



ST MARGARET'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022

Jesus Weeps over Aotearoa

We live in a land of plenty and there are children who regularly go hungry.
Jesus, you weep for us.

The foundations of this country are laid by cleaners, carers, factory workers, labourers who get a minimum wage that will not support a family while those who make the rules live in luxury. *Jesus, you weep for us*

Every person in our prisons has at some stage in his or her life been the victim of great injustice, and we punish them further by shutting them in a cell and labelling them the enemy. *Jesus, you weep for us.*

We live in a country of extraordinary beauty, yet we pillage land and sea to make money for a few. *Jesus, you weep for us.*

While we cry for aborted babies, we support unprovoked war in other countries, knowing that everyone killed in a war is some mother's child. *Jesus, you weep for us.*

We are allied to powers intent on world domination through violence, our motives being fear and greed. *Jesus, you weep for us.*

We claim democracy and equality for all people – who are middle class, respectable, tidy and white. *Jesus, you weep for us.*

Beloved Jesus, may your tears give us the strength we need to make change through your love. Amen.

(Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem – Luke 19:41-42)

From: 'Veil over the Light' by Joy Cowley
Publisher: Pleroma – Otane, NZ

Dear Friends,

We have all been touched in some way by the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Many of us stayed up into the small hours of the morning to watch the state funeral. We saw numerous documentaries about the Queen's life and also about what kind of a king Charles III will be. I'm feeling that I've seen enough royal documentaries to last me for several months.

I heard many people commenting on how well the Brits do pomp and ceremony. So true. Everything was timed down to the nth minute. Practices were held in the streets of London when the fewest people would be around. Of course, the planning was done years and years ago and just updated a bit as the years passed. And now the planning will be starting for the state funeral of King Charles III, so that all is ready when the time comes. By planning so far in advance, the person whose funeral it will be has the chance to have their say in what will happen.

None of us will have a funeral of such proportions, but there is nothing to stop us having our say in what will happen for us when the time comes. In fact, if we make our wishes known, we are doing our families a huge favour. The funerals where the family knows what Mum or Dad wanted are much less stressful. This is the sort of planning most of us put off, but as we don't know when our time will come, we need to get on with it sooner rather than later. This may be a bit morbid but we all know that we are not going to live forever.

I felt for the Queen's children and grandchildren and the wider family as their grieving had to be so public. We know how tiring grieving is and they must have been exhausted. Some of them would have been wishing they could just hide away and grieve in private.

When Ian died, I was glad that I was still working as that gave me a reason to get up in the morning. And everyone was so kind to me. But some days I can remember getting home, closing the door behind me, and feeling a huge relief that I didn't need to be brave anymore, or to keep smiling when I just wanted to cry.

Grief is hard work and it can go on for a long time. It is said that you don't ever get over your grief for someone who has died, you simply learn to live with it. Most of us know this, but knowing it doesn't make it any easier when we are faced with grief again.

So in the meantime, be kind to your family and let them know what you would like for your funeral. And while you're at it, you might like to go through some of your stuff and save them the awful job of having to sort out all the things that you have hoarded up over the years.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lynn', written in black ink.

Lectionary

- 2 Oct. Lamentations 1:1-6 Psalm 37:1-9 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10
 9 Jeremiah 29:1,4-7 Psalm 66:1-12 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19
 16 Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 119:97-104 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8
 23 Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18 Luke 18:9-14
 30 Habakkuk 1:1-4,2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12
 Luke 19:1-10
 6 Nov. Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5,17-21 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17
 Luke 20:27-38



Last month's newsletter we asked for volunteers for various groups in the church. Only one person volunteered to help. St. Margaret's people usually do better than that, so please get in touch and help out when you can.

