



AnglicanLife

He Oranga Mihinare

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INVITING / FORMING / SENDING / SERVING

**Prayers, Laughter,
Tears, Hope**

**Reflections on the
Deconsecration**

**“We remember with
thanksgiving...”**

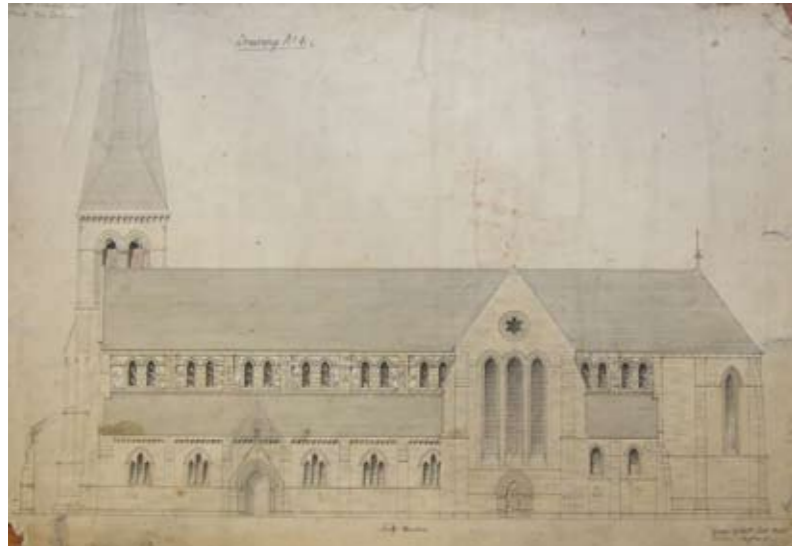
**Rebuilding the Faith
of Canterbury**

**Diocese of Christchurch
COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE
November 2011**

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Cover Photo: David Wethey

Left: George Gilbert Scott's south elevation of ChristChurch Cathedral CADA.

Potential for Ministry

WORDS: +VICTORIA MATTHEWS **PHOTO:** DAVID WETHEY

Most Anglicans will never attend a service of deconsecration of a church, let alone a Cathedral. Prior to our earthquakes I had only presided over a couple of deconsecrations in sixteen years of episcopal ministry. But now I am quite practised and accustomed to the liturgy of returning a church to secular use.

Along the way I have met a few misunderstandings about what is actually happening. In fact the action is very simple, if deeply emotional: that which was sacred becomes secular, so that demolition or deconstruction can proceed. In the best instances the deconsecration of a church encourages the people to look forward to the future rebuild or new build, the potential for ministry; it creates a heightened sense of mission.

The deconsecration of our beloved Cathedral has affected us all and

has apparently invited many misunderstandings in the wider community. Therefore I will say again what I have said many times since 22 February 2011: this Diocese had a most wonderful Cathedral and we will have one again. Indeed it is the only church that we know for sure we will rebuild in the Diocese. Therefore the time is right to concentrate on mission, so that when we do rebuild, hopefully on the same site, we can rebuild for the mission of Christ for this Diocese in the 21st century.

In the meantime many different churches will have a chance to be the Cathedral for a day. I am most grateful for parishes such as St Christopher's and St Michael's, which have made their sacred space available for Diocesan services.

We hope and expect that a temporary structure will be built by the Cathedral by Easter 2012 in the centre of the city.



Sometimes this proposal is called the Cardboard Cathedral and sometimes the Transitional Cathedral. We are hopeful that a site, business plan, and mission proposal will be available very soon. The purpose of this temporary church is clearly to provide a sacred space in the centre of the city to allow worship and mission to be offered to the Glory of God in Christ Jesus and the power of the Spirit.

In closing I want to thank the Cathedral clergy, Chapter, staff, and regulars, led by the Dean, for their resilience and courage through these difficult days.

To God be the Glory. ■

+Victoria Christchurch



Reflections on the Deconsecration

WORDS: MEGAN BLAKIE PHOTOS: DAVID WETHEY

Less than a fortnight after the Cathedral celebrated its 130th birthday, it became a secular place, still dear to people's hearts as the broken icon of a broken city, but no longer the spiritual hub of the diocese.

