



ST MARGARET'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2022
JANUARY 2023

Happy Birthday Jesus!

We come like children to a party,
bearing gifts in your honour,
no surprises among them.
They're much the same as last year
and all the years before that.

Some of them have got a bit shabby,
worn and torn around the edges.
Some look as though they're broken.
That can happen with promises.
and some need a bit of patching.

But they're all here again for you,
our days, our dreams, our heart, our love,
given in complete confidence
that you who delight in the small,
the weak, the battered and broken,
will receive them with great rejoicing.

As we light the candles and wish you
many happy returns to our hearts,
we count the number of times
we have celebrated your birthday.

Then we reflect on your love
and our dear little hearts catch fire
with the wonder of miracle.
You, brother Jesus, son of God,
never stop celebrating our birth.

From: 'Veil Over the Light'
By Joy Cowley
Publisher: Pleroma, Otane. Hawkes Bay, NZ

Dear Friends

I have often wished I could experience a winter Christmas when the only reason for a few days off work is Christmas itself. Now that I have a son permanently living in the UK I could organise a holiday in December and find out what it's like. Of course, my son can't imagine why I would want to do this – he hates the long dark days of December.

Here in New Zealand the celebration of Christmas is easily lost in the celebration of summer holidays. People can hardly wait for Christmas to be over so that they can pile into the car and be off to their beach holiday. As a child, I loved the long Summer break and, as I came from a non-church family, I enjoyed the 'secular' Christmas of food and presents and the Salvation Army Band coming around on the back of a truck playing Christmas carols. I remember my grandmother giving me a donation to take to them and ask them to play 'Abide with me'. 'But Nana,' I'd say, 'They're here to play Christmas carols'. She'd reply, 'if they want my money, they'll play what I want!'

This is one of the great things about Christmas. We have lots of memories to enjoy of Christmases past. There's the enjoyment of Christmas this year. And for us at St Margaret's this year there is the expectation of Christmas to come in a new ministry next year.

Christmas also brings a lot of mixed emotions. As we remember the past we feel sadness for the loss of the people who shared these times with us and are not part of our lives anymore. Ian certainly put a bit of a shadow over Christmas for me and our sons by dying suddenly 3 days before Christmas (17 years ago this year). But the sadness is mixed with the laughter of remembering some of the funny things that happened some Christmas days.

There is also the sadness of knowing that for some families Christmas is really hard when money is short and the children can't have the presents they are hoping for. The temptation to overspend is huge and can lead to difficult days in January as the bills have to be paid. I am grateful to the groups who provide presents and food for families at this time and I'm very happy to support them.

For us as Christians, there is the belief that in the birth and life of Jesus we can hope that peace and joy are possible if we do what we can to share the love of God. It would be a bleak time if we didn't have this hope to hang on to. So, as we move through Advent and think of hope and peace and joy and love, we can pray that everyone will experience the wonder of Christmas this year and move into the New Year knowing they are loved by a compassionate and caring God.

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

Lectionary:

4 Dec. Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7,18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
11 Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11
18 Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25
25 Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14
1 Jan. Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23
8 Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17
15 Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
22 Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1,4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23
29 Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12
5 Feb. Isaiah 58:1-9a Psalm 112:1-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20

Zoom Link: Please note that the Zoom link for the church services each Sunday is always printed at the bottom of the calendar on the back page of the newsletter. Click on the link, and follow the instructions. If you are new to Zoom and not sure what to do, contact Lynley 528.8213 and she will help you out. If you are on holiday, don't forget to zoom in. It's only an hour out of your holiday day and we would love you to join us in the service.

Ministry at St Margaret's - On 20 November Rev Rodney Ramsay preached for a call at our morning worship service. The service was well attended and Rodney's preaching was well received by the congregation.

On 27 November a special meeting of the congregation was held after morning worship to vote on calling Rodney to fulltime ministry at St Margaret's. The congregation voted unanimously in favour of extending a call to Rodney, and we are pleased to report that Rodney wishes to accept the call.

There are more steps to be completed in the process before Rodney can commence his ministry with us. Things will continue as normal at St Margaret's in the meantime, with Lynn and Chris sharing the preaching and Session leading a service each month.

It is great to be finishing the year and heading into 2023 on such a positive note. We give thanks for Rodney's call to parish ministry and to St Margaret's in particular and pray for him and his family as they prepare and plan for the coming year.

Marilyn Anderson
 (Session Clerk)

Copier at the church: Please be aware that the copier does not turn itself off after use and the light from the front panel will light up the office, especially at night. Please follow the instructions at the front of the copier. The copier has been left on a few times lately.

St. Margaret's Christmas Choir

We'd love you to join us in rehearsals
each Thursday - We have begun practices, but it's not too late to join in.

