

ACLAIM

WORLDWIDE



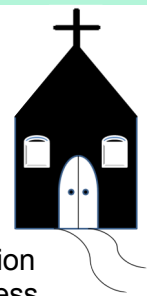
Alexandra, Clyde, Lauder
Union Parish

"We aim to be a reflection of God to the community"

Bi-monthly Newsletter of The Alexandria, Clyde Lauder Union Parish ~ October/November 2022

Living as a post pandemic Christian / Church

For more than two and a half years we have been living with the uncertainty that a global pandemic brings. We may have had concerns about our health or those we love, we may have been concerned about our jobs or the ability to travel to see loved ones, or the limited opportunities to connect socially may have weighed heavily upon you. Perhaps it has been questions around social cohesion and the polarization of society. Perhaps you are struggling with tiredness and weariness as a result of the constant unpredictability and unease the pandemic has created. And you may well have been considering what has been the role of God in all this, or perhaps more keenly felt what is the future of the church in an increasingly post-Christendom secular New Zealand.



Around the world many religious organizations are counting the cost of the pandemic. Particularly in developed countries where religious attendance had been waning for decades. It doesn't matter if you ask a Minister, or a rabbi or an imam their greatest challenge they will tell you is how to foster spiritual values in our secular world.

Alongside the increasing secularization of the world, is the decreasing attendance of faith entities, many have been struggling with falling incomes and increasing costs long before the pandemic. That has now been emphasized with the pandemic where we will see the closing of parishes and merging of others, this will mean the sale of a number of much loved but under-utilized places of worship. But mergers and sales of holy sites doesn't automatically bring a return to a sustainable worshipping community.

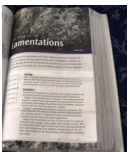
In the US about a fifth lost more than 40% of their congregation within a year of a merger, according to a survey in 2019 of almost a thousand church leaders who had been through a merger in the past decade.



The US has often been held up as a bastion of a wealthy, developed nation holding onto the faith. Though the latest poll by the World Values Survey, a global network whose secretariat is in Austria, paints a picture of decline: about 30% of Americans say they attend a religious service at least once a week. That is a lot compared with other rich countries. But the figure has fallen steadily from 45% in 2000.

For centuries the building of temples, churches has been central to the identity of Christians and other faith traditions. The desire to have a building has meant that many churches have amassed much in the way of earthly riches, but maintaining buildings is an increasingly costly exercise. For some parishes what were once seen as assets are now liabilities. Many congregations just don't have the resources, and nationally we don't either. Around 1/3 of the Presbyterian buildings nationwide are earthquake prone, and much of the building stock the church owns is significantly under insured. There is no way that we can afford to earthquake strengthen and insure all of our buildings. But it is worse because a lot of those buildings are not considered fit for purpose for worship and community engagement in 2022. Hard decisions will be made by us or will be forced upon us. One of those is far more preferable to the other.

Buildings are one thing, but people are what really matters. And the church is facing a significant human resource challenge. Many of our current ministers are not far from retirement and there isn't a lot coming from congregations to train to replace them. And many of our congregations are struggling with finding people to fill the rosters. And we are all tired. None of us has escaped the grief and loss the last period of time has inflicted upon us. We need to give permission for us to Lament. Lament is a huge part of the biblical tradition, yet so often we don't take the opportunity: God is big enough to hear our anger and stand with us in our sorrow. In taking on our deepest despair and sin on the cross, he knows intimately what it is to suffer. We are never alone, never without what in the Old Testament is called a goel, a kinsman redeemer, to rescue us, purchase our future and secure God's purposes for us.



The church still has a task to do, perhaps even more so today and that is to carry the **hope of the future**. The one we know in which God will take away every tear and death will be no more. The future will look different to the past that we comfortably cling to.

