



ST MARGARET'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2019
JANUARY 2020



FOR
unto us a

Child

is born, Unto us a

Son is given

And the *government* shall be

upon His shoulder

And His name shall be called

WONDERFUL

Counsellor

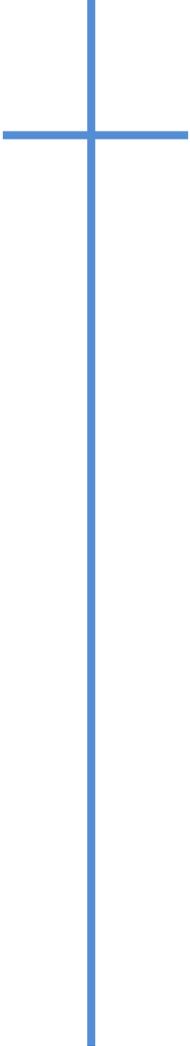
The Mighty God

The Everlasting Father

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

ISAIAH

9:6



Greetings,

Christmas decorations seem to have taken a new direction this year. Yes, there are the traditional trees – often in designer colours – and the baubles, wreaths and lights (of which there seems to be a huge variety) along with a few I haven't mentioned, but there are some additional features this year. Retailers seem to have gone nuts over reindeer, nutcrackers and a huge population of what look like little men with pointy hats and long white beards - possibly part of the tribe of 'elfies'!

In among all this cute, perhaps cuddly, and frequently crass Christmas adornments it is difficult to find a manger. That difficulty was something shared by the shepherds - after all which stable in Bethlehem did the angels say that baby was in. Similarly, it was shared by those three sages. These latter gentlemen were not expecting to find the king they were looking for in a stable. Right from his birth Jesus turned expectations on their head.

The month of November has, among other things a focus on the White Ribbon campaign. Attention is drawn to the prevalence of domestic and/or family violence within New Zealand. It is reported that the police attended on average one family harm incident every four minutes in the last twelve months. This year the focus has been on challenging the unspoken rules that are an implicit behind statements such as “toughen up”, “boys don't cry”, and “be the man.” These are signals of rules that sit silently in the background and reinforce unhelpful stereotypes of what it means to be a man.

Being a man is exactly what God did at Christmas. That baby boy born to first time parents in Bethlehem was God incarnate, God become human; born because “God so loved the world that he sent his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16).

The significance of that gift is trivialised in a post-Christendom preoccupation with reindeer, elves and the like. Yet despite that we can still celebrate the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love that was in that first Christmas. We get to imagine the wonder that Joseph felt as he held the baby for the first time; the relief and joy that Mary had once the birth was over. And of course there was the peace that was given to those terrified shepherds before they went down into the town to find the stable so that they could return to the fields joyful, while the three sages were amazed that a King would be born in a stable - because God so loved the world.

1 December marks the beginning of a new church year. 1 January marks the beginning of a new calendar year. In December we wait to celebrate a new year, the birth of the Son of God and for the return of the Messiah. May your waiting be blessed with hope, with peace, with joy and infused with love.

Season's greetings and blessings to you and those you love.



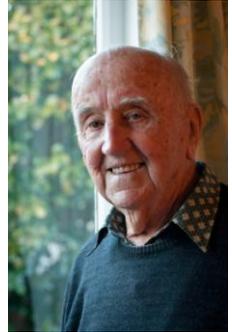
Personal Notes

Our condolences to Margaret Parker and her family, at the recent death of her husband, Morris. You are all in our thoughts and prayers as in our own ways we grieve with you. May you know the presence of the Holy Spirit with you.

Our best wishes to all those who have completed or are in the middle of the end of year examination's cycle. May all your hard work be rewarded.

For those who are travelling away over Christmas and New Year period and into the summer that January will offer we pray that your travel will be safe, and that it will provide you with an opportunity to relax and regenerate your energy for the coming year.

Thank you to all the leaders of those parts of our church family that are now taking a recess over the summer period; the women's fellowship, Girls Brigade, play group, and friendship group, Sunday school and youth group. May you be filled with energy and enthusiasm for the coming year.



Advent studies – Living Nativity

A series of four studies is planned for Advent. These will be held on Tuesdays beginning on Tuesday 26 November at 10:30 a.m. and will be repeated also on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. for those who are unable to make the morning study. The theme is Living Nativity which has a focus on those that were involved in the nativity including the Magi, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the animals. The study is intended to last between forty-five minutes and an hour each time.

Lectionary:

1 Dec. Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44
 8 Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7,18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
 15 Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11
 22 Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25
 29 Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23
 5 Jan. Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-9
 12 Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17
 19 Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
 26 Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1,4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23
 2 Feb. Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12



Children, Youth & Families @ St.Margaret's December 2019 and January 2020

PLAY GROUP

Last day for Play Group is Thursday 12 December, finishing with a special party. Please bring a plate of food suitable to the children.

First day back next year is Thursday 13 February (the first Thursday is Waitangi Day) 10am.

May the peace, joy, love and hope of Christmas be with you all.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Christmas pageant is only weeks away on the 8th of December, so please encourage your children to keep attending so we can practice.

