

Easter / Pentecost

Photo by Miriam Taylor

Nativity NEWS

MAY 2022

Issue 21

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH!

**EDITORIAL BY
ROSE FRANCIS**

Pentecost, so called because it comes 50 days after Passover; celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' believers. As tongues of fire settled on them, Peter boldly addressed the crowd of witnesses. That day, 3,000 souls were saved!

Today we use the dove of peace and red flames of purity to remember that amazing Pentecost event which is considered to be the day the Church was born.

As we moved through Covid from lockdowns to the current 'traffic light' restrictions, we are grateful for the stalwarts of Nativity who have guided us and provided support and opportunities for our parishioners to participate in worship. We have been blessed by small group gatherings, and, via technology, the ability to remotely participate in services. How it lifted our spirits when, in isolation, we were able to join in the singing of hymns and prayers on screens.

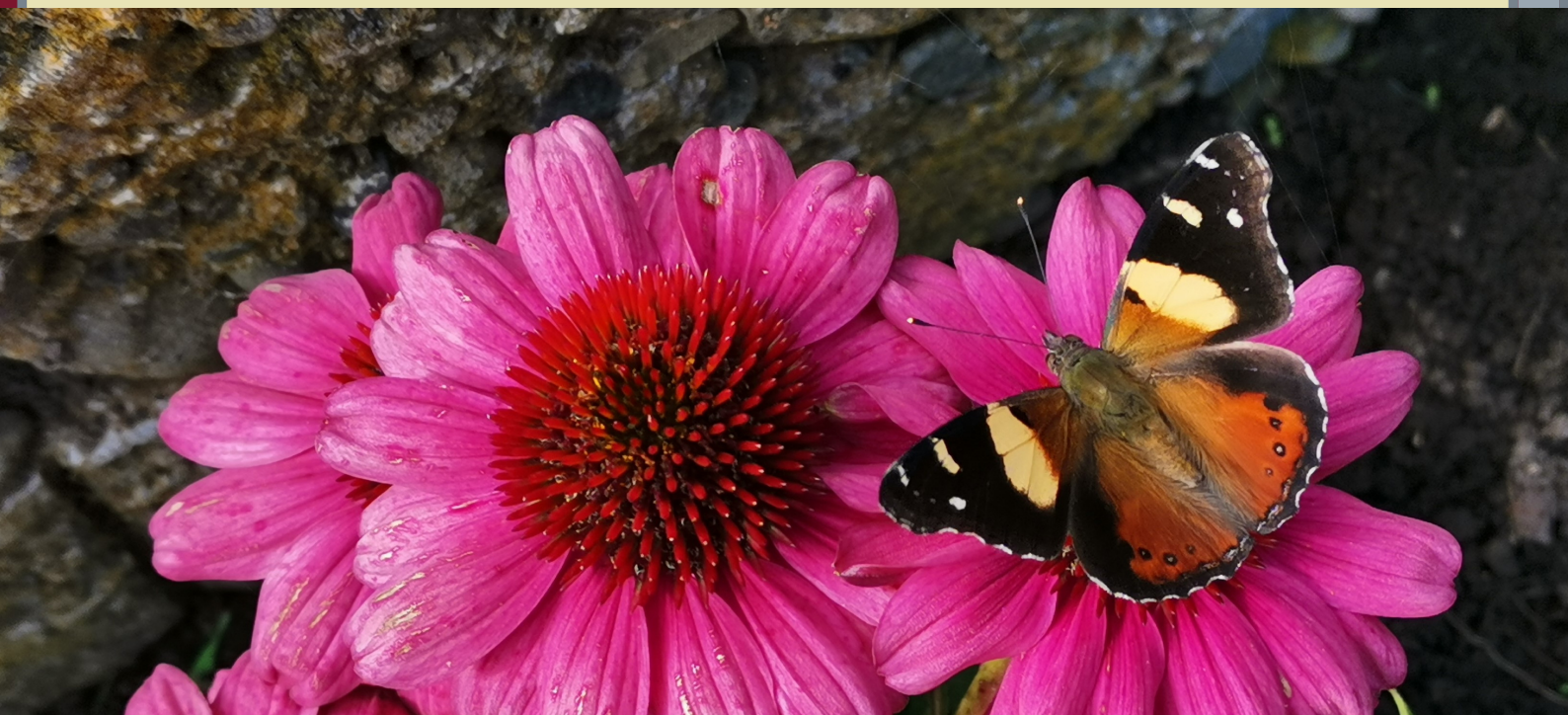
In this issue, we honour faithful servants. Eileen Guard and her late husband have faithfully served Nativity for decades. We also appreciate those who have served on our vestry over recent years.

