



Nativity NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Issue 16

EDITORIAL - ROSEMARY FRANCIS



"Behold, I make all things new". My heart is full of thanksgiving as the challenges of autumn and winter have passed, with the worst fears of Covid's destruction not felt in Aotearoa. While hygiene and social distancing are still recommended, we can rejoice together in shared worship, in this familiar place.

Like the caterpillars that isolate in their cocoons for a season, we celebrate spring by emerging from lockdown; and stretching our wings in the warmer weather and longer days, as we fly about our duties in God's beautiful world.

Surrounded by blossoms and bulbs, hatching birds and wobbly-legged newborn lambs and calves, we see all creation praising God; being fruitful and multiplying as is His instruction. What a privilege to share His Creation and be responsible stewards of it.

Our Spring issue of Nativity News speaks to our past as we learn about Nativity Courts; the community of houses alongside our church, and meet a resident of this cosy group.

We share highlights from the joyful organ recital played by Martin Setchell, and social happenings revived after 'lockdown.' We have included photos of our Seniors Lunch which was enjoyed by many. We familiarize you with our Vestry members and Synod representatives, and the responsibilities they commit to in serving God in our Nativity family.

We have photos of Nativity people and activities, and news of coming events. We hear more about Colombian refugees whom we welcome to Blenheim. Jesus was a refugee, when, as a toddler, Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt to escape Herod's killing spree. God has a special *aroha* for those who are displaced from their homeland.

We wish you joy in your walk through the freshness of spring. May you know the peace and joy of our Father God.





FROM OUR PRIESTS IN CHARGE REVS SUE AND JOE



FORWARD FOCUS

One of the key metaphors that has been resonating in my spirit this past week has been the exhortation to keep my “hand to the plough.” To plough effectively you have to look straight and focus ahead at a static marker in front of you, or you would have crooked rows.

You also have to clear the land first from big rocks and stumps and unseen obstacles.

The fact is though, distractions and disruptions are constantly pulling for our attention, time, emotions and focus.

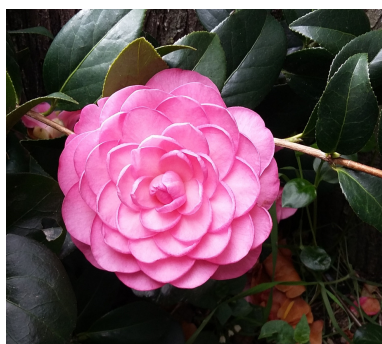
As a ministry team we have certainly not perfected the art of not being distracted, but, we are becoming more aware of the ways we can overcome distractions much more quickly, especially those things such as sudden unexpected news, last minute changes, those things that tend to move us from a place of peace to being overwhelmed.

It is during these times we have reminded each other, ‘God is in control’, so we can focus on what is required of us right in the moment rather than the disruptions.

Having this season at Nativity is humbling as I see how many, and how hard those many people work. The work of clearing the land to prepare for the future building project has been monumental but through it all, no matter the opinions on what those buildings should look like, there has been a constant focus on what the future of this Church could look like for families. There has been an intentional focus forward.

For this purpose we have been leaning into Heaven's resources and meaningful prayer, as we choose not to focus on the things that are trying to impede our progress. Rather, focusing forward is all about not allowing our awareness of the distractions to throw us off track.

*God Bless,
Sue*



BREAKING NEWS FROM JOE!

In regard to focusing forward, Vestry, Sue, and I are pleased and excited to announce that last Sunday, at a special meeting, a decision was made to proceed with extensive renovations to the hall and connected areas within the current footprint, with the expectation that the hall will be opened up on the north wall to flow onto a deck and down into a children's play area.

The building committee has been tasked to engage and work with professional services to produce construction drawings to be approved by Vestry.

Our united desire is to progress this project as quickly as possible to bring the benefits of this upgrade to the parish and all those who use our facilities.