(No previous experience required)
7.30-8.30 p.m. in the church
 for the Christmas music service
on 18 December 2022



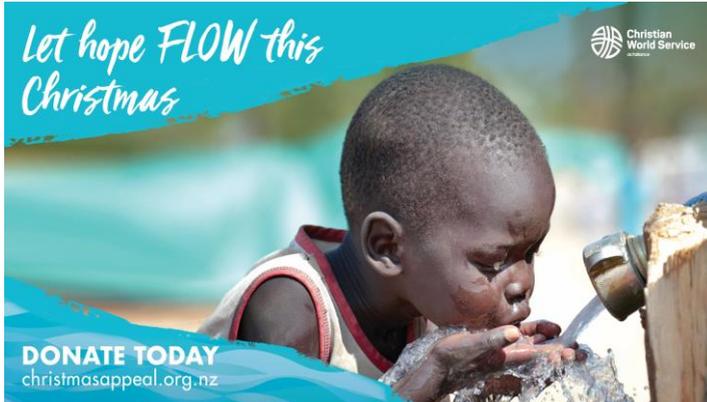
For further details,
 contact Pat 938 0374 or Marilyn 527 8601

SHINE Christmas Tree Extravaganza

Lane Park Church, 22 Lane Street, Upper Hutt
 You're invited to a relaxed family friendly time to enjoy what Christmas is all about, with a wide range of beautifully created and decorated Christmas Trees on display to celebrate the festive season, There'll be live music, hot chocolate, candy floss, sausage sizzle, home baking.

Saturday 17 December 7.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.
 Sunday 18 December 4.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.





This year the focus is on working with communities affected by climate change. Your gift will help to bring hope to people who are struggling to access the safe, clean water they need for drinking, washing and growing crops.

CWS Christmas Appeal brochures will be available from the church throughout December.

If you wish to make a **cash donation**, you may do so using the envelope attached to the CWS brochure. Just place the appeal envelope in the offering on any Sunday in December or January. If you wish to receive a tax receipt, make sure you complete the details on the donation form.

If you wish to make a donation by **Internet Banking or Credit Card**, please complete the donation using the instructions on the donation form. Then fill in the form and post it directly to CWS - please **DO NOT** put it in the St Margaret's offering.



Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2001

**THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE
EVER SEEN**

CHRISTMAS BAKING AND TOYS for Family Works 2022

**New or quality second hand toys, and
Christmas baking are much
appreciated**

There will be a labelled carton each
Sunday in the foyer of the church

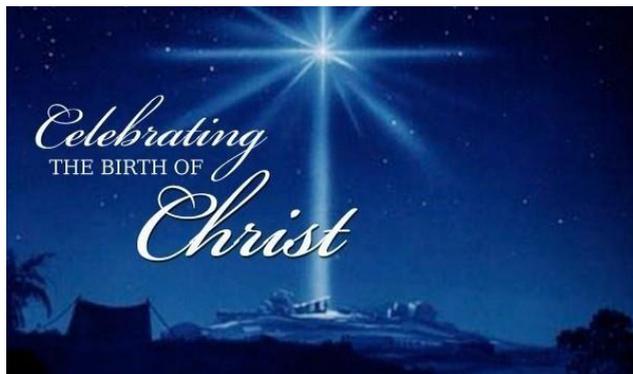
**No need to wrap toys, but donations of
wrapping paper are useful**

Last day for gathering items is *Sunday 11
December* 2022 for distribution the
following week.



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

Offers of help with collection or delivery to the Centre, please contact me:
Pat Lerwill: phone 938 0374 or email: lerwillp@gmail.com



Saturday 24 Dec.	Picnic (wet or fine Carols on the lawn Christmas Eve Service	6.00 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 9.15 p.m.
Sunday 25 Dec.	Christmas Day Service	10.00 a.m.

Rosters:**Morning Tea -**

- 4 Dec. Lin Coleman/Karen Coleman
 11 Shirley Harrison/Derilene Aston
 18 Lorna Moir/Ruth Mackinder
 1 Jan. Loretta Hastie/Jacqueline Kitchen
 8 Heather-Lee & Malcolm Foster
 15 Sue Taylor/Delwyn Frederikson
 22 Jan Hill/Riek Kleinjan
 29 Pam Hurly/Jacqueline Kitchen
 5 Feb. Karen Coleman/Lin Coleman

Church Cleaning –

- 4 Dec Rosenda Upton
 11 Karen Coleman
 18 Shirley Harrison
 25 Jan Hill
 1 Jan. Helen Bassett
 8 Jean Don
 15 Ainsley Andrews
 22 Lynley McInnarney
 29 Carol McConnell

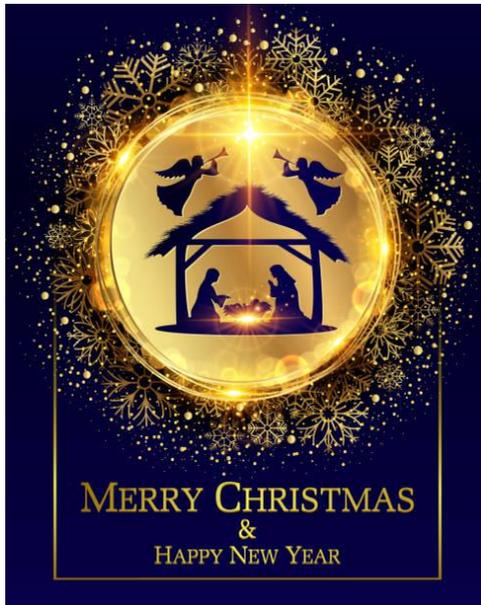
Lawns

- 3 Dec, Mike McInnarney
 17 Nick Tait
 31 Chris Upton
 14 Jan. Clive McGovern
 28 Martin Barr
 11 Feb. Warren & Toby
 Potter