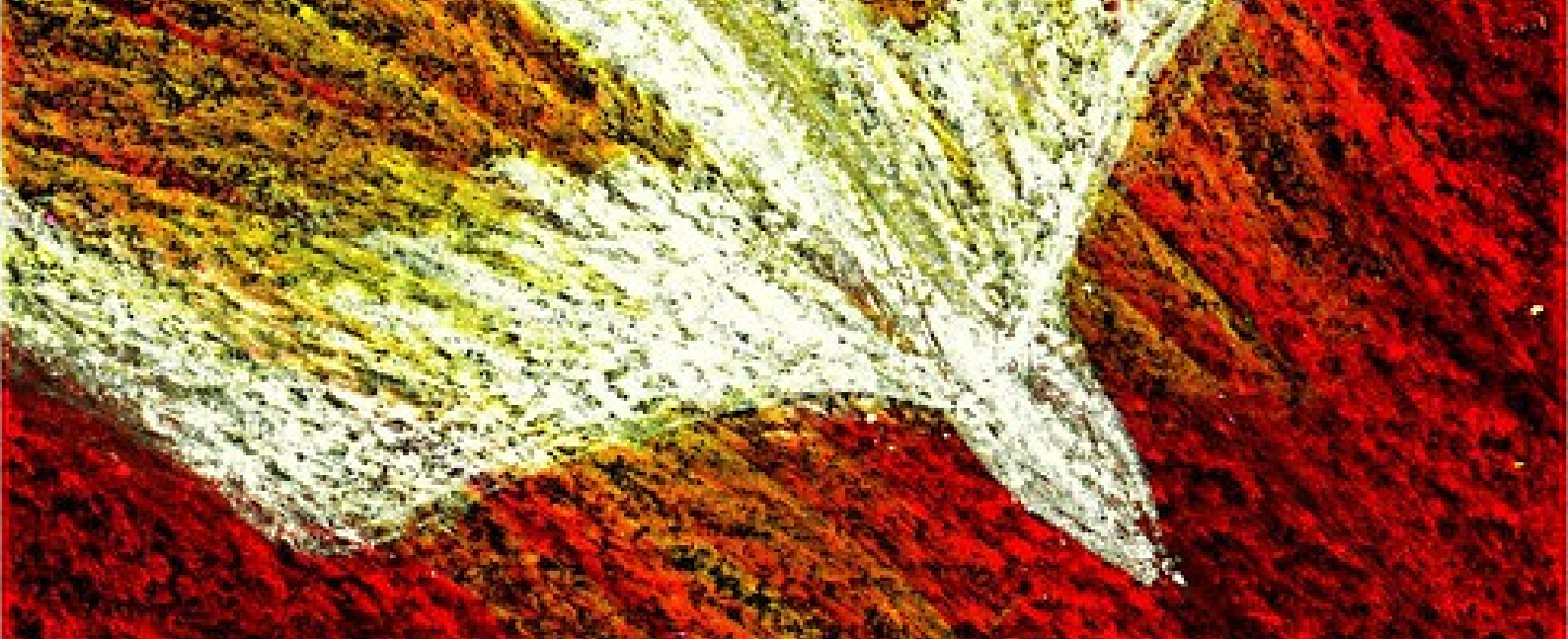
Do you enjoy gardens? I was delighted to be given a tour of the Viles' wonderful begonia display right next door to our church in the Nativity Courts. They show how much can be achieved on a small plot, and how beautiful Creation is.

Animal lovers like me will enjoy the Morning Prayers from Canterbury Cathedral, the birthplace of the Anglican Church. Animals were created before humans, "and God saw that everything He created was good" Let all Creation praise Him.

My last Monarch butterfly of this season has emerged from its chrysalis. It is fluttering around red dahlias, sipping nectar in the sun. Thank you to the six parishioners who responded to my SOS requesting extra swan plant foliage to feed the voracious caterpillars. These must be kept indoors, due to the destructive paper wasps and praying mantises (or should that be 'preying'?) who demolish the caterpillars, decimating our population of these gorgeous butterflies. It's a small thing we can do, to protect the vulnerable eggs and caterpillars.

As we survey the beauty of autumn and appreciate the abundance of harvest time, our hearts are full of thanks that God has guided us through another challenging season. May we trust Him with our future, for He is faithful and will not forsake us.





UPDATE FROM VICAR GLEN

REVEREND GLEN ASHWORTH

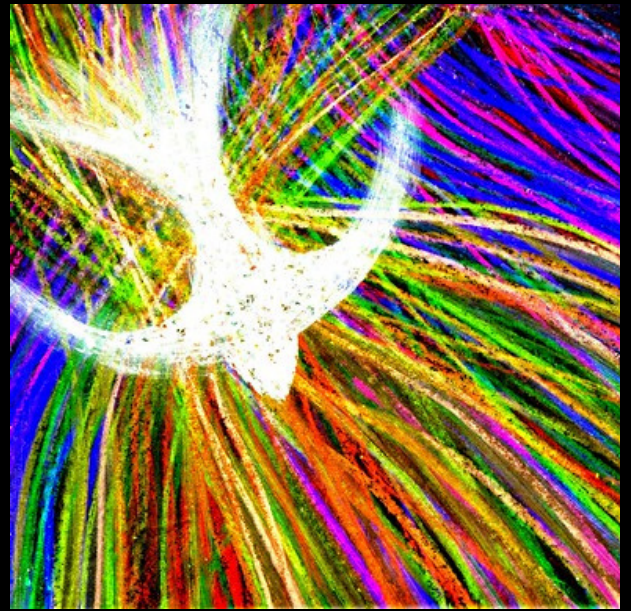
Pentecost is one of those days in the church's calendar where the creativity can flow. In 10th-century Rome, for example, in order to make the coming of the Holy Spirit a dramatic, dynamic event for their congregations, leaders of Pentecost services involved architecture, not just anthems.

The custom of painting heavenly scenes on the domed and vaulted ceilings of cathedrals served not only to inspire the devout with blessed visions but also disguised some discreet trap doors. During the Pentecost service, they would release live doves through these holes as diving symbols of the Holy Spirit.

