

*Pauatahanui Song* by Sam Hunt

On the shell-bank this morning  
I counted seven flights of  
bird: the blue white-faced heron,  
terns and shag and wild duck,  
pied stilt, oyster-catchers and  
an old man black-back, biggest  
bird of all and the boldest.

On the shell-bank this morning  
I watched as your small town woke,  
the little Anglican church  
pointing to God as if He  
were some place else — the church has  
got it wrong again! God lives  
in Pauatahanui  
and will do, long as you're there.

On the shell-bank this morning  
the old man black-back and I,  
a couple of small-town toughs  
cautiously eyeing each other.  
I have no idea what he  
plans to do today. For me,  
I thought I might roam on up,  
join God! Like see if you're home.

On the shell-bank this morning,  
our world afloat, your small town  
beached at the top of the long tide,  
and God not quite sure where He  
should be, and me not knowing where  
for sure you are, but wishing  
you could join me and the birds  
on the shell-bank this morning.

Published in *Stronghold of Faith* by  
Helen Balham which tells the history  
of St Alban's, Pauatahanui.

**Pauatahanui** Anglicans 

Vicar: Rev Pete Watson

Parish of Pauatahanui

11 Steyne Avenue

Plimmerton

Telephone 04 233 9781

[pauanglican@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pauanglican@xtra.co.nz)

[www.pauanglican.org.nz](http://www.pauanglican.org.nz)

Honorary Manager of the Burial Ground

Margaret Blair

04 2399 642



**St Alban's Burial Ground**  
**4 Paekakariki Hill Road**  
**Pauatahanui**

*A close worshipping relationship with  
the Parish of Pauatahanui is required  
of those to be buried here.*

*Applications through the Parish Office.*

## Pauatahanui Burial Grounds

In 1856 a little more than one acre of land at Pauatahanui, was given by Thomas Hollis Stace and vested in local Trustees for the purpose of erecting a Chapel for the use of "all denominations of Protestant Christians resident in Pauatahanui and neighbourhood." The Chapel was built in 1857.

In 1856 provision was made for the land not required for the Chapel to be a public Burial Ground. This is the cemetery on the right-hand side of the drive leading to St Alban's Church. The holly hedge marks the boundary between the two properties. The chapel fell into disuse after St Alban's was built in 1896.

In 2007 the ownership of the Public Burial Ground was handed over to the Porirua City Council. For this to take place an Act of Parliament was required.

When it was seen that the public Burial Ground was filling up, the land around St Alban's was consecrated as a Burial Ground on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1930. Many of the vicars who have worked in the parish are buried at St Alban's.

In the 1970s a Columbarium for ashes was built near the entrance to the church.

In St Alban's there are Honours Boards naming the Pauatahanui men who served in the two World Wars. A service of remembrance is held on ANZAC day.

## St Alban's Burial Ground

- ✚ St Alban's is now a lawn cemetery. No permanent flowers or shrubs are allowed in this lawn cemetery. The Parish is responsible for maintaining the burial ground, so decisions about its use are made by the Vestry.
- ✚ Applications for plots are to be made through the Parish Office. Burial plots are not available for pre purchase. The Vicar, or nominee, is to be present at all burials.
- ✚ A headstone or plaque is required within twelve months. The design is to be submitted to the Parish of Pauatahanui for approval by the Burial Ground Managers.
- ✚ The care of individual plots is the responsibility of the family. Please keep the burial ground tidy and remove spent flowers. Other tributes such as toys, personal effects etc are not permitted on any grave.

## Columbarium

- ✚ A close relationship with the parish is required.
- ✚ Applications for plots are to be made through the Parish Office. Please ensure that information of purchase is kept in a safe place for reference. The Vicar, or nominee, is to be present when ashes are placed in the niche.
- ✚ Please keep the area around the wall tidy and remove spent flowers.
- ✚ The wording on the plaques is to be approved by the Honorary Manager of the Burial Ground.
- ✚ The preparation for placing and the final fixing of the plaque will be carried out by the Honorary Manager of the Burial Ground.