We will follow our pageant with a morning tea party for the children. Our last Sunday School for the year is the 15th of December.

GIRLS' BRIGADE

Girls' Brigade finished off 2019 with their prize giving on Tuesday 12 November. It was a lovely evening and made extra special with the presentation of three Brigader Brooches.

The Girls' Brigade Brigader Brooch is the highest national award girls can receive. To receive this award, girls must earn all four Pioneer Triangles, attend 4 Pioneer events with girls from other Companies, go to a camp and do service ours within their community and their GB Company. This year Taryn Norton, Grace McTaggart and Beth Hurran received this award.





Beth Hurren, Taryn Norton and Grace McTaggart



25th Hutt Valley Girls' Brigade 2019

Absent: Maddie May, Hazel and Annie McCulloch and Emma Taylor

Girls' Brigade will resume in February 2020. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year. Have a wonderful break.

CONTACTS

Sunday School Nikki - 5288106

Playgroup, Pat – 9380374

Girls Brigade Delwyn – 9769116 and Emma - 0210 822 0990

SESSION NOTES

Families and Community Outreach Coordinator position - No firm applications were received by the closing date, but we are still working on it! Please include this in your prayers.

Sunday School and Youth Group members make wonderful contributions to our worship in many ways. The annual Christmas Pageant is something to look forward to at the service on Sunday 8 December. Every year there is a slightly different slant on the Christmas story and a growing use of technology. A huge effort and no small amount of stress is expended by Sunday School and Youth Group leaders and the young people involved in putting the Pageant together. We are grateful to have them all in our church family and thank them for their contribution.

Thanks for the hard work for the Fair, Plant Sale and All Things Christmas Sale. There are many people who work hard for these events, but special thanks must go to the organisers - Lorna Moir, Margaret Opray and Marilyn Anderson - who each deserve a medal. Their job for the fair at the beginning of November was lightened by the commitment and hard work of Clive McGovern who spent many hours at the church sorting the enormous pile of goods arriving each day. Thank you Clive!

Please note the Christmas Services, finishing dates for programmes, details for collection of toys and baking for Family Works - all mentioned in other parts of this newsletter.



A huge thank you to everyone who made, crafted, baked, donated, collected, sorted, set up, sold, purchased, catered, counted and cleared away for the Annual Fair and the All Things Christmas Sale. We are blessed to have so many talented and hard-working people – some out the front and some behind the scenes - making these events a success.

Thank you also to these local businesses and organisations that supported our fundraising activities:

- ***New World Silverstream*** for donating a gift card used to buy ingredients for cake and sweet making and catering
- ***Dzine Signs*** for making and donating the eye-catching signs advertising the All Things Christmas Sale
- ***Rotary Club of Heretaunga*** for sponsoring and running the Sausage Sizzle and for the use of their tables

Your help is much appreciated!

Margaret Opray & Marilyn Anderson

Rosters

Morning Tea

- 1 Dec. Lin Coleman/Karen Coleman
 8 Ruth Mackinder/Lynley McInnarney
 15 Alison McLeod-Jones/Fiona Glover
 22 Jan Hill/Debbie Chote
 29 Lynn Russell/Shirley Main
 5 Jan. Jeanette & Clive McGovern
 12 Riek Kleinjan/Jacqueline Kitchen
 19 Lorna Moir/Margaret Donaldson
 26 Sue Taylor/Delwyn Frederikson
 2 Feb. Loretta Hastie/Margaret Opray

Church Cleaning

- 1 Dec. Ruth Mackinder
 8 Carol McConnell
 15 Rosenda Upton
 22 Helen Bassett
 29 Alison McLeod-Jones
 5 Jan. Margaret Opray
 12 Ainsley Andrews
 19 Fono Williams
 26 Lynley McInnarney
 2 Feb. Ruth Mackinder

Lawns

- 7 Dec. Malcolm Foster
 21 Vern Bennett
 4 Jan. Richard Harrison
 18 Malcolm Galloway
 1 Feb. Mike McInnarney

Audio Visual

- 1 Dec. David Lottering
 8 Alfred Enslin
 15 Hazel O'Brien
 22 Lee Don
 24 Lynley McInnarney
 25 Hazel O'Brien
 29 Scott Taylor-Hall
 5 Jan. David Lottering
 12 Hazel O'Brien
 19 Lee Don
 26 Lynley McInnarney
 2 Feb. Alfred Enslin



All Things Christmas

**Friday 29 November 6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m..
 Tickets \$5 available from Margaret Opray**

**Saturday 30 November 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.
 St. Margaret's Hall**



- **Afternoon Fellowship** Christmas lunch 12.30 p.m. Wednesday 4 December in the church lounge. Cost \$5.00.
- **Evening Fellowship** - Our next meeting is Wednesday 11 December, 7.30pm in the Lounge and we plan a Christmas theme meeting with a group called The Dahlias as musical entertainment. Feel free to bring a friend along to enjoy this Christmas season.
- **Scrapbooking & Card-making Group.** Our first meeting for 2020 will be in February, date to yet be decided on. For information contact Pam Hurly 528.5461.
- **Suffrage in Stitches Summer Exhibition** - Wellington Museum - 10 December-27 April 2020.