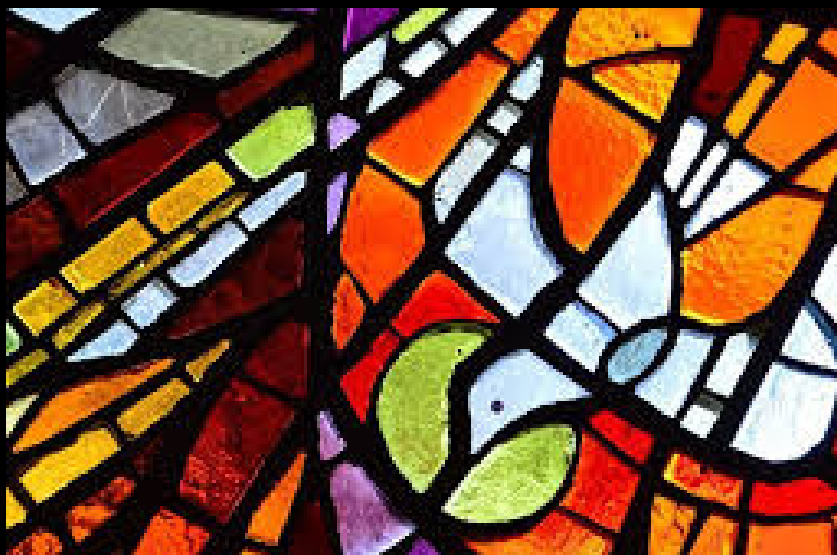
At the same moment, the choirboys would break into the whooshing and drumming sound of a holy windstorm. Finally, as the doves were flying and the winds were rushing, the ceiling holes would once again be utilized -- as bushels upon bushels of rose petals were showered down upon the congregation. They called these openings to the sky in medieval churches "Holy Spirit holes."

Aside from being a dramatic and unforgettable way to celebrate the birth of the church, the idea of 'Holy Spirit holes' is an interesting one for us to think about. We may feel there are moments in our lives when the Spirit is more apparent to us, but we also believe that God's Spirit is always with us. We are coming to the end of the 'Moving Forward Together' process and into a new season beyond Covid restrictions and the issues those have caused. The timing is serendipitous - let's see in this an opening for God's Spirit to bring the new and fresh things he wants to do amongst us at this time.





Come and Celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit for all who believe in Christ, at Nativity on Sunday 5th June, followed by Church luncheon



THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

All in all the Holy Spirit is best understood as the Spirit of Jesus, living in his followers and continuing his work



PURIFIER



PEACE

Miriam Taylor

When Jesus came, the Spirit of God was the whole dynamic of his life. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit descended on him (in the form of a dove) at his baptism and was active throughout his ministry. 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me', said Jesus, quoting the prophet Isaiah, at the outset of his ministry. After Jesus died, it was the Spirit of God who raised him from death.

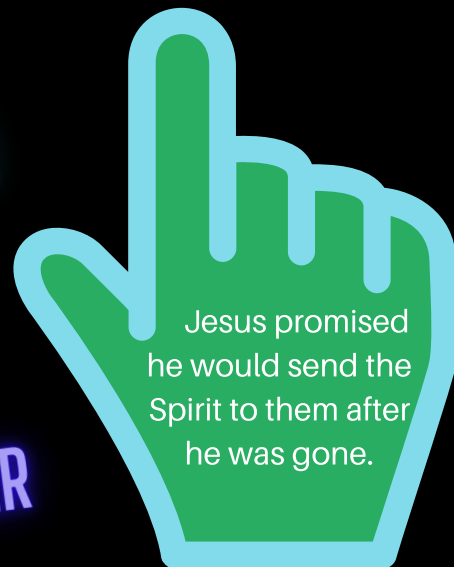
LOVE

JOY

HOPE

UNIFIER

ENCOURAGER



Jesus promised he would send the Spirit to them after he was gone.

The Spirit will reveal the truth about God.

GUIDE

COUNSELLOR

The Spirit would keep them company, just as Jesus had done. While Jesus was limited by a human body, his Spirit would now be with each one of them all the time, wherever they were.

On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was freely poured out on humankind for the first time in history. As the crowds came rushing together to find out what was going on, Peter explained that Joel's prophecy was being fulfilled before their eyes.



The Spirit is the power base of the Christian Church

COMFORTER

LIFEGIVER

TEACHER



THE WIND OF HIS SPIRIT IS BLOWING EVERYWHERE





The Garden Congregation!

"Good morning and welcome to the deanery garden, Canterbury Cathedral."

These are the words that have started most of my days this year, after having been introduced to Morning Prayers with the Very Reverend Robert Willis, by a friend. Robert is usually accompanied by either Leo or Tiger (deanery cats) and Mr Robin, who is busy feeding his offspring at the moment and Russel Crow (the rooster) greeting the new day. They join in as we pray the collects, read the psalm for the day, the scripture reading and listen to Robert's reflections on them.

My favourite part is praying the Lord's Prayer in our "own language" together. We are the garden congregation, we are a worldwide congregation. This started two years ago 'by accident' according to Dean Robert. Between 8 to 14 thousand tune in each day.

