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Synod Representatives

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Pew Sheet Editor: Please send all information for the Pew Sheet by Monday to
fsrichs@xtra.co.nz Tel: 846 6043 or 021 1175566

St Chad's Regular Worship with Holy Communion every Sunday at St Patrick's
Except for the 3rd Sunday in the month which will be
Less formal non communion service
Our next service: Worship - No Communion
Sunday 17th June 2018

SUE SAYS: Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous.



**ST CHAD'S
ANGLICAN-METHODIST CHURCH
A WARM WELCOME
TO OUR 11.30 am SERVICE
10th JUNE 2018
ST PATRICK'S CHURCH
WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

The Biggest Challenge to my Faith?

One of the biggest challenges I have had to face to my sense of hope for this planet and indeed to my faith in God has been my inability to reconcile the opposites or extremes in the world. In my own personal life, few such challenges have been experienced: life may have been punctuated by loss and grief but, overall, I have been blessed with a loving family and more than adequate means to live. It is the extremes in the world around me that are troubling. Many people sanitise their view of the world by watching or reading little news and if they go travelling, by selecting, as most of us are wont to do, only the beautiful spots and ignoring the Syrias, Sowetos or Auschwitzs of the world. Part of me wishes I could do that: I am sure I would be far more contented and my faith would not be quite so often challenged. If we talk of extremes, how can such extreme poverty and such wealth exist in the world; indeed, how can the gap between the two extremes continue to widen? In New Zealand last year 1% of the population earned 28% of the wealth while the number of children living in poverty continues to grow. And why are there so few people with the heart or the means to tackle the problem? Also, how can some communities co-exist in peace and relative harmony while others constantly destroy what they possess as well as each other? I am aware that there is a great deal of good going on around us: people being kind to others, and helping those in need. We are indeed blessed to live in a country where this is so prevalent. However, this is matched, even on our own shores, by a disturbing amount of abuse, violence and destruction. I do realise that it is the latter that reaches the pages and screens of our media and it is, therefore, easy to forget about the good that is done, merely because it is so often done behind the scenes with less fanfare, less drama, less publicity. That is our challenge – to keep our sense of perspective, and it certainly is a challenge at times. These are, for the most part, humanity's problems; largely man-made, so to speak.

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Man is certainly a creature of extremes. Pit an Einstein against an illiterate, uneducated man from rural Africa and we encounter those extremes again in a different form. Even amongst the intelligentsia, however, Einstein used his brainpower for the benefit of humanity but what of people like Ted Kacynski, the Unabomber in the United States, a mathematical genius of sorts, who used his brains to mastermind a trail of murder and destruction? The creativity and achievements of the human brain are awe-inspiring: one only has to think of Mozart, Beethoven or Shakespeare. As a school teacher, I saw some children who seemed, by contrast, almost utterly devoid of grey matter. I do not mean to pronounce judgement, because some of the souls that come to mind were gentle and lovely, but how do such extremes co-exist in the same species? And the challenging question that one is tempted to ask: how is this the work of a fair, all-seeing, loving God? Take that a step further, outside the realms of humanity, and consider what insurance companies would term Acts of God. How do we account for the misery inflicted on some by floods or mudslides while at the same time, in other parts of the world, equal misery is experienced through crippling droughts? Where is the fairness, the justice? To compound the problem, those most badly affected are usually those who can least afford it. It is these extremes, this unfairness that I find deeply troubling. Once again, I think, I have to realise that there are no media reports about all those millions of people living peacefully and harmoniously in so many parts of the world. It is up to us to try to keep our sense of perspective and not lose sight of the positives. Perhaps we should follow the example of the travellers I mentioned in the first paragraph because undoubtedly, there is so much beauty around us in the natural world as well as in humanity itself, that if we focus on that, we cannot doubt God's munificence for too long. The challenge is to keep that focus.

DR

SERVICE READINGS THIS WEEK.

Psalm 138
Matthew 28: 16-20



SOUP AND BUNS
TODAY
AFTER THE SERVICE

PRAYER MINISTRY

We ask for your prayers – that God who knows each person or situation, may bless each one according to their needs.

Bishop Ross Bay: Bishop Jim White: Rev. Marilyn Welch: Rev. Chris Harris: Marston would welcome your prayers, but no visitors.

Rosemary is now in hospital. She is needing complete rest, so NO visitors please—family only. She is in good hands, so please continue your thoughts and prayers.

Dear Lord, we also bring to you others who we know in our hearts and we pray that you will look with mercy and grace upon our needs.

We would appreciate it if you would let Maureen — Pastoral Care Co-ordinator of anyone needing prayer. (tel: 021 1150598)

THE OP SHOP WILL BE CLOSED	FROM THE WEEKEND 18th February 2018
SERVICES AT ST PATRICK'S	<u>1st—3rd—and 5th Sundays will be 10.00 am</u> <u>2nd and 4th Sundays will be 11.30 am</u>

SERVICES AT ST PATRICK'S

3rd Sunday 17th June
4th Sunday 24th June
1st Sunday 1st July
2nd Sunday 8th July
3rd Sunday 15th July
4th Sunday 22nd July
5th Sunday 29th July

Worship—no communion 10.00 am
Worship with Holy Communion 11.30 am
Worship with Holy Communion 10.00 am
Worship with Holy Communion 11.30 am
Worship—no communion 10.00 am
Worship with Holy Communion 11.30 am
Worship with Holy Communion 10.00 am

HOME GROUP meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Please contact Paul Haines (021-761367) for more information



I have decided that I am a 20th century grandmother. Since being hacked I am a bit nervous of all the messages that pop up on my computer and things change without me doing anything! As for the cell phone . . . Well!! Some of us oldies have never used a computer and have to pay extra for a 'paper' bill.

So, this week was rather nice. We had three vocalist in concert. They just sang and talked to us. Another day a lovely man named Jos, with his guitar, told us about his life and sang relevant songs we all knew. How he became a Christian and has ended up in New Zealand and is a minister in a church in Epsom. Refreshing, warm arms around you.

I was a bit worried about putting on these two events—not classical, but everyone enjoyed them. As a result I am going to organise a Morning Tea Sing-a-long, probably on a Saturday morning as, I was told, there is not much to do on a Saturday morning!

SR