Rosters:**Morning Tea**

- 2 Oct. Karen Coleman/Lin Coleman
 9 Ruth Mackinder/Shirley Harrison
 16 Lorna Moir/Margaret Donaldson
 23 Derilene Aston/Jacqueline Kitchen
 30 Heather Lee & Malcolm Foster
 6 Nov. Sue Taylor/Delwyn Frederikson

Church Cleaning

- 2 Oct. Jean Don
 9 Jan Hill
 16 Shirley Harrison
 23 Carol McConnell
 30 Karen Coleman
 6 Nov. Lynley McInnarnay

Lawns

- 8 Oct. Vern Bennett
 22 Richard Harrison
 5 Nov. Malcolm Galloway

Audio Visual

- 2 Oct. David Lottering
 9 Chris Rosanowski
 16 Hazel O'Brien
 23 Alfred Enslin
 30 David Lottering
 6 Nov. Chris Rosanowski

Have you changed your address or phone number or maybe you have got rid of your landline – please let Hazel O'Brien know so we can keep the church roll up to date.

Church Fair

Saturday 29 October 2022

The Church Fair will be held on Saturday 29 October 2022, and your Fair Committee is working hard to make this a great event.

Key Messages and Requests for Support:

- **Stall Helpers:** We still require helpers for the Clothing, Homewares, China and Steptoe stalls. Please contact Sheryn if you are able to help (she can connect you with the person running the stall).
- **Plants & Seedlings:** We would be grateful for any indoor or outdoor plants, bulbs or cuttings for the Plant Stall. As you start your spring garden clean-up, please keep this in mind.
- **Stall Sponsorship:** Donations to assist Stall Holders' with the cost of ingredients and materials would be gratefully accepted. If you would like to donate, please contact Sheryn.
- **Raffle, Lucky Dip & Baking Ingredients Donations:** Donations of raffle and lucky dip items, and/or baking ingredient would be greatly appreciated. Please place any donations in the respective boxes in the hallway at Church.
- **Flyers:** The Fair Flyers are ready for distribution and will be available for uplift after the Church service on Sunday 02 October 2022.
- **Goods Collection:** We need people to assist with goods collection prior to the Fair, and with goods disposal after the fair. We would also greatly appreciate people with trailers can be called upon to assist with uplift of larger items. Please contact Malcolm if you are able to help.
- **Spread the Word:** The Fair is just over a month away! Please let your friends and family know about the fair. Goods donations and offers of help will be gratefully accepted.

Key Dates:

- **Flyers ready for uplift and distribution to letterboxes:** From Sunday 2 October 2022.
- **Goods Collection:** From Monday 17 to Friday 28 October 2022.
- **Church & Inside Stall Set-Up:** Commences after Church Service on Sunday 24 October 2022 (and all of the following week).
- **Steptoe Set-Up:** Commences from Wednesday 27 October 2022.

- **FAIR DAY: Saturday 29 October 2022:**
 - **6.00 am - 9.30 am:** Final Set Up.
 - **9.30 am - 9.45 am:** Fair Briefing.
 - **10.00 am - 1.00 pm: Conduct of the Fair.**
 - **1.00 pm - 5.00 pm:** Pack Up/Clean Up/Goods Disposal/Return of Borrowed Items.

Points of Contact:

- **Dean Paul** – Convenor (021 954 592).
- **Sheryn Jacques & Lynley McInnarney** – Stall Coordinators (Sheryn - 021 936 067, Lynley – 027 278 0010).
- **Delena West** – Advertising and Communications Coordinator (021 332 449).
- **Malcolm Galloway** – Goods Collection and Disposal Coordinator (021 7620633).

Your support is greatly appreciated

Kind regards
Dean
Fair Convenor



PLANT STALL

With our provision of plants source now no longer available the plant stall will be struggling to put out a good supply of plants for sale at our Fair this year.

If you have any plants in your garden that we can sell and need potting, please pot them now, there is still time to get them established. We ask that you don't grab them on your way out to the Fair and wrap them in newspaper as they don't last and don't sell – thank you.

Also, if you know the name(s) of the plants you are donating, can you please write it on the container, or tell one of the people helping on the stall.