Elaine Bignell who also follows Morning prayers from Canterbury Cathedral says, "I find it spiritually uplifting. I find it amazing that she who is not a gardener is interested in gardening, It is educational, opening for me the relevance between history, creativity, creation and scripture"

It's not going to suit everyone but I do recommend that on a quiet day when you have 40-45 minutes to spare, you Google 'Morning Prayer Canterbury Cathedral' and check it out. Canterbury Cathedral is, after all, the home of the Anglican Church.

I was telling one of my also retired, non-churchgoing nursing colleagues how I begin my day, Her response, "What a lovely way to start your day," I agree it certainly is!

Raewyn Parkes



The Very Reverend Dr. Robert Willis retired on 16 May this year - the eve of his 75th birthday
To view any of previous morning prayers see:
You Tube - Garden Congregation

THE WELL MARLBOROUGH



***An encounter with Jesus at the well
changed one woman's life and then
her community.***

Over winter we are being offered four opportunities to be refreshed and grow closer to God.

The Well is being organised by a Focus Ministries team led by Rev Kaye Dyer.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

Kaye: 021 1758563 or
kaye@mightymessage.com

- When?** Sunday evenings
5-8pm on May 15, June 19,
July 10, August 21
- What?** Interactive discipleship with
fun, food and fellowship
- Who?** For men, women and
secondary students
- Cost?** Koha welcome
Registration is needed for
catering
- Where?** Nativity lounge



Nativity Vestry 2022

John Ealand (Synod Rep), Rachel Powell (inset), Hamish Harper (Synod Rep), Konrad Cross, Kate Bristed (Synod Rep), Stephen Sheat (Vicar's Warden), Dion Mundy, Jennifer Bennett-Burrows (People's Warden), Glen Ashworth (Vicar), Janet Guard, Conway Taylor (inset), Stephen Leitch.

We welcome new members on to the Vestry of Nativity Church - Janet Guard and Stephen Leitch - and sincerely thank them and all members for their willingness to serve our Lord and his church in this way.

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE, TO PAULINE TISCH AND KEITH BUCK, WHO RETIRED AT THIS YEAR'S AGM

Pauline Tisch



Thank You!

Pauline has retired from Vestry after serving for 18 years; 14 of them as People's Warden. Pauline, along with Pam Sawyer, instigated the Nativity Catering Team, which has catered and fund-raised for Nativity for over 20 years. Roger Tisch has also been an integral part of the team. Pauline has organized many Nativity working bees over the years and she and Roger have been at Nativity steps on a Sunday morning greeting and welcoming parishioners and visitors for 22 years so far!

Keith Buck



Thank You!

Keith has faithfully served for 10 years on Nativity Vestry. He has also served for two and a half terms on the Diocesan Standing Committee (which is about eight years) - travelling over the hill to Nelson each month. For five to six years Keith was to be found upstairs in the Nativity Administrative Centre as Treasurer - working on Nativity's finances. Keith's quiet service behind the scenes has been greatly appreciated.

CARTOONS OF THE MONTH!



Peter's First Post-Pentecost Visit to Supercuts



FRANK
©kevinfrank.net



JSP



BEGONIA BEAUTY!

Nativity's neighbours living in Nativity Courts, alongside our church, are avid gardeners. Their little gardens are delightful places of tranquility, brilliant colours and rich perfumes. I visited number 5B John Street recently to enjoy a guided tour of John and Zella Viles' spectacular begonia display.

At 93, John is still working, representing Glenroy Housing, which built their home. He and Zella have always enjoyed having a large garden. Now they've settled for quality above quantity, and have amassed an astonishing collection of begonias which are literally covering entire walls of tiered plantings which they add to from a specialist nursery in Takaka.

Zella and John's two sons and their families live in Blenheim, while their daughter is in Whanganui. Keeping their begonias in peak condition takes a lot of work. With over 170 plants that flower from Christmas to the end of April, tending to flowers and watering takes a lot of time. Before winter, begonias drop their tops, and John has the task of removing dirt from every bulb and laying them in trays on shelves in the garage. Pots are cleaned out ready to be re-potted with fresh mix when pink shoots appear on the bulbs.

Zella enjoys sharing the beauty of her plants with others. "God is in everything we do here. He supplies all our needs. Looking at the glorious colours of our begonias reminds us of our awesome and wonderful God."

During the best flowering months, the Viles have a sign on their white trellis fence, inviting people to walk around their garden. "We enjoy our connection with Nativity, especially the seniors' lunches, and church people are welcome to visit and view God's beautiful creation.

By Rose Francis



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WILLIAM KINGSTON!



WILLIAM KINGSTON - ONE OF NATIVITY'S FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS - TURNS 50!

As a teenager William collected bottles for recycling and then moved on to collecting other items, as well. He is one of Marlborough's first environmentalists!

At Nativity he does a host of jobs around the church site. He is at all the working bees, is called on to shift chairs and other furniture within and between buildings, and keeps a close eye on security making sure doors and windows are locked. At this time of the year William undertakes the massive job of raking up the acorns in the car park and around the front of the church to ensure no-one slips on them.

A group of parishioners shouted William on a scenic flight with our two pilot reverends - John Neal and Derek Harding. The day of the proposed flight - a day before William's birthday - was clear and calm - a perfect day! Thank you John and Derek and thank you William for your willing and cheerful service. May you have a happy birthday week, and many happy returns!

And may God Bless YOU!

