

ACLAIM

ACCLAIM



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 2023

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

"You will soon hear about wars and threats of wars, but don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end."

Contemporary English Version Matthew 24:6

It seems that war and the rumours of war are never too far away. I remember the first-time watching war as the first gulf war kicked off following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.



Currently the situation in Israel and Gaza is front and centre. And the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russia is still making the news. Yet there are many more active conflicts throughout our world, many of which get little coverage by our western focused media. In Myanmar a civil war is still raging, which this year has claimed nearly

12,000 lives. Until 2021 the PCANZ had been in active mission work. The Syrian civil war which has claimed an estimated half a million lives since 2011, so far this year has claimed 5,000 lives. Despite the time since WW2 being considered one of the most peaceful in the world's history many conflicts still rage, and many conflicts are still unresolved. For instance the Korean war is still in a state of ceasefire, and occasional skirmishes and loss of life still occurs.



For some the war waging in Israel is to be encouraged as it would fulfil their interpretation of biblical prophecy. Ushering in Armageddon. The acts of terror committed by Hamas are evil. And the need of Israel to defend itself and its citizens is allowed. Yet those that encourage war and the loss of life of citizens



is just as evil. People who claim that God would sanction such revenge and genocidal attacks are just as evil. There is nothing in the bible to justify this Position. Of late nearly 5000 Palestinians have been killed, of which some 1500 are children. This should be of little surprise as Gaza's population of some 2 million live in an area of 365 square kilometres and has the world's 3rd highest population density. That works

out at around 6,500 per square kilometre whereas in Central Otago we are close to 2.6 people per square kilometre. Gaza is also a young population, with 43.5% of the population being 14 or younger. Since 2007, the Gaza strip has been the subject of a blockade of air, land and sea, severely restricting the movement and transportation of old ways, both people and resources. It has been referred to by the United Nations and the Israeli government as being an open-air prison.

Mythology of the history of the state of Israel continues to fuel the challenges of honest discussion of that piece of dirt. That piece of dirt is important to people of Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths. The claiming that Israel is God's chosen people does not excuse bad behaviour and the othering of people ever. If we are people who endeavour to follow the way of love as demonstrated by Jesus Christ, we are called to stand not with the powerful but with the oppressed and with the forgotten.



And yet our world is great at forgetting the suffering of others, and in terms of this conflict we only think of the suffering that Palestinians face because Israelis have died. The loss of lives of Israelis is not ok, nor is the death of Palestinians. Yet we cannot ignore the suffering of those that we choose not to see, the world over. When we fail to see the divine image in all people, we deny Christ and to an extent we deny a part of our own given divine image.



And as Christians and more broadly humans we continue to stand by why people groups are separated and othered, and ultimately killed. Many German Christians stood by in support of the Nazi regime. Some like Bonhoeffer infamously **did not** and were martyred for their true faith. Yet we also saw American Christians pray over the atomic bombs that were used to destroy Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And Christianity's history of colonisation, bible in one hand, and gun in another is another thing of repentance.

In This Issue

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Blossom tree outside
St Mungo's, Clyde

*(Taken by
Sheryll Hanning)*

Cont...

The conflict in the middle east is a deeply complex thing. Born out of years of abuse on both sides, and many years of interference from state and other players. But ultimately our task is to always remember the humans in all this. Many who have had no choice in the making of the current situation.



Rev Andrew Howley
Parish Minister Alexandra, Clyde, Lauder Union Parish

A prayer for these times

*Two peoples, one land,
Three faiths, one root,
One earth, one mother,
One sky, one beginning, one future,
one destiny,
One broken heart,
One God.*

We pray to You:

*Grant us a vision of unity.
May we see the many in the one and
the one in the many.
May you, Life of All the Worlds,
Source of All Amazing Differences
Help us to see clearly.
Guide us gently and firmly toward
each other.*

Rabbi : Sheila Weinberg
Jewish Community of Amherst, Amherst, MA

Please note: Rev Andrew Howley has set up his office in the St Enoch's vestry. He will be there 9.30am—12.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday. He can be contacted on 448 8511 or 021 518 053 (*please leave a message if phone unanswered*)

“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help when we are in trouble.
He is like a place to call home when we feel adrift.
A listening ear and someone we can come and talk to.
Things often go wrong, and our world can be a topsy turvy place,
but we can come back to God and find a moment of calm with him.
A moment of peace and refreshment.”
Dave Hopwood from AREA52

Our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of...
Mrs Wilma McLeod - Service held - 27th October 2023
at Central Otago Funerals, Alexandra

To The Families in our Parish who have said their final farewells to their family members. Some have had a long journey of ill health or sudden death. God be with you and bring you PEACE.



