



# ST MARGARET'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

## NEWSLETTER

### MARCH 2023

#### The Samaritan Story

It was dangerous part of town at night but being a stranger he didn't know that and they beat him with a baseball bat, took his watch, money and credit cards, and left him, near death, on the pavement.

The mayor, on his way home from a meeting that had been bad for his blood pressure, noticed the figure lying on the footpath, "Drunk," he thought with more than a little envy. "What I wouldn't give for a whiskey right now!" And he put his foot down on the accelerator to shorten the time to his front door.

The couple returning from the dinner party were taking a detour through back streets to avoid the breath-testing stations. When the woman saw the man in the shadows, she shivered and touched her husband's arm. "Poor fellow," she said, "asleep on the street. The government should do something about these homeless people."

The girl from the nearby escort agency said goodbye to her client, put on her coat and stepped into the street, almost falling over the dark shape lying in a darker pool of blood. She screamed. "Oh God! He's hurt bad!" Her hands shook as she jabbed her cellphone. "Ambulance! No I don't know what happened. Maybe he got hit by a car. You'd better be quick."

He was groaning a little, so she took off her coat and put it over him. It was fake fur but warm. Then she sat on a step near him, rubbing her arms, Telling him everything was going to be all right, help would be coming any minute.

Paramedics put the injured man on a trolley and wheeled him to the waiting ambulance. She climbed in after him, her coat over her arm. "I'm going to make sure you jokers look after him," she said to the paramedic who sat beside her. "Are you a relative?" he wanted to know. "Yeah, I'm his grandmother," she said. "Come on! The guy's in a bad way. Just get him to the hospital like now."

And somewhere, in another time and place, but echoing as clearly as when first spoken, someone was asking Jesus "Master, tell us who is our neighbour?"

**From:** 'Come and See' Joy Cowley

**Publisher:** Pleroma Christian Supplies, Otane, Hawkes Bay

Dear Friends

Way back in November 2014 as I wrote my last monthly letter for the newsletter at the time of my retirement I said that this letter was the one thing that I wouldn't miss. I had struggled some months during my 14-year ministry to think of anything to say. Well, here I am retiring from ministry at St Margaret's again – interim ministry this time – and I can say the same as I did before about the monthly letter. And once again I'm not sorry that this will be my last letter.

I have learned that it pays never to say never because we don't know what lies in our future. I had not imagined that I would have the opportunity to be in ministry with you for a second time. I am not anticipating having a third time!

We have all experienced unexpected happenings turning our lives around. Sometimes our lives are changed by positive experiences and sometimes by negative but there will always be change. Coping with change is a skill we all need to cultivate throughout our lives. We might not be at all happy with the changes that come to us but if we don't make the effort to learn to live with them, then we are in for a very miserable time and we may waste the chance for something new to bring fulfilment to our lives.

If we think about it, our faith is based in change as well. The Bible is full of the stories of men and women whose lives were changed when God called them to new ways of living. Our lives have been changed because we answered the call on our lives to be followers of Jesus Christ. Our faith gives meaning to our lives and takes us on a journey of commitment to God and to other people.

I am discovering that old age is a strange journey that we have to live with just as long as we are lucky enough to make it that far. One of the tough things about it is that because we haven't been there before we're not sure what is normal and what is not. I had a friend who was sure she had figured out what old age was all about and spent her remaining years living to meet her expectation. I think it is better to just get on with living and not worry about whether your behaviour it is what is expected of an old age pensioner or not. Just be yourself and have fun no matter what your chronological age!

Change is coming to St Margaret's and we look forward to the ministry of Rev Rodney Ramsay and his wife, Mara. We are ready for this change and we know that we will be challenged and enriched by Rodney's ministry with us. Let's be sure to welcome Rodney just as we have always welcomed new ministers here and take him and his family into our hearts.

I take this opportunity now to record my thanks to you all for welcoming me back in a ministry role. I have had a great time.

