

Not always irrelevant

Facebook has its uses. I made a post this week letting folk know I am leaving. People are very kind and made lots of generous comments. Several comments were from staff at Richmond Primary School. One person wrote this: "Your family are the lucky ones. We will so miss you at Richmond School. Go well."

One of the most amazing privileges, during my time here at Richmond Parish, has been acting as Chaplain to Richmond Primary. The teachers and staff there are so committed to developing children who will be valuable members of society. The School has always been good neighbours to our Church and that won't change with me going but we could lose the close connection we've enjoyed.

In our service last Sunday we talked about how church generally has been pushed to the margins of society. That may not be a bad thing. In fact, I suspect it is part of God's magnificent plan to get us off our collective butts and be who the Lord has made us to be.

We Christians still have some opportunities to have genuine and meaningful input into our wider community. Richmond School is keen to get another chaplain and they've given me permission to look into that. I'd love that person to be part of our church. Is God calling you to be their new Chaplain?

The time commitment is around 4 hours per week. Every chaplain works in different ways; ways which suit them and their gifting's and the school's needs. Before me the Chaplain organised games at lunch time. Other chaplains meet one on one with children. Some bake with children in the staff room. In the winter terms I have taken little groups of children through fun activities hopefully imparting great life skills along the way. The rest of the time I have lunch in the staff room with whoever is around. Then I go into the playground and just chat to children; especially those who are alone or seem a bit down.

It's not hard but is so rewarding. All you need really is to be friendly, to have 3 – 4 hours a week, and to be a good listener. Full training is given by the Churches Education Commission or Lifewalk as they are now called. The training covers everything that is needed.

Please let me know if you are interested. I will miss the team at Richmond School immensely but would be much cheered if our church continues this fantastic community building outreach. - **Susan**

Librarian - Anne Webb has volunteered to be our Librarian. Thank you Anne!

Honey - Building Fundraiser. 500gm \$7.00/1kg \$13.00 /2kg \$25. Contact Anne Askin Ph.542 3284.

St Albans 150 Years Celebration - Celebrations are on the last weekend of November. If you are interested in helping with or attending the celebrations please contact the office.

Stones - We will be starting on our new building soon and we want to give everyone a last opportunity to put your children and grand-children's name on a stone, which will be buried in the foundation of the new hall. A gold coin donation will be appreciated for each stone to go to the building fund. - Kai Kruse & Jacob Klootwyk.

Father Chris Skinner Concert – will be held at St Francis of Assisi Church, 204 Songer Street, Stoke on Saturday 28 July at 7.00pm. This is a fundraiser for Faith & Light, Nelson. Tickets: Single \$15; Family \$40. For bookings or information please phone Judy 5486253 or Norah 5473108. Chris Skinner is a priest and singer & composer.

NZCMS Meeting – You are invited to hear stories from Liz. Liz is involved in mentoring and Education Consultancy in Pakistan. 6.15pm, Monday 25 June. All Saints, 30 Vanguard St. Please bring food for a shared meal together. For more info. Phone Lois 548 7438

Preserves - Thank you to everyone who is buying our preserves. The vision is to use donated fruit and that the money will go to support missions. We have some lovely tomato sauce, crab apple jelly and green tomato chutney as well as our usual variety. A real oldies but goodie! The crab apple jelly is delicious on toast, and great with lamb or pork, please try it! Your feedback is most welcome, please get in touch with Shiona if you have any suggestions. Ph. 544 4155

Reflection Questions

- Have you ever been in an embarrassing situation – in church or elsewhere – and how well do you think you coped with it?
- In today's context who might be a 'Simon,' the 'woman,' or 'Ruth?'
- Are there any ways in which today's service has challenged you to think differently about others?
 - about yourself?
 - about the way we do church?
- What are you going to do about it?

