



Cashmere Connection

Cashmere Hills Presbyterian Church—linking with its community

Issue Number Sixty six - May 2011

Minister's Meanderings

The Delivery of the February Cashmere Connection was significantly disrupted by the earthquake on the 22nd February. But that inconvenience was minor compared to the disruption and dislocation in the business life and home life of the residents of our city. People from outside of Christchurch ask me, "Has your home been damaged?" I reply "Yes, but I don't think there is one home in Christchurch that has not received some damage." Then they ask, "How about the Church?" Again my reply is, "Yes. It has received damage to the tower and internal walls but it is repairable."

Our concern for each other has become tangible as we feel free to communicate in ways which we may not have before.

Interesting, isn't it that often the questions asked are about damage to buildings and infrastructure, rather than the effect of the earthquakes on people and their well-being. Is it that people feel more comfortable talking about structures than about humans?

One of the positives from the earthquakes has been that as a community of people we feel closer to each other through our common shared experience of damage and

loss. The social barriers that kept us from talking to our neighbours and checking out how they were have been shaken by the earthquakes. Our concern for each other has become tangible as we feel free to communicate in ways which we may not have before.

The caring, compassionate concern of our Cashmere Church family has also deepened as people reach out to others with the hand of God's grace. Jesus said, "People will know you are my disciples by the love you have for one another." That is not just a post earthquake commission for a few days, weeks or months. We are going to need to be more dependant on and caring of each other for years to come. In this we are imitating the early followers of Jesus who became the family of the Church. May our loving concern for each other be as real as was theirs for each other!

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

David

Communion Services:

We extend a special invitation to join us for Communion, which will be held on Sunday 5th June.



This series of studies commenced in April and meets on Thursday evenings at the Cashmere Presbyterian Centre. It uses DVD based speakers, with study papers available beforehand, and has been well attended by people from Cashmere Hills, and other churches.

The next few meetings are scheduled for: May 5,12,19, and June 2, 9, 16

February 22nd and all that!

The earthquake on February 22nd affected many of our church family very seriously. Whilst it also damaged the fabric of the wall between the Choir Vestry and the Sanctuary - enough for us not to be able to use the church for worship or for weddings - it has been wonderful to instead be able to use the centre for worship and to gather to encourage each other.

Our Minister did a tremendous pastoral service in visiting those he had identified as isolated and alone, often being forced to walk because of the damage to roads. Some of our members have had to relocate. Many moved out of town over the initial phase.

Our members related to the neighbours in their streets first and foremost. Then the connection was made to family members and our church members but, with so many out of town, the functioning of our pastoral network was seriously affected. Parish Council, through its Pastoral Committee and the Church and Society Committee, is looking at how we can backup this system better in the future, and whether there are skills we should be learning about. We would like to provide better support for our Minister in such a time of crisis.

We are also looking at how we relate to neighbouring parishes, to see whether we can network better and support each other as the need arises. Since the earthquake our parish has organised a gathering with representatives from St James, Hoon Hay, and St Martins.

We have now acquired a phone which we will be able to use when the power is off. Another time(!) it will be possible to contact the church for help - or to let us know that you are okay but unavailable because you are going away!

THE STARTING POINT

There are two ways in which to look at human history, I have concluded. One way is to focus on the wars and violence, the squalor, the pain and death. From such a point of view, Easter seems a fairy-tale exception, a stunning contradiction in the name of God. That gives some solace, although I confess that when my three friends died, grief was so overpowering that any hope in an afterlife seemed somehow thin and insubstantial.

But there is another way to look at the world. If I take Easter as the starting point, the one incontrovertible fact about how God treats those God loves, then human history becomes the contradiction and Easter a preview of ultimate reality.

Philip Yancy

People Events

Baptisms:

We welcome into the family of the Church:

Alyssa Isobel Blackman,
daughter of Hamish & Joanne Blackman
(17 April 2011)

Isabella Mary Greer,
daughter of Richard & Natasha Greer
(8 May 2011)

Thanksgiving:

We gave thanks for the gift of:

Molly Jane Greer,
daughter of Christopher & Andrea Greer
(3 April 2011)

Weddings:

We congratulate and extend best wishes to:

Kate Williamson and Colin Wright
(12 March 2011)

Hire of Facilities

It is encouraging to see the facilities at Cashmere Presbyterian Centre being so well used. The Lounge has been hired for Wedding Receptions and afternoon teas, Anniversary and Birthday parties, and Community meetings. We have also had bookings from organisations temporarily unable to use their own facilities following February's earthquake, including Rotary and Inner Wheel, and businesses using the lounge for conferences or training seminars.

