



# The Link

Anglicans of the Dunstan, Teviot Valley and the Maniototo

~ [www.dunstanparish.org.nz](http://www.dunstanparish.org.nz) ~

"You can never change the past. But by the grace of God you can win the future.  
So remember the things which will help you forward but forget those things which  
will only hold you back" ~ *Richard C Woodsome*

**February - March 2017**

He loves us not because  
we are all loveable  
but because  
HE IS love.

**Copy deadline for March - April issue of "The Link"  
is Friday 3rd March.**

# REFLECTIONS.....

God, grant me the serenity  
To accept the people I cannot change,  
Which is pretty much everyone,  
Since I am not you, God.  
At least, not the last time I checked.

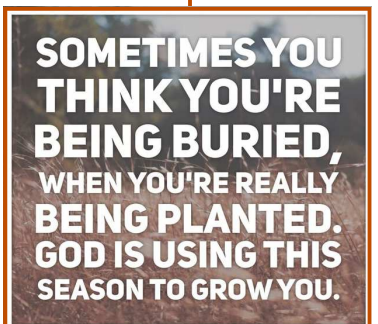
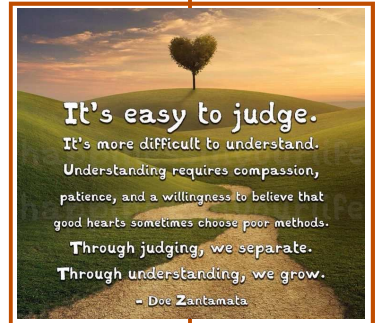
And while you're at it, God,  
Please give me the courage to change  
What I need to change about myself  
Which is frankly a lot, since, once again,  
I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.  
It's better for me to focus on changing myself  
Than to worry about changing other people,  
Who as you'll no doubt remember me saying,  
I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up  
Whenever I think that I'm smarter  
Than everyone else in the room,  
That no-one knows what they're talking about  
except me,  
Or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God,  
Grant me the wisdom to remember that  
I'm not you.

AMEN

~ James Martin, SJ



# SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.....

The teacher challenged the class with this question. "Did God make everything there is?" One student bravely answered, "Yes!" "Everything, young man?" "Yes, he did, sir," the young man replied.



The teacher responded, "If God made everything, then God made evil, and if we can only create from within ourselves, then God is evil." The student didn't have a response and the teacher was happy to have once again proved the Christian faith to be a myth.

Then another student raised her hand and asked, "May I ask you something, sir?" "Yes, you may," responded the teacher. The young woman stood up and said "Sir, is there such thing as cold?" "Of course there is, what kind of a question is that? Haven't you ever been cold?" The young woman replied, "Actually, sir, cold does not exist. What we consider to be cold, is really only the absence of heat. Absolute zero is when there is absolutely no heat, but cold does not really exist. We have only created that term to describe how we feel when heat is not there."

The young woman continued, "Sir, is there such thing as dark?" Once again, the teacher responded "Of course there is." And once again, the student replied. "Actually, sir, darkness does not exist. Darkness is really only the absence of light. Darkness is only a term we have developed to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally, the young woman asked, "Sir, is there such thing as evil?" The professor responded, "Of course. We have rapes, murders and violence everywhere in the world - those things are evil." The student replied, "Actually, sir, evil does not exist. Evil is simply the absence of God. Evil is a term we developed to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. It isn't like truth, or love, which exist as virtues like heat and light. Evil is simply the state where God is not present, like cold without heat or darkness without light."

The teacher had nothing to say but he went away thinking about what his student had said. It is worth us thinking about it too ....

~ Sourced from [www.strandz.co.nz](http://www.strandz.co.nz)

# A FEW WORDS FROM THE VICAR.....

Our society is at a stage where we need to rethink what God is like. Since gods (small g) began we thought of them as bigger and more powerful than any human being. Some lived above the clouds and some lived underground. They controlled our planet, our climate and our lives. Like us, they could be moody. They could be angry ; they could be happy. Different ways were thought up to make sacrifices to these gods; ways that we believed would please them. Our own God was no different. Our God could be benevolent or He could be angry. The “wrath of God” is often referred to in the Old Testament. Wrath that could wipe out a city with fire or decide who was going to win a battle. God was a god to be feared.