On All Saints' Day, 1 November 1881, Bishop Harper consecrated the cathedral "by the name of Christ's Church to the service of Almighty God". Thirteen decades later, on 9 November 2011, the Right Reverend Victoria Matthews, eighth Bishop of Christchurch, deconsecrated the same Cathedral in a brief service.

In legal terms, the service was a matter of revoking the Sentence of Consecration bestowed by Henry Harper, the first Anglican Bishop of Christchurch. To the six busloads of people assembled

in front of the cordoned-off steps of the west porch ruins, it was the farewell to an old and dear friend. Dean Peter Beck said it was "rather like the Maori custom of raising the tapu", to which some murmured "ae" [yes].

After the formalities, people milled about in a sombre mood, quietly chatting to each other.

A group of ordained women shed tears and shared stories amongst themselves about cathedral events that were significant to them.

"I buried a daughter from there, married a daughter in there, had a son who was a chorister and a nephew a chorister – we've got a lot of history in that place," reflected the Reverend

Kirstie McDonald, herself ordained in the cathedral.

The women recalled prayer vigils and historic moments that the cathedral's walls had witnessed.

"Bishop David [Coles] brought all of us [together]; all the women had a eucharist to celebrate the ordination of women in the UK," recalled one of the group.

Cathedral volunteer of 12 years, Stephanie Sturge, was in the cathedral complex when the February earthquake struck.

"I needed to look at the visitor's centre; I escaped from there," she said matter of factly. "[The deconsecration] is sad but I'm not actually tearful; I'm

introspective. We just move on and God calls us to new things.”

Congregation member John Bruerton described his gratitude for the cathedral’s choral traditions. His son, Chris, spent his formative years singing in the cathedral choir, and has recently been accepted into the prestigious English-based ensemble, the King’s Singers.

“My boy spent 15 years here. He was very fortunate...he got great tuition and friendship and support here. He has a lot to be thankful for to the diocese and [the cathedral]; they nurtured him.”

Linda McGilvery, who trained the cathedral’s servers for 16 years and was a server herself, wore commemorative jewellery for the occasion. Her silver



■ Bishop Victoria greets Julie Andrews, long-time Cathedral Verger after the service of deconsecration.

earrings depicted the cathedral’s rose window and her necklace was a cross fashioned out of old slates taken from the cathedral roof when it was repaired a number of years ago.

“It’s a very special place to the city as well as to those of us who worshipped here regularly,” she said about the remnants of the cathedral building. “I’ve been part of it for 30 years. It was a hard thing to do [to come today] but it’s part of that grieving process, of letting go.”

“It’s the end of that era and it’s time for a new start,” she said, echoing the hope in Christ that Bishop Victoria conveyed in her address during the service. ■

Prayers, Laughter, Tears, Hope

WORDS: PETER BECK, DEAN OF CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL (2002-PRESENT) PHOTO: DAVID WETHEY

I have been the Dean of Christchurch for nine years, and it has been the most amazing and privileged of positions to have in this Church. There are times when I have sat on my own in the Cathedral and we have had a 'conversation' and got to know each other and the sacredness it embraces.

Even when it has been as busy as can be with visitors, the Cathedral has exuded warmth and welcome and serenity to people of all faiths and none. It truly has been a house of prayer in our Anglican tradition.

The building, beautiful as it has been, could not do this on its own, of course. It is, and has been, a building for people: the