The Lounge seats up to 100 people, with tables and chairs provided. The Kitchen is equipped to cater for 100 people, and is registered with the Council, so is suitable for use by those wishing to make food for sale. A data projector is available for hire for an additional cost.

More information is available from our website (www.cashmerechurch.org.nz) by following the link to "Facilities for Hire", or by speaking to Gail Weaver in the Church Office (phone 332 7129)



Tim Emerson (piano)
& guest artists

Sunday 19th June
2pm

Cashmere
Presbyterian Centre
Cnr Dyers Pass Rd
& Macmillan Ave.

Cost: \$15
(door sales)

Forthcoming Services

Sunday 22 May	10.00am	Morning Worship & Sunday School
	11.30am	Healing Service
Sunday 29 May	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 5 June	10.00am	Communion
Sunday 12 June	10.00am	Family Service - Pentecost Sunday
Sunday 19 June	10.00am	Morning Worship - Trinity Sunday
Sunday 26 June	10.00am	Morning Worship & Sunday School
	11.30am	Healing Service
Sunday 3 July	10.00am	Morning Worship - Refugees Sunday
Sunday 10 July	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 17 July	10.00am	Morning Worship - National Bible Sunday
Sunday 24 July	10.00am	Morning Worship - Youth Sunday
	11.30am	Healing Service
Sunday 31 July	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 7 August	10.00am	Morning Worship - Hiroshima Day/Peace Sunday Sun-
day 14 August	10.00am	Family Service

Healing Service with Communion

Held at 11.30am on the 4th Sunday of every month - all welcome.

Kupu Whakapono (Confession of Faith)

From this land of Aotearoa New Zealand
we confess that we believe in and belong
to the one true and living God,
who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Love before all love.

We believe in God the Father,
sovereign and holy,
Creator and nurturer of all,
Father of Jesus Christ,
sender of the Holy Spirit,
and Judge of all the earth

We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour,
truly human and truly divine,
who lived among us full of grace and truth.
For our sin he was crucified
and by the power of God was raised from death,
forgiving us, setting us free and bringing to birth God's new creation.
Now ascended, he calls us to repentance and faith
and restores us to God and to one another.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
the giver of life at work in all creation,
who inspired the Scriptures and makes Christ known,
who transforms hearts and minds
and gathers us into the community of Christ,
empowering the Church in worship and in mission.

We belong to this triune God,
women and men,
young and old,
from many nations,
in Christ he iwi kotahi tatou, [we are one people]
witnesses to God's love in word and action,
servants of reconciliation,
and stewards of creation.

As God's people,
we look forward in hope and joy
to the return of Christ,
to the new heaven and earth,
where evil and death will be no more,
justice and peace will flourish,
and we shall forever delight in the glory of God.

*The Kupu Whakapono will be taken back to the General Assembly in 2012
after review by the Courts of the Church*

Discovered!

On our journey, what have we discovered? Can we encapsulate the essence of this for our time, in a few words? Can we provide a modern Confession of Faith?

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand has been struggling with this for thirty years or more. Believe it or not, at this last General Assembly one was at last approved, along with a commentary on it! Called *Kupu Whakapono*, it is now going through the legal process of being reviewed by the courts of the church before returning to the next General Assembly in 2012.

Many had hoped that the status of the Westminster Confession would change to being an archival document, along with other listed historic documents—including the Heidelberg Confession, as it had been so influential historically for those of us of Dutch heritage. However the General Assembly decided that, at least initially, it was reluctant to make that break, and that the Westminster documents should retain their current status, but alongside the new confession, having full and not secondary status to the *Kupu Whakapono*.

Kupu Whakapono makes no attempt to cover comprehensively the richness of our spiritual life, or the range of our theological exploration, or the diversity of ways we work out our discipleship. It is just a précis of what is at the heart of what we have learned. It is just a skeleton to be fleshed out in our lives individually and as the body of Christ. The beauty will lie in the way it is fleshed out.

