

Cherry Parker's October 2019 Newsletter

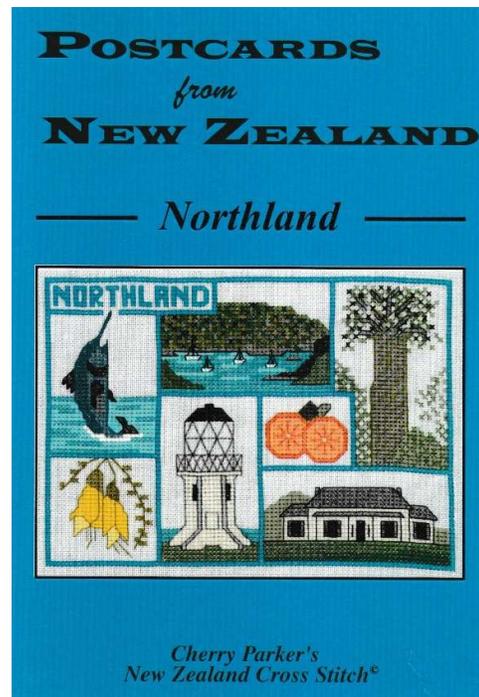
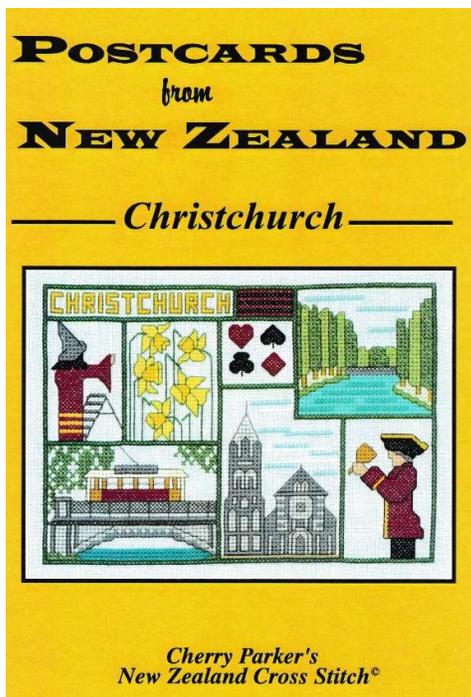
Over the years I stitched designs depicting areas of New Zealand. There are still many requests for these designs mainly from visitors who have found them one way or another.

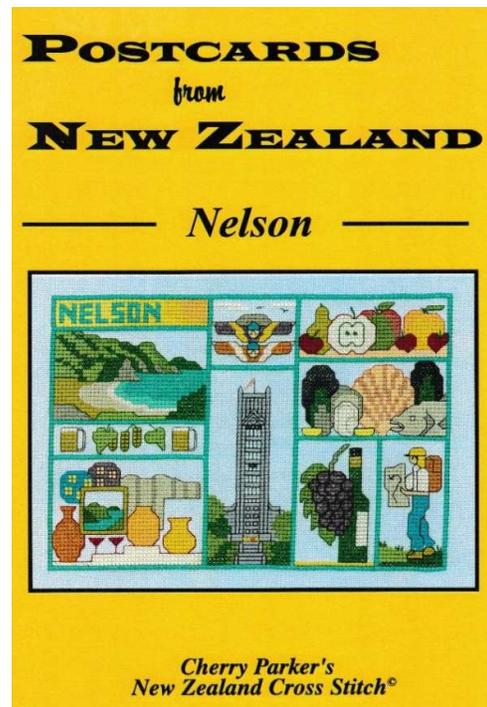
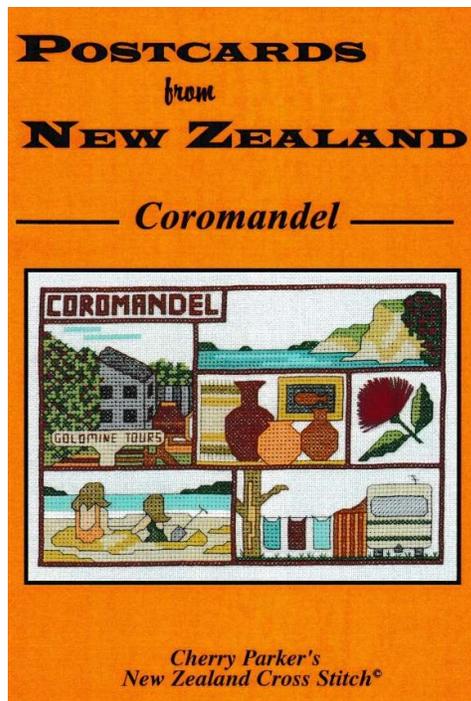
Individual smaller designs that go to make up each pattern are produced commercially as kits, but the paper patterns are no longer sold in needlework and tourist shops as they once were.