HOLY WEEK AT NATIVITY



Easter reflections at the Cross



Saturday Night Vigil





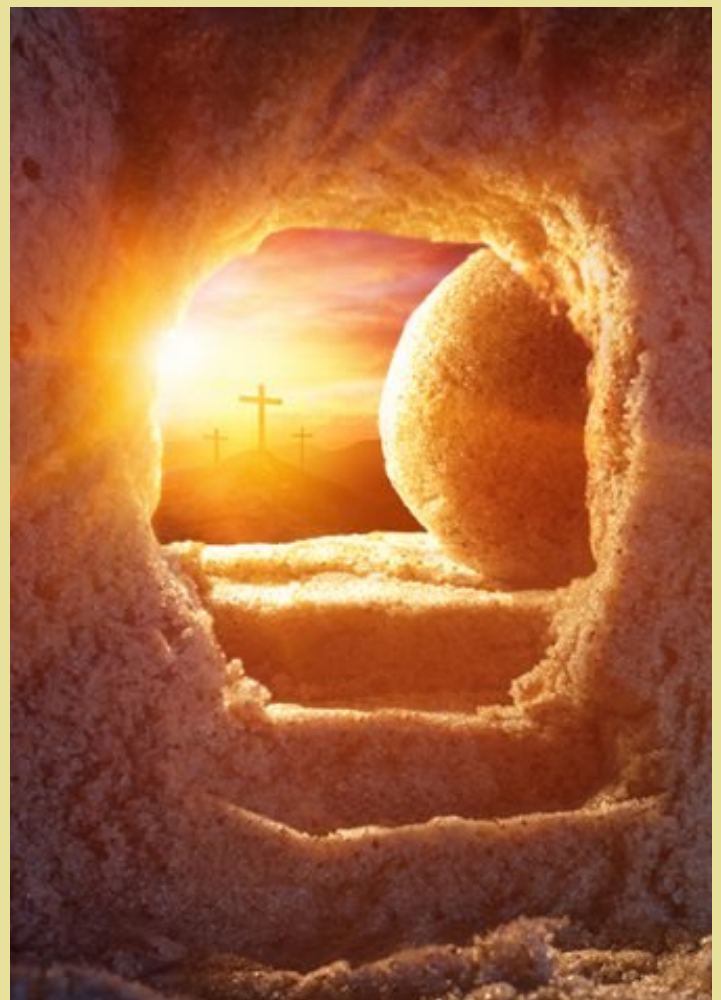
GOOD FRIDAY WALKTHROUGH

With thanks to Dyer's Small Group



EASTER DAY - CHRIST IS RISEN!

Back together in church- Restrictions gone!





NURTURING NATIVITY THROUGH RED!

Miriam Taylor

Like all organizations our church had to think creatively to provide ministry for all our people, while still keeping within the laws of our government, whose aim was to keep our nation as safe as possible from Covid, and our hospitals able to manage any major outbreak.

I think it is true to say that it wasn't an easy task for either group !

Sunday services were livestreamed into our homes. This involved technical expertise provided by our techno team - especially Kathy Taylor, Vaughan McKenzie and Roz Mundy
Thank you, team!

Some people found it most convenient to watch the service on their own at home, while others took advantage of the opportunity to gather with a small group of 6-8 and watch together.

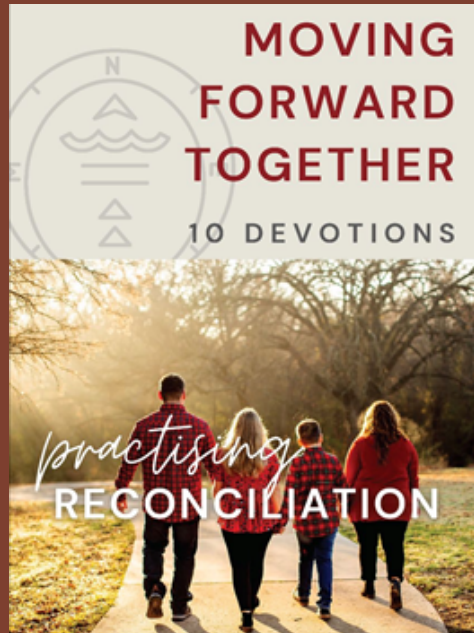
After watching the whole service or just the Bible Readings and sermon, they concluded with a discussion / chat and a cuppa. Thanks to those who led those groups!

The service in the main church was a non-vaccine pass service with a limit of 25 people, as well as those involved in the service and livestream technology.

At the same time, people were invited to Barnies to join two groups who had combined to watch the livestream service. Eileen Guard and Jocelyn Wilkes led this group and Sue Gosling, Kate Bristed and others, provided morning tea. Those who attended appreciated meeting together.

Being in 'red ' with restrictions on numbers, volunteers and activities, presented a stressful challenge for Glen and the Team.

Now we are at orange, some normality has been restored, but it will take time to readjust. Some have felt disappointed by decisions made during red and so Nativity, along with churches throughout the Diocese, are participating in a period of reconciliation. The first part of this is following through the Moving Together Booklet. Do pick one up from the foyer at the church or download it from the Nativity website. It is a powerful devotional booklet and includes reflections from famous Christians such as Bishop Desmond Tutu.



Through this Bible devotion booklet we are all encouraged to reflect and pray about the difficult season we, the Nativity family, have just been through during the red restrictions. Also, we are invited to reflect on the impact it has had on each one of us - physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Heavenly Father,

I pray that this day I may live in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Amen

The booklet introduces us to theologian, John Stott's, daily prayer - The Trinity Prayer



The Trinity Icon depicts the three angels who visited Abraham at the Oak of Mamre (Genesis 18:1-8), but the painting is full of symbolism and is interpreted as an icon of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Trinity was the embodiment of spiritual unity, peace, harmony, mutual love and humility. This most famous Russian icon was created by painter, Andre Rublev in 1425

SOME QUOTES FROM THE BOOKLET

"When we receive and belong to this (God's) love, we encounter the courage and grace to let it flow through us towards others who have hurt and disappointed us "

"God expects unity, not uniformity, and we can walk arm in arm without seeing eye to eye on every issue."

"If murder is a horrible crime, malicious anger and insult are horrible too. And so is every deed, word, look or thought by which we hurt or offend our fellow human being."

"Christians inwardly give up the desire to get even."

"Unless we learn to live together as brothers and sisters we will perish together as fools!"



An Invitation !

AAW is inviting women of all ages in our parish to come and join us at our monthly meetings which are held at 1.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the Nativity Lounge. Each month's reports keep us up to date with Social Concerns, both local and national and overseas Missions.

At a recent meeting, we had a small play which was written by a member. We learned from Vivienne James, Nativity flower lady and member of our group, how to make the flax crosses that were given to the congregation on Palm Sunday.

Exchanging recipes and a tasting of some of them at afternoon tea time was enjoyed by everyone. Books recently read and recommended.

A future meeting will include a person from our Borough Council to speak to us. With funds from our monthly sales table, we have been able to support the restoration of damaged school buildings for girls in Vanuatu and for water tanks in Fiji. We have also supported members from areas in NZ in times of flooding.

Our Aims.

To unite in prayer and to participate in the Mission of the Church.

To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian Family Life.

Heather Wadsworth - Leader.



By John Neal

THE POWER OF MORE THAN ONE

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

We Western humans are taught to admire the individual, the quiet, rugged person who appears immune to the pressures of everyday life to which we lesser mortals are all too subject, and who always triumphs in the end.

So we picture the hero of the Western movie, the intrepid explorer and the self-absorbed, egocentric heroes of "Top Gun", each determined to do their own thing their own way.

Certainly the world has been blessed by the work, often unseen and unlauded done by individuals, but a bigger picture suggests that when people work together even better things can happen.

God in the Creation made 'man' in His own image and, despite what some people have claimed, did not then stroke his chin and say 'Hmmm, I can do better than that', at which point He created 'woman'. Instead He observed, 'It is not good that the man should be alone'.

We are social creatures who need other people, and when we learn to work together without, as a former United States President once wrote '...anyone being concerned about who will get the credit.', then greater things can be done that exceed the total of individual efforts.

In my former trade training (I used to repair earthmoving equipment) I learned the value of what we know as 'synergy' - that is the total being greater than the sum of individual parts. As an example, take two bulldozers levelling a hill by pushing earth from the high parts to the low. Bulldozer A, capably driven, can (say) shift 25 tons of earth in an hour, while another bulldozer working nearby can also shift 25 tons of earth per hour. If, however, the drivers of the two machines resolve to work together by driving alongside one another so that their respective blades are almost touching, the two machines can then move considerably more than the combined 50 tons per hour.

Well might we apply this principle to our church. So often people weigh up whether or not they will attempt by what they get out of the experience when, more pertinently, this consideration should also include what they can put into it. In other words, a church congregation is not so much a bunch of individuals under the same roof, as it is a group worshipping and working together, both for the encouragement and benefit of one another but, more pertinently, working for the good of the community living around that congregation. Food for thought?

John

Service with a smile!

NEWS FROM THE REST HOME CHAPLAINCY



**ALISON BRICE,
NATIVITY CHAPLAIN
TO THE ELDERLY.**

COVID. What a nasty word that has become. No one has escaped and rest homes as much, if not more, than most. I have only had one service with the full team in the last two years and that was Christmas at Waterlea 2021. The other homes have only allowed two to take a service and on one occasion only me. Now, still only three, we have to take a RAT test and wear a surgical mask at all times. Not easy when you speak and sing. That was Aberleigh and the first service this year. Last week Springlands had to cancel both services. Last year we were able to add five more Springlands Services but not all were taken. Kate and Bill Bristed have started a monthly service to the hospital wing at Springlands which was starting to become popular, though there have been a lot of cancelled services there as well.

This week end 13-15th May, Chris Donaldson came up from Christchurch to run a training for Rest Home Chaplains and others interested in elder visiting. There were 12 trainees, two from Nativity, Pam Rentoul and Carole Brimble as well as other qualified chaplains coming to be refreshed and support Chris. Rest home chaplaincy is a vital ministry for the elderly and its heartening to know God is calling so many caring people to spend time visiting the residents of Blenheim and Picton Homes.

NEWS ABOUT OUR MISSIONARIES

Wayne and Bronwyn

Spring has arrived. Wayne is regaining weight after his bout of pneumonia. Students on many campuses have been confined and generally gatherings and travel are discouraged because of the virus. Continue to pray for their ministry among students. Generally life is continuing steadily in their little corner. They have been away for 10 years now and their plans are still to return later this year, but we have no more details on that.