Perhaps we could compare it to the Periodic table, which organizes some basic information about the elements, sees a pattern in them and depends on atomic theory; yet it does not mention there are still issues of uncertainty, the nature of light being wave and particle, the many other subatomic particles, nor the ten or so dimensions and the string theory which are necessary to initiate the "Big Bang" which leads to the formation of those elements.

David Troughton

Different Ways of Looking at Things!

"You, your joys and sorrows, your memories and your ambitions, your sense of personal identity and free will, are in fact no more than the behaviour of a vast assembly of nerve-cells and their associated molecules."

Francis Crick, Nobel Prize winner involved in the understanding of DNA, in "The Astonishing Hypothesis". 1994.

"You, your joys and sorrows, your memories and your ambitions, your sense of personal identity and free will, are much more than the behaviour of a vast assembly of nerve-cells, and that 'more' gives each personal life a significance and value that expresses and points to the ultimate meaning of the universe itself."

Keith Ward, Professor of Philosophy, former Margaret Professor of Divinity at Oxford, former student of Gilbert Ryle and A. J Ayers, in "More Than Matter? What Humans Are." 2010.

Ward comments further:

"Human persons are not accidental mistakes in a pointless perambulation of fundamental particles. They are a window into the inner reality, value and purpose of the cosmos."

Parish Diary

Tuesday 17 May	2.00pm	APW
Thursday 19 May	7.00pm	Living the Questions
Tuesday 24 May	9.30am	Foot Clinic
Monday 31 May	2.00pm	Foot Clinic
Thursday 2 June	7.00pm	Living the Questions
Tuesday 7 June	7.30pm	Parish Council
Thursday 9 June	7.30pm	Living the Questions
Wednesday 15 June	2.00pm	APW
Thursday 16 June	7.30pm	Living the Questions
Tuesday 5 July	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Thursday 7 July	7.30pm	Living the Questions
Monday 11 July	2.00pm	Foot Clinic
Tuesday 12 July	9.30am	Foot Clinic
Thursday 14 July	7.30pm	Living the Questions
Wednesday 20 July	2.00pm	APW
Tuesday 2 August	7.30pm	Parish Council
Thursday 4 August	7.30pm	Living the Questions
Thursday 11 August	7.30pm	Living the Questions



Trade Aid supports disadvantaged producers to improve their lives through trade. They provide the world's most disadvantaged producers with support to improve their lives, by buying and selling their products, telling their stories and speaking out for greater justice in world trade. Trade Aid is a not-for-profit organisation, putting producers at the heart of everything they do.

A selection of Trade Aid goods are available through Cashmere Presbyterian Centre at the Trade Aid stall, which is held frequently after Morning Worship on a Sunday. You can stock up on tea, coffee, chocolate, soap, and a variety of other goods.

"Disturb us, Lord,
when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
when our dreams have come true because we
have dreamed too little,
when we arrive safely because we sailed too close
to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord,
when with the abundance of things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the waters of life,
having fallen in love with life,
we have ceased to dream of eternity,
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of the new heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
to venture on wider seas,
where storms will show your mastery,
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
We ask you to push back the horizon of our hopes,
and to push us into the future in strength, courage,
hope, and love.

This we ask in the name of our Captain,
who is Jesus Christ. "

(A prayer of Sir Francis Drake)

Black-and White

"What is often called black-and-white-thinking is really black-*or*-white thinking. We are called to resist black-*or*-white thinking so we can embrace the paradox of true black-*and*-white thinking. We are called to take *both* sides of the truth and to hang on for dear life.

Learning to think in black-and-white terms does not mean we settle for a neutral, meaningless grey or that we compromise our beliefs. It means we keep both sides of the paradox clearly in view, even as we try to find the new truth that resides in the middle. We don't overlook the black, and we don't let go of the white, and because of that we end up with the whole black and the whole white—and something more as well. Holding both strands in balance to find the greater truth is the core principle of halakic reasoning (*ed-which is used in the Bible and by Jesus at times*).

...Paradoxes are inherent in the nature of God and in the world he has created. They can, at some very deep level, be understood. But at the same time, they are so complex and astounding that we can never fully explain them. So let's start asking questions about God—questions that will lead to a new type of answer, a both/and answer. This is the answer that doesn't settle all debates, but it does reveal how the pieces of the puzzle could fit together....In our study together, we will discover that God is understandable beyond our wildest hopes. We will also discover that God is stunningly unfathomable, beyond our wildest dreams."

