



Harvest Thanksgiving at Nativity 10 March 2024

Nativity News

April 2024
Issue 27

Editorial

By Rose Francis



We've been blessed with a glorious hot summer and now a fruitful autumn filled with the bounty of God's Creation. As we feast on sun-ripened fruit and health-giving vegetables, let us thank Him for His generous provision and be willing to share with those who struggle to provide for their families. Daily, we see evidence of ever-changing seasons according to God's plan of sowing, growing, reaping and gathering, and storing for lean times.

Now, as days shorten and cooler temperatures cause us to adjust to autumn and prepare for winter, we are reminded of our changing roles in life. As we mature and experience more of life, living in a way that honours God, we are aware that God requires us to be role models of The Way to younger people growing up in a very different world from the one we inherited.

In honour of the harvest, we feature some interesting information about herbs and spices. These humble plants have been used from the earliest times to preserve food, enhance flavour, cause sweet perfumes and cover foul smells. They have helped heal illnesses and brought comfort to many. These are truly gifts of God for enriching our lives.

In this issue we share a collage of Nativity's events through Lent, and walked the way of the Cross through Holy Week, moving into this season of thanksgiving for God's Creation.

We introduce our new Vestry and office bearers following our AGM last month. Raewyn updates our growing library collection with books for all ages.

We share news about long-time Nativity members who have recently moved away to be closer to their families. David and Paulette James, Shirley Ramsay and John and Pam Neal are settling into their new church families (and realising that God doesn't have retirement plans for His mature saints!).

You will see what our people learnt at Convergence Camp. We share the work of our people in their community outreach, including Blue Door volunteer Maggie Hill, and Vivienne James from the Herb Society.

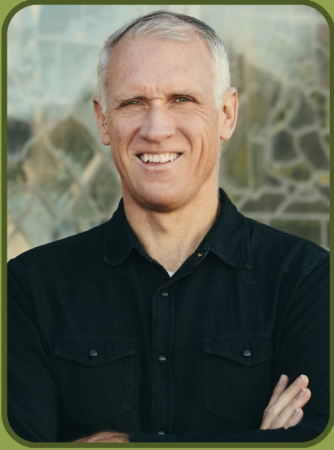
We are pleased to hear how Nativity Church found and protected a rare facsimile document, one of only six existing. We have donated it to the Marlborough Museum for safekeeping and sharing with our community. We welcome a new member to our church, Liz Ward, who is the manager of the museum to tell us about this gifting.

Our Creation Care section features gardens, and how we can work with God to be wise stewards of the place in which He has 'planted' us. Nativity is a place that delights in sharing good news.

'Nativity is a place that delights in sharing good news'.



Vicar's Update



Reverend
Glen Ashworth

*'Let's strive
to be a
community
that is truly
in touch
with Christ.'*

I wonder if we always say this, but 'where has time gone'? Four months of the year are gone, Easter has passed, and it is getting cold already! This is no end-times conspiracy, rather I suspect, a weird by-product of getting older.

At the beginning of the year I had a sense that God was wanting to make Nativity a place of purpose - that we wouldn't just be here to pass the time, but we would be about his business so much so that when people joined us they would experience a community going in a particular direction.

In February a few of our families went to Convergence - a camp put on by St Barnabas church for the Nelson Diocese. The Speaker, Sam Harvey, challenged us on our commitment to Christ, particularly around prayer. This message resonated with us both in an individual and corporate sense and so we have initiated monthly and weekly prayer meetings here at Nativity - the second Monday of the month 7-8pm, and Wednesday mornings from 8:45am.

We also encourage the church to be praying through the specific monthly 'bookmark prayers', and if possible, to do that with those around them.

At the basis of this focus for me are the words of Jesus from John's gospel, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.' (John 15:5). Being the people God is calling us to be, seeing God's kingdom at work among us and in Blenheim, comes from us abiding in Jesus. Let's strive to be a community that is truly in touch with Christ - He is the only one that can make the work in these passing days bear real and lasting fruit.

Prayer Meetings at Nativity

Monthly: Second Monday of the month 7pm-8pm.

Weekly: Wednesday from 8.45am.



Nativity Vestry Members - 2024



David Pigou & Team - Fundraising; Rachel Powell - Synod Rep; Phillip de Bruyn - Vicar's Warden; Dion Mundy - Ministry & Missions; Ruth Struthers - People's Warden; Kate Bristed - Vestry Secretary & Synod Rep; Glen Ashwood - Vicar; Alastair Smith - Health & Safety & Synod Rep. (Insert - Conway Taylor - Buildings)

JOURNEYING WITH JESUS TO THE CROSS

Good Friday Walkthrough at Nativity Church

THE STEPS

On the steps, as we entered the church, were stones representing the burdens we carry. We were invited to pick up a stone and carry it with us through the journey and lay it at the foot of the cross.



IMAGES OF JESUS' EARLY LIFE

THE ENTRANCE PORCH



'Christmas begins what Easter celebrates. The child in the manger becomes the King on the cross.'

At thirty years of age, Jesus began his ministry and called his disciples - 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of people'. We too are called to follow Jesus.



THE EVENTS UP TO GOOD FRIDAY

THE FOYER AND CHURCH





Jesus cried out his last words and died.

Father,
 INTO YOUR HANDS
 I commit My
 spirit
LUKE 23:46 (NKJV)

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom and the earth shook and the rocks split.

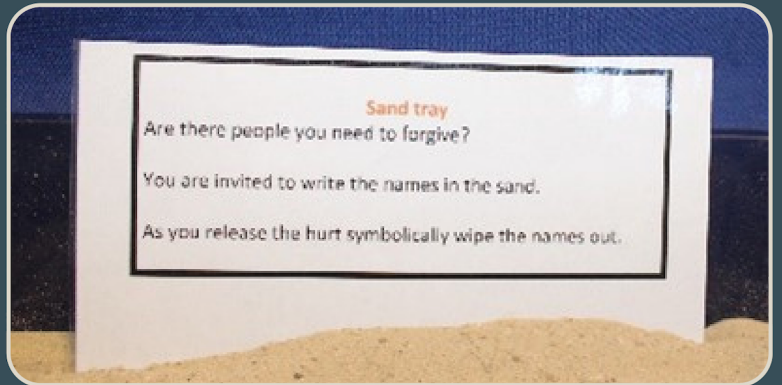


In the evening Jesus body was laid in a new tomb and a big stone was rolled in front of the entrance.

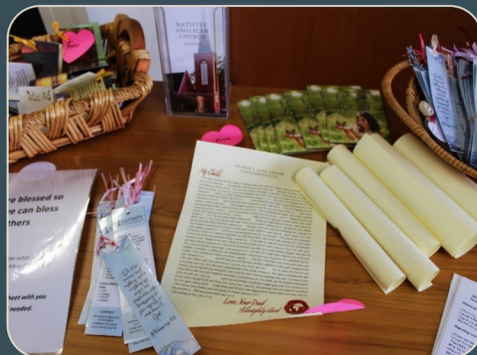
It is finished!



We laid our burdens at the foot of the cross.



Using a sand tray we forgave others in obedience to Jesus' command to 'Forgive others as I have forgiven you'.



We were blessed with gifts and then left, looking forward to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

'Thank you' to the team that set up this wonderful interactive Good Friday walkthrough. God answered their prayers and hearts were touched.

NATIVITY CHURCH MEMORIAL CAIRN



Nativity Church Memorial Cairn gets a magnificent 'faith-lift' for Anzac Day

By Rose Francis

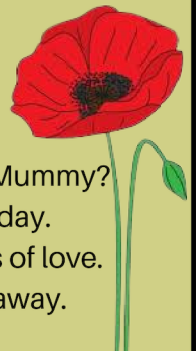
Historic records show that in 1919 a Nativity parishioner W J Girling was elected to Parliament as the Member for Wairau. Other events recorded that year show that many from our parish served in WWI. The congregation that year decided to erect a cairn of colourful stones topped with a marble cross, in Nativity grounds, in memory of those who served in WW1. While victory was declared abroad, the world was ravaged by the terrible Spanish Influenza epidemic from which few communities escaped. In an effort to check the scourge, the Health Department forbade gatherings in public buildings, so Nativity held its services outdoors until Christmas Day 1919. (Having experienced the 'lockdown' of Covid recently, we can appreciate that Nativity has a generous plot of land for such outdoor services.)

Originally, the Memorial Cairn stood near the main door of Nativity Church but was later moved to a grassy site closer to St. Barnabas Chapel. Having been neglected over the last three years, it was laid on my heart to get it professionally cleaned to remove moss and lichen and make the inscription clear. We contacted military historians and persuaded our generous donor Alan Walker to give Nativity's Memorial a 'faith-lift' before Anzac Day, so we can remember those who have lost their lives, or been adversely affected by war. My own family suffered lasting losses. Thanks to Peter Sangwine for his advice and help in this project and to Cloudy Bay Funeral Services and their stone mason. To see the now visible beauty in the colourful stones of the cairn, and read the inscription is a special privilege.

We WILL remember them this Anzac Day.

Poppies

Lest we forget.....



Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
Selling poppies in town today.
The poppies, child, are flowers of love.
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?
Why not a beautiful rose?
Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppies grow.

But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?
Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child.
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.
Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.

But why, Mummy are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child.

For the world is forgetting again.

Anon

Welcome



To Susan Schmidt Nativity Parish Administrator

Hi there, my name is Susan Schmidt and I have been very blessed to be given the role of Parish Administrator. Thanks to everyone for the warm welcome so far.

My husband and I have lived in Blenheim for the past 12 years. We have a daughter called Jessica who is in year 11 at Richmond View School and we attend Marlborough Bible Baptist Church.

I have come from an Administration, Health and Safety and Human Resources background, however, the Lord has recently guided me to start working for Him, and so here I am. I pray that with the Lord's help, I will be able to do everything I can to support you all. So if you see me around please don't hesitate to say 'Hi'.

We welcomed Bishop Steve to our services on 28 April 2024



Out & About

Our people out in the community

Liz Ward - Manager of the Marlborough Museum



In July last year, the Marlborough Museum welcomed Liz Ward as their new Manager. Liz and Rob moved to Blenheim from Palmerston North when Liz accepted the appointment at the museum and the management of the Edwin Fox Ship and Visitor Centre in Picton.

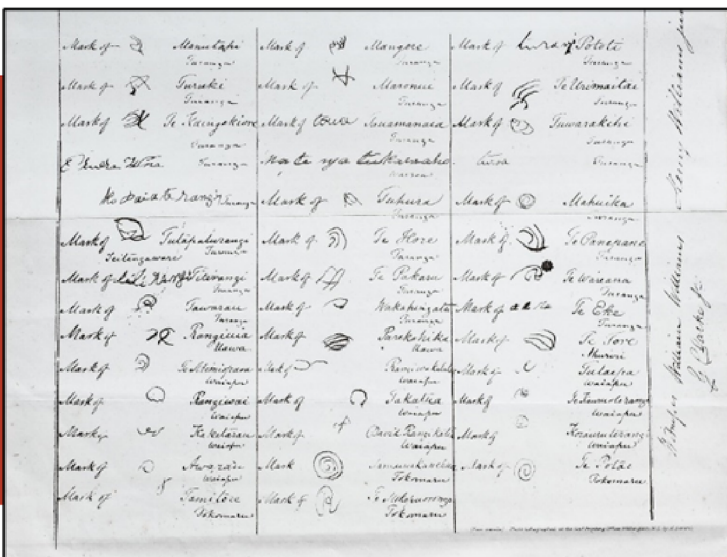
Born and raised in Wellington's Hutt Valley Liz and Rob attended church and the same youth group before getting married and moving to Palmerston North. Raising two girls at the same time as undertaking extramural study kept Liz busy, and her hard work was rewarded by the award of two scholarships - first to complete her MA which focused on Welfare History - then to undertake a PhD. After finishing her studies Liz was employed at Massey University as a lecturer. During this time Liz developed an interest in Museums and was successful in her application to manage the Marlborough Museum.

Making Nativity their church home in Blenheim Liz and Rob have become a welcome addition to Nativity church ministries. Liz is working with the Children's ministry with the Intermediate age children and Rob is venturing towards using his musical talents to support our Worship team.

Rob also completed a PhD in while in Palmerston North His discipline is Physics. He is currently self-employed, working on contracts in his chosen field. Rob is a talented musician and an advocate of Christian apologetics (a branch of theology concerned with the rational justification of Christianity). We are blessed to have both Rob and Liz as part of our church family and the Marlborough community.



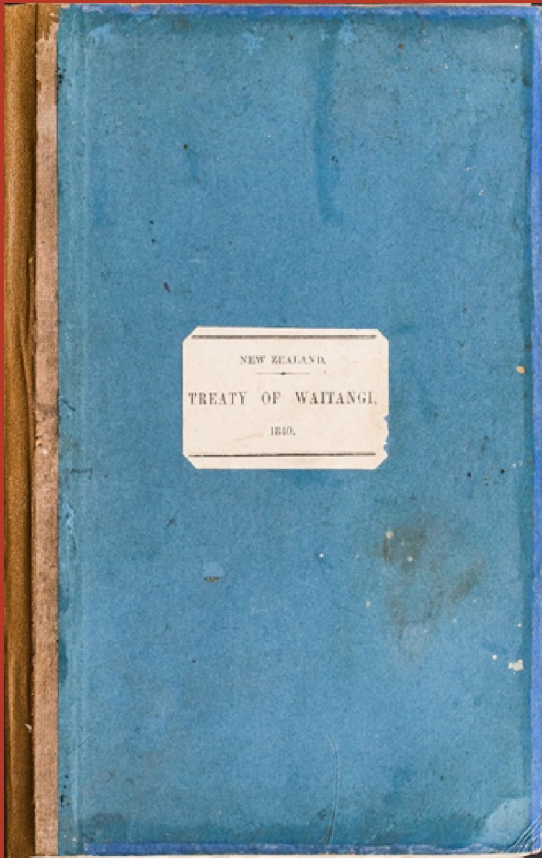
Article written by Jo Danks



Liz Ward, pictured at the top of the page, opens The Treaty of Waitangi Document Box found at Nativity Church and gifted to the Marlborough Museum. Picture on the left shows one page of signatures from the document.

Why would Nativity have a copy of this important document?

Written by
Miriam McNamara for
Nativity News (2018)



This is the question Bev Kingston asked herself when she discovered the battered copy of the TREATY OF WAITANGI in a box under our hall stage as she helped with research for the 150th celebration book.

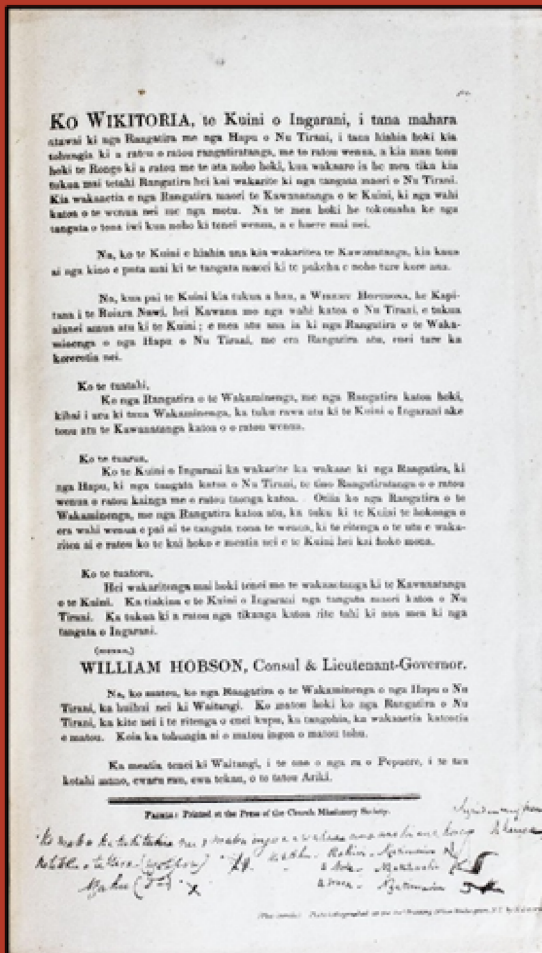
Aware that there must be a story behind its provenance, she carefully retained it. It was “rediscovered” during the 2016 archive sorting where Catherine Branson, knowledgeable in printed matter, recognized its possible importance and referred it to the Archivist at Marlborough Museum.

The team was excited to be told it contained the 1877 edition of two facsimiles (reproductions); The Treaty of Waitangi and The Declaration of Independence. Only a very few copies of the edition are in existence.

It has now been conserved (by Mr Steve Williams of Wellington, funded by a Community Grant from our District Council), transformed from a fragile copy in a battered hard-covered schoolbook to a viewable copy sitting in a document box. It remains at the Marlborough Museum where it is kept in security and at the correct ambient temperature.

How it came to be at Nativity remains a mystery. Perhaps Archdeacon Grace, who had Maori connections, brought it here when he was minister in the 1870's/80's.

The question, “Why would we have a copy of this?” still awaits an answer.



Miriam McNamara, Catherine Branson, Beverley Kingston, Alison Fuller

Out & About

Our people out in the community



Vivienne James
Marlborough Herb Society
MHS

"My Grandfather and Father were nurserymen and along with my late husband, Roy, we ran a bedding plant nursery for 23 years, so gardening has always been an inherent love for me.

As a young wife attending a Young Wive's meeting 50 years ago a herbalist, the late June Morgan from Nelson, gave a talk on herbs and I was so fascinated by all their values, that when the Marlborough Herb Society (MHS) was formed by the late Monica Russel in 1983, 40 years ago, I attended, and have been a member ever since and in 1977 was made a life member of the Society.

I use herbs medicinally, in cooking and for their aromatic qualities. They make useful organic sprays for garden pests and diseases.

I can not imagine living without these God-given plants which are such a benefit to us all, even some weeds complement, and are useful as an alternative food source as well."

Vivienne was a member of Spring Creek Parish attending St Michael's in Grovetown until she joined Nativity Church in 1970. In 1989 she joined Janice McCallum in the Flower Guild and became the Convenor of the Flower and Brass Guild in 2003. Vivienne has ensured that Nativity is blessed with beautiful floral arrangements and stunning displays at our Harvest Festivals (see front cover).

