



# ST MARGARET'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

**NEWSLETTER**  
**DECEMBER 2023**  
**JANUARY 2024**

## ***A Christmas Prayer***

Loving Father,  
 Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
 That we may share in the song of the angels,  
 The gladness of the shepherds,  
 And worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate,  
 And open the door of love all over the world.  
 Let kindness come with every gift  
 And good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
 Which Christ brings,  
 And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning  
 Make us happy to be Your children,  
 And Christmas evening bring us to our beds,  
 With grateful thoughts,  
 Forgiving and forgiven,  
 For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson



Christmas time is almost upon us. We groan, mainly because it seems to have come so fast. Amazing isn't it, that we use Christmas as a marker for the passing of time? Maybe we groan for other reasons. Maybe, because the expectation that Christmas is supposed to be a time so filled with joy, laughter, meaning and relationships, our own pain and loss is magnified. I can only speak for myself here, but I have a hunch that it is true for many, that we miss loved ones all the more at Christmas. Loved ones who have passed away or are very far away.

In spite of this I still find Christmas to be, as John Rutter expresses it, "The very best time of year". The lyrics say;

"Feels like you can touch the sky,  
or catch a star and fly away.  
Feels like you could wish for peace on earth,  
And all at once it would come, some day.

Families and friends together  
Feel a special kind of love and cheers,  
Sharing all the joys of Christmas time  
The very best time of year"

Why is Christmas so special?

It is a time of HOPE, that God has come into this world to save us, yes, us.  
It is a time of LOVE, when we know not only God's love for us, but the love that we have for each other. The grief that we experience of loved ones who are no longer with us must not rob us of the love we can give and receive from those present.

It is a time of JOY, the joy of connecting with our community and knowing that in all we do we are creating a world with just a little more love in it.

I have also found that the more I engage with the season of Advent, the deeper my experience of Christmas.

I pray that we can all walk this journey together,  
preparing for Christmas and experiencing the Love,  
Hope and Joy of this Christmas season.

*Rodney*





## CHRISTMAS TOYS, BAKING & TOILETRIES for Family Works 2023

We, at St. Margaret's, have a tradition of collecting toys and Christmas baking for the families who use the services of Family Works, Presbyterian Support Central's Upper Hutt Centre. This is an increasingly difficult time for many families and any contribution we make towards helping make Christmas a special time is greatly appreciated.

**New or quality secondhand toys, Christmas baking and small toiletry items (soap, toothpaste etc.) 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 10 December 2023** 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.*

If you have any enquiries contact Pat 9380374



**St. Margaret's Christmas Choir**  
**We'd love you to join us in rehearsals.**  
*each Thursday from 23 November for 4 weeks*  
**7.30 – 8.30 in the church**

*(No previous experience required)*

for the Christmas music service  
**on 17 December 2023**

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



## Coming Up & other information

- **Friendship Group** finishes for the year on Monday 11 December and restarts again next year on Monday 12 February.
- **Evening Fellowship** - Christmas Dinner at Ambrose, Te Marua Golf Club Wednesday 13 December 6.00 pm. \$40 per person. Please give names to Lois Rowe by Sunday 3 December please if you would like to join us. If you put your name down it is a commitment to pay as we are not collecting money prior to the dinner.
- **On the first Wednesday of each month** at 2.00 p.m. a group comes together at the home of Jacqueline and Lynn to share a simple afternoon tea and enjoy a chance to chat. The address is 2 Fendalton Crescent, Pinehaven.
- **This year's Christmas pageant will be held on 3 December.**  
We hope to see as many as we can partaking in this event – this year, it will be a collaborative/interactive pageant. Come along and join the fun.  
If you are interested in a speaking part, we will need you at the following practices:
  - Sunday 26 November
  - Friday 1 December
  - Saturday 2 December (if needed)
  - Sunday 3 December early run through before Pageant Day

Our Year 7 youth going up to Youth Group will be presented with their bibles that day too.

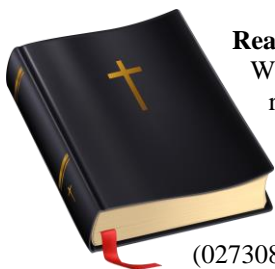
- **Youth Group:** For the final term of this year, we have continued with Friday night youth group which includes years 8s to 13s. We have had steady attendance with the focus this term on fun, friendship, food and faith. Delena has stepped back from leadership (thank you Delena for your awesome mahi with this tikanga) and Rodney and Jo are the regular leaders now. (With back up provided by Sheryn and Delena) We will finish a little early this term on the 1st of December.
  - Next year we will start again on Friday 19th January, by popular demand from our rangatahi. We are looking for donations of supper and the occasional meal for gatherings which happen every Friday (except school holidays). Next year Rodney and Jo will be looking at a teaching curriculum to continue our rangatahi's faith journey, but we will still stay with the relaxed 90min format. All year 8s are welcome, please see Jo or Rodney for any keen new starters or info about youth group.

- **Shine Christmas Tree Display** - Lane Park Church You are invited to Lane Park Church to enjoy what Christmas is all about with a wide range of beautifully created and decorated Christmas trees.

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 December from 4pm to 7pm at Lane Park Church, 22 Lane Park, Upper Hutt. There will be live music, hot chocolates, candy floss, home baking, sausage sizzle and more for you to enjoy.



Those who have been in the parish for some time will remember Alan Kitchen and the great work he did with St. John Ambulance. Now Alan has been added to the 'Walk of Fame' at Brewtown. Alan is the late husband of Jacqueline Kitchen.



### Readers for Sunday morning .....

We are looking for more people to offer to do one of the readings during the service on Sunday mornings. The Elder on duty always does the first reading, and a member of the congregation, the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. There is not a roster, so when approached, well before Sunday, you are free to decline. Please contact Hazel O'Brien (0273089613) if you can help.

# Come Celebrate Christmas with us!

|             |           |                             |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 3 December  | 10 a.m.   | Pageant                     |
| 10 December | 10 a.m.   | Morning worship - Communion |
| 17 December | 10 a.m.   | Carol service (with choir)  |
| 24 December | 10 a.m.   | Morning worship service     |
| 24 December | 6 p.m.    | Christmas Eve picnic        |
| 24 December | 7.30 p.m. | Carols on the lawn          |
| 24 December | 9.15 p.m. | Christmas Eve service       |
| 25 December | 10 a.m.   | Christmas Day service       |
| 31 December | 10 a.m.   | Morning worship service     |
| 7 January   | 10 a.m.   | Morning worship - Communion |



## Rosters

### Morning Tea

|        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 Dec. | Derilene Aston/Sonja Ané Britz    |
| 10     | Lin Coleman/Karen Coleman         |
| 17     | Shirley Harrison/Adrienne Baron   |
| 24     | Loretta Hastie/Jacqueline Kitchen |
| 31     | Heather-Lee & Malcolm Foster      |
| 7 Jan. | Sue Taylor/Delwyn Frederikson     |
| 14     | Shirley Harrison/Jan Hill         |
| 21     | Sonja Ané Britz/Selma Britz       |
| 28     | Lin Coleman/Karen Coleman         |
| 4 Feb. | Lynn Russell/Mathilda Hartzenberg |

### Church Cleaning

|        |                   |
|--------|-------------------|
| 3 Dec. | Jean Don          |
| 10     | Rosenda Upton     |
| 17     | Karen Coleman     |
| 24     | Carol McConnell   |
| 31     | Shirley Harrison  |
| 7 Jan. | Helen Bassett     |
| 14     | Jan Hill          |
| 21     | Ainsley Andrews   |
| 28     | Lynley McInnarney |
| 4 Feb. | Jean Don          |

### Lawns

|         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| 2 Dec.  | Richard Harrison    |
| 16      | Andries Labuschagne |
| 30      | Mike McInnarney     |
| 13 Jan. | Nick Tait           |
| 27      | Chris Upton         |
| 10 Feb. | Clive McGovern      |

### Audio Visual

|        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| 3 Dec. | David Lottering  |
| 10     | Chris Rosanowski |
| 17     | Alfred Enslin    |
| 24 am  | David Lottering  |
| 24 pm  | Hazel O'Brien    |
| 25     | Hazel O'Brien    |
| 31     | Chris Rosanowski |
| 7 Jan. | David Lottering  |
| 14     | Jenny Fisher     |
| 21     | Hazel O'Brien    |
| 28     | Alfred Enslin    |
| 5 Feb. | David Lottering  |

## FROM BOARD OF MANAGERS

**General Funds:** Funds held for General Operations at 31 October 2023 amounted to \$216,060.01. This is after Fair takings and payment of Insurance Premiums for the 12 months to 31 July 2024.

**Fair** The Fair on 25 October 2023 was a huge success and congratulations go to everyone involved especially the organising team of Dean Paul, Diane Pratt, Sheryn Jacques, Lynley McInnarney, and Delena West. A new all-time record was set and a further \$487 has been received in November.

**L&R Snell Trust:** The Trust has made distributions in November covering the 3 years ended 31 March 2021 - 2023 to McKenzie Jacques to assist with her study costs, to Presbytery Support Central and to St Margaret's. St Margaret's share is \$14,921.70 which is not included in the above figures as they are to 31 October 2023.

Members are reminded that the Trust is open to applications from those who are studying towards becoming School Teachers at undergraduate or post graduate level.

Anyone who considers they may be eligible should discuss their situation with Lance Hurly (04) 528 5461.

## Fair 2023



Crowd at the gate



2<sup>nd</sup> hand clothing



Steptoe



Toys

Garden



Garden

## BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT

| <b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</b>                      | <b>Oct 2023</b> | <b>Oct 2023</b> | <b>4 Mths</b> | <b>4 Mths</b> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>For the 4 Months Ended 31 October 2023</b> | <b>Month</b>    | <b>Month</b>    | <b>YTD</b>    | <b>YTD</b>    |
|   | <b>Actual</b>   | <b>Budget</b>   | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Budget</b> |
| <b>Income</b>                                 |                 |                 |               |               |
| Offerings                                     | 9,784           | 8,750           | 36,021        | 35,001        |
| Fair incl. Winter Warmers & Donations         | 22,896          | 19,000          | 22,961        | 19,000        |
| Donations excluding Fair                      | 300             | 1,167           | 300           | 2,333         |
| Other Income                                  | 304             | 900             | 8,048         | 4,600         |
| <b>Total Income</b>                           | <b>33,285</b>   | <b>29,817</b>   | <b>67,331</b> | <b>60,935</b> |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>               | <b>13,750</b>   | <b>15,343</b>   | <b>59,933</b> | <b>58,541</b> |
| <b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>                  | <b>19,535</b>   | <b>14,474</b>   | <b>7,398</b>  | <b>2,394</b>  |

**General Funds:** Funds held for General Operations at 31 October 2023 amounted to \$216,060.01. This is after Fair takings and payment of Insurance Premiums for the 12 months to 31 July 2024

**Fair:** The Fair on 25 October 2023 was a huge success and congratulations go to everyone involved especially the organising team of Dean Paul, Diane Pratt, Sheryn Jacques, Lynley McInnarney, and Delena West.

A new all-time record was set and a further \$487 has been received in November.

# December 2023

**Minister:** Rev. Rodney Ramsay 0211259835  
**Session Clerk:** Marilyn Anderson 527.8601  
**Website:** <http://stmargaretschurch.net.nz>  
**Facebook:** St. Margaret's Family Page

**Family Team:** Contact the Minister

**Hall Bookings:** Carol McConnell 0272210609

| Sunday   | Monday                              | Tuesday | Wednesday                           | Thursday          | Friday           | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|
| 31<br>Morn. Worship  |                                     |         |                                     |                   | 1<br>Youth Group | 2        |
| 3<br>Sunday School<br>Pageant  | 4<br>Friendship Gr.<br>Pilates 6-8  | 5       | 6<br>Session<br>Tea & Chat          | 7<br>Pilates 6-8  | 8                | 9        |
| 10<br>Communion<br>Shared lunch  | 11<br>Friendship Gr.<br>Pilates 6-8 | 12      | 13<br>Evng/<br>Fellowship<br>dinner | 14<br>Pilates 6-8 | 15               | 16       |
| 17<br>Choir singing  | 18<br>Pilates 6-8                   | 19      | 20<br>Bd. Managers                  | 21                | 22               | 23       |
| 24<br>Morn. Worship<br>6.00 Picnic<br>7.30 Carols-lawn<br>9.15 Service | 25<br>Christmas day<br>service      | 26      | 27                                  | 28                | 29               | 30       |

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

Services during January 10.00 a.m. Communion 7 January