As we face the future with continued uncertainty, we all need to be anchored in constant, flexible values, and our deep faith in the Lord. The people of God have faced turmoil before and come out of it stronger – and by the grace of God, we'll do it again – but it cannot happen by accident. We are approaching a point of choice. God calls for a holy Church and a prophetic voice so that there may be the proclamation of the good news of Jesus and the turning of many to his saving love. Not to choose renewal is to choose the old ways.

- In This Issue**
- Ministers Musings
 - Poem written by Summer Waters
 - Upcoming events
 - Our new Saint of the Parish
 - Meetings
 - Treasurers Report
 - Services & Contacts

Right: Sheryll Hanning presenting John Grenfell with his Saint of the Parish Certificate @ St Mungo's Clyde
More information
On pages 4 & 5





Above all, we need to look for signs of God at work in the world and get stuck in. There are hints of hope everywhere, signals of God's love for us. If Christians are there – where God is – restoring relationships, assuring love, caring for all of creation and working towards justice, mercy and peace, we will aid in God's ongoing task of redeeming the world.

Yours in Christ
Rev Andrew Howley

Please note:

Rev Andrew Howley can be contacted on 448 8511 or 021 518 053 (please leave a message if phone unanswered)

Written by 11 Year old Summer Waters. This was in Margaret Ross's notebook. From the Chaplains News.



I See Jesus

**I saw Jesus last week.
 He was wearing blue jeans and an old shirt.
 He was up at the church building,
 he was alone and working hard.
 Just for a minute he looked like one of our members.
 But it was Jesus, I could tell by his smile.**

**I saw Jesus last Sunday.
 He was teaching a Bible Class.
 He didn't talk real loud or use long words.
 Just for a minute he looked like my Bible teacher.
 But it was Jesus, I could tell by his loving voice.**

**I saw Jesus yesterday.
 He was at the hospital visiting a friend who was sick.
 For just a minute he looked like Brother Jones.
 But it was Jesus, I could tell by the tears in His eyes.**

**I saw Jesus this morning.
 He was in my kitchen making breakfast
 and fixing me a special lunch.
 He looked just like my Mum.
 but it was Jesus, I could feel the love from His heart.**

**I see Jesus everywhere.
 Taking food to the sick,
 being friendly to the newcomer and for just a minute
 I think He is someone I know.
 But it's always Jesus, I can tell by the way He serves.**

Upcoming Events

Mini Fair & Garage Sale

To be held on Sunday 23rd October 2022 at St Mungo's Clyde from 10am—2pm



PARISH MINI FAIR & GARAGE SALE UPDATE: -Things to remember for the fair/garage sale.

- ▶ Keep potting up plants so they root well. Can some folk please propagate some succulents and have them potted up for the fair? We can arrange transport of these should this pose a problem for our growers.
- ▶ **Please contact Kay by phone 021 269 4280** if you need someone to pick up things for the Fair/Garage Sale. A good idea to clean out those unwanted knick knacks.



Trestles are being set up on Saturday 22nd so if you can help with setting items out. St Mungo's will be open on Saturday 1pm.

Contact Kay Pringle 021 269 4280 or Sheryll Hanning 449 2703

Please see Parish news for up to date information it is available on our website

NOTE: No Jams or Relishes' as a Market stall holder will be selling these.



PRAYING FOR CHILDREN - KARAKIA MO NGĀ TAMARIKI

Plant the seed of love in our children and they will blossom, grow and journey towards the Greatest pathway of life.

Whakatō te kākano aroha i roto i o tātoa taitamariki kei puawai i roto to rātou tupuranga aranui orange.



OUR NEW SAINT OF THE PARISH John Henry Grenfell - QFSM

John was born in Dunedin in 1941 as John's Mother – Marion was living with her parents in Cumberland Street, while her husband - Harry was away fighting in World War II.

On his father's return, they lived at Becks with his Parents. John's father was working as a MOW irrigation race man. They lived 5 miles from the Beck's church. The Minister was Willoughby Norrie.