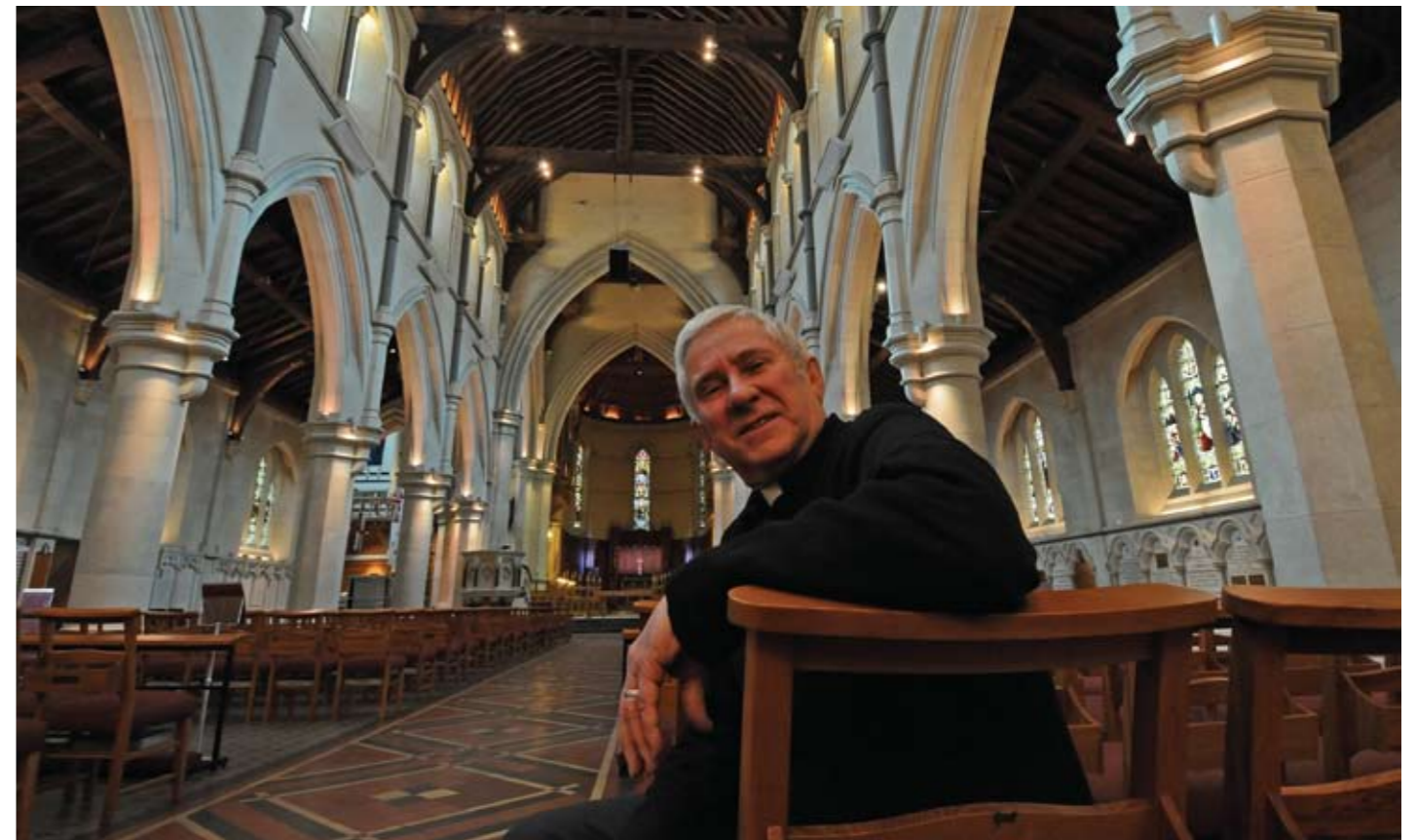
walls soaked in the prayers, the laughter and tears, the hopes and aspirations of millions over the years.

As well as being the cathedral church for our Diocese and the seat of our Bishop, it has been a place where the city comes to celebrate and grieve. I have always rejoiced at the opportunity we have to engage with the life of the city, minister to its needs, and seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The unique relationship between the Anglican Church and the city goes right back to our beginnings. The diocese and city share a common birthday!

I give thanks to God for the faithful ministry of so many who have been the living stones of this place. Today's living stones, the Cathedral Regulars, look to the future with hope and confidence in the grace and love of God.

God is guiding this community of faith into an amazing future of on-going service to Christ in the diocese, the city, and beyond. Dag Hammarskjöld's famous phrase sums it up: "For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes!" ■





How Will We Sing the Lord's Song...?

