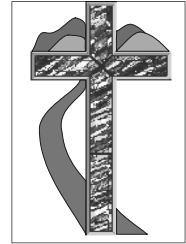


**PARISH OF  
OPAWA / ST MARTINS  
ST MARK'S                      ST ANNE'S**  
101 Opawa Road.                      7 Wilsons Road



**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

Dear friends,

So far we have had many beautiful, hot, sunny days, this summer in Christchurch, which has made for wonderful holidays. But every now and then the heavens have rumbled, opened, and the deluges have been spectacular. For the most part they have been short lived and the sun's tentacles have found their way through the clouds, in some cases creating beautiful rainbows. One of the most spectacular of these was one day, at the beginning of January, when a couple were celebrating the most joyous occasion of their wedding.

"A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time for good wishes, feasting and joy. Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship – God's blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and bad." (NZPB p779). After the devastating flood in the book of Genesis God sent a rainbow and said to Noah "I have set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh' and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh." Gen 9:13-16

It is at this moment that God shows his change of heart and that his relationship with humanity from then on is now based on absolute grace. God through his covenant with creation requires us to value one another. As this couple faced one another and made their promises before God, a priest and congregation, so God sent a reminder of the promise that He made to all creation; "I will not take my steadfast love from you" 2 Sam 7:15.



With Best Wishes

**Anne Price.**

*"Love is patient and kind  
Love never comes to an end."*

**FEBRUARY PROGRAMME**

**SERVICES**

- Every Sunday**      8.00am    Eucharist at St Mark's  
                              9.30 am: Eucharist at St Anne's with Sunday School  
                              10.00 am Eucharist at St Mark's with Sunday School
- Every Wednesday**    10.00 am    Eucharist at St Mark's.
- Monday to Friday**    8.00 am    Morning Prayer at St Mark's  
                                  5.00 pm    Evening Prayer at St Anne's.
- February 25**      **Ash Wednesday**  
                              10.00 am Eucharist at St Mark's  
                              Ashes Service—see pew sheet for time and venue.

*Please see next page for all other activities—>*

**Sunday School:** resumes February 25 at St Mark's, and if there are enough helpers, at St Anne's also.

**SMYLE and SMY;** See February Sunday Pew Sheets .

**Home Groups** Details of starting dates not available as yet—see weekly pew sheets or contact the Parish Office. (Thursday Group at Shewans' Home will resume on Thursday March 5 at 7.30pm.

*'mainly music'*\* Sessions at 9.30 am and 10.30 am every Tuesday in term time at St Anne's  
\*Trade name

**Little Annie's Play group** will be starting soon. Rev Anne is looking for suitable toys for this.  
**Association of Anglican Women: St Anne's Group** will meet on Tuesday 24 February. Contact Phyl Williams 332 1321 or Noeline Mills (ph 332 5926)

**St Mark's Group** Thursday February 18 at 2.00 pm Contact Glennys Ward Ph 337 9099

**UFO Craft Group:** you are invited to bring all your **Unfinished Objects** to a Thursday afternoon group starting at 1.00 pm till 3.00 pm

### REVIEW: ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

A very busy time filled with rich and meaningful worship, times to focus our minds on the meaning of Advent and Christmas, chances to share with the community the message of Christmas and many opportunities to meet and greet regular parishioners, old friends and visitors. Highlights included the Young People's presentation "The Grumpy Sheep" and the giving of books to all those who have attended through the year, and the two Children's Christmas Services at St Anne's (attendance around 60) and at St Mark's on Christmas Eve, which saw over two hundred involved

The Carol Service, and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. were wonderful expressions of God's presence with us, and the 'Crafts for Christmas' and the 'Early bird Shopping Night' were excellent opportunities to reach out and share bargains with the community. The Ordination of Anne Price to the Priesthood at the end of November followed by her first celebration of the Eucharist with a shared meal and party afterwards was a great occasion, and the Vestry Members and partners gathering was another enjoyable excuse to party. As this is by no means a full list of the events and occasions you can see why you were so busy during December! Our thanks to all who contributed in any way to all these occasions, giving time energy and money to help us build our church and community—you are all greatly appreciated.

*Just remember 'the reason that volunteers are not paid is not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS'*

### Dates for your Diary:

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday 25 February.

Diocesan Synod: Friday 13 and Saturday 14 March (please pray for those involved.)

Parish Strategic Planning Meeting. (see pew sheet) March 28 and 29.

Palm Sunday. April 5

Good Friday and Easter Sunday April 10 and 12.

Sunday April 19: Fund raising Concert featuring the Liedertafl and the Aeolian Choirs.

**NEXT MAGAZINE: PLEASE GET MATERIAL FOR THIS** to Jean Shewan by Sunday 22 February.. Articles, Photos and news of Parish events needed. Thanks ,Jean.

#### OPAWA ST MARTINS MINISTRY TEAM:

Vicar	Ven. Lawrence Kimberley: Ph 981 7384 e-mail: lak@clear.net.nz
Priest Assistant:	Rev'd Anne Price Ph 332 7195
Hon. Priest Assistants:	Rev'd Peter Axcell, and Rev'd Jill Pask Ph 980 9983

#### Parish Contacts

Wardens.	Neil Shewan ph 337 1642
	Peter Greenwood ph 377 0852
Parish Office	ph 980 9983 (weekdays 9.30 am to 12 noon)

*For information about Baptisms, Weddings Funerals or Home Communion please contact Ven Lawrence Kimberley ph 981 7384*