In 1955 John went to High School in Alexandra, private boarding during the week and home at weekends. John assisted Alistair Miller with Sunday school at Lauder School followed by attendance at Becks Church. John was able to go to the occasional Bible Study class. John also played in the church table tennis competitions. They played table tennis church teams from Cromwell, Queenstown etc. John was top of the St Enoch's Church team ladder when he developed an appendicitis and consequent surgery so he was unable to take part in the competition much to his disappointment.



In 1956 the family moved to Chatto Creek. Then in 1957 John commenced as a Motor/mechanic apprenticeship at Alexandra Motors, where he worked for the next 8 years and serviced tractors and hay balers'.



The Grenfell family then moved to Earnsclough in 1957 and lived in a home on the corner of Blackman's and Earnsclough Roads. John's family went to the Earnsclough St Columba's church. John's, Mother Marion was very involved in the running of the church, opening the church

every Sunday and taking Sunday School with the late Mrs Kath Campbell being the very talented organist. Rev Tom Hay was the Minister and when he died suddenly the Rev Alan Dunn was invested as Minister. Rev Alan Dunn visited Mrs Grenfell to find out how the church was run. John turned the heaters on in the church on Saturday mornings to warm the church ready for the Sunday service, but sometimes he forgot.

In October 1957, John's Uncle gave him a 1928 De Soto car which could carry 13 passengers. Between 1964 and 1965 John worked for the Vincent County Council as a mechanic in Clyde and serviced Graders and Austin Trucks, known as gravel trucks.

In the mid 1960's John moved to Queenstown to work in the General Shell garage. John had purchased a 1959 Humber 80 and it was then that John met Rev Bob Coates at the Queenstown church.

Unfortunately, John's Father passed away suddenly on Boxing Day in 1966. His Father's Funeral Service was conducted by Rev David Carmichael. Unfortunately, John's two sisters were on holiday, one on Stewart Island and the other in Nelson. The Police were able to locate them and inform them of the sad news. John returned home so he could financially support his mother in May 1967.

John and his three sisters were all married at St Enoch's as St Columbus was too small, it held only half the congregation that St Mungo's did.

In 1969 John married Barbara Kain, a registered nurse, his two best mates also married the same year and again they married nurses as well, so John had a busy year as a Best Man/groomsman. John & Barbara have lived at the same house in Clyde for 53 years. John & Barbara welcomed their daughters into their lives Adele in December 1971 and Marie in October 1973.

In 1970 John went to confirmation classes so he could partake of communion.

In 1971, Mr Jock Veitch, a staunch Scotsman, asked John if he would do door duty and put the heaters on to heat the church at St Mungo's. Jock doubted whether John would be reliable enough for this position.

Now 51 years later, John is continuing in this role. John also turns on the heaters for the Masonic Lodge & the Fire Brigade in Clyde, that is when John was an active member of the Fire Brigade.



John mentioned some of the former members of St Mungo's who did so much work at St Mungo's.



The late Bill Waller did communion prep and hedge cutting. Between 1970's and 1980's Rev George Calder helped as a retired Minister. John Grenfell was also on the St Mungo's board of managers and the building committee but due to Fire Brigade commitments he could only attend three quarters of the meetings.

John worked for the Electricity Branch Line from 1980 to 1988 until it was closed by the Government. John then worked for 32 years at Central Motorways, 14 years in charge of the mechanical workshop then 18 years as a tour bus/charter bus/school bus driver. John retired at the age of 78 years of age.

John's rugby career: John played for the Clyde/Earnsclough Club for ten years; John was

President from 1977 to 1978. He was involved with the 1983 Rugby tour to Australia & Japan with Barbara acting as nurse.

