

Ordination and Induction of Allister Lane From the Minister

On a balmy Thursday night a special service was held at St John's. It was the service of Ordination and Induction for Allister Lane. Allister was inducted as the 12th senior minister of St John's in the church's 155 year history. The service was attended by many members of the congregation, Presbytery representatives and Allister and Naomi's family and friends. At the service the Rev. Ian McCallum preached, The Rev Chris Nicholl gave the narrative on behalf of the Ministry Settlement Board, symbols representing the diverse life of the church were presented and the choir led the singing. The service, full of warmth and good humour concluded with the benediction given by The Reverend Allister Lane. The congregation then moved to the Conference Centre for supper and speeches of welcome.

Thus, the ministry of Allister Wycliff Lane begins...

Rob Anderson



Rev Lynn Russell inducts Allister to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament



Rev Allister Lane's first benediction concludes the service.

We are coming into the season of Advent, which is the beginning of the year on the Church calendar – Haaap-py New Year!!! We get the word 'advent' from the Latin adventus, which means 'arrival'. The arrival that we are remembering and celebrating, of course, is the arrival of Jesus Christ among us. At the risk of promoting heresy in this fine publication, I dare to compare the divine arrival with the arrival of the new minister.

Such a theologically dubious connection is made at this time of my very recent arrival which ends a nearly two year period without a minister at St John's. My arrival is completely different to that of Advent – but an arrival nonetheless. And it is an arrival which God has evidently had a hand in. For that reason I am very excited about being here among you all and joining in the journey of living out our faith in Christ.

It has been five years since Naomi and I moved from Wellington down to Dunedin to undertake my training for ordained ministry. And I wanted to reflect on one of the gifts that was given to us by St John's at that time.

When we departed, St John's gave us some money which we used to buy two cabbage tree plants. We planted these cabbage trees in the local soil of Dunedin; the place where we were similarly 'planted' for this period of ministry training and formation.

During our five years in Dunedin I have watched the cabbage trees as they have been exposed to various experiences. In addition to the harsh Dunedin winters, the trees have been watered, fertilised and had the old dead leaves trimmed off. Despite the cold climate, the trees have grown. They have sprouted many more bright green leaves, extended in height toward the sky, and no doubt have roots that go down deeper into the soil.

I share with you the journey of these trees, not because I want to be likened to a cabbage tree, but, because I feel that over the past five year I have grown also. My own growth has been influenced by all that I have been exposed to and all that I have engaged with during my training. I have had the chance to benefit from many experiences: stimulating theological training; often gruelling academic assessment; lively discussions

and debates; exposure to cutting-edge ideas and models; practical experiences; and opportunities to develop personal character.

As with all of us, God brings a variety of experiences our way. Some of these experiences are 'fertile' with opportunity and new directions; some of these experiences are more akin to pruning, as things come to an end. In God's hands all these experiences can be interpreted as growth – growth toward the good and pleasing ends which God has planned for us. As various experiences come our way we have guidance available to enable us to meaningfully interpret them; as disciples of Christ, we remember and celebrate the Advent Man who reveals to us the ways of God and achieves God's loving purposes for the world.

I give thanks that my arrival at St John's is in time to join with you this Advent. Let's rejoice together for what God has done and what he will do out of his gracious generosity! In our life together may God transform us as we grow more into the likeness of Christ himself through our shared worship and mission.

Allister Lane

Success Stories

Anwyl Fowler thought that you would like to hear a collection of success stories of St Johns Members. She did some investigating and she writes.....

First from the Youth Group:

Thomas Budd (son of Sue Riddle and Brian Budd) came first in the National Competition for the Young Designer of the Year Competition. His winning entry was his design of a self sustainable house, that is one that provides its own heat and power and is also compatible with the environment.

Matthew Ramsay (son of Louise and Paul) is to be Deputy Head Boy of St Patrick's College (Town) for 2009. (Anwyl adds that she and Matthew's grandmother Jean Boyd were members of the St Johns Bible Class in the 1940s.)

Two books written by St Johns members were published during the year.

Sandy Callister wrote 'The Faces of War'. This book uses photographs to illustrate the experiences of New Zealanders wounded in World War One Included in the collection is a series of photos illustrating the wound and subsequent plastic surgery sustained by Bruce Fowler. Bruce went on to be Sunday School Superintendent and long serving session clerk of St Johns.

Janet Thompson spent many years researching and writing, 'Shepherd's Progress'. The book tells the story of the great Otago sheep run family The Elliots and their relationship with the firm of Ross and Glendining. Janet is currently overseas. While she was working on the manuscript she was greatly strengthened and encouraged by Betty Robertson.