Time and sales reps move on and with the availability of many patterns online, it is not always economical for shops to stock dozens of patterns. The internet has certainly changed the way we shop.

There will always be that product that has to be tried on or touched and handled to see how it feels or looks, but there are some things like a cross stitch patterns that can be easily accessed on line. We can sit in our comfy chair and browse far more patterns than we can ever see in one shop.

Below are 4 examples of these designs that I have stitched over the years. Sadly, Christchurch doesn't look the same any more after suffering several large earthquakes.





So the task begins of putting these patterns into my new graph program – slowly – and making them available in a downloadable format. Also giving the covers and pictures a modern spruce-up.

As I graph each one I will add one of the small designs as a **freebie** to the newsletter.

The first pattern to be revamped is Christchurch. The pattern was designed several years before the earthquakes that devastated Christchurch city and surrounding suburbs.

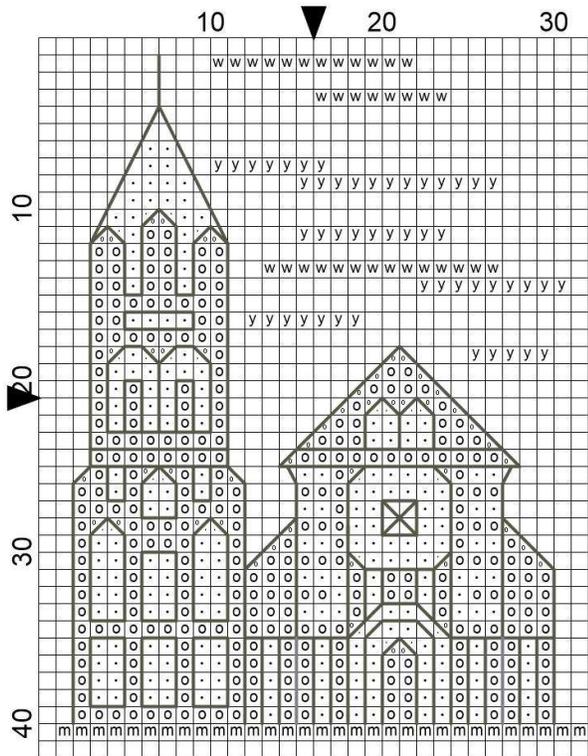
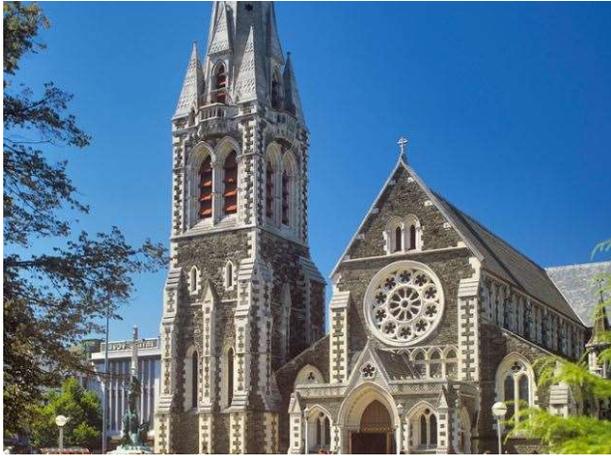
To this day the cathedral lies in ruins which is indeed a sad sight. Many of Christchurch's buildings have been removed due to the fact they are unsafe. Suburbs have become ghost towns where residents are unable to live in their homes and have moved away.

The first 7.1 magnitude earthquake was on **Saturday 4th September 2010**. Widespread damage occurred but there was no loss of life.

The second 6.3 magnitude earthquake on **Tuesday 22nd February 2011** and was centred only 40km west of the city. 185 people were killed and there was major damage to the land, buildings and infrastructure.

The third earthquake 6.3 magnitude happened on **23rd December 2011** followed by another 5.3 magnitude an hour later. Further buildings and land damage occurred with liquefaction and major rockfalls.

More than 11,200 aftershocks have been felt since September 2010, the last being on 23rd July 2019.



- o 414 Steel Grey
- . 415 Pearl Grey
- bs 535 Ash Grey
- m 841 Beige Brown
- y 3766 Peacock Blue
- w White

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The Cathedral as it was before the earthquakes. The design is stitched with two strands of cotton over two strands of fabric. Back stitch the cathedral with one strand of 535.

The full pattern as seen above is available at my ETSY shop.

<https://www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerDesigns>

How to frame a completed stitching in a hoop

Sometimes it is easier to 'frame' a stitched design in a hoop. And very economical.