Right at the start Adam’s two sons, Cain who worked the land and Abel a shepherd, both made sacrifices to the Lord. Abel killed a first-born lamb and burnt the best parts of it for God (remember the smoke went up and disappeared to where God was). Cain also took the best part of his harvest and offered some of it to God. God was pleased with Abel but not with Cain.... I don’t know why. So animal sacrifices became part of what you slaughtered and offered to please God.

Then we have Abraham who was willing to spill the blood and burn the body of his only much-loved son Isaac because he believed that his was what God needed him to do. Would you offer one of your children to this God, our God, today? Child sacrifice was probably happening in Abraham’s day. The book of Leviticus explains about sacrificial rites in Moses’ day - read it. Later in Judges, Jephthah promises the Lord that he will sacrifice whoever comes out first to greet him when he returns home after his victory over the Ammonites. We know it was his daughter whom he loved dearly and yet he still killed (sacrificed) her.

You cannot love or trust a God whom you fear or are having to think up ways to please Him. God is not a big man in the sky with emotions that range from anger to pleasure. I love the saying **“There is nothing we can do to make God love us more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less”**. God loves everybody, good and bad and ugly. We are all special, we are all unique and we are all profoundly loved by God.

God is not a person, a male or a female. God is a life force - constant, always present, always loving.

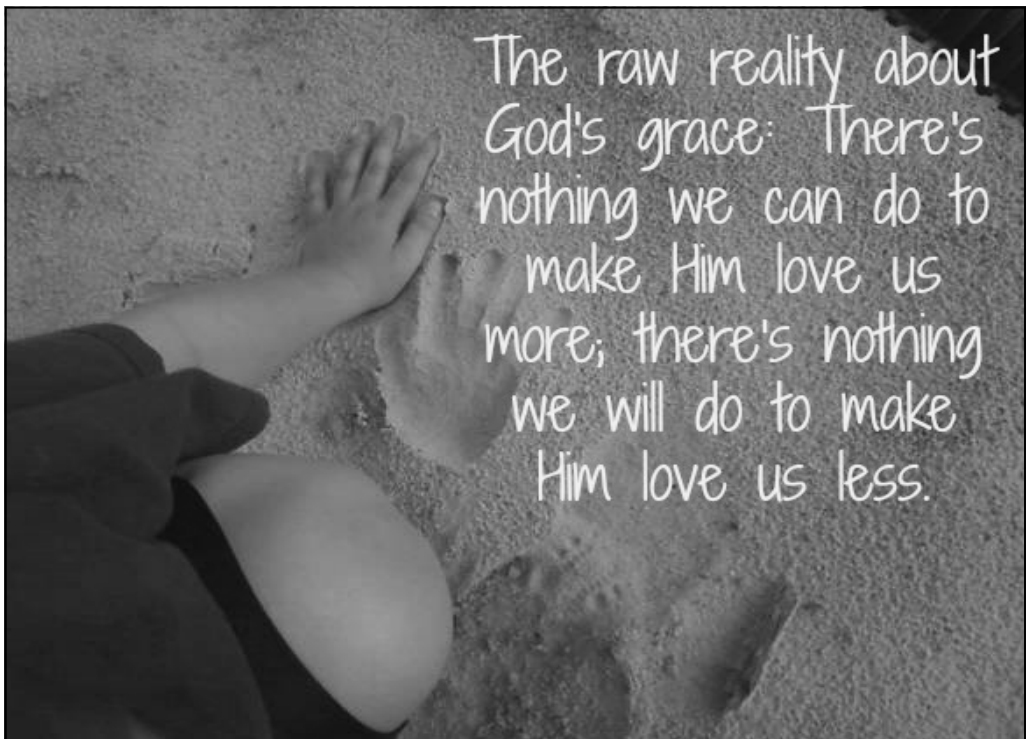
We understand the force of gravity. If I drop my pen it will fall to the floor. If I jump out of an aeroplane, I will go down towards the earth. Gravity's force pulls us downwards constantly and it does it to each and every one of us.