Audio Visual

- 4 Dec. David Lottering
 11 Anya Enslin
 18 Alfred Enslin
 24 Lynley McInnarney
 25 Hazel O'Brien
 1 Jan. Anya Enslin
 8 Chris Rosanowski
 15 Hazel O'Brien
 22 David Lottering
 29 Anya Enslin
 5 Feb. Alfred Enslin

Church Cleaning: Another couple of people would help (lost a few!). At the moment Carol has 9 people. So cleaning is done once every 9 weeks per person. Easier if more to juggle people around. Please contact Carol 027 2210609.



BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT OCTOBER 2022

Financial Summary - 4 Months July – October 2022

	Oct 2022	Total 4 Mths Jul-Oct	BUDGET 4 Mths Jul-Oct	GAIN(LOSS) v BUDGET 4 Mths
INCOME				
Offering Automatic Payments	7,539.00	28,426.00	30,833	1,388
Offering Envelopes	1,221.40	3,795.30	incl above	incl above
Loose Offerings	388.90	825.00	500	325
Fair Donations (for Marquee)	1,200.00	1,200.00	0	1,200
Fundraising - Fair	19,005.70	19,005.70	15,000	4,115
Fundraising - Winter Warmers	0.00	109.60	incl above	incl above
Interest Received	0.00	975.27	500	475
Mission - Bible Society Appeal	0.00	215.00	700	(485)
Other Property Income	0.00	43.48	0	43
Rent Received - Hall etc	417.39	1,839.12	1,000	839
Donations-General	20.00	7,080.00	1,333	5,747
Donations-Organ & Music Fund	0.00	5,000.00	5,000	0
TOTAL INCOME	29,792.39	68,514.47	54,867	13,648
Total Operating Expenses	5,797.37	20,122.40	19,089	1,034
Net Surplus (Deficit)	23,995.02	48,392.07	31,778	12,614

Fair: The considerable effort that went into the Fair was rewarded with a stunning result. Thanks to everyone who involved themselves in this event, especially to Dean Paul who coordinated activities and to the organizing committee. Despite the rain on the day, we still achieved our second best ever result, and the Marquee which cost \$1,587.00 was supported by \$1,300.00 in sponsored Donations. Further receipts in November, including from online sales, has taken the total Fair income to \$19,728.60. Fair costs amounting to \$1,454.24, which include the Marquee, are recorded separately under Operating Expenses.

Lounge Roof: The rain on Fair Day was not sufficient to trigger problems with the Lounge Roof and we are awaiting an on-site meeting with the Builder and Roofing Contractor.

Ipod For Live Streaming Zoom Services And Meetings: Lynley McInnarney has kindly made her personal iPad available for live-streaming Sunday services

and some Church meetings. She has been prepared to continue this, but Managers have decided to purchase one which will stay at the Church to avoid having to borrow Lynley's. The cost of \$799 is included above in Operating Expenses.

Insurance: The additional Insurance premium mentioned in last month's Newsletter, to cover Natural Disasters e.g. Earthquake, amounted to \$9,373.03 before GST and this has been paid in November 2022.

The leaking kitchen tap has been replaced and the Toilets unblocked but we are awaiting an inspection eye being put into the main sewer line across the front lawn.

Funds available for general operations at 31 October 2022 amounted to \$176,726.00.



- **Friendship Group:**

Last Monday morning - 5 December 2022

Starts again - 13 February 2023

- Sunday School: Look forward to bringing you the Christmas Pageant on 11 December. This will also be our breakup party. Sunday School will resume for Term 1 on the 5 February.

- **A Reminder - Evening Fellowship.** Our Christmas meeting will be Christmas dinner at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 14 December at Divine Cafe, Summerset.



Merry
Christmas

December 2022 January 2023

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 4.00-5.00 p.m.	2 Dancing 4.30-5.30	3
4 Communion Dancing 2-4 pm	5 Friendship Gr Ctry Dancing Pilates 6-8	6 Pilates	7 Tea & Chat Session	8 Dancing 4.00-5.00 p.m	9 Dancing 4.30-5.30	10
11 SS Pageant Shared lunch Dancing 2-4 pm	12 Ctry Dancing Pilates 6-8	Pilates	14 Evg.Fellowship dinner	15 Dancing 4.00-5.00 p.m	16 Dancing 4.30-5.30	17
18 Choir singing	19 Pilates 6-8	20	21 Bd. Managers	22	23	24 6.00 picnic 7.30 Carols 9.15 Service
25 Christmas Day 10.00 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31

Services at 10.00 a.m. each Sunday during January

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