She also serves in church as a sidesperson and is a member of the AAW.

The MHS meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday of each month. They are responsible for a herb plot at the Marlborough Community Gardens, and have attended the Marlborough Garden Fete each year since it's inception, familiarising people with herbs and selling plants which members have raised.





Maggie Smith



The Blue Door is a charitable organisation selling affordable recycled household goods and furniture to the public. Profits are distributed via financial grants to other Marlborough Not-For-Profit organisations.



Supporting the Marlborough community since 1998

46 Seymour Street

*F*or the past 15 years Maggie has been working with Blue Door and can still be found working there on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She says she gets great pleasure from meeting with and helping the wide range of people who enter the store.

Born and raised in Blenheim Maggie ventured north to Auckland as a young adult where she spent 20 years, initially working as an 'enrolled nurse' in Carrington Psychiatric Hospital for many years before taking on a role as 'carer' for people with disabilities living in the community. Following several years as owner of a Dairy in Putaruru she returned to Blenheim where she bought her home and settled in.

Since returning to Blenheim about 20 years ago Maggie has become an active member of the community and a member of Nativity Church where she attended the 7pm service (her favourite until its demise) and the 8am service.

Maggie worked in several 'rest homes' in Blenheim including Avonlea, Redwoodtown, Ashford and Waterlea until her retirement. She continues to enjoy assisting older people and others with personal needs in a private capacity.

Along with working at The Blue Door twice a week her busy life includes weekly meetings with her Bible study group (that grew out of an Alpha course many years ago), attending 'Sit and be fit' classes at the Foundry, catching up with friends and in her spare time re-cycling wooden pallets for firewood.

Jo Danks

In May 2023, the Blue Door was thrilled to distribute \$29,000 via the 2023 Blue Door Annual Grants.

SERVING NATIVITY CHURCH FAMILY

Miriam McNamara



Service with a Smile

You may have been greeted at Nativity's door by Miriam's warm welcome. She's rostered on for sidesperson duties, Bible reading, serving Holy Communion and also morning tea in the hall. "I have found that I get to know other church attenders doing these tasks and I recommend joining a roster if you want to meet others by working with them."

Miriam works at Repair Cafe and helps a non-driving church member get to church services too. "This is hardly a chore," she says, for I have gained a friend, and also know that one day someone may have to return the favour for me. While I am able to drive, I must make the most of this privilege."

"Being a rest home volunteer chaplain is my main service at the moment. After completing a course with Chris Donaldson, the then-hospital chaplain, I was attached to Waterlea Rest Home, with one other chaplain and have been visiting long enough to feel very at home there. I go in once a week for about two hours, calling in to see people in their rooms or spending time in the lounge. It is easy to wear a smile there, as the residents are welcoming and grateful. I also help with the regular church services there, though this is a separate ministry with a different team of Nativity members."

Thank you for your example of loving service, Miriam.

Rose Francis

HELP!
It's raining acorns!



The call went out....



Service with a smile





Nativity Library

Browse and Borrow

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, between 9.00am and 12 noon

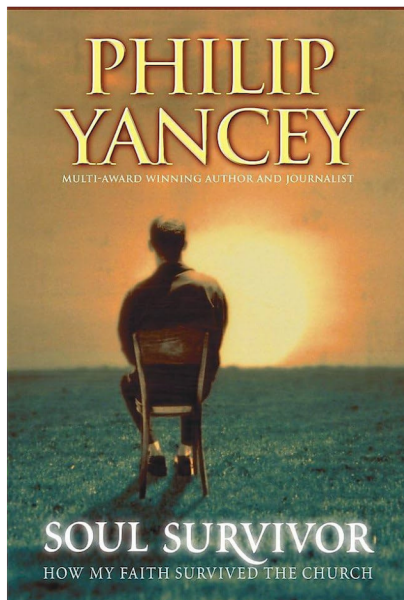
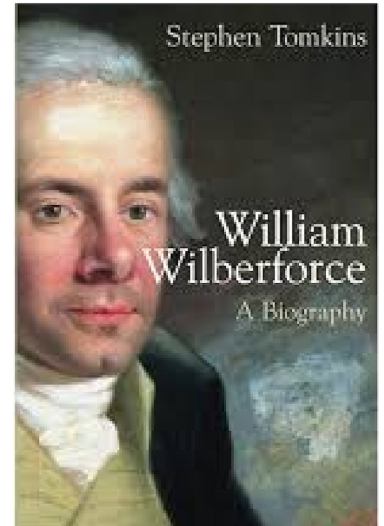
Raewyn's Reviews

William Wilberforce

By Stephen Tomkins

In 1787, under an oak tree in Kent, England, Prime Minister William Pitt invited his friend William Wilberforce to bring a bill outlawing the slave trade.....Twenty years later it was finally passed!