Joyce Booth has both of these books in the bookstall in the vestibule.

Anwyl Fowler

Calendar of Events

- 4 December, 8:00pm**
Yulia's Christmas Concert
(all proceeds to Downtown Community Ministry)
- 7 December, 10:00am**
St J's kids Christmas Pageant
- 7 December,**
BGI's 125th Anniversary Celebrations Begin
Catered Lunch after church
- 14 December**
Quarterly Communion
- 21 December**
Christmas Carol Service
- 25 December, 10:00am**
Christmas Day Service
- 28 December, 10:00am**
Regular morning worship

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The Messenger

December 2008 St John's in the City, Presbyterian Church

Editorial

November has been a momentous month. America has a new President, New Zealand a new Prime Minister and St John's in the City a new Minister. The famous words spoken by President Kennedy at his inauguration: "The torch has been passed to a new generation", are as befitting this month as they were originally spoken in Washington on a freezing January day in 1961.

Recently, Session received two letters, one from a former Minister and one from a future Minister. Both letters are included in this edition of The Messenger. The first was from Graham Redding. His induction as Moderator of The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand was a splendid occasion. Graham, resplendent in the Korowai Tapu and stole created by the St John's Embroidery Group looked every inch the Moderator of The PCANZ. Having his installation as Moderator obviously meant as much to him as it did to us.

The second letter came from 'Minister in waiting' Allister Lane. We have all been eagerly

anticipating Allister's ministry and now he, Naomi and Pearse have arrived. Allister's ordination and induction service was a special occasion. I suspect that Interim Moderator



Rev Allister Lane is presented with a Stole by his mother, Heather Lane

Denzil Brown and Session Clerk Muriel Ewen are particularly pleased to have Allister here. During a vacancy the Interim Moderator and Session Clerk invariably 'shoulder the load.' During our vacancy that has stretched longer than most people anticipated Denzil and Muriel have kept their hands on the tiller, showing dexterity, patience and at times courage to make sure that we as a congregation kept on course. Their efforts have been truly remarkable and on your behalf I thank them. Enjoy your summer break Denzil and Muriel; for you have certainly earned it.

To everyone may I wish you a Blessed Christmas.

Rob Anderson

Letter from Graham Redding Letter from Allister Lane

Dear Muriel,

I would be grateful if you would convey to the Session and congregation of St John's my heartfelt thanks for their support on the occasion of my installation as Moderator of the General Assembly.

From my point of view, the service and lunch at St John's could not have gone better. It set a wonderful tone for the rest of the Assembly.

I am especially grateful to the following people:

- Betty Robertson and her catering team for feeding the multitudes
- Ailsa Salt, for coordinating the elders for the serving of communion and for the lovely floral arrangements.
- Eleanor Carter, Guy Jansen, Dayle Anderson, the choir and musicians, for leading the congregation so well in music and song.
- John Irvine for the photographic record.
- The Embroidery Group for the magnificent stole.
- The St John's congregation, for turning out in such numbers in support of the occasion.



If I have overlooked someone in the above list, please forgive me.

Muriel, in addition to the above, I would like to add a personal note of thanks to you and Denzil. In the build-up to the service, I consulted with you both regularly. Nothing was ever too much bother. The counsel and support each provided was invaluable.

For all kinds of reasons, St John's proved to be the ideal setting for the opening service of the General Assembly. It was an immense privilege and pleasure to be there among so many friends and colleagues. Thank you to everyone who was involved in organising it.

With warm regards,

Graham Redding

Moderator of the General Assembly.

Dear friends,

The year is moving very quickly indeed and it will not be long at all before we will be permanently in your midst. We are very excited about our imminent arrival in Wellington; my ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament; and the beginning of a new phase in the ordained ministry of St John's.

The recent opening service for the General Assembly was a grand occasion and all the people of St John's did magnificently in hosting all those commissioners and in honouring the induction of Graham Redding as the new Moderator. It was with a strong sense of anticipation that I participated in the service.

Aside from wanting to reiterate my enthusiasm for beginning my ministry with you in November, I wanted to thank you most sincerely for the very generous gift of an ecumenical alb.

The tradition at St. John's of the ordained minister 'robing' for leading worship is one



that I am keen to embrace and maintain, as being theologically appropriate. This alb represents a significant mantle of responsibility that I take very seriously in my response to God's call; and I am so delighted that this comes as a gift from you all as those who have discerned with me this call to ministry in your midst.

This gift you have made to me is something I feel very supported by and befits the service I seek to faithfully undertake for you and with you.

May God bless you all.