CELEBRATING OUR SAINTS AGM 2023

At this year's AGM our parish celebrated and took the opportunity to thank and honour some of our long serving members.

It was fitting to celebrate the Christian service of Valerie Anderson & Les Brensell. They have served The Church in various roles and a lot of "working behind the scenes" as well. At the presentation they received a gift of a framed certificate of appreciation and a limited edition printed pen.

We celebrate with their families, their many God given gifts which they have used in the church and in the wider community.



**This poem was found in
The ACLUP Afternoon Fellowship Groups Notebook**

THE DASH —

I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her
tombstone
from beginning to the end.
He noted that first came her date of
birth
and spoke the following with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
was the dash between those years.
For the dash represents all the time
that she spent alive on earth....
And now only those that loved her
know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not how much we own;
The cars...The House... The cash...
What matters is how we live and love
and how we spend our **dash**.
So think about this long and hard....
Are there things you'd like to
change?

For you never know how much time
is left.
That can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
to consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
the way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives
like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
and more often wear a smile...
remembering this special **dash**
might only last a while.
So, when your eulogy is being read
With your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things
they say
about how you spent your **dash**?

ANONYMOUS

DO THE RIGHT THING

Theme: Being honest and trustworthy -- even when no one is watching.

What would you do if you were walking by your teacher's desk at school and you saw five dollars on the floor? Would you pick it up and give to your teacher, or would you look around to make sure no one was watching then slip it into your pocket?

What would you do if you were walking home from school and found a bag and when you looked inside, you discovered that it contained a lot of money? Would you tell your parents and report your find to the police, or would you say, "Wow! This must be my lucky day?"

Ross a 15-year old high school student found a bag of money containing \$120 on top of the Coke machine. He took it to his teacher. The two of them went to the principal's office to turn in the money. When asked why he turned in the money instead of keeping it, Ross said that he was concerned that the employee who left the bag would get in trouble if he lost this money.

Scripture: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." Luke 16:10 (NIV),

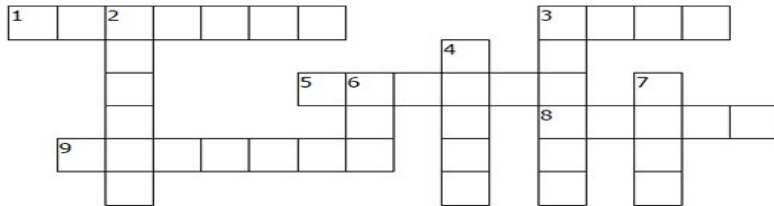
Dear Father, help us to remember what Jesus taught about honesty and help us to be honest in every situation -- big or small. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Sermons4kids

Do the Right Thing!

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. Luke 16:10 (NIV)

Based on Luke 16:1-13



ACROSS

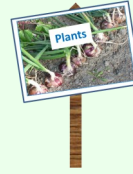
1. A person who performs duties around the home of a master
3. To like something very much
5. Truthful, trusted, not likely to steal, cheat or lie
8. To have complete confidence in someone
9. To feel a strong dislike for someone or something

DOWN

2. A large amount of money or valuable possessions that someone has
3. A very small amount
4. The Son of God
6. To be obligated to repay a debt to someone
7. A very large amount

MUCH	OWE	LITTLE	SERVANT	DEPISE
LOVE	RICHES	HONEST	TRUST	JESUS

Past & Upcoming Events



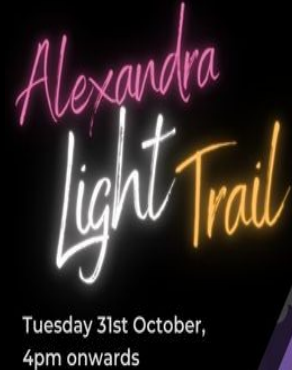
Parish Mini Fair 21st October 2023—Results

Thank you for all those that helped to set up, managed the stalls and cleaned up afterwards. It was a great effort and the amount earned is still growing. The total earned on the day was \$3,000 +

ACLUParish will support this community project and We will host the UV experience, bubbles, plane building, colouring in and family games of mini-golf, darts, bean bag throw, jumbo connect 4, badminton, genko.