Please continue to pray that God's blessing and direction remain with us as we continue forward.

**Commit to the
Lord whatever
you do and he
will establish
your plans.
Proverbs 16:3**

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Natalia Shabanova From Belarus



With unrest in Belarus featuring almost daily on our media I thought it was a good time to interview our own Belarussian church member – Natalia Shabanava. Natalia has been living in New Zealand for fourteen years, first in Oamaru and Dunedin and then in Marlborough. She joined the Marlborough Singers and there she met Pat Parkinson who invited her to join the Nativity Church Choir.

Natalia grew up in a musical family with her mother on stage singing and dancing. Her father was a pilot in the Russian Air Force. Though born in Belarus in Western Soviet Union, she was educated in Vladivostok, on the East Coast of Russia. As a young person growing up in Russia church-going was not allowed. When Belarus split from the Soviet Union she returned there, where her Grandmother took her to the Russian Orthodox Church. There she heard beautiful singing, but the congregation did not join in.

Natalia taught Electrical Engineering at College. When her son and daughter were adults, she moved to New York to work. After miraculously escaping a fire she returned to Belarus before finally moving to NZ. She returns to visit her son and daughter and grandchildren every two years, and they have been to NZ to visit her. She was to have travelled there this year but was unable to due to COVID restrictions. Natalia worries about her family getting COVID as Belarus has a similar response towards the virus as Sweden. However, she is grateful that masks are worn on buses.

One of Natalia's greatest musical highlights was travelling with three other Marlborough singers – Rien Wagenvoort and Ian and Elaine Blair – to New York in January this year. These four plus another six from Nelson, Wellington and Lower Hutt were the NZ representatives – 'Vox Kiwiana' – who sang with the 'Distinguished Concert Singers International' (DCSI) at Carnegie Hall. The huge choir performed the music of Sir Karl Jenkins, 'The Armed Man, A Mass For Peace'.

We are thrilled that Natalia is part of our Nativity Family and our Nativity Choir.

Miriam Taylor



Nativity Album



A Huge Success!

NATIVITY'S FIRST CONCERT WITH THE NEW MAKIN WINDERMERE ORGAN



Despite being under Level 2 (and the accompanying 'social distancing' requirements) the concert was very well attended. All present were thrilled to hear the organ 'come alive' in the hands 'and feet' of Martin Setchell.

It was an excellent fund-raiser which covered the cost of the installation of the organ, with many showing their appreciation of the opportunity to hear this world-renowned musician perform, by donating above the amount charged.

Nativity's future hope is to involve the wider Marlborough community. Their vision is to attract student interest, having Sunday afternoon recitals, engaging the interest of local music groups and of course, enhancing weekly services.

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

PLEASE NOTE!

**ONLY ONE SERVICE THIS DAY AT 9.00
AM
(IF AT LEVEL 1)**

**FOLLOWED BY A
PARISH PICNIC**

**AT ROD AND JENNY TYNEY'S
27 HAMMOND ROAD
RENWICK**



SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

PRAYER BREAKFAST

**CHURCH LOUNGE
8.00 AM**

**RSVP TO OFFICE
BY 07 OCTOBER**

PLEASE JOIN US!



AAW LEARN ABOUT NZ RED CROSS MIGRATION PROGRAMMES

On 19 August 2020 two members from the New Zealand Red Cross Migration Programmes, Kim and Anna, spoke to the AAW (Association of Anglican Women) group about the, now 'former refugees', who recently arrived in Blenheim. We were told that the two families came to Blenheim eight weeks later than expected because of the Covid 19 lockdown. The families had spent that extra time in the Mangere Migrant Centre in Auckland.

We heard that the families (both from Colombia, northwest South America) have settled well and are now engaged with the English Language Partners and the local schools. They are facing big hurdles including issues such as culture shock, language, no money or possessions, loss of family, grief and prejudice.