WORDS: BRIAN LAW, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL PHOTOS: PHILIP BALDWIN, CHRIS OLDHAM

Six months before the Cathedral's consecration in 1881, Cathedral Grammar School – the Cathedral's choir school – was already established. Bishop Harper and the cathedral chapter were determined to have a choir in the English cathedral tradition 'up and singing' from the time of the consecration service.

Three Directors of Music – J.C. Bradshaw, Foster Browne, and David Childs – spanned 100 years of the choir's history, integrating the choir into the life of the Cathedral and Christchurch. The 130-year tradition of men and boys singing at Sunday services and weekday evensongs continued uninterrupted, until it abruptly ceased on 22 February 2011.

Thousands of sets of literally irreplaceable service music, gathered over the choir's history, are now lost in the rubble.

Although the Cathedral organ was damaged by the quake, initial reports suggest the damage is not severe, and we hope to be able to extract the instrument after the Cathedral has been made safe.

Happily some of the old desktops with engraved choristers' names going back to the 1880s have been recovered.

Morale is high at Cathedral Grammar School as pupils navigate their way round temporary classrooms, even though the School's old brick building has already suffered demolition, and two others have yet to come down. Plans are currently being made for a revamped School.

The Choir continues in good voice and spirit, singing cathedral services in the Christ's College Chapel. The Cathedral community is extremely grateful to the College for its welcoming accommodation of choir, staff, congregation, and an odd assortment of paraphernalia!

On Wednesdays the Choir has been taking its music to damaged churches throughout the diocese, raising funds for the Choir, and for the parishes themselves.

With the Cathedral's deconsecration, the Choir and the congregation are looking forward to an exciting transitional 'Cardboard' Cathedral, and beyond that a new permanent home. ■



“We remember with thanksgiving...”

NZPB, p. 417

WORDS: JANE TEAL, DIOCESAN ARCHIVIST

After the 4 September earthquake the New Zealand Anglican Archives and History Committee presented me with a much appreciated “emergency pack for water deprived Cantabrians” and with it was a card which read *Of all the things I've lost I miss my mind the most.*

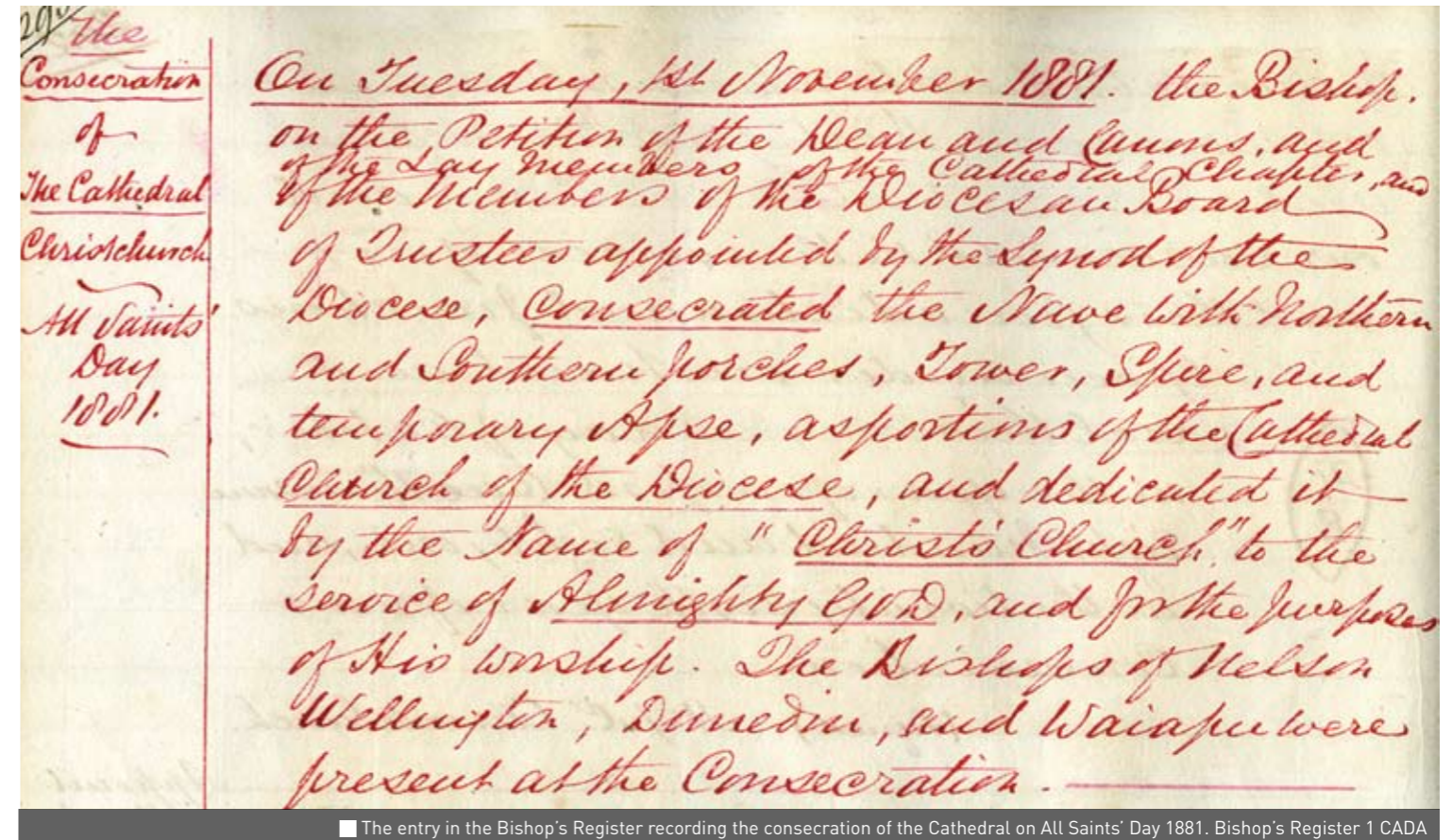
Many of us will understand exactly what this refers to – the inability to find the car keys when you put them down two seconds ago, the need to return to the place you started out to recall exactly why you ended up in a particular room, and the total inability to string a simple sentence together. Yet I would have been more concerned if the card had read

