17 August 2025

The Lord's justice will dwell in the desert,
his righteousness lives in the fertile field.
The fruit of that righteousness will be peace;
its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.
Isaiah 32:16-17

The desert can be a place of solace and contemplation or it can be a time of loneliness and barrenness. I read this passage from Isaiah and I think about the desert as a place where God's justice dwells. And I think that the justice of God could be something that is incredibly hopeful where it gives us reassurance that God will make things right and will provide something good and right through God.

But the desert can also be a place of critique where we are forced to confront our actions and motivations. To deal with the inequalities we have consciously or unconsciously been a part of. A space to reflect, repent and restitute.

Perhaps we need to dwell in the deserts for a while in order to appreciate the fertile fields even more. Allow God's justice to speak into our lives, our failures, our grief?

What are the deserts you have been through recently? What is the fertile fields you look forward to?

Jas

CHURCH SERVICE TODAY

Service Leader: Jas
Preacher: Jas

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER: 9.45am in Barrett Room

READINGS:
1 Corinthians 10:23-24

The Worship Hymns and Songs:
Psalm 100 (Doxology)
Change My Heart O God/Create in Me a Clean Heart
Hosanna (I see the King of Glory)
Jesu Jesu

CELEBRATIONS:
Birthdays: *Barbara Peacock, Robert Worsford, Nathan Begley*
Wedding Anniversaries:
May The Lord bless you and keep you well 😊

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Mon 18 August:	**1 John 4:1-6**
Tue 19 August:	**Acts 7:44-53**
Wed 20 August:	**Luke 19:45-48**
Thu 21 August:	**Hebrews 12:3-17**
Fri 22 August:	**Acts 17:1-9**
Sat 23 August:	**Luke 6:1-5**
Sun 24 August:	**Luke 13:10-17**

NOTICES: -

- **Tuesday 19th August:** Young Adults, 7pm in the Stewart Lounge
- **Wednesday 20th August:** Pastoral Care meeting, 1.30pm Reflection Room, Charles Upham
- **Thursday 21st August:** Prayer Meeting, 1.30pm, Barrett Room

- **Friday 22nd August:** Hard Knox Café, 6.30 – 8.30pm, Dudley Park Pools
- **Registrations for 150th:** please share with your friends and family – keep them coming in!
- **Church Fair and Kids Market**: please indicate on the sheets in the foyer if and where you are able to help. Many hands make light work 😊
- **Meal Ministry stationery:** there is an Owl notebook and pen in the top shelf in the freezer. This is for the Meal Ministry and not to be removed please. Thank you, Sue
- **Membership:** If you're considering membership, transferring membership or have questions, please speak with Jason anytime.
- **Save the Date:** Church Fair 18th October.

July 2025

	Current Month		Year to Date		Annual	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Forecast
Total Months Giving	8,346	7,420	8,346	7,420	96,460	97,396

Prayer for our friends:
Our neighbouring Parishes: Oxford Union, Kaiapoi Co-operating Parish, Kowai-Cheviot Presbyterian Parish Amberley as they go through seasons of change, *John Forrester and wider family, Janice and Ross Wilson, Donna Abernethy, family of Edna van der Loon*, *Clare Calder*, *Neil and Sue Burt*, *Mary Stewart and Ian Cormack.*

CHURCH DUTY ROSTER FOR AUGUST 2025

17 August

Elder Duty: Bill White	**Door Duty**: Kim Fletcher and Margaret Vallance
Power Point: Tracy Mayhew	**Mini Bus:** Richard
Morning Tea:	**Offering Count:**

Lynette Fowler and Gaye Edwards	Tracy/Richard
Readings: Anne M	**Heroes Leader:** Kate
Prayers: Ewen Nichol	**Fun with Music:** Anne M (18th)

24 August

Elder Duty: Kayla Crampton	**Door Duty**: Lincoln and Anne Moffat
Power Point: April McMurdo	**Mini Bus:** Richard and Lana
Morning Tea: Moira Courtney and Marlene Hopkinson	**Offering Count:** Tracy/Alan Mcl
Readings: Joan Shearer	**Heroes Leader:** Jas
Prayers: Eric	**Fun with Music:** Mary Blaikie

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