

# MARDON RD CHURCH @

we exist to encourage each other on this journey of christian faith, to share this message with others and to encourage one another to grow in maturity in Christ



## ALAN & KATHLEEN

Hi everyone, here is a brief blurb on my role at Mardon Road. Currently I am leading the Young Adults group on Tuesday nights and taking the devotion for the high schoolers every other Wednesday and preaching. I am available for pastoral visits/ mentoring/ small group devotions etc. If you would like to contact me, my number is 020 4161 2921 or my email is alanpeterstanley@gmail.com Kathleen is also available to visit or mentor, but her time is more limited as she is currently studying Social Work full time at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute. Her phone number is 02041584808 and her email is kathleen2stanley@gmail.com We are happy to come to your home, or meet wherever you are most comfortable. >> Alan

## CLIFF & LEONIE

Cliff and Leonie Ireland finally got to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on the 14th March with the church family. Making the most of the sun, we had a shared lunch outside and enjoyed hearing some of Cliff and Leonie's story. Congratulations you too, we look forward to sharing many more years with you!



## YG/YA'S

Morrinsville's claim to fame (the many Cow statues) was the scene for the Mad Cow Bingo on Saturday 13 March. The teams needed little "cow-ercian" after they had "herd" that part-pictures of the cows were on the Bingo cards. They were divided into 3 "udderly" competitive teams, and "calved" their way through the streets of Morrinsville in the race to be the first team to find all the cows on their bingo squares. It was a "moving" experience seeing them race around the streets and try to be the first team to make Bingo and finish before dark. The winners of the night were Holly, Sian, Hannah, Jessica and Danielle who managed to complete their Bingo card in the fastest time. It was good to finish up the night at a local takeaway shop for some hot chips to warm us up.



## INVITATION

Doris and Peter would like to invite their church family to share in the celebration of their marriage. Saturday 10th April 2:00pm at the church Followed by an afternoon tea.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2nd - Georgia Bennett  
2nd - Brian Moss  
9th - Josh Kimberley  
10th - Tino Kunaka  
12th - Bernice Raynel  
21st - Dephine Mazhanga  
23rd - Carl Brandt  
23rd - Jonathan Miers  
28th - Elmarie Botes

## CONTACTS

**Secretary:** Paul & Wendy Goble  
07 843 6807  
**Treasurer:** Carl Brandt 07 854 8909  
**Deacon:** Peter Moss 07 829 4559  
**Sunday school & youth:**  
Tom & Glenyss Bennett 07 854 5423  
**Overseers:** Bill Goble, Neville Brandt  
**Care Coordinators:**  
Raewyn Moss, Glenyss Bennett

## COMING UP:

Saturday 10 April - Doris and Peter's wedding

Sunday 11 April - shared church lunch

## Reflection #1 - We Were Created for Something Bigger than Ourselves

Philippians 2:4 describes what the healthy Christian life looks like: “not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” But to be honest, this seems out-of-this-world absurd. And the reason it does is obvious, isn’t it? What about my interests? We are hardwired to focus on ourselves first. For me, thinking of myself, my circumstances, my plans, my future, my feelings, is as natural as the sun coming up every morning. Jesus even recognized our prior commitment to ourselves: “Love your neighbour as *yourself*.” His point wasn’t, “Love yourself.” His point was that we *already* do love ourselves.

Jesus did not mean that we all think we’re wonderful. He was simply meaning that regardless of our self-esteem, we are our number one priority. However, this fixation with ourselves is not psychologically healthy. Our own experiences verify that we are the most content when we forget ourselves. When that happens our internal world experiences peace. Perhaps you’ve been so caught up in movie that you forget yourself. Maybe it was amazing scenery that captivated your attention and for a brief moment you weren’t focusing on yourself. All Blacks vs Wallabies games will often cause me to forget myself. When Luke was 13 I took him to a Big Bash cricket match in Brisbane. I have a photo of him where his eyes communicate pure delight. When Kathleen saw it she said, “He looks so happy!” And he was. And yet at that moment his focus was not on himself.

Here’s the point: we may be hardwired to fixate on ourselves, but we were created to be captivated by something bigger, something outside of ourselves. When we see Jesus face to face the one thing we won’t be thinking about is ourselves! We won’t be thinking about what we are missing, how we look, what other people think about us, the project we need to get back to. For the first time ever we will be completely wrapped up in something *other than our own interests*. And yet at that moment we will have never been happier. Never!

Here’s the principle, then, that follows from this: *our internal peace and contentment increases the more and more we are able to forget about ourselves*. If there was any motivation to live moment by moment in the presence of God, this is it. No one ever achieved contentment and joy by focusing on their own interests. Whether it be trying to improve their

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*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*  
Philippians 2:4

looks, checking facebook for the number of likes on a post, ruminating on a problem, daydreaming, stewing, trying to rationalise away anxiety, mapping out a pathway to success, none have proven to improve our psychological well being.

**Here’s the point for reflection:** if we are going to become Philippians 2:4 type people, we need to believe with all of our hearts that valuing the interests of others before our own will not be an obstacle to what we all long for.

What do you think? Discuss this at the dinner table, meet up at a cafe, at school or uni. What questions does this raise? And stay tuned . . .  
>> Alan Stanley

## PRAYER POINTS

- Neal Kerr has his exams on 15 April
- Neal and Jasmin as they get ready for their new baby’s arrival mid-April
- Bernice Raynel as she recovers from her falls and settles into her new home at Bupa Foxbridge Retirement Village
- Winnie Wang as she completes her home isolation by early April

## APRIL 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> 7:00p choir practice @ church	<b>2</b> Good Friday	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:30a church speaker: Mark Budenberg wl: Paul Goble <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>5</b> Easter Monday	<b>6</b> 7:30p young adults Bible study @ Goble's	<b>7</b> 7:30p high school Bible study @ Bennett's	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 2:00p Doris & Peter's wedding
<b>11</b> 10:30a church speaker: Carl Brandt <b>shared lunch</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30p young adults Bible study @ Goble's	<b>14</b> 7:30p leadership meeting @ Neville's	<b>15</b> 7:00p choir practice @ church	<b>16</b> 10:00a roving fellowship @ the Ireland's	<b>17</b> YG/YA's @ Confinement Escape Rooms
<b>18</b> 10:30a church speaker: Paul Goble wl: Tom Bennett	<b>19</b> school holidays	<b>20</b> 7:30p young adults Bible study @ Goble's	<b>21</b> 7:30p high school Bible study @ Bennett's	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:30a church speaker: Alan Stanley wl: Paul Goble	<b>26</b> school holidays	<b>27</b> 6:30p young adults Bible study @ Stanley's	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00p choir practice @ church	<b>30</b> 12:00p roving fellowship @ the Olde Creamery Cafe	