Many thanks John for giving us an insight into your life of service to the Church, Your dedication and service are much appreciated. **Sheryll Hanning interviewer**



**John, Barbara and their girls
John & Barbara cutting 50th
Wedding Anniversary Cake**

NOTE; *If you would like to know about John's illustrious service in his other passions I*

am sure he would only be too glad for Sheryll's full interview to be made available to those interested in John's time with Clyde Rugby, Fire Brigade and the Masonic Lodge.

REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

Weekly

House Study Group	Tuesdays 10am—11.00am Resumes 2nd November 2022 All Welcome	3A Mayfair Grove Alexandra
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Monthly

Afternoon Fellowship	4th Thursday of the month 1.30pm Contact: Various	June Sinclair 448 8281
St Mungo's Fellowship	3rd Wednesday of the month 2.00pm Contact: Sheryll Hanning	Various 449 2703
Parish Council	3rd Wednesday of the month Contact: Kathy Milligan	St Enoch's 4.30pm 021 0261 5866



Treasurers Report—Following the AGM and the forecast budget deficit, it has been decided to report on the financial situation in the ACLAIM.

For the 3 months, July, August, September the income was **\$53,482.46** and the expenses **\$66,643.68** leaving a deficit of **\$13,161.22**. These expenses include Insurance and carpet for St Enoch's, although the donation for the carpet is included in the income. The GST from these, along with a final payment for St Enoch's earthquake strengthening will bring in **\$12,932.72**. This will be refunded in October.

With the mini fair/garage sale planned for Labour weekend Sunday, we should clear our deficit but, this needs a **WHOLE** parish effort, so baking, books, plants etc. along with help on the day, would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kay Pringle, **021 269 4280** or Sheryll Hanning, 449 2703 to volunteer.

While our parish is blessed with the continuing support of our regular givers, we need to raise additional funds to keep our parish functioning, so let's hear your fundraising ideas!

Linda Armstrong

EDITORS NOTE: The next ACLaim will be Oct/Nov please have any articles to me by **Monday 21st November 2022**. sent to me via email ggordon@actrix.co.nz or Phone 448 8486 *Gay Gordon*.

Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

Upcoming Worship Services 2022

Oct 16th	Clyde	9.00am	
Pentecost 19	Alexandra	10.30am	
Oct 19th	Castlewood	10.30am	
	Ranui	11.00am	
Oct 23rd	Clyde	Combined Service	
Pentecost 20	9.00am	Followed by Parish Fair	
Oct 30th	9.30am	Combined Service at the Alexandra Anglican Church	
Pentecost 21			
Nov 6th	Clyde	9.00am	Communion
Pentecost 22	Alexandra	10.00am	Communion
Nov 13th	Clyde	9.00am	
Pentecost 23	Alexandra	10.30am	
Nov 16th	Castlewood	10.30am	
	Ranui	11.00am	
Nov 20th	Clyde	9.00am	Reign of Christ
Pentecost 24	Alexandra	10.30am	
Nov 27th	Clyde	9.00am	
Advent 1	Alexandra	10.30am	
Dec 4th	Clyde	9.00am	Communion
Advent 2	Alexandra	10.30am	Communion
Dec 11th	Combined Alexandra	10.30am	Christmas Music Service
Advent 3			
Dec 18th	Clyde	9.00am	
Advent 4	Alexandra	10.30am	

Contact Us

Minister:
Rev. Andrew Howley

Phone: 03 448 8511
021 518 053

Email:
Andrew.howley.nz@gmail.com

Andrew is generally available in The Alexandra Community House Tuesday & Wednesday mornings. Other times by appointment.

Parish Clerk:
Kathy Milligan

Phone: 021 0261 5866

Email:
sheeba398@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
www.alexchurch.org.nz

Like us on FaceBook

[Facebook.com/alexchurch](https://www.facebook.com/alexchurch)

Worship Times

Sunday:

Clyde: 9.00am
Alexandra: 10.30am

If you require transportation to church please ask!

Telephone Jennifer Bowie: 448 7369 or Don & Sue Melville 448 9233