We also learnt of the difference between a refugee and a migrant. The migrant is a person who moves to another country, usually for work or better living, whereas a refugee is a person officially recognised as someone seeking safety in a country other than their own. Simply put, migrants have an element of choice in their movements as opposed to refugees. Now however, our Blenheim Colombian families are no longer 'refugees' because they have a safe country to live in and were awarded permanent residency upon arrival in New Zealand. They can apply for NZ citizenship in five years.

New Zealand last year agreed to settle 1500 refugees annually but that quota was not achieved as a result of Covid 19 and our border closures.



Colombian family proudly display their Colombian flag

Photo Credit: Stuff.



NZ Red Cross members and volunteers welcome the Colombian families at the Blenheim Airport.

Photo Credit : Stuff

Having been granted refugee status and provided with settlement in New Zealand, the families are provided with support from the New Zealand Red Cross Pathways to Settlement team for up to 12 months. This includes a community orientation programme and links to the services they require for resettlement. Housing New Zealand locate suitable housing before the families leave Mangere. Red Cross also supports them beyond 12 months with their Pathways to Employment programme.

Here in Blenheim, NZ Red Cross has secured the contract for settling refugee families and they have the support of trained volunteers to attend to the families' needs.

Within the first six weeks the family learn about shopping, enrollment with a doctor, dentist, Work and Income, and much more. The goal is for the supported families to become independent in about one year.

Red Cross supports **the statement** that 'everyone deserves to live with dignity and respect'.

Kim and Anna answered many questions and took away gifts of non-perishable foods and kitchen wares to give to the two families.

The talk was so well attended that there was a shortage of cups for morning tea!

Written by Kate Bristed



Nativity Album



King David being interviewed by Roz Mundy in 'This is your Life' , during September Family Service



The Mid-winter Luncheon for the Over-sixty-fives was once again organized by Raewyn Parkes. This is just one of the many gatherings she has overseen in her role as Parish Nurse. Sadly, Raewyn will complete her term as Parish Nurse at the end of September.



Thank you Paul Burrough for the beautiful paint job you did on St. Barnabas Chapel - aka Barnies.



Reverend Putiputi Thompson and Archdeacon Kevin Thompson at the Luncheon.



SERVICE WITH A SMILE - NATIVITY'S VESTRY - 2020



Pictured from Left to right -

Kate Bristed, Jennifer Bennett-Burrows, Rev. Joe Keighley, Konrad Cross, Rachel Powell, Stephen Sheat, Gerri Mead, Dion Mundy, Ellen Scrivener, Alison Brice, Hamish Harper, Pauline Tisch, John Ealand. (Absent: Rev. Susan Howarth)

WHO DOES WHAT?

Clergy: Priests in Charge Rev. Joe Keighley (Vestry Chair) and Rev. Susan Howarth.

Synod Reps: Kate Bristed, Hamish Harper, John Ealand.

Wardens: Stephen Sheat (Bishop's Church Warden) Jennifer Bennett-Burrows (People's Warden).

Ministries and Pastoral Care: Kate Bristed, Dion Mundy, Alison Brice.

Secretarial: Ellen Scrivener, Gerrie Mead.

Deanery Contact and Community Building: Pauline Tisch.

Health and Safety: Rachel Powell.

Building and Maintenance: Konrad Cross, Hamish Harper.

Investment Portfolio: John Ealand.

Treasurer: Keith Buck (not on vestry).



SUPPORT TEAMS:

Finance Team: Pauline Tisch, Stephen Sheat and non-vestry members Kathy Taylor and Keith Buck (Treasurer).

Building Development Committee: Hamish Harper, Pauline Tisch, Alison Brice, and non-vestry members Keith Buck and Conway Taylor.



