

Attending Church

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly day. That evening, he found the man at home all alone sitting by a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him and led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, he took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The minister glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more, with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. With that, the minister smiled at his host, shook his hand and let himself out.

In life we are nourished and sustained by our relationships. Attending church is no different. Whether it is worship itself or simply mixing and mingling with people of similar belief and values, we are encouraged, supported and boosted by those around us. Communal singing plays an important part in this.

CH__CH What's missing? U R

Postponement

For a variety of reasons, both the Community Family Day (April 27th) and the Ground Breakers Holiday programme (April 13-14, children aged 5-12) have been postponed. Watch this space.

Car Boot Sale

However, we will be holding a car boot sale in order to raise money for our church on Saturday 9 May. Please see attached notice.

Bruce Richardson.

Rev Bruce Richardson has been part of our congregation for some time, and has played a vital role in the life of our church through officiating and preaching at services, and serving on vestry.

Unfortunately, he is leaving us! He is moving to Christchurch next month to be with family. We will be farewelling him on Sunday 3 May.

I would like to both acknowledge and thank Bruce for his support and his wonderful ministry to our church.

Latha

I want to acknowledge the wonderful job Latha Chemuduganta does in designing the layout for our Sunday service sheets. Thank you, Latha, for your creative contribution to our worship.

Preaching

On Sunday 26 April, Bishop John Paterson will be preaching. Bishop John is no stranger to St Paul's in the Park and we always enjoy and appreciate his offering and his support.

Time for a Smile

Two boys were walking home from Sunday School after hearing a strong message on the devil. One said to the other, 'What do you think about all this Satan stuff?' The other boy replied, 'Well, you know how Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy turned out. It's probably just your dad.'

To Ponder

Author Reba Riley became disenchanted with church. She explored a variety of religious traditions, from Amish to Buddhism to Native American, and others. In the end, she did find her way back to God. She said, 'I am living a very God-filled life right now. Love God; love people. By following those two simple precepts, everything fell back into place with regards my relationship with God.'

Interesting

In a recent survey conducted in the USA, millions of people believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife!

Preaching

'The test of a preacher is that the congregation goes away saying, not "What a lovely sermon," but "I will do something!"'

How very true!

Rev Warner Wilder

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