Of the things I've lost I miss my memories the most.

Memories are like a mental boxful of photographs which come to you unbidden and at surprising times, often triggered by an apparently unrelated smell or sight or sound. The smell of warm beeswax candles summons Cathedral choir boys, white surplices, ruffs and red cassocks, singing the invocation at an ordination. When I packed a box labelled, in Bishop David's handwriting, “150th – Jane to sort”, into the second archives container, I was reminded of 2006 when the city and the diocese gathered under the slate roof to celebrate our joint sesquicentennial.

And other local links flood in: the bench mark (6.19m above mean sea level) in the West Porch from which all measurements in Christchurch are taken, the Erebus Chalice in safe keeping during the winter season, the parcels under the Christmas tree, and the laid up flags – reminders of soldiers and explorers who found strength as they set out on behalf of us all for peace and the expansion of the known world.

Individuals too: the members of the Canterbury Association who began it all, Dean Charles Walter Carrington who carved the altar in the Chapel of St Michael and St George in memory of his



■ The entry in the Bishop's Register recording the consecration of the Cathedral on All Saints' Day 1881. Bishop's Register 1 CADA

son Christopher killed on the Somme in 1916, Emily Harper who did not want a skinny bird for a lectern, the death of John Coleridge Patteson and the Pacific Chapel, Pamela Maling's Laudian altar cloth, the tukutuku panels in memory of Allan Pyatt, and George Augustus Selwyn portrayed so elegantly on the pulpit.

A memory of processions on occasions when the stacking chairs in the side aisles were packed so tightly there was hardly enough room to breathe: processions with the primatial cross when the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia came together at General Synod, processions of great sadness as the cathedral walls held close those who had lost family and friends, and processions of the faithful as they made their way regularly and reverently to daily communion.

And I have the advantage of another collection of memories from the archives, memories which will become alive again when the storage containers are unpacked: George Gilbert Scott's plans, service sheets from Royal visits, Benjamin Woolfield Mountfort's and his son Cyril's drawings and their signatures on specifications, the bound copy of

the service of consecration, and many many sermons. It is the photographs in the Cathedral collection which remind me just how different my memories will be from those of other periods in the Cathedral's life. From the outside the Cathedral may look the same, but the interior embraced liturgical change and made worship more accessible.