Chris and Catherine:

They are settled back in their country in Central Asia and value prayer for their mentoring work and their family. Ashton and Sofia are back at school, Reuben works in Palmerston North, Sasha and boyfriend Sam are engaged. Josh is back at Bible College in Hungary and his mother would particularly value prayers for his safety because of its proximity to Ukraine.

Miller family - Costa Rica

Andy Miller working with NZ CMS in Costa Rica paid a lightning visit to Marlborough so few were able to hear him. His wife and 3 children had already returned. Andy is very enthusiastic and encouraging as they see God at work in spite of the Covid situation, indeed it has opened up immense opportunities across the nation. 13 groups have been praying on zoom. He hopes to make networks in NZ to connect, with young people working here, learning English and spreading the good news.



Bryan Scrivener
one of the instructors

Hi Five!
to our 5 techno trainees



Lucas



Alice



Brooklyn

Tyler

Sofia

Thank you!

The following article, which has recently appeared in The Witness, is based on an interview with Rex and Eileen Guard who have faithfully served Blenheim community for decades. Rex went to join the Cloud of Witnesses in November 2021 before this article could be published. Eileen continues to play an active role in Nativity Church, including leading services through Covid restrictions.

Rosemary Francis



Take my Life



TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE CONSECRATED LORD, TO THEE

By singing this beloved old hymn, we are offering ourselves completely to God and trusting Him to enable us to do His will, in His way, and in His perfect time. It is the prayer of one caring couple who have worshipped at Nativity Church in Blenheim for 71 years, and continue planting seeds of the Gospel there.

Rex Guard turned 90 in August; his busy, talented wife Eileen is 84. They were married at Nativity in 1958 and their three daughters were christened there. While the girls were young, both Rex and Eileen taught Sunday School. Eileen moved on to teaching teens in the Bible Class, while Rex helped out with babysitting the littlies! When Eileen was asked for the third time to join the church choir, she did; and knows God is no one's debtor. At choir, she met a life-long friend and mentor, and found a ministry in music that has kept her busy for 59 years in the church choir. "When we say 'Yes' to God's call, He gives us much more than we could ever imagine!" she explained.

TAKE MY VOICE AND LET ME SING EVER, ONLY FOR MY KING

Eileen took over the Junior choir for a decade, during which there was an anthem to learn and sing every Sunday; and ten different musical pageants to present, one each Christmas.

While raising her girls, Eileen longed for fellowship and the friendship of other young mothers. She observed families bringing babies for Baptism, then falling away from church as there was no follow-up. When her children were into school life, Eileen felt a nudge from God; and with a small group of praying women, she asked her vicar Mark Chamberlain to give her the addresses of all recently baptised infants. Boldly, she went door-knocking to invite mothers and infants to a weekly morning tea. Meanwhile, the praying women had collected toys and baked for the mothers. Only five young mums turned up for the first morning, but the seed was sown and word spread. Some mothers enjoyed a coffee and chat, others went shopping or had time to do other things while Nativity's ladies cared for their toddlers. Rev Mark then invited those mothers to share the scriptures. The Mums and Tots outreach has continued to grow; (now numbering about 100 children, plus eight volunteer carers) attending every Nativity Tunes for Tots morning.

TAKE MY HANDS AND LET THEM MOVE AT THE IMPULSE OF THY LOVE



Rex served several years as Peoples' Warden, and then as Vicar's Warden. During that time, the Diocese decided to split Nativity's congregation in two. All those living south of Muller Road were included in the new stand-alone congregation formed at St Christopher's Church, which took over an existing building. Rex recalls many hours of planning with stalwarts of the organisation of that division; Dr Bruce, Rev David Pickering and Rev Gary Darlington.

The latter two reverend gentlemen also organised a Bishopdale course of study in Blenheim, and Eileen enjoyed both the study and social interaction over four years. They did written assignments during the week and gathered together for Saturday discussions. On completion of their course, their diplomas were presented by a visiting archbishop from the UK.

TAKE MY INTELLECT AND USE EVERY GIFT AS THOU WILT CHOOSE

After Rex's time served as church warden, he was a Synod representative, and Eileen began a Bible study group. The Vicar, Mark Chamberlain trained volunteer leaders for similar groups and so began the network of Care Cells which are still so much part of Nativity's ministry. Eileen still enjoys the warmth of a caring and sharing cell group. I asked Eileen what lessons she and Rex have learned over their lifetimes of service. Here is her answer:

- When God calls us to His service, He will always provide what we need - He enables us.
- However much one might do in any leadership role, KNOW that there will always be someone who can do it better. Humility is required but we also learn from our mistakes, and from others.
- Prayer before making decisions is a prerequisite!
- Prayer while in any service is a necessity. Prayer for others we work with is a privilege.
- Know your own 'Use By' date, and then move on.
- As we pray 'Lord here I am, send me', God sometimes calls us to service that is so challenging, we know we can only obey in His strength. We can't say 'no.'

TAKE MY LIFE, IT IS ALL THINE, IT SHALL BE NO LONGER MINE.