This book brings Wilberforce and an extensive cast of colourful characters to life. A must-read biography for all who love history.



Soul Survivor:

How My Faith Survived the Church

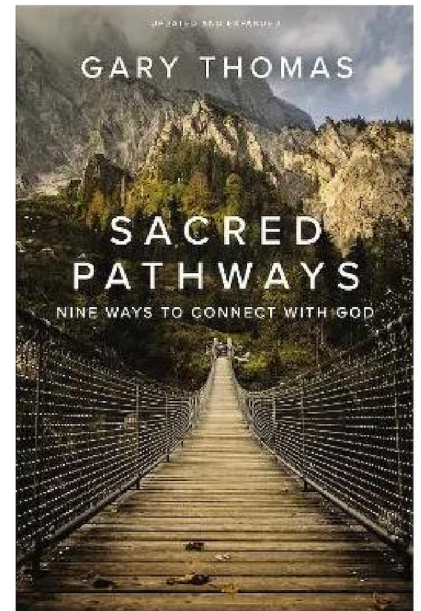
By Philip Yancy

In my view, this is his best book. It is also his most personal. It tells his story and the stories of thirteen people, whose remarkable lives have shaped his spiritual journey. I love this book, it introduced me to G.K. Chesterton, Henri Nouwen, John Donne and Dostoevsky, among others.

Sacred Pathways

By Gary Thomas

This book is in my top 5 books that all Christians should read. It gives insight and understanding of how you best connect with God and grow spiritually. And if you are nosey like me, it provides insight and understanding of my fellow Christians and the various ways in which we each relate to God. This book had a huge impact on my life.



Premiere

By Melody Carlson

This is the first book in our new novel series for teenagers.

"It's hard to imagine that two sisters could be more different, but the launch of 'On the Runway,' their fashion-centric T.V. show, promises that Paige and Erin Forester will finally have at least one thing in common.



ECO-CHURCH Gardens

by Rose Francis

***'O Adam was a gardener,
and God who made him, sees
that half a gardener's proper work
is done upon his knees.'***

It was in the Garden of Eden that our first parents lost their first battle with Satan. God had created this special environment for his beloved humans to enjoy beauty and abundance in a safe, happy place.

It was also a garden in which Jesus won a decisive battle against our enemy Satan. As Jesus prayed before his arrest in Gethsemane Garden He submitted to His calling to suffer and die in our place, so that His believers could be reunited with their Heavenly Father.

I recall that back in the 'forties, the Government encouraged Kiwis to increase the productivity of their gardens to grow fruits and vegetables to feed an expanded Military and a hungry population. My Royal Air Force (RAF) father dug up the lawn of our family home and grew amazing crops that sustained us during the War and Depression years. How wonderful it was in the 'fifties when we could once again have fresh green grass in our yard! Plus the bonus of the fruit trees he had planted.



Most of us have smaller gardens these days, but the pleasure of enriching the soil, weeding, planting and tending our chosen plants is so satisfying. Even if we can only manage some pots, it is possible to produce many plants to enhance our lives.

We can observe the changing seasons, and all the little creatures attracted to their place in the ecosystem; birds, butterflies, slugs and worms, honey bees and ladybirds. "All things bright and beautiful, the Lord God made them all.

Working with our Creator God we can help to sustain the balance of our natural world in the place where He has planted us, and it brings us huge benefits. Our brains are so wired that time spent in the natural world of living plants improves our sleep, lowers our heart rate, and clarifies our thinking. It lowers the stress hormone cortisol by up to 12 per cent for every hour we spend in nature. Chemicals released by trees and plants, called phytoncides, also boost our immune system. This finding led the Japanese government to include Shinrin-yoku- literally 'forest bathing'- into their country's health programme.

Getting outdoors in the fresh air, (walking my dogs benefits me as well as them!) bush walking, hiking, and camping all renew and refresh us as God intended. For those whose movement is more restricted, we can walk and appreciate the flowers and perfumes, trees and sunsets as God 'paints the sky' anew every day. That is my grandson's description of sunrise.

We are so blessed in Blenheim to have lovely parks, hill walks and meandering rivers to enjoy. As we feast on the harvest of fresh food this Autumn, let us thank God for His bounty that surrounds us.