A combined prayer gathering will be held on Monday October 30th at 7pm on The Village Green, St Enoch's Centennial Avenue.

Volunteers Needed: Speak with Chris or phone her on : 021 449 296



Clyde Property Working Group - Meeting

Watch this space, The Clyde Property Working Group will shortly announce a date and venue for: **“Have Your Say - Share Your Ideas”** meeting. Both the wider parish and public will be invited.

✚Spiritual support and hospital chaplains✚

- offer spiritual care to all who seek it, regardless of religious or cultural backgrounds
- connect you with a member of your own denomination or faith if you wish
- provide spiritual support and comfort, prayer, scripture readings and other religious services on request, including Holy Communion.
- Chaplaincy assistants (volunteers) are trained to help our chaplains in their work.

At services on the 5th of November there will be a chance to donate to this organisation for hospital Chaplaincy. Thank You.

REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

Weekly

House Study Group	Tuesdays 10am—11.00am	3A Mayfair Grove Alexandra 03 448 8049 Contact : Valerie Anderson
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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	4th Wednesday of the month Contact: Don Melville	St Enoch's 3.30pm 03 448 9233

RSE workers working for Hinton's

Hello all,
I am working in a Pastoral care role with RSE workers working for Hinton's. We have a group that has arrived with a shortage of warm clothes to help them be comfortable working outside in Central Otago conditions.

Wastebusters has historically been a popular place for RSE workers to pick up clothing they needed. However we are already noticing the gap that is left with Wastebusters no longer being an option.

Therefore, I am putting out a request if anyone has or is planning to have a clean out of clothing that may no longer have a purpose and that could be used by our current and future RSE workers arriving for this season. If so, I would be appreciative of you making contact with me so we can discuss how I can pick up any clothes you may have to offer. You can contact me on 022 403 1416 or julie.scurr@hotmail.com
Thanks Julie

EDITORS NOTE: The next ACLaim will be Dec/Jan please have any articles to me by **Friday 24th November 2023**. Articles can be sent to me via email ggordon@actrix.co.nz Thank you to Jackie Roy for proof reading the ACLaim Gay Gordon

Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

Upcoming Worship Services 2023

Oct 29th	Alexandra	Parish Combined Service with Anglicans River Bank Service-Dunorling Street Boat Ramp or St Aidan's as alternative	
Pentecost 22	10.30am		
Nov 5th *	Clyde	9.00am	Communion
Pentecost 23	Alexandra	10.30am	Communion
Nov 12th	Clyde	9.00am	
Pentecost 24	Alexandra	10.30am	
Nov 15th	<i>Castlewood</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	
	<i>Ranui</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	
Nov 19th	Combined Service		Joy Davis from Presbyterian Support
Pentecost 25	Alexandra	10.30am	
Nov 26th	Clyde	9.00am	Reign of Christ
	Alexandra	10.30am	
Dec 3rd	Clyde	9.00am	Communion
Advent 1	Alexandra	10.30am	Communion
Dec 10th	Combined Service	10.30am	Christmas Music Service
Advent 2	Alexandra		
Dec 17th	Clyde	9.00am	
Advent 3	Alexandra	10.30am	
Dec 24th	Alexandra	10.30am	
Advent 4		Combined Service	
Dec 25th	Clyde	9.00am	Christmas Day
Dec 29th	Alexandra	Combined Service with Anglicans	

Contact Us

Minister:
Rev. Andrew Howley

Phone: 03 448 8511
021 518 053

Email:
Andrew.howley.nz@gmail.com

Andrew is generally available in St Enoch's Vestry Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm Other times by appointment. 448 8511 or 021 518 053

Parish Clerk:
Don Melville

Phone: 03 448 9233

Email:
don.m.melville@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