The architects of ChristChurch Cathedral, their numerous contractors, and their workers constructed a superb building from Portland cement, matai, totara, and rock from quarries in Amberley and the south end of Colombo Street, but these did not give the building warmth. Warmth comes from prayer and the continuity of people who acknowledge the Cathedral as their Anglican home. A warmth so embracing, that even when they were not actually at home, the Cathedral congregation was able to celebrate, with sherry and cake, the 130th anniversary of the building's consecration on All Saints' Day, 2011. ■

■ A copy of the document that, with coins of the realm, was placed under the foundation stone of the Cathedral in 1864. Bishop's Register 1 CADA

✠ IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST. AMEN.

✠ To the honor and glory of **ALMIGHTY GOD**, and in the name and for the advancement of **CHRIST'S HOLY CATHOLICK AND APOSTOLICK CHURCH**, on the xvth day of December, in the year of our **LORD JESUS** MDCCCLXIV., this chief Corner-stone of the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Christchurch is laid by

THE RIGHT REVEREND HENRY J. C. HARPER, D. D.,
(First Bishop of Christchurch),

assisted by the following persons, appointed by the Synod of the Diocese to serve as a Cathedral Commission, namely, the Venerable Henry Jacobs, M.A., Archdeacon of Christchurch; the Rev. James Wilson, M.A.; His Honor Mr. Justice Gresson; the Honorable Henry John Tancred, M.L.C.; Alfred Charles Barker, Esq.; Charles Robert Blakiston, Esq.; Cyrus Davie, Esq.; Richard James Strachan Harman, Esq.; James George Hawkes, Esq., M.P.C.; George Holmes, Esquire; Grosvenor Miles, Esquire; George Arthur Æmilius Ross, Esquire, M.P.C.

This Cathedral Church is to be erected from the Designs and Drawings of

GEORGE GILBERT SCOTT, ESQUIRE, R.A.,
Architect, London, England;

and

ROBERT SPEECHLY, ESQUIRE, M.R.I.B.A.,
Resident Architect, Christchurch.

✠ GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, ON EARTH
PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN.

94
A.D. 1864
✠ IN HONOREM SANCTE TRINITATIS
PATRIS, FILII, SPIRITUS SANCTI, ✠

Hunc Lapidem Angularem
Ecclesie Cathedralis **ÆDIS-CHRISTI**, in urbe **Æde-Christi**,
Posuit Vir admodum Reverendus
Henricus J. C. Harper, S.T.P.
Primus **Ædis-Christi** Episcopus;
Civitatis Cantuariensis Natali Die Quatuordecimo,
Die Decembris XVI.^{mo}.

Anno Victoriae Reginae XXVIII.^{vo}.
Redemptionis nostrae
MDCCCLXIV.^{to}.

Circumstante Clero Populoque
Et grato animo recordante

Quot et quanta beneficia **DEUS O: M:**

Omnium bonorum Auctor,

Britanniae filiis, hanc novam patriam colentibus, largitus sit,

Et summâ vi nitentium

Alteram ut Angliam matre non indignam condant,

Spes et consilia

Quam prospero usque adhuc eventu secundaverit;

Necnon et precante,

Sicut universa Christi Ecclesia immota manet in Saxo fundata

Et usque ad mundi finem est mansura,

Ita **Ædes Christi** hoc Lapide Angulari innixa

Invictæ in Christum fidei inconcussteque

In omnes futuros annos

Testis exstet firma, pulchra, nobilis, conspicua.

Ab initio usque ad exitum hujus Operis

Adm DEUS,

Laborique nostro faveat propitius

Amen.

LAUS DEO.





■ The Cathedral regularly hosted the Festival of Flowers.