***'The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth.
One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.'***



World Day of Prayer

Informed prayer. prayerful action

The World Day of Prayer, which started in the USA in 1887 is an international, ecumenical, Christian laywomen's initiative observed annually on the first Friday of March, in Christian churches in over 170 countries. It was first observed in New Zealand in 1931. It is run under the motto of 'Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.

Each year a different country is chosen to be the focus for the WDP. The service and artwork are by women from that country, who share their country's hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, opportunities and needs, in prayer.

The country chosen this year was Palestine and the theme was 'I beg you....Bear with one another in love', from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 4.



This year's service in Blenheim was held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Henry Street. A number of Nativity folk attended and Heather Wadsworth and Margaret Jarman were two of the team that read prayers and reflections.

The front area of the church was decorated with olive branches, baskets of citrus, and cactus - representing the prickly pear - a common fruit in Palestine.

As we shared the peace of Christ we exchanged sprigs of olive that we had been given on entering the church, and spoke the words of peace in Arabic:

Salaam al Massih' - The peace of Christ.



Offerings from this year's WDP will support:

Christian World Service - Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches programme for women's co-operatives in the West Bank.

The Bible Society - The Palestinian Bible Society - Child of Bethlehem project reaching out to Christian children with bible-based programmes.

The Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy in NZ.

**NATIVITY
ASSOCIATION
OF ANGLICAN
WOMEN**



Nativity AAW group welcomed visitors from St. Christopher's and Renwick to their final Christmas meeting, with carols, a Kiwi Christmas Story, a play and lots of chat.

Nativity had a Joy of Christmas Decorated Home Tour which included a High Afternoon Tea held in St. Barnabas Chapel. Here fresh pine Christmas trees were on display. AAW dressed one in blue and gold.

These trees were later donated to some without them.

Suzanne Sampson (AAW Circle Magazine)



Seniors' Expo

5 March 2024

Excerpts from Bianca's report

Nativity's Eldercare Coordinator - Bianca Shepherd



Nativity's Eldercare Co-ordinator, Bianca Shepherd, offers hand massage to Christine Brunt at the Nativity Church stall at the Seniors' Expo. Petra Fisher, on the right, also offers conversation and hand massage.

The Seniors' Expo was held on March 5th, 2024, at the Marlborough Events Centre located at 42A Alfred Street. This event had over 100 exhibitors, making it the largest opportunity for businesses to showcase their services to those aged 65 and over.

Nativity Church had a stall to promote its services and activities. We offered various items such as flyers describing the church and its services and activities, lavender bags with an inspiring Bible verse attached, cards with encouraging verses, bookmarks containing a Bible verse and information about the church's services and activities, and the "Letter from God" - a love letter with Bible references for each sentence. The March Eldercare Newsletter was available too.

The stall offered a complimentary hand massage for visitors. In addition, chocolates were given to those who engaged in conversation. People were also given the opportunity to write down their prayer requests on a colourful piece of paper.

A slideshow presentation was continuously displayed on a monitor showcasing the church's services and activities. This was a great chance for the church to advertise the availability of their hall for hire as well.

Throughout the event, we were able to connect with many people and create a positive experience for all those who attended.

I express my deep appreciation to Mary Butler and Petra Fisher, for their invaluable contributions to this event. Mary's creativity and hard work were truly outstanding. She skilfully crafted beautiful lavender bags, created encouraging cards, and generously offered her computer for the slide show. She also devoted her time to the preparation, setup and clean-up of the event. Her dedication and commitment to the success of the event were truly exceptional. I also express my gratitude to the Care and Share volunteers who helped create the bookmarks, designed by the talented and always helpful Kathy Taylor.

Mary Butler with Bianca setting up for the event.

"Mary's creativity and hard work were truly outstanding"



Our aim was to advertise the church and its services and create a positive impact on people's lives. We hoped that our efforts would help people find a deeper connection with God and make space for His work in their hearts. We believe that our promotional items, along with the event itself, were successful in achieving this goal.

In Christ,

Bianca Shepherd - Eldercare Coordinator



Awesome!



Our Nativity team from the Repair Cafe,
were at EARTH DAY
at Pollard Park on Sunday 21st April!

THEIR MESSAGE:

*Bring your appliances, electronics, clothing and other goods for repair
Don't just throw them away - give them a new lease of life...
AND prevent them from going into landfill!*



The Repair Cafe is open to the public on the fourth Saturday of every month
from 9am to 12noon at Crossroads/John's Kitchen, Blenheim.
For a small koha, you can bring your items to be fixed.....and have a coffee while you wait!



NBAS at the FANCY COW

We had a great tour of the DNA brewing facility on Rapaura Rd on the same site as the Fancy Cow. Dave, the Owner/Brewer took us through their range of beers and shared from his wealth of knowledge and experience as a trained brewer. Thanks for those that were able to come along and to those who bought some pizzas to snack on. Next event we will be back on our Garage tours - watch out for details soon.