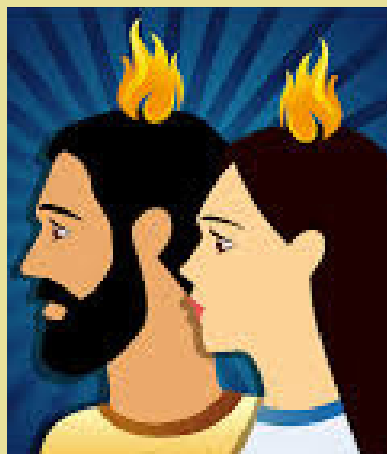
Rose Francis



THE FLAME OF FIRE - A SYMBOL OF PENTECOST

The Presence of God, the Passion for God, and the Purity of God to Christians.

God's Presence. The Holy Spirit is God indwelling the hearts of His people (Romans 8 v 9) In the Old Testament, the Lord showed His presence to the Israelites by filling the tabernacle with fire (Numbers 9 v 14). This provided them with both light and guidance. In the New Testament, God's people were guided and comforted by the Holy Spirit dwelling in them as 'temples of the living God' (2 Cor 5 v 1).



Our Passion for God is flamed by the Holy Spirit. The timid and confused apostles, after Jesus' Crucifixion, became passionate ambassadors for the Lord when the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost. Their anointing compelled them to speak the Word boldly (Acts 4 v 31) This same power is available for Christians today who are indwelt and powered by the Holy Spirit to evangelise and proclaim the good news (2 Tim 4, v 5.)

The Holy Spirit produces purity in God's people, which is God's purpose for His church. (Titus 2 v 14). Just as a silversmith would use fire to purge the dross from precious metal, so the Lord uses the Holy Spirit to sanctify, refine and cleanse Christians from indwelling sin. (Psalm 66 v 10). He works during our times of adversity when we know that God is purifying us and growing us in grace through trials and challenges.

Rose Francis



Our lovely parish nurse, **Sharon Thomas**, was farewelled and presented with flowers at recent services. Thank you Sharon for your love and care. Our very best wishes as you embark upon your new role.



Our congratulations to **Fiona Harper** upon her baptism.
May God bless you richly as you continue to grow in Christ.

The Day of Pentecost

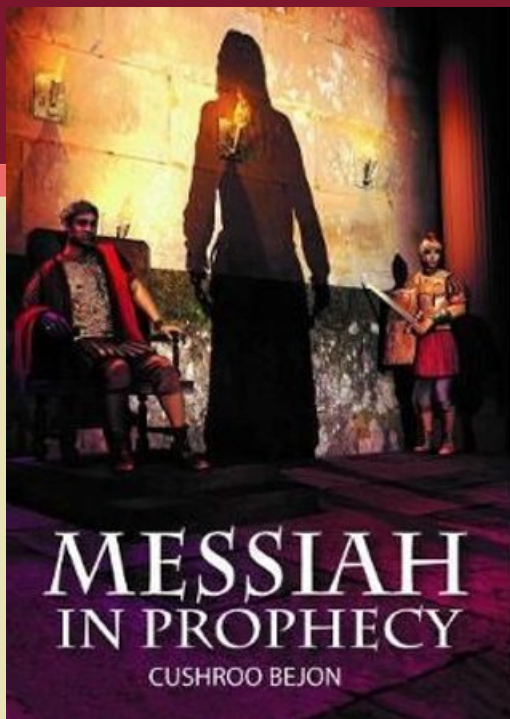
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21



X T O B P P H W G H X U E X I
T G T F Z J V J Y I O C G M B
Y B H J P X I L P F F U Z Z X
L L E L E J O Z J M D E S I W
I W R Y N H L A N G U A G E L
S Q Z I T E Z F I L L E D A L
J C C E E L J W H K K A Q D J
R E G G C S F V Q A T L Q W X
T Q S G O R W I E S O W H J M
M D P I S H G P B O N J I V J
F A I M T E S K J U G A R N H
I Y R J N A B Y N N U H X K D
R N I A E V W Q K D E E R L Z
E L T R H E X M K Y S A P N A
Z H O C R N S T F I A R K X K

PENTECOST	FILLED	HEAR	HOUSE	WIND
HEAVEN	FIRE	TONGUES	LANGUAGE	OTHER
DAY	HOLY	SOUND	SPIRIT	SPEAK



From the Nativity Library

The New is in the Old concealed. The Old is in the New revealed

We know there are many places in the Old Testament where prophecies foretell the coming of a Messiah who will be our king, teacher and Saviour. Some prophecies also tell of how this Saviour will be received and treated while on earth.

This small booklet 'reveals' the Messiah through the prophecies far more than many of us will ever have experienced from our own reading or study of the Bible.

The booklet is available in the Nativity Library, located in the Small Groups section. It would make an interesting study for a group but is also a very easy read for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding of how God's plan has been unfolding from the very beginning.

Jo Danks

THE REPAIR CAFE

Opened on 27th February 2022 by Bishop Steve Maina and Mayor John Leggett



- The Repair Cafe operates every fourth Saturday of the month from 9.00am to 12.00 Noon.
- At The Crossroads premises of John's Kitchen at 2 Redwood Street.
- A team from Nativity Church will be there to repair mobile phones, bikes, furniture, electrical items, and sewing repairs.
- Sewing repairs have proved the most popular so far with bike repairs coming a close second.
- Enjoy a cuppa and snack.



Nativity offering a service to the community



PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH
FUN - FOOD - FELLOWSHIP

Everyone Welcome!

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

Thursday 10.00am

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES

Sunday 10.00am

(during School Term)

Friday 9.30am - Tunes for Tots

Thank You!

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