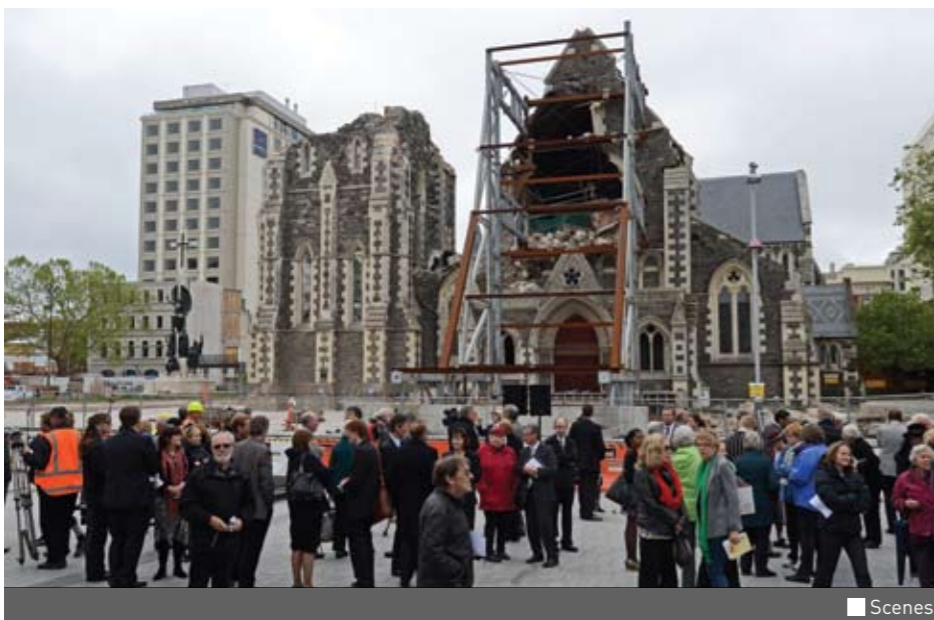
Ministry in and around the Cathedral

WORDS: DAVID COLES, DEAN OF CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL (1984-90), SEVENTH BISHOP OF CHRISTCHURCH (1990-2008)

On retreat at Bendigo Station (the home of 'Shrek the sheep') the same week that the Cathedral was deconsecrated, I reflected on some of the most vivid memories of my ministry in and around the Cathedral:

- Meeting and greeting the Queen in 1981 when she unveiled a plaque on the West wall of the Cathedral, and in 2000 when she opened the new Visitors' Centre
- Walking up the Cathedral aisle with my young family to be installed as Dean on a snowy July day in 1984
- Sharing in funeral services for three former Deans of Christchurch and three former Bishops
- Participating in the State funeral for Charles Upham, our most famous soldier
- Praying with total strangers, perhaps entertaining angels unaware!
- Trying not to leave dents as I knocked on the great West door with my Episcopal staff following my ordination as Bishop of Christchurch in 1990
- Presiding at quiet Anzac Day services in the Cathedral with elderly veterans
- Carrying lighted paper lanterns from the Cathedral to the Avon River to float downstream as signs of prayer for peace on Hiroshima Days
- Climbing the bell tower on Easter and Christmas mornings to thank the bell ringers for their joyful noise
- Leading a 5000-strong procession for the 1998 Hikoi of Hope, calling for social justice from a rickety step-ladder in Cathedral Square
- Organising a service in about three hours on 11 September 2001 as we gathered with American and Kiwi friends following the terrorist attacks
- Blessing the Easter Day congregation in 2008 when I retired and laid my episcopal staff on the altar before walking down the aisle to a new ministry by Lake Wakatipu in Queenstown.

Thanks be to God! ■



■ Scenes from the service of deconsecration, 9 November 2011.

A Legacy of Hospitality

WORDS: JOHN BLUCK, DEAN OF CHRISTCHURCH (1990 – 2002) PHOTOS: MEGAN BLAKIE, DAVID WETHEY

There was no better place in this country to stand as an Anglican than the Cathedral in the Square.

In that beautiful building the doctrine of incarnation was embedded like nowhere else. At every point in its track record as a cathedral, it spoke of a God who in Christ is redeeming and renewing the whole world, not just the religious bits; and all people, not only the spiritually inclined; with its doors open, every day of the week, not only on Sundays.