Updates from friends we have farewelled



An update from Shirley Ramsay who moved south to Ashburton

My new home is in a new subdivision in Tinwald, with lots of yet-to-be-completed houses around it. (Easy to find if you are passing through!)

Moving south near family has been God inspired. My two granddaughters are 9 and 7 years old and seem to thoroughly enjoy organising me around their activities! I am also doing some teacher aiding at their school at Hinds 4 mornings a week.

I have joined the St Stephens Anglican church. The first day I was there I discovered connections with Nativity. Indrea, the vicar, is Bronwyn Tucker's sister, and Keith and Wendy Noble's daughter, Hannah, is also part of the congregation. I am part of a home group and have been made to feel very welcome.

It is hard to realise that just one year ago I had no real plans to shift. How easily everything has fallen into place. Never underestimate the Lord's planning ability!

I do still miss many things about Nativity and my Blenheim friends and family, but the phone and email are wonderful inventions and I love getting calls or having news sent to me. Thank you all for the wonderful years I spent at Nativity. The mailbox given to me when I left, is proudly installed at 41 Ashbury Drive.

Nativity farewelled David and Paulette James in January

David and Paulette worshipped with us for many years (David all his life!), and served in many different ministry roles - especially David as Chair of Vestry and Vicar's Warden seeing the church through changes of Vicars - and Paulette in Youth ministry.

Particular mention must be made of the time and generosity they gave with the maintenance of the trees on the church and vicarage grounds.

David and Paulette sold their home quickly in Blenheim, moved to Christchurch and were fortunate to sell their Christchurch home and repurchase in a short time. As Shirley Ramsay has said, 'Never underestimate the Lord's planning ability.'

We wish David and Paulette well in this new chapter of their lives and look forward to seeing them when they return to Blenheim to visit family.



John and Pam Neal were farewelled at the end of last year

After nearly four months in our new home, it is beginning to take shape. We are gladly settling down to being actually retired, with no particular responsibilities on us anymore which leaves us both free to enjoy a quiet life here at the village. Our fellow residents are congenial, there are frequent social get-togethers each week and, with people walking past our villa through each day, there is plenty of good fellowship to enjoy.

We are also beginning to find our way around a fairly large city and to make connections with our respective interest groups. Pam meets weekly with fellow spinners at Feilding, attends a weekly exercise class here at the village and is slowly regaining her driving confidence after her big health setback over the New Year. John is renewing his ham radio and model engineering interests and also is looking for a local flying club to join.

We have enrolled in the large Palmerston North Anglican parish of All Saints and regularly attend the small daughter church of St Oswald where we have been made to feel most welcome. John received a 'Permission to Officiate' from the Bishop of Wellington and celebrated Communion at St Oswalds a couple of weeks ago, while our Village residents' committee has recruited him to play a role in a small Commemoration on ANZAC Day.

We both keep reasonably well and enjoy having our family so close by. While we have coped with the grief of leaving Blenheim, we continue to miss our many Marlborough friends, especially those at Nativity.

a nativity anglican church fundraiser

Glamorous Gowns of the 20th Century

7:30PM SAT, 11TH MAY 2024
NATIVITY CHURCH HALL

An elegant evening not to be missed!

Bubbles, supper, fashion parade, entertainment and a few surprises.

Glam up in evening wear from the past century.

Prizes for "Best Charity Shop Gown" & "Best Dressed Male"

ticket presale: \$75
for information visit

www.nativity.org.nz
03 578 3909

**DON'T
MISS
OUT**

OTHER OPTIONS:

friday rehearsal: \$25

7pm Friday 10th May 2024

sunday display: donation

9am - 3pm Sunday 12th May 2024

Nativity Anglican Church | 76 Alfred St Blenheim | info@nativity.org.nz

STOP PRESS!

Celebrate our newly renovated hall - in style!

This is a fundraiser. Please note the three options available:

The Glamorous Gowns Elegant Evening - \$75.00

Dress Rehearsal - \$25.00

Sunday Display - Donation



WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday 8.00am NZPB Communion
Sunday 10.00am Family Communion

Thursday 10.00am St. Barnabas Chapel

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES

Sunday 10.00am
First Steps | Nativity Kids | Nativity Youth

Friday 9.30am (During School Term)
Tunes 4 Tots

PRAYER MEETINGS

Second Monday of the month
7pm in the hall
Weekly on Wednesday from 8.45am
in the Lounge.

'Thank you' to our generous sponsors of Nativity News

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