God is a force of love. God cannot un-love us whatever we may do. God is always around us and in us showing love through another person and/or creation (maybe a pet!) God does not get angry and God would never, ever expect us to sacrifice someone who is very dear to us.

BUT, it doesn't mean we can just do whatever we want, just please ourselves. What God wants from us and Jesus died trying to show us by example and words is that we are to love like God. Love on another - never judge - be patient and kind. We are surrounded by God's love. Let us be aware of it, live it and live in it.

God Bless,

*Penny*



# LOCAL NOTES AND NEWS.....

## **St Aidan's, Alexandra:**

Happy New Year to you all! The summer hasn't been too good so far but we're hoping for better things this month. We had two very enjoyable Christmas services and we are very grateful to Carol and Joe for their help on these occasions. It's not easy to finish one service at 12.30am and be up again bright and early for the next one at 9.30am! Those of us who attended the midnight service really appreciated the singing items from Sally and Joe. 2017 has started quietly with good number attending. We enjoyed combining with the Hawdun congregation on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of January and the lunch at the Commercial Hotel afterwards was magnificent! Our Social group is planning a trip to Jane Falconer's garden in the Maniototo on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February and Gwen Harrex has the details for this if you are interested. Our hall continues to be well utilised and we are hoping to get rid of the two redundant pianos in there shortly. When I move at the end of May I'll make arrangements to have mine shifted there (on loan!) as there won't be room in my little cottage for it. Early in March we shall be hosting the World Day of Prayer Service for the combined churches and Carol will be looking for some help with the service and morning tea. After that we have Easter to look forward to so blessings to you all as we move towards the cross

~ **Liz Duggan**

## **St James', Teviot Valley:**

Greetings from the south of the Parish. The busy Christmas period is now over and children back to school. Summer is probably just looming up now! On 26<sup>th</sup> January a group of parishioners met at the Millers Flat Lions Park for morning tea before a very interesting visit to the Millers Flat Bakehouse. Betty Adams gave us the history and present update on plans for opening which should be open to the public very soon. This visit was in place of the normal 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday service at St James.

A combined churches service on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of January was well supported and morning tea followed.

This month of February we have services on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday **10 am** and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday **11 am** followed by morning tea. Our Guild meet each month on the first Wednesday at 2 pm.

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> March in the Catholic Church at **7 pm**.

The World Day of Prayer Service for the Teviot Valley is being hosted by St James on Friday afternoon 3<sup>rd</sup> of March at **2 pm**.

~ **Alison Perkins**

## St Mary's, Omakau:

As most people will be thinking, 'When will our summer begin??!!' Well, as you know, school is about to start again for the year, so it will surely begin at just the same time! Hope so.

Our Christmas Eve service was attended by many locals and a few visitors as well. Thanks to Hilary for playing the organ and a half hour of carol singing preceded the Eucharist that evening.

January 29th being the 5th Sunday, Hawkdun Church was host to our combined service with St Aidan's parishioners, and it was great to see so many people able to attend. Many thanks to Joe for providing the music for us, and teaching us a new hymn written by a New Zealander. Following the service most of us enjoyed a lovely meal at the Omakau Commercial Hotel, and it was interesting to hear the comments about all the historical items of interest, adorning the shelves in the dining room. Many decided it would be quite a project to dust them all!

Our thanks to Esmé for providing the information in our new notice board outside the School gate.

~ Bronwyn Bell

## Parish Vestry Notes:

The Parish Vestry met on Tuesday Feb 7th to deal with the administration matters of the parish. The main points from this meeting are:

1. An invitation has been received to attend Bishop Kelvin's farewell which will be on April 28th. Our parish gift will be something which reflects Central Otago. A committee has been set up under the guidance of Rev. Jim White to look at appointing a new Bishop.
2. All local AGM's need to be completed by the end of March. Each church within the parish must furnish a report to the Parish AGM covering Health and Safety matters.
3. The new Mission Coordinator for the Diocese is Dot Muir. She will be visiting us in due course.
4. **The Archdeacon for Central Otago has asked Penny when she plans to retire as our Vicar. She has chosen Easter next year as her retirement date. The parish now needs to work on a plan for when that happens.**
5. Carol Masters has met the new Youth Worker for Alexandra when they were both at the recent Ministers' Association meeting.
6. Carol is coordinating our efforts regarding World Day of Prayer (notice on the next page)
7. Barbara Withington is coordinating a Parish Raffle (notice on the next page)