Complete the stitching. Wash and iron the fabric.

Cut one circle of felt and one circle of cardboard drawing the template from the inner hoop.

Match the centre of the design with what would be the centre of the hoop and line everything up making sure the fabric is taut in the hoop.

Turn to the wrong side and run a fine line of waterproof glue around the hoop.

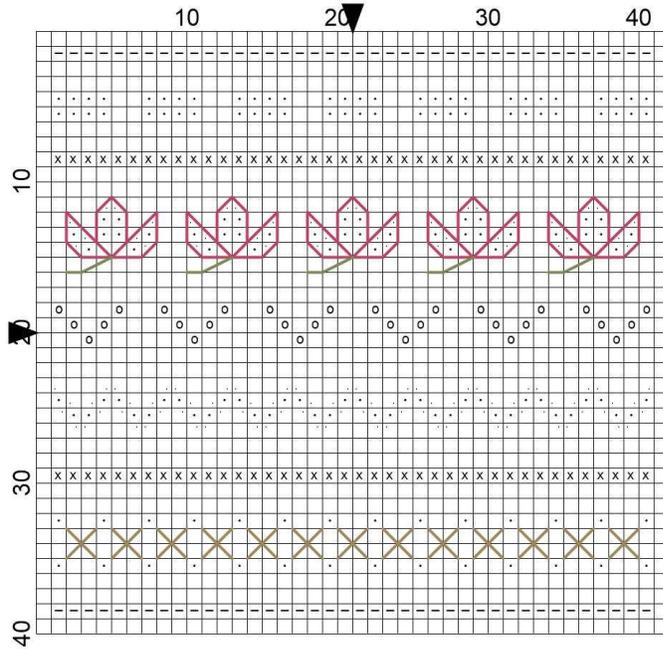


Cut the fabric all the way around about 1" away from the outer hoop. Place the felt in the hoop and fold the cut edge of the fabric to the inside gluing along the wood only, as not to inadvertently mark the fabric at the front. When all the edges have been glued in place insert the circle of cardboard to finish. Tie a narrow ribbon around the screw at the top of the hoop to hang it from.

I have painted the hoop with two coats of red acrylic paint to brighten up the whole thing.



Doodling pattern for this month is a section from my Magnolia design and uses DMC Coloris 4500 called Columbine Gardens as well as some of the plain colours that it is made up of.



| | | |
|----|------|-------------------|
| o | 3013 | Khaki Green |
| - | 3052 | Green Grey |
| bs | 3350 | Dusty Rose |
| x | 3354 | Dusty Rose - Lt |
| . | 4500 | Columbine Gardens |

The design is cross stitched with two strands of thread over two strands of fabric. Back stitch the magnolia petals with one strand of 3350 and the stems with one strand of 3052. When working with 4500 complete each cross stitch as you go.

To get all the magnolias in pink some fussy cutting of the cotton is required. There will be a little bit of waste where the green is cut out. Or keep it in if you wish and have some green, especially the light green incorporated into the flower.

When working with variegated thread complete each cross stitch as you go. This gives a good depth of colour, otherwise the colour will look tweedy.

For those of you who are new to the newsletter, I add a Cross Stitch Doodling pattern each month to my strip. Take a quick look at the front page of my website which will also take you to the page where all the previous free designs can be found.

I am playing with some lovely hand dyed threads at the moment. With so many different colours available from several manufacturers, it is difficult to decide where to begin. All new larger additions to the Doodling strip using these threads beginning next month!



How to easily stitch with variegated cottons such as DMC Variations or any hand dyed threads.

Keeping consistency of colour is the key. Complete each cross stitch as you go. That way you can control the colours flowing from the needle. As you can see from the koru design above I often stitch the outline and then go ahead and fill in the shape. More fun and no counting required as you stitch each row. As long as all the cross stitches are uniformly crossed, you can wander about the shape 'colouring' as you go. If you stitch along the row and then come back you will get a tweedy look.

Every now and then you need to go through your computer and do a bit of housework. Getting rid of things you no longer need and filing things away so you can find them quickly.

While doing exactly this, I found a felt pattern that had never made it into my ETSY shop.

I used some hand dyed wool felt for the design, took all the photos and wrote up the pattern but there it stopped. The Felt Collector is now uploaded and ready to go.



She stands 8" tall and is all sewn from the right side. No tricky turning pieces inside out.

<https://www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerDesigns>

Another month has whizzed by. While purchasing fancy pins and some 'must have' threads last week the assistant reminded me it was only 11 weeks to Christmas. The year has certainly galloped along.

So until next month – keep having fun with your stitching.

Cherry

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Request a pattern, ask a question or unsubscribe at cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz