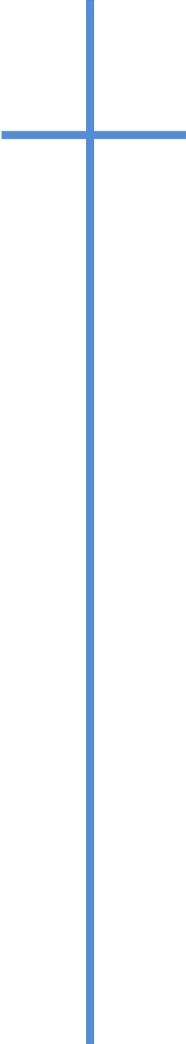




ST MARGARET'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

NEWSLETTER



We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect
our own safety:
we are people who protect our
neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

<https://www.churchofengland.org>

Dear Friends

Just lately I've heard many people say how fed up they are with masks and the constant talk of Covid. I'm with them on this. I'm also fed up with the constant feeling that everything I prepare for may have to be changed. And I suspect you are all fed up with having to read what I write about Covid.

We know that we are living in uncertain times but that doesn't make it any easier to accept changes that keep coming at us. We wonder what will happen next and we may even worry about this. There is one thing we can do that might help and that is to hang on to the thought that we are all in this together. It is easier to live with change when we know that it's happening to all of us. This particularly applies to living in the uncertainty of Covid.

At the moment I'm not sure whether we will be having services at the church or on Zoom. I'm sorry that we can't have morning tea after the Sunday service but I know it is necessary decision. I feel enormously relieved that everyone I care about is double-vaxxed and boosted as far as I'm aware. And there are good things about Zoom Church – you can wear your slippers, you can have coffee during the service. We can even turn off the sound if we want to! More difficult for those of us taking the service but an option for everyone else.

Covid or not, we are moving into the season of Lent. This begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2 and runs through until Palm Sunday on April 10. Lent is a season of the Church Year I don't remember hearing much about when I was young. I had some friends who were Roman Catholics and I remember them talking about what they were giving up for Lent. Mostly they gave up lollies and their parents gave up smoking or drinking alcohol. I remember thinking it was a pity they couldn't give up something they didn't like but that would have been cheating. The idea was that as we think about Jesus' suffering at Easter, we can share in that just a tiny bit by depriving ourselves of something we like.

Nowadays we live within the seasons of the Church Year much more than we used to. We see Lent as the time of preparation for Easter, just as Advent is the time of preparation for Christmas.

If we are not careful, Lent can become a very negative season. In these weeks before Easter, we think of the last part of Jesus' life and anticipate his suffering and death. We can be overcome with doom and gloom.

But there is also a positive side to Lent. It is the season for reflecting on how our Christian life is growing - or not. It is the time to consider whether our daily walk is with Christ or not. Remember these words from Isaiah 58 where we are reminded of what God wants from us:

“Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?”

During Lent, we can take time to measure ourselves against the standard God sets for us in passages such as the one quoted above and in the life of Jesus Christ, and see if there is anything or any attitudes that need to be thrown out or rearranged. We are not asked to undertake this reflection so that we can beat ourselves up for the times when we have failed, but so that we can set ourselves back on track with renewed enthusiasm. We all do our best most of the time but, if we are honest, we know there is room for improvement. Let's not let our energy be wasted in needless guilt, but in honest appraisal and gratitude that we can always make a fresh start. And then do it.



Pastoral:

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Anne Pemberton and Lorna Gandy as they grieve the loss of their sister, Valerie Nixon who died recently.
- Many will remember with fondness Joan Forrest who was a member of St. Margaret's for a number of years after moving from the UK to be with family. Joan died recently in the Wairarapa after a period of ill health. A memorial service will be held for Joan on Saturday 19 March at 10.00 a.m. at St. Margaret's.

Lectionary

6 March Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2,9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13
13 Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35
20 Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9
27 Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3,11b-32
3 April Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8

From John Morrison's family

To everyone at St Margaret's Church

Thank you so much for your contribution to the success of Dad's memorial service. We are all truly grateful to you. It couldn't have gone more smoothly and the congregation's singing of the songs we didn't know was great and very special.

Thanks again from the Morrison extended family.

Annette & Doug

CARING FOR EACH OTHER IN A SAFE WAY DURING THEOMICRON OUTBREAK

With masks and distancing being used for worship services and no morning tea or shared lunches at the moment, there is less opportunity for social interaction when we gather for worship. So we all need to think of ways to keep in touch with other members of our church family without putting them, or ourselves, at increased risk.

How about getting together in small groups with people you know? If you can do this outside that's even better. How about coffee on the deck or in a park? If you are getting together inside, keep the numbers small so you can stay at a safe distance. Keep a note of the date, who you met with, and where you met just in case that information is ever needed.

How about making a list of some church friends and phoning them for a catch-up from time to time? This is particularly important for people who are unable to go out or just feel more comfortable staying at home at the moment. If you discover that they need some sort of help that you can't provide, encourage them to contact the Pastoral Care Team (pastoralcare.stmargarets@gmail.com) or offer to do that for them. If you don't have a phone number for the person you would like to check in with, you may like to contact Sheryn Jacques on 021 936 067 so she can ask them to get in touch with you.

Don't forget that the "Shop and Drop" service that was started during the first lockdown in 2020 has been reactivated. If you need contactless delivery of essentials such as groceries or medication, please contact Delena West on 021 332 449.

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE DURING THE OMICRON OUTBREAK

As the Omicron outbreak grows and more cases are detected in our local community it is important that we do what we can to keep each other safe, and particularly to protect the more vulnerable members of our church family.

Over the last few weeks we have made some changes to how we manage gatherings at St Margaret's. Here is a reminder of the measures we have in place. Please read this carefully as some things have changed slightly.

We will continue to review how we manage activities at the church and will keep you informed of any changes.

Vaccine Passes

Anyone aged 12 years 3 months and over who is attending a gathering at St Margaret's church is required to have a vaccine pass. Passes can be stored on your phone or printed out. Please remember that vaccine passes have an expiry date and you will need to download a new pass before your current one expires.

Face masks

- We ask that all adults and children from year 4 upwards wear a **properly fitted face mask** at all times while on the church property.
- A medical mask (usually pale blue on the outside) or an N95-type mask is preferred. Cloth masks are discouraged because they may not provide adequate protection for the wearer or those around them.
- Masks must cover your **mouth and nose** at all times.
- Masks may be removed briefly to receive communion.
- Church groups of 15 or fewer holding meetings at the church may remove masks once everyone is seated **at least one metre apart**. Masks should be worn while people are moving around and while entering and leaving the meeting.
- Those leading services (minister, organist, readers etc.) are not required to be masked while they are leading as long as they remain two metres from others.

Physical distancing

- Try to maintain a distance of at least one metre from other people.
- If you want to chat to someone on your way into the church, please stand back and try not to block the entranceway.
- The foyer and internal entrance door create a bottleneck so please try to keep moving through the foyer into the church and find a seat.
- There is plenty of seating space in the church when every second row is left empty. Please spread out across the available seating and leave empty spaces so that everyone feels comfortable.

Hospitality

- We have decided that the emergence of the Omicron outbreak makes it unwise to serve morning tea in the lounge after Sunday worship or to have shared lunches or serve refreshments at meetings such as fellowship groups.
- We will resume these things as soon as it becomes safe to do so.

Record-keeping

- We are required to keep a record of everyone who attends **all** gatherings at the church. This includes worship services, fellowship groups and other meetings.
- Please scan in using the QR code if you are able to do so. This provides you with a record of your attendance.
- In addition, we will keep a paper record that enables everyone to be contacted if this becomes necessary.

You are asked not to attend worship services or meetings if you are feeling unwell or have any of the symptoms associated with Covid-19 infection.

Worship services held at the church are also available on Zoom. Please join us on Zoom if you have any concerns about your health, if you are not fully vaccinated, or if you don't feel comfortable attending gatherings in person at the moment. We would love to have you take part in the service.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89367824002>

Rosters**Morning Tea**

No morning tea until
further notice

Church Cleaning

6 Mar. Rosenda Upton
13 Fono Williams
20 Helen Bassett
27 Lynley McInnarney
3 April Karen Coleman

Lawns

12 Mar. Warren Potter
26 Phil Taylor
9 Apr. Rhys West

Audio Visual

6 Mar. Alfred Enslin
13 Hazel O'Brien
20 David Lottering
27 Chris Rosanowski
3 Apr David Lottering

The Upper Hutt World Day of Prayer Service

Hosted by Our Lady of Grace Church cnr Fergusson Drive and Palmer Crescent,
Heretaunga, with members of St Mary's and St Margaret's helping in the service.

Friday 4 March at 11.00 a.m.

Men and women and children are most welcome
Vaccine Pass Service limited to 100

There will be an offering to support Christian World Service - A Bible Society
Project Empowering Widows and Suffering Women of India and Interchurch Council
for Hospital Chaplaincy in New Zealand. Cup of Tea/Coffee after the service.

To prebook go to <https://www.picktime.com/OLAVMassAvailability>
OR phone Ruth Mackinder 04/ 5286826 if you are unable to use this link



Children, Youth & Families @ St.Margaret's March 2022

PLAY GROUP

Sorry, no playgroup until it's safe to be back. Please keep checking newsletters and Facebook.

YOUTH GROUP

We started back at youth group on 12 February, meeting in the blue room during church services. We have welcomed year 8's, George & Sam, and hope to see the rest of our new year 8's in the coming weeks. The focus will again be the 4F's - fun, food, friendship and faith.

With Covid looming, our physical games will be limited to outside and masks will be required during inside activities.

Sadly another casualty of Covid is the regions' annual Easter Camp. So we've decided to hold our annual bake off at Easter this year.

We expect disruption will be our only constant for the next few months and Zoom sessions may again be our 'go to'. In the mean time we ask our rangatahi to stay home if unwell and isolate if they have been a contact, and in line with church guidelines our rangatahi need a vaccination certificate to attend in person. We'll be using our messenger page until we get moved over to WhatsApp to keep everyone up to date with news and any changes or plans. Please let Delena or Jo know if you aren't already on our circulation list.

Kia kaha & Arohanui
Jo & Delena

CONTACTS

Sunday School Nicki - 5288106 **Playgroup** Ainsley - 5278090

Youth Group Jo - 021616376 or Delena 9776338

What's On Or Not!

- **Afternoon Fellowship** – No meeting in March.
- **Evening Fellowship** – Wednesday 9 March 7.30 p.m. in the lounge. All men and women are very welcome. Our speaker will be Rachel Harrison who spent time volunteering in Tonga with Volunteer Service Abroad in 2020, and now works for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand where she focuses on local development and humanitarian aid programmes in the Pacific. Rachel will talk about the current disaster response situation in Tonga, following January's volcanic eruption and tsunami, and now a Covid outbreak, and outline some of the work that is happening on the ground to help communities recover from these events.
- The Monday morning **Friendship Group** will not be meeting until further notice as we are still adhering to restrictions. We are very sorry not to be able to meet but we will contact all the members when it is safe to resume. Shirley Main and Ruth Mackinder.

FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

The following figures do not include the transfer on 8 December 2021 of residual funds from the 25th HV Girls Brigade Co amounting to \$1,782.43 which are being held for future training.

Funds available for general operations amounted to \$100,106.80 at 31 January 2002.

CWS Christmas Appeal

Contributions totalling \$403.90 have been passed on to Christian World Service. Not included in the amount are Credit Card and Direct Internet Transfers. Receipts should be available shortly.

CWS Retiring Offering for Tonga

The total received in February was \$286.00 which has also been forwarded to Christian World Service.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
ACTUAL v BUDGET 7 MONTHS JULY 2021 – JANUARY 2022

	Jan-22	Total	Budget	Gain (Loss)
	<u>Mth</u>	7 Mths YTD	7 Mths	Actual v Budget 7 Mths
<u>INCOME</u>				
Giving				
Envelopes	790	5,726		
Automatic Payments	6,654	45,913		
	<u>7,444</u>	<u>51,639</u>	55,417	(3,778)
Loose	95	456	1,167	(710)
Donations General	120	1,270	5,833	(4,563)
Donations Organ & Music Fund		250	-	250
Donations Laptop Computer		1,000	-	1,000
	<u>7,659</u>	<u>54,615</u>	<u>62,417</u>	<u>(7,802)</u>
Fund Raising - see below	-	4,389	18,000	(13,611)
L&R Snell Trust	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	657	500	157
Church & Hall hire	-	1,312	2,917	(1,604)
Mission				
CWS Christmas Appeal	30	404	1,000	(596)
Bible Society	-	170	300	(131)
	<u>7,689</u>	<u>61,547</u>	<u>85,133</u>	<u>(23,587)</u>

EXPENSES

Administration	943	8,666	8,568	(98)
Christian Education	-	764	600	(164)
Ministry	738	15,655	30,542	14,887
Mission Incl.Pinehaven School	-	268	1,800	1,532
Property Expenses	481	8,922	16,063	7,141
<u>Total Expenses</u>	2,162	34,275	57,572	23,297
<u>Operating Surplus(Deficit)</u>	5,527	27,272	27,562	(290)
Assets expensed				
Laptop Computer		814	-	814
<u>Net Surplus(Deficit)</u>	5,527	26,458	27,562	(1,104)
Fund Raising analysis				
Fair		-	15,000	(15,000)
Plant Fair net of \$1907.85 Costs		4,184	3,000	1,184
Winter Warmers		195	-	195
Masks		10	-	10
		4,389	18,000	(13,611)

March 2022

Interim Moderator: Rev. Lynn Russell 528.2113 **Family Team:** Contact the
 Minister **Session Clerk:** Marilyn Anderson 527.8601
Website: <http://stmargaretschurh.net.nz>
Hall Bookings: Carol McConnell 527.9462
Facebook: St. Margaret's Family Page

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Session	3	4	5
6 Communion	7	8	9 Evng.Fellowship	10	11	12
13 Morn.Worship	14	15	16 Bd. Managers	17	18	19
20 Morn.Worship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Morn.Worship	28	29	30	31		