



Nativity News



Winter Warmer - June 2018



Stone soup, stone soup
Soup from a stone,
Stir it all together, serve it up hot
Each bring a little, we'll all have a lot
Stone soup, stone soup
Soup from a stone,
Come on everybody, make yourselves at home! *

Stone Soup is a very old folktale told in different cultures but with the same message. It tells of two hungry travellers who ask for food. Those asked are reluctant to share any food with them, so the travellers go to the village square and offer to make 'stone soup'. The fire is lit, the pot boiled and scrubbed stones are placed in the boiling water. Then the community spontaneously join in the fun and bring whatever they have got in their garden or larder to add to the pot. Having made the delicious soup all the villagers sit down and happily eat it together.

Before the travellers leave they remind the villagers of the simple recipe – 'Bring what you've got.'

Who can we share soup with this winter?

Jesus said, "Come, take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in" (Matthew 24:34-35)



EDITORIAL - by Rose Francis

I recall cycling home from school on freezing evenings, pushing my ancient (gearless!) bike into the shed, grabbing an armload of firewood, and stoking the fire burning indoors. Ah! warmth, comfort, security. Windows would be dripping with steam from the heavy iron stock pot bubbling on the gas ring. Within that pot stewed 'Suppa 'arthing' (everything soup), a combination of all the leftovers, bones, grains and vegetables. This was our comfort food, our energy starter, and hugging a mug of thick soup warmed chilly hands as well as soothing fraught nerves and hungry bodies. I thank God for my generous mother, who always managed 'extra' food to share with less fortunate neighbours. Seventy years on, people still remember Mother's hot soup.

It is said that the way to a person's heart is through his/her stomach. Sharing warmth and nourishment is certainly a way of bringing blessings and God's love. In these cold wet months of winter, supporting our Nativity Food Bank with donations of food ingredients or frozen meals (including soup) is one way of offering back to God some of his gifts to us. Deliveries of food gifts to needy families in our wider community is an action that speaks louder than mere words.

"What you are doing" is much more than a service that supplies God's people with what they need. It is something that will make many others thank God" (2 Corinthians 9 v 12).

Some of our adventurous seniors have been on a pilgrimage to Christian sites around the British Isles. We have some pictures and commentary about their adventures for the armchair travellers among us.

This issue of Nativity News honours love. The very public wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan was watched by 2 billion people. Pomp and ceremony, prayer and hymns of praise – what an opportunity to speak to the world words of love and the Christian commitment to marriage and family life. Bishop Michael Curry's sermon rang out with the challenge of igniting the world with the fire of love.

Nativity offers marriage enrichment courses and welcomes people to make their marriage vows before God in our church. We are the family of God in this place, willing to share the joys and sorrows of other family members. With so many different groups, we seek to make every person feel welcome and cherished.

We have cell groups where the lonely can find fellowship with other imperfect, struggling Christians. Such small groups give us the opportunity to grow, both giving and receiving encouragement and help in non-judgemental support groups.



Our youth groups welcome young people to join them in their activities and walk with God. They are on an exciting journey trusting God to guide them through the turbulence of their teens.

Our younger children are cherished and nurtured in age-appropriate classes.

We have outreach lunches and ministries that cater for the lonely elderly.

We're on the right path, Nativity, but here is always much more to accomplish.

"Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love, and do good" (Hebrews 10 v 24)



EDITORIAL TEAM

Rose Francis, Jo Danks, Heather Murchison, Miriam Taylor



VICAR BOB'S BLOG

Dear Nativity Family and Friends

Jargon is a permanent hazard. No matter where you go, what you sign up to, or who you talk with, sooner or later – usually sooner – you will run into jargon. Then you have to figure out why are they using language like that and how to interpret it! To add insult to injury, we all use it at some time. Church is no different.

Jargon is shorthand, a description to make communication quick, avoiding repeating lengthy phrases. Jesus said things like “I am the bread of life” and he said “This is my body” while holding up some bread, and we repeat those. It can be a bit strange or even off putting, when you’ve not heard those phrases or had them explained to you before. Without going into long explanations, these phrases and many others we use like them, tell something of the character of the God we worship and try to follow.