I have many people to thank but I will mention just a couple here. I have loved the services led by members of Session and I have been grateful for their willingness to take a service once a month. I am enormously thankful for Chris Rosanowski's willingness to defer his retirement and share the other services with me. We have tried hard to keep everything ticking over until we can subside back to being members of the congregation with you all.

And I am thankful that Rodney has said that he is very happy to have Chris and I here in the congregation – not all ministers are so gracious.

Thank you to you all and I look forward to being part of this new journey in the life of the St Margaret's family.

*Lynn*

**Personal:**

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Lin & Dave Coleman. Lin made a hurried trip back UK and was able to be with her father when he died recently. Dave will be joining Lin and her mother shortly.
- Congratulations to Caitlin McInnarney and Josh Phillips on their recent engagement.
- Congratulations to Carol & Sandy McConnell who have another granddaughter.



Dear St Margaret's Family

Thank you all so very much for your wonderful support in light of my December fall. Cards, emails, telephone messages, flowers, meals, baking, your love, care and prayerful support has been extremely humbling and I know has helped towards my recovery. I hope to be back with you all

soon, making loud inappropriate noises (usually Heather-Lee's fault), and it will be lovely to see you all again – anyway, I've got to check out this new kid on the block Rodney and his chick Mara. Hope you are all well and safe. Lots of love – Tasi



World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service to be held on Friday 4 March at St. Joseph's Church, Pine Avenue, Upper Hutt at 1.00 p.m.

The Service called "I Have Heard About Your Faith" has been prepared by the World

Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan and adapted for use in New Zealand by World Day of Prayer Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Winter Warmers

An Organiser is required to convene the Winter Warmers. A date has yet to be decided but it is usually in May. Lorna is stepping down but is willing to help regarding what to do. I will still be doing the morning tea i.e. soups. Contact Carol McConnell 0272210609



## Harvest Festival

Sunday  
26 March



**INDUCTION OF REV. RODNEY RAMSAY**  
**THURSDAY 9 MARCH – 7.00 P.M.**  
**ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, SILVERSTREAM**

Everyone is invited to attend  
this important event in the life of St. Margaret's  
If you are able, please bring a small plate of food as a  
contribution towards supper



**SHARED LUNCH TO WELCOME THE**  
**RAMSAY FAMILY**

**SUNDAY 12 MARCH FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP**  
**THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MEET RODNEY, OVER**  
**AN INFORMAL LUNCH**

**PLEASE BRING SUFFICIENT FOOD TO SHARE**

## Lectionary”

5 Mar. Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5,13-17 John 3:1-17  
 12 Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42  
 19 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41  
 26 Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45  
 2 Apr. Isaiah 50:4-9 Psalm 118:1-2,19-29 Philippians 2:5-11  
 Matthew 21:1-11

## Rosters

### Morning Tea

5 Mar. Sue Taylor/Delwyn Frederikson  
 12 Jacqueline Kitchen/Heather-Lee Foster  
 19 Riek Kleinjan/Loretta Hastie  
 26 Pam Hurly/Lorna Moir  
 2 Apr. Karen & Andrew Coleman

### Church Cleaning

5 Jean Don  
 12 Helen Bassett  
 19 Lynley McInnarney  
 26 Ainsley Andrews  
 2 Apr. Rosenda Upton

### Lawns

11 Mar. Rhys West  
 25 Vern Bennett  
 8 Apr. Richard Harrison

*If you are unable to mow  
 the lawns, please make sure  
 that you swap with someone.*

### Audio Visual

5 Mar. David Lottering  
 9 Alfred Enslin  
 12 Alfred Enslin  
 19 Anya Enslin  
 26 Hazel O'Brien  
 2 Apr. David Lottering



**On the first Wednesday of each month** at 2.00p.m. a group comes together at the home of Jacqueline and Lynn to share a simple afternoon tea and enjoy a chance to chat. This is an informal occasion and we would love to have a few more people join us. The address is 2 Fendalton Crescent, Pinehaven.