Allister Lane

Right: Communion table at the General Assembly service



AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME



I'M SORRY, THERE'S NO ROOM FOR YOU



Obituary

Jean Temple, It was with sadness that we received the news of the passing of Jean Temple. Jean was the wife of the legendary Rev W.P. (Bill) Temple who was St John's sixth minister from 1948 to 1957. The Temples arrived in New Zealand from Scotland to take up their ministry at St John's. They quickly established a place in the heart of the parish which lasted long after they had left. In 1983 during a vacancy created by David Steedman's appointment as Moderator the Temples returned for a further stint of ministry. Pivotal to Bill's ministry was Jean's support. Her hospitality, elegance and soft Scottish brogue made her a favourite with the congregation. Jean continued to follow activities at St Johns with interest. Her last visit to St John's was as a special guest at the 150th celebrations in 2003. She loved every minute of it.

To Philip, Sheena and families go our love and condolences.

Rob Anderson

From the Archives St John's and Sustainability

On the wall above the stairs leading to the bell tower is an Honours' Board for St Johns Young Mens Bible Class. There are some interesting names on the board reflecting the history of the church. The Memoriam part of the Honour's Board has the name of Harry Drummond. Harry Drummond's story is a tragic one. Margaret Galt tells why.

On November 2nd 1907 a strange and sad accident occurred that affected both St Johns Young Men's Bible Class and the Boys Institute. On the 12 October 1907 the boys and leaders of the Institute Club were playing cricket at the Nairn Street Reserve when one of the leaders, Harry Drummond, collided with a seat on the edge of the grounds. He was rushed to Nurse Dixon's private hospital where his condition was so serious that he was operated on for internal injuries at a time when operations were done only as a last resort. However, by the end of October, the Evening Post carried a small notice to its readers "Mr Harry Drummond, who recently met with an accident whilst playing cricket with the

Boys' Institute team, is now out of danger". Three days later he died.

Harry was president of the Boys Institute, and was described as "exceedingly popular with the lads and his services were greatly valued by the other officers in the Institute". He was only 32 at the time of his death, and he left a widow, Florence, and a daughter who was not yet 3. As he was a painter by trade, it is unlikely that he left them much money, and in a time before social security his widow would have been in a difficult position. It would also have been a sad time for his parents, Peter and Agnes, who had been members of St Johns for many years, and who had had many of their children married at the church.

Harry's life is remembered on both the St Johns Young Men's Bible Class roll of honour and by a memorial that still lies at their old Tasman St site.

(Sources: Evening Post 30 Oct 1907; 2 Nov 1907; 5 Dec 1904 Otago Witness 6 Nov 1907)

Margaret Galt

"And it was very good" The start of the bible presents us with an earth to be celebrated; a home that would nurture us and we in turn would care for. The reality is a world facing intense environmental challenges and people around the earth are trying desperately to deal with these challenges, while many are not sure how to respond. The issues are diverse and complex: the state of our climate and humanity's influence over it, the loss of forests and biodiversity, the degradation of our soil, the pollution of our waterways and the way we consume and waste resources. These issues no longer are just the ignored rants of tree huggers and misunderstood academics; these issues concern all people everywhere. They not only affect our environment but our peace, our economies, our communities and our lifestyles.

The author Paul Hawken describes the response to these issues as the largest social movement in the history of humanity, with thousands of groups around the world starting to try and heal this earth. This movement has no

grand structure, no central leadership and no distinct ideology, only a common goal for an earth that we can continue to live in.

I have been lucky in the last few years to be involved in this movement and make many friends who are committed to this cause. A common concern I have heard from my friends is that to make this world a better place people need to be sharing, need to be helping each other and working together for a better way, they say we need to create community so we can respond together. I have spent my whole life immersed in a community that I call church. I think this community is ready to respond and to bring a Christian response to these issues.

St John's recently started a Sustainability Committee to help provide that response, our goals are to help individuals in our community respond to these issues in their own lives, to develop a collective response for our whole community which includes looking at how we use resources, how we talk about sustainability in church

and how we work with other groups around our city to make sure we have an earth that reflects the words of the Bible and is 'very good'.

The sustainability committee most importantly wants to encourage this discussion and welcomes suggestions, concerns and ideas for how we can make this work and how we can make changes all our church can get behind and celebrate. Some possible changes could be: encouraging people to bike or car-pool to church, increasing our energy efficiency, supporting environmental community groups, educating the community on ways they can change things at home, having dedicated services to pray and contemplate the theological background to these issues.

There is a lot of room on the committee for passionate people who want to be part of this, as committee members or volunteers for projects we will be part of. Please contact Andrew Johnston by email on andrewjohnston@gmail.com or by phone on 021 1856 877.

Andrew Johnston