These words tell of the love and nourishment we can only get from our God, and at a depth within us that nothing else can provide. For 2000 years, people around the world have gladly braved severe privations, because what they were denied was more than made up for at another level, by the love and nurture they received from the words of faith given by the Holy Spirit.

As I write this, we’re doing a series of sermons, studies and conversations about what the church believes. It’s based on the questions in the Catechism at the back of A New Zealand Prayer Book. We’re seeing how what we believe, we do; and what we do shows what we really believe.

During the last three weeks in July and the first week in August I will be preaching on where God is leading us, following our series on discipleship. It’s part of our journey, our adventure with God. Like the Hebrew people leaving Egypt for a new land, we too are moving toward a new way of being church. Remember that all our sermons are recorded. Even if you are overseas, you can listen to them on our website from anywhere in the world that you can get online

In the coming months the demonstration of that love and nourishment of Jesus, the Bread of Life, is seen in some of the things we do as our mission. Confirmation (of our faith in Jesus and our baptism). The Marriage Course. The 24-7 youth support at Marlborough Girls College. Tunes for Tots. The Winter Retreats. Each week people in over 20 Care Cells support each other and others. In our weekly worship we **draw people** into the warmth of faith in Jesus, **growing** each other into a greater expression of that faith which nourishes others, and **reaching out** with the love of Christ.

This winter, may you not be bamboozled by the mysteries of language, faith jargon, or people’s quirky behaviours. Instead may you absorb all that God has for you. **Allow yourself to be nourished** so that you may show to others the love yourself have received from God (2 Corinthians 1 v3).

God bless you.

Bob and Libby



Allow yourself to be nourished!

GERRIE MEAD - DIOCESAN SOCIAL SERVICES AND SENIOR CARE ENABLER

One of my favourite scripture verses is this:

O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)



What is an enabler? Maybe it is someone who helps to do that? Someone recently looked at my job description and said, 'Wow that's a great job description!' The Nelson diocese has for many years committed to parish-based ministry, as opposed to a centralised 'agency' type of service as in other dioceses. As with Children, Families and Youth, our Diocese employs me to encourage, support and resource parishes to develop and offer community-facing ministry – that means fulfilling their mission in responding to the physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of people, in ways which go beyond a charity model and work to address social change. There are many opportunities to do this in smaller or greater ways and I am always looking out for potential for partnerships with community agencies or groups, drawing on connections in the community and fields of health and social work. Additionally, I work with the Anglican Care committee and am part of the Bishop's ministry team. I co-ordinate applications from parishes or community groups for Diocesan Trust grants for projects and programmes and receive all the applications for hardship grants from various community agencies and parishes for the needs of children, families and older people somewhere around \$120,000.00 per year.

There are 26 parishes across our diocese. All except one, offer ministry in one form or another to our seniors. Intended for outreach, rather than congregational care (being core business of the parish and not funded from the base funding of around \$250,000.00 per year) we can be proud of the impact these community ministries are having from various activities groups, opportunities for social gathering and hospitality to seminars and 1/1 ministry. Partnerships with community organisations include facilitating services the parish alone could not provide but want to be involved. **As we know the 'young' retirees of today have a massive amount of opportunity to use their life skills** and have a special job of evangelising their own peer group!



Other opportunities range from relationship-building afforded by the Tunes for Tots/Mainly Music types of programmes, to a unique children's literacy support ministry offered in Motueka parish called 'Winning with Words' and "The Vege Stall" at Tahunanui parish – there are many good things happening including foodbanks, op shops, after school programmes and craft groups.

May I challenge us here at Nativity a little? In May the diocese hosted the Anglican Care Conference, the purpose of which, was to offer a glimpse of what is happening in the community, which we are part of everyday and looking at opportunities where the church can serve even more. Most of the organisations such as the District Health Board, Police, social housing providers (Ministry of Social Development and Housing NZ), Women's Refuge, Youth services, Age Concern spoke about their willingness to partner with the church. Examples of how, are simple things that we already do so well, like showing people basic cooking and housekeeping skills and providing hospitality and a 'place to go'. God's church is you - right where you are, with what you have – what we have to offer now. The need is there – now. A workshop helped us to focus on where, what and how.

We can be complacent – I think we are and nobody will ask a question. But I want to ask you, are you doing what is right? Are you compassionate towards those who need a little love today? Are you walking humbly in partnership with God?

References for you to gain inspiration from: www.nelsonanglican.org.nz Anglican Care conference videos

<https://youtu.be/JqNF5ZaRqFA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjWdDtnWr1U>

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

JAN BURROUGH – NATIVITY FOODBANK



Jan can be relied on to bless you with her lovely smile whatever service she is giving.

Coordinating and caring for the Nativity Foodbank is one of her treasured jobs. Jan is very aware that everything in the foodbank has been donated by people who care and want to help those who have a need. She gets pleasure from knowing that the gift of a food parcel can go a long way towards bringing some comfort and peace to those who need a helping hand. Just one way that we at Nativity “reach out.”

**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE FOODBANK
BRING A CAN OR PACKET FOOD ITEM
TO PUT IN THE TROLLEY
IN THE FOYER
AT THE 8.00AM AND 10.00AM SERVICE**



I hope its alphabet soup. It's good for the vowels!



SERVICE WITH A SMILE

**Nativity Children
serving at the Mothers'
Day Morning Tea**



CELTIC PILGRIMAGE

***“A journey can become a sacred thing:
Take time to free your heart of ballast
So that the compass of your soul
Might direct you toward the territories of
spirit....”***

John Neal

On Thursday, April 12, some 26 pilgrims assembled at a hotel just off Tottenham Court Road in London to set off by bus for a 19 day trip including southern England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland, finishing at Durham. Our tour leaders were John and Jenny Hornblow and our chaplain, Archbishop David (and Tureiti) Moxon.



We enjoyed travelling through the wakening glories of a Northern Hemisphere Spring as both sunshine and rain lit up the countryside with different lights, we appreciated the skills of our drivers as they negotiated the narrow, winding roads and we were uplifted by the lives of the saints who trod these same areas around 13 centuries ago. No one place stands out for me, for each had its attractions, ranging from the majestic grandeur of Canterbury Cathedral in Kent, to the story of William Walker, an early 20th century diver who, for over four years worked in underwater darkness to shore up the southern and western walls of Winchester Cathedral, to the stark simplicity and sloping floor of St David's Cathedral in West Wales.

We followed in the footsteps of so many old saints, including Augustine of Canterbury, Swithun of Winchester, David of Wales, Patrick of Ireland (of course), Colombo of Iona, Andrew of Scotland, Hilda of Whitby and Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. What the Church has made of these people would possibly horrify them, for it was not fame let alone fortune that impelled them into their respective ministries, but a simple yet complete devotion to God and a determination to fulfil the ministries He had set aside for each.



They were made of stern stuff. For example, I climbed Croagh Patrick, a 2,500 ft high hill on Ireland's west coast, the path, for that's what they called it, resembling a New Zealand creek bed before it degenerated into a scramble up a scree slope. While the view from the top was commanding, the weather was, to be kind, bracing, and I was glad to retreat after ten minutes on the summit. Patrick, after whom this hill is named, stayed up there alone for a month!

I ended our pilgrimage with the opening words of Hebrews 12 resounding in my spirit:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus....

Pam Neal

St David's Cathedral in Wales is set in a hollow so that it was not visible to Viking invaders. It is a lovely, light building, a welcome simplicity (to me) after some of the very ornate cathedrals we had visited. It was a freezing day but the fitter, hardier pilgrims walked towards to what is purported to be the birth place of David on a very bleak coast. David became renowned as a preacher and teacher and he and his followers lived a life of simplicity. On the reverse of leaflet with the "story of David" were the words "You may think this

building is beautiful. You may appreciate its history, its art and architecture ... But if you don't understand what is at the heart of it all, you've missed the point."

Something totally different was a ride on **Snowdon Mountain Railway**. We could not go to the top because of the weather conditions but could still enjoy the magnificent scenery.

Before leaving Wales we visited St Winefride's Well at Holywell and enjoyed the hospitality of the delightful sisters at St Winefride's Guesthouse. There are numerous legends around this 7th century Welsh woman, but Winefride herself was a real person and Holywell is a place of pilgrimage and prayer for healing.



Margaret Rodley

Whitby on the east coast of Yorkshire fascinated me.

In 657 AD a monastery was founded there by the king of Northumbria as an act of thanksgiving after defeating the king of Mercia. It was an Anglo-Saxon double monastery having both men and women, in different houses, keeping their own rules, but worshipping together at services.

A woman Hild (Hilda) was chosen as the first abbess. She was of royal birth and over her years as abbess she was held in very high regard. Royalty and others of rank sought her counsel and respected her wisdom. The Synod of Whitby 664AD was one of the most important gatherings of early Christians as the Celtic Christians western islands discussed matters of difference with the Roman influenced Christians of Europe. The Venerable Bede in his Anglo-Saxon classic 'The Ecclesiastical History of the English Church and People' spoke highly of Hild. She encouraged education and the abbey became a great learning centre. She saw potential in all people as was evident with her encouragement of the cow herder, Caedmon, recognised today as a most wonderful Anglo-Saxon poet. Royalty were buried there. Vikings destroyed the monastery in raids between 867-870AD and it lay desolate for 200 years until the Norman invasion of 1066 when a Norman nobleman was given land for his loyalty and service and bequeathed some of it for the rebuilding of a monastery following the Benedictine rule. After 500 years it also suffered from dissolution during the reign of Henry VIII. Neglect again followed and in 1914 a German battle cruiser misfiring seriously damaged most of the western wall. Today it is a category 1 listed building with the National Trust.

Walking around the ruins of the abbey high above the town on perhaps the coldest day I experienced (official temperature 8°C, but with wind chill factor probably about 3°C) being careful not to be blown over by the wind and with each of us hugging a set of ear phones under our head coverings, we wandered around the ruins listening at each stop to the amazing history and back stories of the place.



Finally, the cold got to us and we carefully edged our way down to the town. Clinging to the rail against the wind and careful of the slippery rounded cobbles centre strip (which had been where the donkeys used to walk) we edged downwards for warmth and food. Also enjoying the town were groups of people dressed in the most outlandish clothes-elderly

punk rockers having a weekend festival we think! The book 'Dracula' was inspired by the abbey ruins and Whitby's other claim to fame was that it was the home port of James Cook. Driving off we detoured towards the sea front to see his statue. It was enveloped in construction paper and was being spruced up for the upcoming celebrations!

Fay Johnson

The origin of the Celts is uncertain; possibly they were an Indo-European people. The expanding Roman empire forced the Celts to flee north and west where they settled in a small area of north-west France, the Isle of Man, Ireland, Cornwall and the margins of Wales and Scotland. Here, an early understanding of the Christian faith was preserved and spread throughout Britain.

Our party of twenty-six people set off by coach from London on the 12 April bound for **Aylesford Priory**. Although it was a very cold grey day the trip was lovely with primroses in flower on waste ground and on embankments, and daffodils and tulips blooming everywhere.

We arrived about 3.30pm and put our luggage in our rooms. I shared a room with my sister in law Goldie Pask, which for me was an added bonus to the trip,



We then gathered outside to meet Father Michael who is the head Friar. He showed us around the extensive complex and many chapels, dressed in his brown worsted habit and white woollen cloak with hood. The monks are a Carmelite order and established in Aylesford in the 13th century. Dissolved in the time of Henry VIII, it became a private estate, and was bought by the friars in 1949 when building and restoration began. The tranquil gardens were reinstated. Today it fulfils its original function in welcoming pilgrims and visitors from around the world.