If you have small boxes suitable for us to place pots of sold plants, please save them for the Plant Stall and bring them on Fair Day. Thanks everyone.



- **Tea and Chat** at 2.00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at the home of Jacqueline and Lynn at 2 Fendalton Cres, Pinehaven. Anyone who'd like to come and have a cup of tea (or coffee) and a chat is very welcome.
- **Evening Fellowship:** Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 12 October in the Lounge at 7.30 pm and we plan a Beatles game fun night. All welcome to join us for a social meeting and supper.

BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT AUGUST 2022

The Financial part of this report looks different this month now that the transactions are being entered into the XERO Accounting Package. The format of presentation may change further as we get to understand the system a little better, but the basic data shouldn't change.

The Budget for the year ending 30 June 2022 was approved by the Congregation at the AGM and this has now been analysed into monthly components for comparison with actual results.

FINANCIAL REPORT	Actual Jul-Aug 2 Mths YTD	Budget Jul-Aug 2 Mths YTD
INCOME		
Offering AP & Envelopes	15,853	15,417
Offering Loose	285	250
Fundraising	110	0
Donations General	5,620	667
Donations Organ & Music Fund	5,000	5,000
Hall, Lounge, Church Hire	1,274	500
Other Income	261	200
	<hr/> 28,403	<hr/> 22,034
EXPENSES	7,438	7,267
NET SURPLUS	<hr/> \$20,965	<hr/> \$14,767

Donations General includes \$5,000 received from a family in the congregation who wish to remain anonymous.

Contributions to the Retiring Offering for the Bible Society amounted to \$215.00 and we have received the Society's receipt along with their thanks.

Funds available for general operations at 31 August 2022 amounted to \$145,671.50.

Insurance premiums based on inflation adjusted cover have been paid in September. Concern at the adequacy of this cover for the Church complex has resulted in Managers' seeking formal revaluation of the property which has now been submitted to our Insurance Broker for reassessment of the premium.

UPPER HUTT FOODBANK - The Foodbank is still looking for people who can assist with their Appeal outside Countdown Queen St. on 19 November 2022 for an hour or so. Please let Lance Hurly know - 528 5461 if you can help.

Finance

At our Church AGM I spoke on the subject of giving. Money can be an awkward topic, but it is important to have these brave conversations from time to time.

The budget that we adopted is a 'break-even budget', which means that if we just achieve it then there will be no surplus for us to put by in reserves or allocate for other projects. The flipside is that if we fall short on the income part then we will likely incur a loss, which may mean dipping into existing reserves. It really is important to appreciate that by adopting the budget we have not just authorised the expenditure side; we have also committed to bringing in the income side of the budget. Fundraising will help with that (and I know that the Fair Committee is working very hard to deliver a bigger and better fair this year) but our giving makes up the lion's share of the income that St Margaret's needs in order to operate in the way that we want it to (part of which will be calling a full time Minister as soon as possible). Giving is therefore very important.

There are two parts to the giving story. The first is fairly easy but needs a small act from everyone. Compared with last year, this year's budget relies on our giving increasing by around \$3,000. We currently have around 67 families and individuals who give regularly through envelopes or automatic payments. If we divide the extra \$3,000 needed by the 67 contributors and then divide that by, say, 50 weeks in the year, then we get to around 90 cents per family per week. Some of those 67 regular contributors are no longer with us, but if everyone still with us were to increase their weekly giving by a modest \$1 or so then we should achieve that part of the budget.

The second part of the giving story is a bit grizzly. Because we are blessed to have Lynn and Chris so willing and able to take services for us during our vacancy, our budget does not need to include much for Ministry costs. That will change dramatically when we have a full time Minister. If we stick with the same 67 regular contributors then the additional weekly amount required from each of them starts to look more like \$15 (which is a few cups of coffee, lots of tins of cat food or fish and chips for two from May's Takeaways). It would be great if we could spread that load by having more people giving regularly through automatic payments. Contributions are treated with the same anonymity as the envelope system. Donation receipts are also issued so that a tax rebate can be claimed on the amount given over the year – those looking for a double woo hoo moment can then add the value of their tax refund to their giving, which is more income for St Margaret's and more in your next tax rebate.