Anglicans are meant to know about

incarnation. When we forgot, the cathedral's story was there to remind us.

So when the city needed a place to cry—over the loss of its big red buses, or its favourite princess, or a war in the Middle East that should never have been fought, or the still painful memory of a fatal department store fire—the cathedral had the venue and the words and the music.

And when we needed to say thank you or to mark a great occasion, like the turn of a new millennium, the cathedral

could do that with a liturgy and a gospel promise about new beginnings; and in response to all the Y2K doomsayers at the time, a song that called us to “Bring in the Clowns”.

It was an enormous privilege to be part of a church that invited all who passed by to make themselves at home, and that practised the art of unconditional hospitality. We could do that because of the legacy of service we inherited.

The earthquakes that killed the building cannot kill that legacy. ■



■ The Cathedral, Advent 2010

Rebuilding the Faith of Canterbury



WORDS: BOB STOREY, DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT PHOTOS: CRAIG DIXON

Bishop Victoria has challenged the whole diocese through “Rebuilding the Faith of Canterbury” to think of others before we fundraise for ourselves, focusing our efforts on the Strategic Plan of the Diocese. “What would it feel like as Christian disciples if every parish and mission unit raised money for others first?” Bishop Victoria asks. Her answer: “I think it would not only feel great, but it also would give glory to God in Christ through the power of the Spirit.”

If you have considered a financial gift to the reconstruction of the Cathedral, would you also give prayerful thought to sharing that gift with other parishes

that need support through their own rebuilding process?

The Diocese of Christchurch is praying and planning for the resources we will need to meet the cost of extensive repairs or complete rebuilds for 24 churches, as well as many vicarages and parish halls which also need rebuilding. Many parishes face costs well beyond their insurance cover.

Our Bishop has challenged us with a unique opportunity: “to be even better equipped to do God’s will in these difficult times”. The Strategic Plan for the diocese—Raising up Young Leaders, Faithful Stewardship, and Christ-

centred Leadership—is one expression of our mission; another is rebuilding the faith of Canterbury by helping each other to repair or replace damaged and destroyed buildings.

Your generous gift to the recovery efforts of churches, parish halls, vicarages, and the Cathedral will be a blessing to the generations yet to come, as we seek to create a glorious blending of old and new elements that will remember the past and provide for the future. We pray that your vision, like ours, will stretch even further than Cathedral Square to help with rebuilding the faith of Canterbury. ■



Persistence of Vision

WORDS: LYNDA PATTERSON PHOTO: PHILIP BALDWIN

About 160 years ago, the founders of the Canterbury Association sat in their London clubs and through the fog of cigar smoke and the clink of port glasses, they dreamed of a settlement on the other side of the world. It was an audacious vision for a cobbled-together community of wide mud roads and simple wooden houses. Plans for a cathedral were commissioned later from George Gilbert Scott, the most famous Gothic Revival architect of the day, even though no one could say exactly where the money would come from.

On a wet day in 1864, the foundation stone was laid, and the whole town hung streamers to celebrate. Then nothing happened for almost a decade. The only evidence of a building was a foundation overgrown with grass, described by the novelist Anthony Trollope on his visit to Christchurch in 1872 as “a huge record of failure”.

Yet somehow the dream persisted. For nearly a quarter of a century, the Cathedral had existed almost entirely in the imagination of the people of Christchurch.

The consecration of the building in 1881 was much less impressive than the sheer faith which kept the vision alive in those years when there was no progress at all.

We need some of that faith and perseverance now. Isaiah 51:1-6 offers us a vision of the way ahead. Remember the rock from which you were hewn, says Isaiah. Remember who you are and the promises that God has given to you. Remind yourselves of the stories of those who went before you, who acted with faith and imagination on the promises of God. Despite the delays and the struggle, God never abandoned them. He won't abandon you either.

Remember the rock from which you were hewn. Christ Church Cathedral was a vision long before it was a reality, and we are invited now to rediscover that vision again. In the end, a church is much more than an edifice of stones and mortar. It's a community of reliance on Jesus Christ, built on the stories of our ancestors in the faith, and it only grows stronger with adversity. ■