We attended Evening Prayer with Father Michael and two other monks. I chose to describe this, the first day of our pilgrimage as I found it very interesting and quirky.

I enjoyed the pilgrimage which was tiring with long days, however we had time for reflection and quiet, and a good measure of worship was included. Archbishop David Moxon, our chaplain, presented daily talks about local history and the lives of pertinent saints, as we travelled around on the bus.

**At each site the challenge was to consider the following three questions:
What did God do in this place?
What is God doing in this place now?
What might God be saying to me or challenging me to do/be in response?**



SENSIBLE SHOES SERIES



REVIEWED BY RAEWYN PARKES

A trip to Nelson always involves a peruse of the books at Manna Book Shop for me. This was where I discovered late last year, the novel 'Sensible Shoes' by Sharon Garlough Brown. Later while showing Susan Howarth my haul, (I never buy just one book, this is a problem I do not want prayer for) she spied 'Sensible Shoes' and told me of a friend who had just read it and highly recommended the book. 'Sensible Shoes' moved to the top of the pile.

This series of books, (yes there are three more that follow on,) is up there with two other books as the best Christian Novels I've read. I bought copies for my friends, some who could not put it down and others who read it slowly to, get the most out of the book.

"'Sensible Shoes' tells the story of four strangers as they embark together on a journey of Spiritual formation." As I heard my friend's responses to this book a thought came to me, (that I'm blaming God for) that lead to a conversation with Miriam Taylor. She agreed, so we took our idea to Bob and Libby, and the 'Winter retreats' (A pilgrimage to Spring) was born, so giving us an opportunity to participate in spiritual practices that have been part of the spiritual formation of the saints for centuries. We too can embark on a spiritual journey and have a story to tell.



An Invitation to

WINTER RETREATS

(A Spiritual Pilgrimage to Spring)

07/7/18 - Walking Attentively.

21/7/18 - A Path for Prayer.

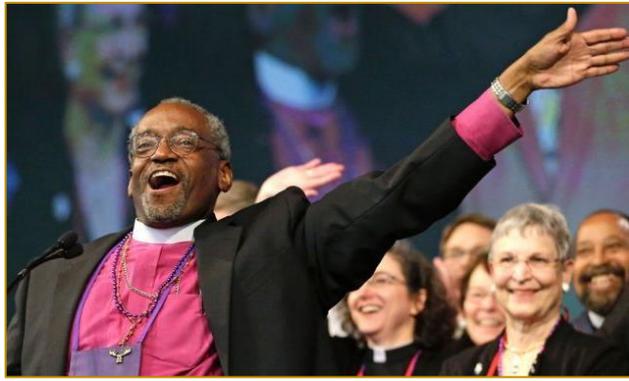
04/8/18 - Lightening the Load.

**Time: 9am to midday Venue: St Barnabas Chapel/Barnies, Nativity
Led by Rev Miriam Taylor and Raewyn Parkes.**

Bring your Bible and a pen

You are welcome to attend all or as many of the half day retreats as you are able

Please register with Jan Nativity Office Ph:578 3909



**QUOTES FROM BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY'S ROYAL WEDDING SERMON
ENTITLED 'LOVE IS THE WAY'**

"We are to be the people of God filled with the Spirit of God."

"We are to be revolutionaries."

"We are to be part of a revolution of love."

"We are to be extremists in the revolution of love!"

"Harry and Meghan's love is the reflection of a greater love – the love of God."

"We are to be people filled with love for God and for our neighbour."