St. Margaret's Christmas Choir

We'd love you to join us in rehearsals

Thursdays 5, 12, 19 December

7.30 p.m. in the church

for the

Christmas Music Service

Sunday 22 December 10am

If you need further details, contact Pat 938 0374 or Marilyn 527 8601

CHRISTMAS BAKING AND TOYS for Family Works

Everyone loves to celebrate at Christmas. Every family wants to build happy memories, and we all know, food and gifts go hand in hand at this time of year. St. Margaret's, has a tradition of collecting toys and baking for the families who use the services of Family Works, the Presbyterian Support Central's Upper Hutt centre.

We have set aside a few new toys from the Fair, but we would appreciate extra donations. There will be a carton in the foyer of the hall.

Family Works Centre provides parenting support and education, dispute resolution, social work, strengthening families, courses and resources for new settlers and youth programmes.

Families greatly appreciate our gifts, and home baking.

We will be collecting donations of **toys and baking** on Sunday 8 December for distribution the following week.

No need to wrap toys, but donations of **wrapping paper** are appreciated. We need 2 people with cars to help deliver, please.

Enquiries to Pat Lerwill Phone 938 0374 or email lerwillp@gmail.com

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

The month of October figures include:

Plant Sale - takings on the day and through to the end of October amounted to \$3,965 less costs \$1,346 - net \$2,619.

Insurance premiums \$4,463 paid for the year to 31 July 2020 – Budget \$6,000.

The final payment of \$25,730.43 for the Roof Restoration project.

Annual Fair:

The following figures do not include the fair which was held on 2 November. The take on the day was \$12,926.10 and a further \$483.00 has been added since. Expenses to be paid total \$165.90 excluding advertising. Special thanks go to coordinators Margaret Opray and Marilyn Anderson, but there are so many of you who helped make the event such a success that it would be unfair to single you out for fear of missing someone.

Hall Renovation:

With the building project now essentially complete, we are able to concentrate on the much needed refurbishment of the interior of the Hall. This is planned to start mid December 2019 and continue as required into January 2020, minimizing inconvenience to users. It is appreciated that some may be away on holiday but those who are able to assist with cleaning, sanding, painting etc. are asked to add their name to the list of volunteers on the noticeboard in the Lounge/ Hall foyer, together with preferred times, so that work can be planned.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

July - October 2019 (4 Months)	ACTUAL October Month	ACTUAL 4 mths YTD	Budget 4 mths YTD	Surplus (Deficit) Actual 4 mths v Budget	Projected Year Revised
Offering	7,414	29,060	30,000	-940	87,182
General Donations	650	4,078	7,500	-3,422	12,233
Donation & Grant Family Worker	0	25,000	25,000	0	25,000
Fundraising - Plant Sale	2,619	2,619	1,000	1,619	19,119
Hall Use (excl GST)	762	2,444	1,000	1,444	5,000
Other incl. Interest	0	1,332	833	499	8,260
Total Income	11,445	64,533	65,333	-800	156,794
Expenses (excl GST)	39,480	69,432	66,570	-2,862	186,110
Surplus (Deficit)	-28,035	-4,899	-1,237	-3,662	-29,316

Notes:

The Budget figures are based on the amounts approved at the AGM, generally divided into 12 equal months, except where some items such as Fundraising occur at specific times during the year.

The Projected Year Revised figures have been drawn from a combination of Actual results for the 4 Months YTD and a review of expectations for the future months.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARGARET'S

- Sun. 8 Dec.** Sunday School Pageant
- Sun. 22** Choir singing
- Tues. 24** 6.00 p.m. Family picnic (wet or fine)
7.30 p.m. Community carols on the lawn
9.15 p.m. Christmas Eve service
- Wed. 25** 10.00 a.m. Christmas Day service

Services during January 10.00 a.m.



December 2019

Minister: Rev. Chris Rosanowski 971.7530 **Family Team:** Contact the Minister
Joint Session Clerk: Pat Lerwill 938.0374 Marilyn Anderson 527.8601
Website: <http://stmargaretschurch.net.nz>
Hall Bookings: Carol McConnell 527.9462 **Facebook:** St. Margaret's Family Page

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion	2 Friendship Ctr	3	4 Aftn.Fellowship Lunch 12.30 Session	5 Play Group Choir practice	6	7
8 S.S. Pageant Shared lunch	9	10	11 Evg.Fellowship	12 Play Group Choir practice	13	14
15 Morn. Worship	16	17	18 Bd. Managers	19 Choir practice	20	21
22 Choir singing	23	24 Christmas Eve Picnic Carols on lawn Service 9.15 p.m.	25 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10.00 a.m.	26	27	28
29 Morn. Worship	30	31	1 Jan.	2	3	4
5 Jan. Communion	Services during January 10.00 a.m. + Shared lunch 12 January February newsletter deadline - 20 January					

Services at Retirement Homes - Manor Park 5 Dec; Summerset 13 Dec.