The vexing question is how much to give regularly. Everyone's circumstances will be different and everyone will be feeling the pinch of inflation in different areas of their lives at the moment – and the church is no different in that regard. If we are to commit to having a full time Minister then we all need to look closely at what we can do to help ensure that that we meet our income budget. We recognised that members of the congregation are rarely given any guidance as to what is the 'right amount' to give and it is not necessarily very helpful us to simply say, "give more." I produced a chart based on information that Lance was able to give me. This chart shows the spread of regular giving. That is, how many people give up to \$5 each week, how many give \$5-\$10 each week and so on. I thought this was a useful way of seeing what other people are doing. Those who are among the 67 regular contributors will know where on the chart they sit. Hopefully, seeing this chart will encourage everyone to move a little to the right if they can by increasing their regular contributions. Great leaps to the right would be wonderful, but we will take steps and shuffles too!

Malcolm Galloway

(See graph on Page 10)

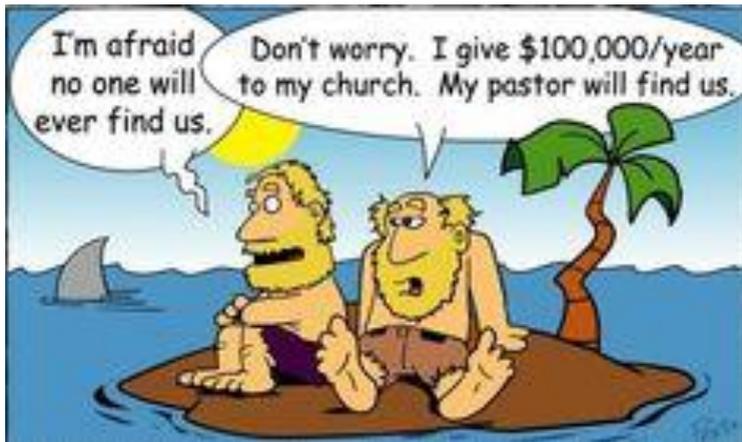
PLAY GROUP

We're sad to say that our playgroup which has been on hold, is not able to start up again. We no longer have the volunteers to run it. It has been a great opportunity and privilege to serve our community. If you wish to know more, please contact any member of Session.