**"People who have made a difference in the world are those who
love others better than themselves."**

**"The love between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle brought together people of all 'stripes
and types', organised around love."**

Below right: Mr & Mrs Nathan and Helena Hickey married at Nativity on 24/02/18

The Marriage Course

**Tuesdays from 14th August through to
25 September 2018**

**Registration forms will be out
by early July.**

**Couples of any age are invited to
register their interest at the Nativity
office.**





CONFESSIONS OF A PRAYER ADDICT

Grace Petrie

It was in 1968 that I first met Grace and David Petrie. David was the principal and I the infant teacher at the then only three-roomed Riverlands School. I learnt that they were fellow Christians, involved at St. Ninian's, Presbyterian Church and that Grace was deeply involved in The Girls Life Brigade. They were both kind and wise. Now fifty years on it is my pleasure to invite Grace to fill in the intervening years in just three quarters of a page! Grace writes.....

Prayer became meaningful to me after I attended my first **Life in the Spirit Seminar** in the 1970's.

My husband David, and I had been members of St. Ninian's Church for years, very involved with children's and youth work. We were elders of the church, preachers and small group leaders, amongst other things.

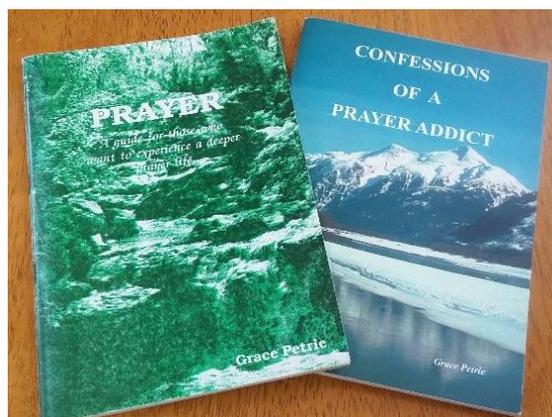
In **Life in the Spirit** I found new meaning and relevance for prayer. I became part of the National Prayer Focus Group and we travelled around New Zealand conducting Services, Retreats, Workshops etc.

During those years we established, through St. Ninian's, **Bread of Life**, which gave an opportunity for practical outreach and assistance.

Also at this time we were heavily involved in the IHC school, workshop and residential care, and in the birth of the IHC Garden Centre in Selmes Road, which is now situated in Battys Road.

By the early 1980's both David and I had to admit that we were on the point of burnout and began attending Nativity for renewal and refreshment. During this time I wrote a couple of small books: '**Prayer, a Guide to those who want to experience a deeper Prayer Life**', and '**Confessions of a Prayer Addict**', which encourages the reader in their desire to establish the habit of making prayer a life attitude.

At Nativity, then Vicar, Richard Ellena, generously involved us in aspects of prayer, especially Healing and Growth and Prayer Ministry, Cell Groups, Workshops and Seminars.



David died seven years ago, and my ministry changed from couple ministry to individual needs. Latterly the Lord is taking me on a different path. My mobility has decreased and I have had to withdraw from leadership roles at Nativity – a good learning experience – “Who am I in God?”, and not “What I do for the Lord.”

Grace continues to submit the Weekly Prayer Focus in the Pew Sheet. This series over the years is surely deserving of being published in a book of its own! The prayer suggestions are creative and relevant. This week, for example, suggests articles in the Bible as a base for our prayers – Salt, Stone, Basket, Bread, Candle, Fruit.

In her booklet Confessions of a Prayer Addict, Grace notes, “Prayer is the vital breath of a Christian – not the thing that makes him alive, but the evidence that he is alive”.

Miriam Taylor





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SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am -Traditional Eucharist Service
10.00am - All age Worship service and Children's programmes
5.30pm - 'Canvas' – Intergenerational activities and worship
THURSDAY
10.00am – Eucharist in Barnies

Coming Events

Coffee Connections – 9.30am Second Saturday each month at Saveur Café (Raupo)
AAW – 7.30pm – First Wednesday each month – Nativity lounge
Winter Retreats – Saturday mornings – 7th July 21st July 4th August (Register at Office)
Marriage Course – Tuesdays 14th August to 25th September. (Register at the Office)
Bishop Richard – Combined Churches Men's Breakfast – Saturday 22nd September (Register at Office)
Confirmation and Parish Lunch – 23rd September

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