.

The Vicar, the People's Warden and representatives of the youth groups expressed on behalf of the parish their thanks to Bryan for his ministry among us and a gift was presented. In the St Mark's tradition a copious amount of delicious food was prepared by the members of the parish and the occasion was enjoyed by all.

Vestry Jottings

At our first meeting of the year we reflected on the busy Advent and Christmas Seasons and the worship and celebration that had occurred at St Mark's over that period. It was good to note that attendances at all services were up considerably and it was generally agreed that the worship and music showed our many visitors that St Marks is a vibrant, living, community of faith. Thank you to Mark, Bryan and Nick for all their planning and enthusiasm. The members of the Parish Growth Committee, led by Richard Lamb, should also be thanked for the initiatives they arranged leading up to Christmas such as: The Junior Choir singing twice at 277 Broadway, the creation of new signage and the wide distribution of cards with service times.

We have decided to undertake improvements and changes to the Parish website. It has been in place for a number of years now and we

are aware that more and more Parishioners (and prospective Parishioners!) use it as their first point of contact to find out information about the Parish. The website is another tool for us to demonstrate that St Marks is a significant and lively part of our community. Watch out for the changes.

Some other agenda items considered by Vestry in the last three months are as follows:

- We have discussed plans for the Youth Groups once Bryan has left the Parish.
- We are reviewing the hours that the Parish office is staffed. It is a busy place and our "front door" to the community.
- Nick Sutcliffe and Sylvia Rosevear are investigating the possibility of new robes for the choir.

- We have received a report that the use of the Hall is steadily increasing. Whilst this is good news, it does lead to extra work and we are grateful to Margaret and Benneth for the many hours of service they give to overseeing the Hall.

- 1 St Marks Road is to receive a much needed coat of paint in the near future.

- The fire drill carried out recently occurred without incident.

As always the full minutes of Vestry are available in the library.

*Nichola Christie
People's Warden*

ST. PATRICKS REST HOME AND HOSPITAL

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Parish Directory

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