- **Evening Fellowship (ladies and gents)** - Wednesday 8th March at 7.30 p.m. in the lounge. The speaker will be Cheryl Repia from Taita Pharmacy.
- **Sunday School** - We welcome children to join our Sunday School after children's talk in church each Sunday during term time. We run fun, interactive faith-based lessons and look forward to welcoming back our regulars and any new children wishing to attend. For more information, please call Sheryn on 021936067.

## More news from our Galloway family in Scotland .....

When I last wrote we were soon to be taking a trip to see my brother Alastair and his family in Leamington Spa, England. The trip was to coincide with the Saturday nearest to Robert Burns' birthday – the idea being that we would have a Burns Supper of some sort. For those who have never attended a Burns Supper before, they can vary wildly in formality but the general idea is that haggis,



neeps and tatties and whisky feature heavily on the menu. The haggis is piped in and someone recites Burns' *Address to the Haggis*. After the meal toasts are given to the Immortal Memory of Burns, the Lassies and, of course, a reply on behalf of the Lassies. The formalities might be followed by ceilidh dancing until it is time for *Auld Lang Syne* and carriages home.

Alastair invited friends of theirs who live not far from them and have children of similar ages, which us made up to a party of 13. Being on the less formal side, everyone was tasked with coming prepared with a Burns poem to recite. An exception was made for me because I would be on piping duties for leading the haggis to the table and piping for any dancing that might eventuate. Helpfully, the Dunblane library had a selection of Burns books on display which gave Ella and Sophie some ideas for poems that they would like to recite. Their teachers were also supportive, which was great. Sophie chose the *Selkirk Grace* ("Some hae meat and canna eat, / And some wad eat that want it, / But we hae meat and we can eat, / Sae let the Lord be Thankit!") and set about doing her best to memorise it for the night. Ella chose *A Red, Red Rose* ("O my Luve's like a red, red rose, / That's newly sprung in June...") but ended up roping some of the other children in on the night to take a verse each so that she only had to worry about one verse herself – very resourceful on her part and it is was lovely to see the children performing together.

Leamington Spa is not far from Coventry, which is famed the story of the cathedral that, in part, withstood a bombing blitz on 14 November 1940. Readers will remember the Session-led service on 14 November 2021 in which we talked about the Cathedral's ministry of reconciliation that arose from the ruins of the building. Having been dragged there myself as a 15-year-old it seemed only right that I should inflict the same on my children in equal measure. The visit included

a climb to the top of the bell tower (see photograph), but the weather was a bit poor so the views across to Birmingham and Leicester were not quite as spectacular as they might have been.

There are plenty of afterschool activities on offer here. Lego Club, Science Club, Craft Club, netball, Youth Club and Sisterhood Club all seem to find places in the weekly schedule, which is great. Ella was a bit disappointed by the standard of the netball playing, but I think that she is going to give it a go and see if it improves. All of the activities are held at the Dunblane Centre.

The girls had half-term break last week so we took a trip to Aviemore and Fort William. Lynsey had identified a few good walks in the area and, despite the initial protests, once we were walking both girls were quite happy. The three walks were all quite different. The first was around the Craigellachie Nature Reserve, which took us up to a summit from which, had the weather not closed in, we would have had a stunning view of the Cairngorms. The next day's walk was along Glen Nevis, which was quite different from the previous day (as you will see in the photographs). On the way home we stopped for a bingle around Signal Rock and An Torr in Glencoe. According to legend, a fire was lit on Signal Rock as the signal to begin the Massacre of Glencoe in 1692.



We have been to a few worship services at Dunblane Cathedral now and are quite pleased with it. The Sunday School programme (Cathedral Kids) will be running a Pancake Day event tomorrow afterschool. It will come as no surprise that Ella and Sophie will be there with their paws in the batter.

I am sure that you will be looking forward to Rodney's arrival. I am sorry to be missing that but hope that his transition into parish ministry goes well.

Best,  
Malcolm

## BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT JANUARY 2023

### Financial Summary - 7 Months July 2022 – January 2023

	Jan 2023	7 Mths	Budget	Gain(Loss)
	Mth	Jul22-Jan23	7 Mths	v Budget
<b>Income</b>				
2001 - Offering Automatic Payments	6,770	50,076	53,958	2,629
2002 - Offering Envelopes	991	6,512	Incl. above	
2010 - Loose Offerings	316	1,744	875	869
2101 - Fundraising - Fair	92	19,966	13,000	6,966
2105 - Fundraising - Winter Warmers	-	110	-	110
2111 - Fair Donations	-	1,200	-	1,200
2200 - Interest Received	-	2,468	1,000	1,468
2310 - Mission - Bible Society Appeal	-	215	200	15
2315 - Mission - CWS Christmas Appeal	10	745	500	245
Mission - CWS Special Appeals	-	-	300	(300)
Mission - CWS Hospital Chaplaincy	-	-	200	(200)
2420 - Rent Received - Hall etc	922	4,498	1,750	2,748
2430 - Other Property Income	-	43	-	43
2151 - Donations-General	100	7,680	2,333	5,347
2152 - Donations-Organ & Music Fund	-	5,000	5,000	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,201</b>	<b>100,257</b>	<b>79,117</b>	<b>21,140</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3,439</b>	<b>30,363</b>	<b>44,536</b>	<b>14,173</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>5,762</b>	<b>69,894</b>	<b>34,581</b>	<b>35,313</b>

**Funds Available for General Operations:** Amounted to \$190,754.18 at 31 January 2023.

**CWS Christmas Appeal:** Contributions amounted to \$745.00 including the Christmas Eve Sausage Sizzle and the Christmas Day offering (except where specifically specified otherwise). The \$745.00 has been forwarded to Christian World Service and receipts for those who requested them should be available shortly.

**Lounge Roof/Guttering:** Despite the rain that we have had at times over December/January, none of it has been heavy enough to cause problems so we are still awaiting an on-site meeting with the Builder and Roofing Contractor.

**Rental Accommodation For New Minister And Associated Costs:** Rodney, Mara, and Tye will be living at 1/46 Whiteman's Road and St Margaret's is responsible for meeting the \$760.00 per week rental cost. In addition, we will need to provide a new Fridge/Freezer for around \$1,700 and pay Removal/Transfer costs in the region of \$6,500.

**New Office For Minister:** The room at the left of the entrance to the Church is being converted to a formal Office for Rodney, and a lock has now been fitted to the door.



# March 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 Session Tea & Chat Dance 4-6.30	2 Dance 4-5.30 Badminton	3	4 Dance 9-12
5 Communion	6 Friendship Gr. CW Dance 1-2.30 Pilates 6-8 HV Singers 7-9	7 Dance 4-7	8 Evg.Fellowship Dance 4-6.30	9 Induction Rev. Rodney Ramsay	10	11 Dance 9-12
12 Morn. Worship Parish shared lunch	13 Friendship Gr. CW Dance 1-2.30 Pilates 6-8 HV Singers 7-9	14 Dance 4-7	15 Bd. Managers Dance 4-6.30	16 Dance 4-5.30 Badminton	17	18 Dance 9-12
19 Morn. Worship	20 Friendship Gr. CW Dance 1-2.30 Pilates 6-8 HV Singers 7-9	21 Dance 4-7	22 Dance 4-6.30	23 Dance 4-5.30 Badminton	24	25 Dance 9-12
26 Morn. Worship Harvest Festival	27 Friendship Gr. CW Dance 1-2.30 Pilates 6-8 HV Singers 7-9	28 Dance 4-7	29 Dance 4-6.30	30 Dance 4-5.30 Badminton	31	

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

Full list of names and times for the above groups are on a chart on the notice board in the hall foyer.