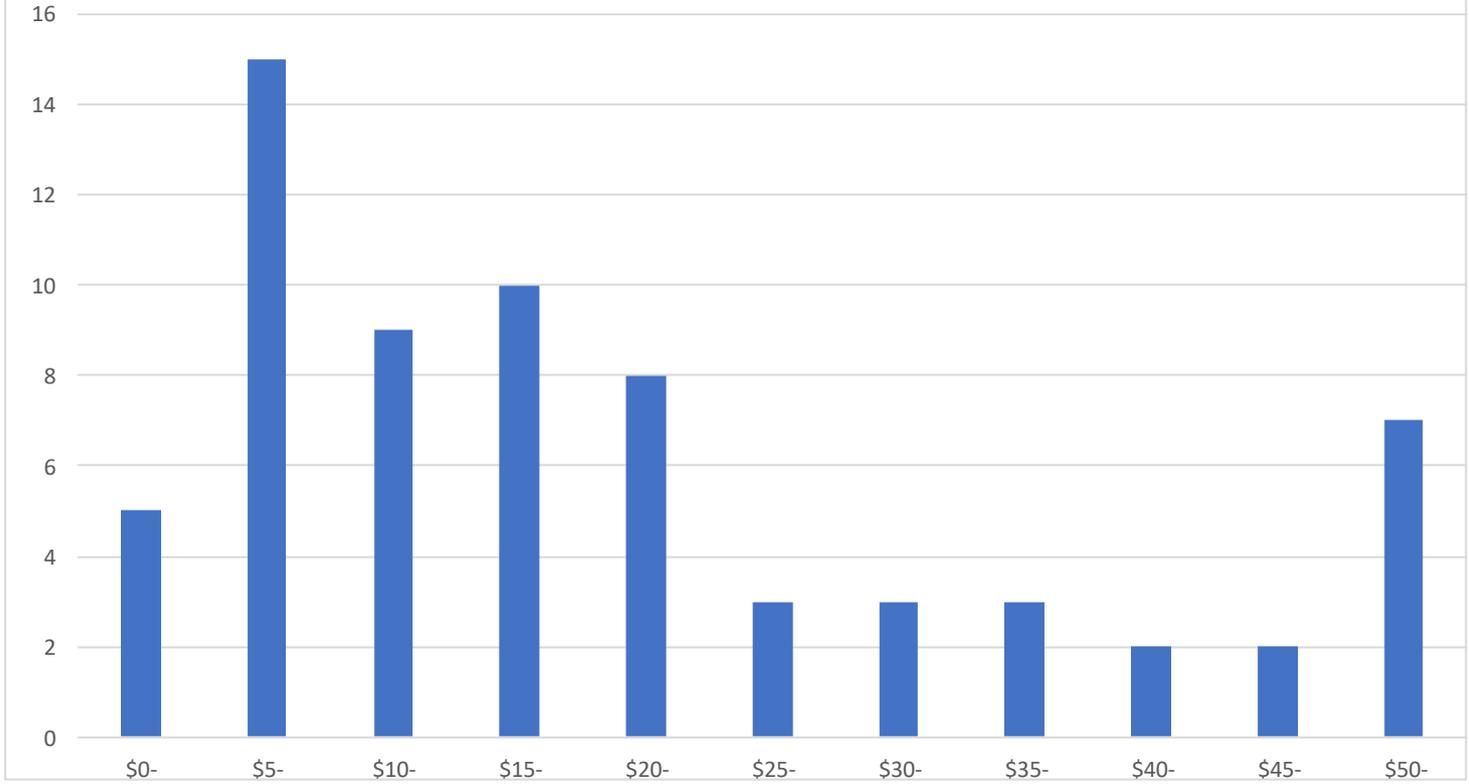
Thank you to all those parents and carers who have supported playgroup over the past 30 or so years. Thanks to all those who have helped to make playgroup happen, welcoming, setting up, packing up, running the sessions, making cuppas etc. you're awesome!

And to all those beautiful children who have passed through we wish you many blessings and much aroha as you navigate this crazy old world we live in!

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing” (Psalm 127:3)”



Weekly APs and envelopes



October 2022

Interim Moderator: Rev. Lynn Russell 528.2113 **Family Team:** Contact the Minister
Session Clerk: Marilyn Anderson 527.8601
Website: <http://stmargaretschurch.net.nz> **Hall Bookings:** Carol McConnell 0272210609
Facebook: St. Margaret's Family Page

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Dancing 9.30-10.30
2 Communion Dancing 3-4 pm	3 Friendship Ctr Ctr Dancing Pilates 6-8 pm	4 Pilates 6-7pm	5 Tea & Chat Session	6 Dancing 6.15 -7.15 Badminton	7	8 Dancing 9.30-10.30
9 Morning Worship Shared lunch Dancing 3-4 pm	10 Friendship Ctr Ctr Dancing Pilates 6-8 pm	11 Pilates 6-7pm	12 Evng.Fellowship	13	14	15 Dancing 9.30-10.30
16 Morning Worship Scrapbooking Dancing 3-4 pm	17 Friendship Ctr Ctr Dancing Pilates 6-8 pm	18 Pilates 6-7pm	19 Bd. Managers	20	21	22 Dancing 9.30-10.30
23 Morning Worship Dancing 3-4 pm	24 Labour Day	25	26	27	28	29 CHURCH FAIR
30 Morning Worship Dancing 3-4 pm						

Services available on Zoom each Sunday <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89367824002>