James R. Lucas in "Knowing the Unknowable God".2003

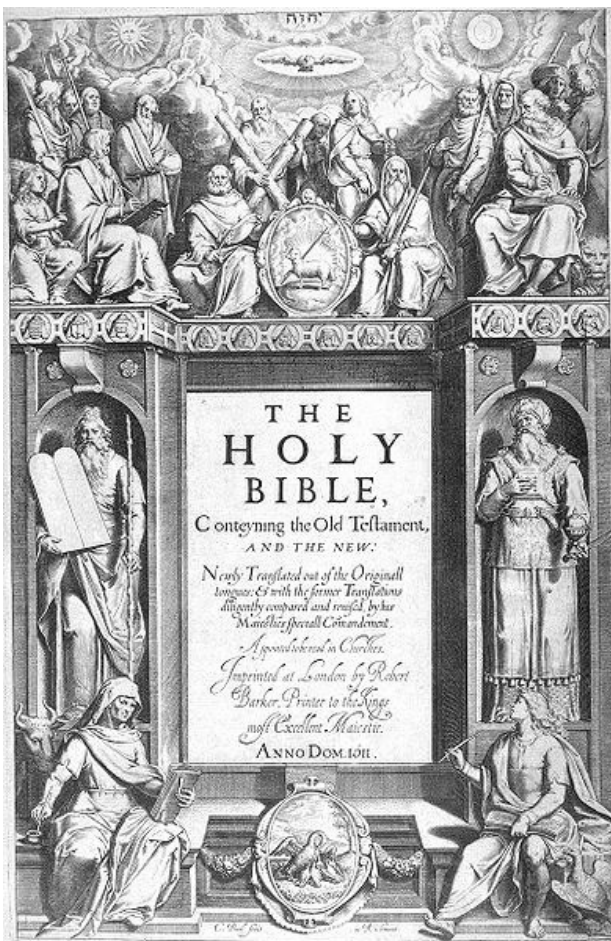
400 years! The Anniversary of the King James Bible

John Wycliffe and WikiLeaks have at least had this in common: Everyone should have access to the written sources! So, in 1382, Wycliffe translated the whole Bible from the Latin version of St Jerome, The Vulgate, into English – writing it all by hand. He said, “This Bible is for the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” He was opposed for his views - eventually his remains were exhumed, and his bones were ground and scattered in the river in 1428.

William Tyndale said to a fellow priest, “I defy the Pope and all his laws, if God spare my life, I will make a boy that driveth the plough know more of the Scripture than thou dost.” In 1526 he printed for the first time the whole New Testament in English. He died at the stake in 1536.

Other translations were made, of variable quality. Secular and ecclesiastical politics influenced the choice of words (should it be ‘love’ or ‘charity’, ‘overseer’ or ‘bishop’?) so that in 1603 King James ordered a standard version. Beginning in 1604, forty seven scholars of the Church of England began to translate the Bible out of the original languages (Greek and Latin for the Apocrypha) while referring to earlier versions such as the Bishop’s Bible and the Great Bible. Teams were set up for different parts of the Bible, with two each in Westminster, Oxford and Cambridge.

Then at last came the day! The Bible was printed in 1611 by the King’s Printers, with different printers providing different parts of it. With numerous complications and variations in the printing, and not all spelling errors being picked up, eventually the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses gained the right to



Frontispiece to the King James' Bible, 1611, shows the Twelve Apostles at the top. Moses and Aaron flank the central text. In the four corners sit Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, authors of the four gospels, with their symbolic animals.

publish it. In view of the variations there were a lot of hassles, but in the year Captain Cook came to New Zealand - 1769 - there was a final version!

On May 2nd 1611 this historic and influential translation was published, the outcome of costly heroism over the preceding centuries. And over the centuries since it has fulfilled the dreams of Wycliffe and Tyndale - that it should influence the way societies function, and that anyone could read and memorize, could become conversant and transformed by, the words and message of Holy Scripture.