For further information about any of these items, please contact Liz Duggan, Vestry Secretary, on 03-4487435



# COMMUNITY PANTRY NEWS.....

The Community Pantry has done a great job of supporting families and people in need over the Christmas season. Now we need to help this local Christian Mission by contributing what we can to help restock the shelves.

Here are some ideas of things we might donate:

Baked beans and spaghetti

Longlife or powdered milk,

Toilet paper

vegemite/marmite/honey/peanut butter

margarine/table spread,

Tinned veges (peas, beans, corn etc)

Soups (packet and tinned)

Tomato Sauce

Rice Risotto

2 min noodles



We have plenty of tinned fruit at present thanks

# TEVIOT VALLEY FOOD BANK.....

The contact person for the Food Bank in the Teviot Valley is currently Dick Jory of the Baptist Church supported by the Salvation Army, Alexandra. Locally we have the Community Garden which supplies vegetables to people in the Teviot Valley who come and buy (very cheaply!!) twice a week – on Saturday and Thursday mornings, at the Garden. Often it is a Gold Coin donation but often people prefer to feel they have contributed, rather than having a 'handout.' This is sponsored and supported by the Medical Services Trust, and is on their land.

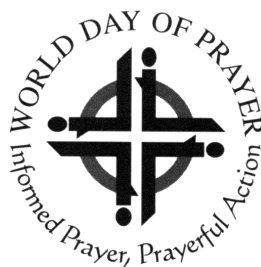
# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.....

This year's Alexandra service for World Day of Prayer is to be held at **St Aidan's Anglican Church.**

It is to be held on **Friday 3rd March, starting at 10am.**

More details to follow.

Contact person: Rev Carol Masters Ph 03-4487593



The World Day of Prayer Service for the Teviot Valley is being hosted by St James on Friday afternoon 3<sup>rd</sup> of March at **2 pm.**



# READINGS FOR FEBRUARY.....

All readings are  
subject to change

## 12 Feb

Deut 30: 15 - 20

1 Cor 3: 1 - 9

Matt 5: 21 - 37

## 19 Feb

Lev 19: 1 - 2, 9 - 18

1 Cor 3: 10-11, 16-23

Matt 5: 38-48

## 26 Feb

Isa 49: 8-16a

1 Cor 4: 1-5

Matt 6: 24-34

## 5 March

Gen 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

Rom 5: 12-19

Matt 4: 1-11

## 12 March

Gen 12: 1-4a

Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17

John 3: 1-17

# EN HAKKORE RETREAT.....

**6 - Day Silent, Directed Retreat 5 March - 10 March 2017**  
**@ Orangapai Sanatorium, Ranfurly**

## Retreat Leaders:

Kelvin Wright,  
Mary Hepburn,  
John Franklin

## Cost:

\$475 (\$80 per day)

## Registrations:





















By Sunday 26 February  
please register by mail or email to:  
Trish Franklin  
22 Pinfold Place, Mosgiel 9024  
Email: [franklytrish@gmail.com](mailto:franklytrish@gmail.com)

*This ecumenical, silent, directed retreat is time out from the demands and expectations of daily life. It is time to enter into a focused time of prayer and listening and time to earth our sense of identity in its Source, the love of God.*

*A retreat asks nothing of us, except to be real and honour our heart's desires. Our skills & competencies can take a break. We can just be there with God in company with one another in prayer. This retreat will provide contemplative worship, a daily Eucharist, daily spiritual direction & space.*

# FOR THE KIDS.....

## Helping Hands

Give a friend a hug when they are upset	   
	   
	   
	   
	   



Do to others as you would have them do to you.

The greatest waste in the world is the difference between who you are and who you could be. Always do your best.