I mourn the loss of thousands of precious lives, but I will not rejoice in the death of one, not even an enemy. Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that" - Martin Luther King, Jr

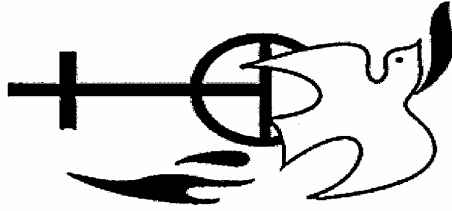
The Back Page
for the young and young at heart

The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

N W O N D E R S A N A Z U V B
 F S P I R I T H E M A P K U P P
 P W Z A E J X G F F D A B X B U
 N E C U R S A E E Y M Z Q S X
 D H N T G X L V Z P Q E C D Z
 E I D N E I Z O Y E D L H A B
 W Q A L F C G P A A E D X U L
 E L O C W H O L Y K C Z N P O
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P E N T E C O S T



hear
 declare
 wonders
 amazed

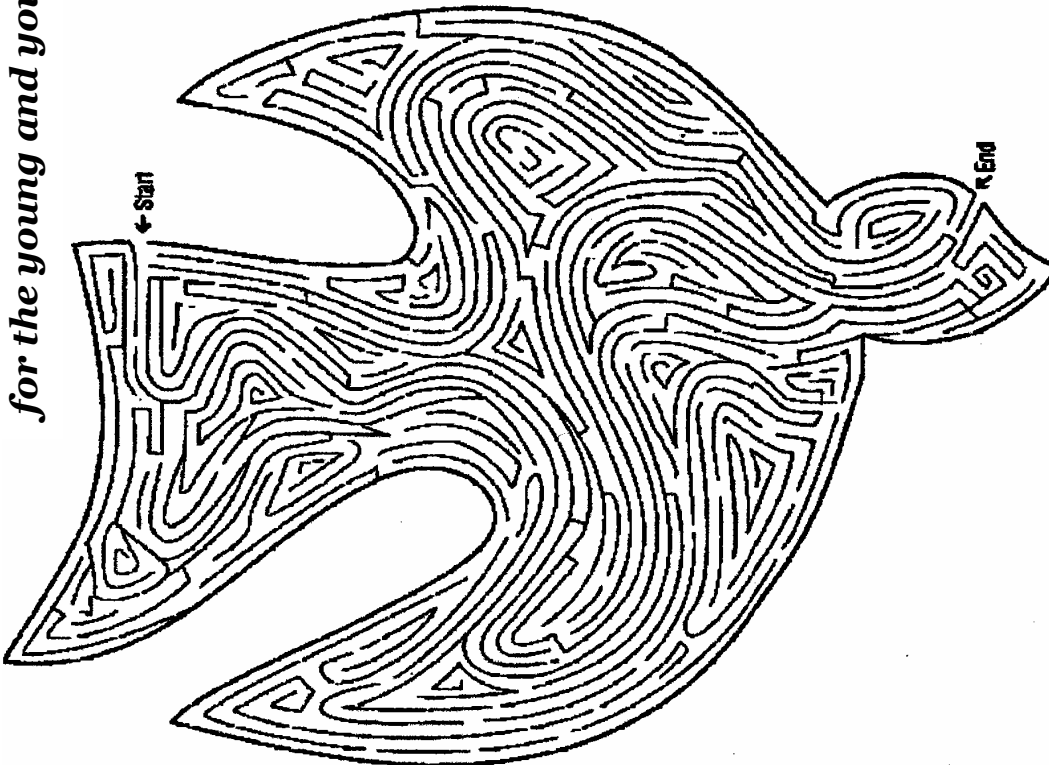
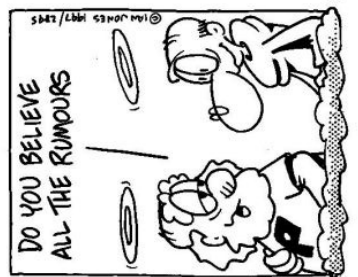
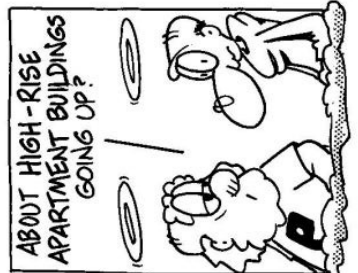
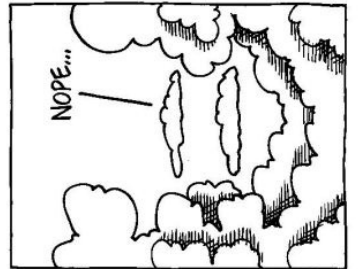
speak
 other
 tongues
 language

fire
 filled
 Holy
 Spirit

Pentecost
 sound
 blowing
 wind

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Your Visitor is:

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Phone.....