Everytime you help someone else like the good Samaritan did, you can colour in a helping hand on your chart!

Ask a parent to help you pick some other good deeds for your chart.

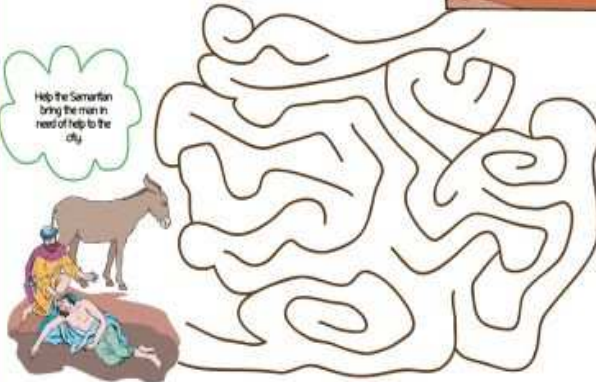
BibleWise

## The Good Samaritan LUK 10:25-37

In the chapter of Luke, Jesus tells us to, "Love your neighbor as yourself" and gives us the story of the Good Samaritan as an example. Not only does the Samaritan bandage the stranger's wounds, he feeds and pays for the stranger's lodging until he is well again.



Help the Samaritan bring the man in need of help to the city.



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## Community

A place where people live, work, and play.



Together

# Parable of the Good Roller Skater

A popular man came up to Jesus and asked, "What must I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus answered "What does God's word say?"

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your strength, with all your soul and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself."*

"You are right", Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

But the man asked further "Who is my neighbour?"

Jesus answered. "There were once a youth group that spent an evening roller blading. While some of them were playing hockey, there was a collision, and a young man fell to the ground and lay there, groaning, with a cut to his head. The one who struck him pulled him off the court and lay him at the side

"You'll be right" he told him, and went back to the game.

Soon after the leader came back from buying an ice cream. He noticed the young man lying to one side, and also saw the



others playing hockey. He considered helping the boy, but he loved playing hockey so pretended he hadn't seen him and joined in the game.

Soon a worker at the rink who had just come off duty noticed the young boy lying to the side, and swiftly went to his side. She made him comfortable, nursed his cut and kept him company till

he felt better. Finally she called his parents, and took him home, calling again later in the week to make sure he was all right.

*And Jesus concluded "In your opinion, which of these three – the one who struck him, the leader or the stranger – acted like a neighbour toward the boy?"*

*The man answered "The one who was kind to him".*

*Jesus replied "Go then, and do likewise".*

~ Sourced from [www.strandz.org.nz](http://www.strandz.org.nz), the website of the Anglican Children and Families Ministry



*All the flowers of tomorrow  
are in the seeds of today*

# ***To Live is to Worship, To Worship is to Live***

**Visitors and inquirers of all ages welcome**

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PO Box 243, Alexandra, 9340. [www.dunstanparish.org.nz](http://www.dunstanparish.org.nz)

	5 Feb	12 Feb	19 Feb	26 Feb	5 March
St Aidan's, Alexandra	9:30 am	9:30 am	9:30 am	9:30 am	9.30am
St James', Roxburgh	10.00am	4th Thurs, 11.am		10.00 am	10.00am
Omakau service (Hawkdun Rm, Omakau School)	-	10.00 am	-	10.00 am	-
St Hilda's, Ranfurly	10.30am	-	-	-	10.30am

**Vicar:** Rev Penny Sinnamon 03-4473070  
0274909198

**Email:** [l.p.sinnamon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:l.p.sinnamon@xtra.co.nz)

**Vicar's Warden:** Bronwyn Bell, Omakau 03-4473756

**People's Warden:** Charles French, Alexandra 03-4488986

**Local Priest:** Rev. Carol Masters 03-4487593

## **Authorized Lay Ministers:**

Liz Duggan, Alexandra 03-4487435; Lorraine Armstrong, Poolburn, 03-4474279

Barbara Withington, Millers Flat, 03-4466871

## **Newsletter Editor:**

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Let's eat grandpa.  
Let's eat, grandpa.

**correct punctuation can  
save a person`s life.**