**Thank you to our generous
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News**

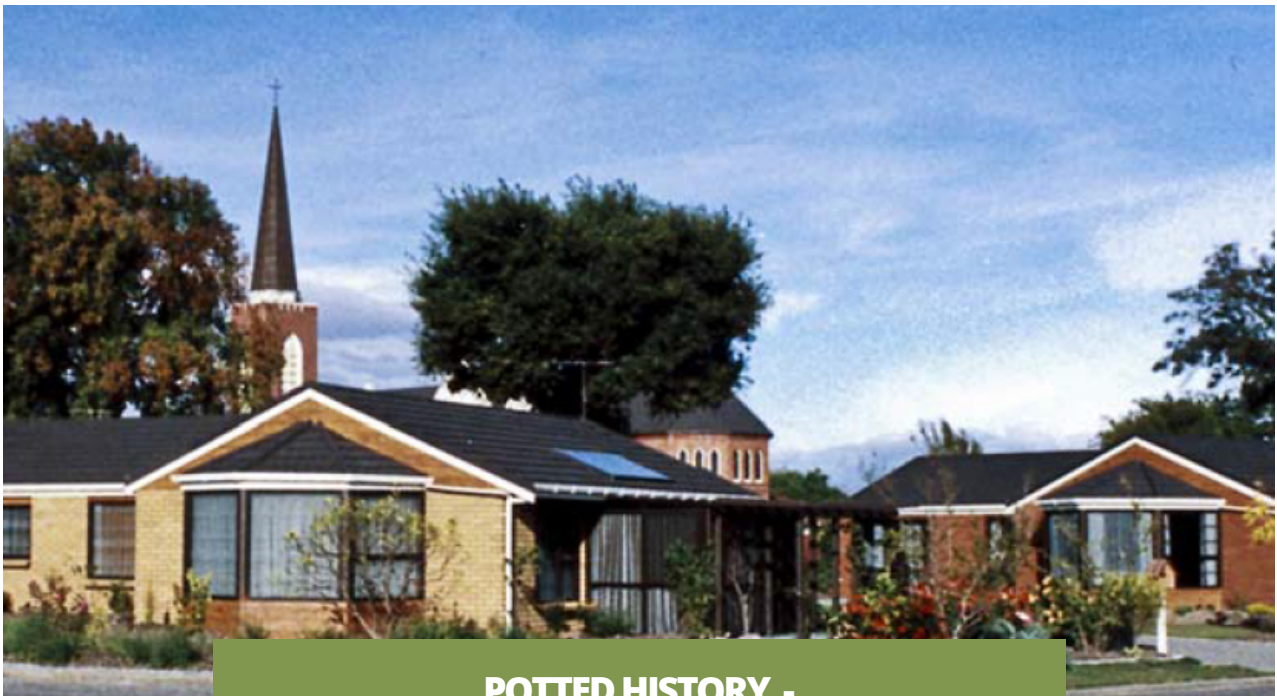
Nativity Album



Coffee Connections meets for a chat and a cuppa on the second Saturday of every month at 9.30am at Raupo Café. Everyone welcome – Just turn up. Photo from last meeting on 12 September 2020



A YWAM team - Youth with A Mission - were in Marlborough. They are seen here with Gerrie Mead's Home Group. YWAM is an international movement of Christians from many denominations dedicated to presenting Jesus personally to this generation.



POTTED HISTORY - NATIVITY COURTS

Nativity Courts on Henry and John Streets were a lasting testimony to the church visionaries of the past, and now some thirty-one years after they were built, remain a fine example of good urban residential design. Essentially a cluster of six spacious retirement units in a garden setting, Nativity Courts are an immediate neighbour of the church and Nativity Centre, a convenient short walk to the centre of town and the sanctuary of Seymour Square public gardens. Nativity courts were set up to provide good quality housing for older people.

Up until the late 1960's, the site was the home to the Anglican Tennis Club which then went into recess. Since the demise of the tennis club the land had remained idle. It was not until 1987 that the Wardens produced a report investigating the proposal to erect six retirement houses there.

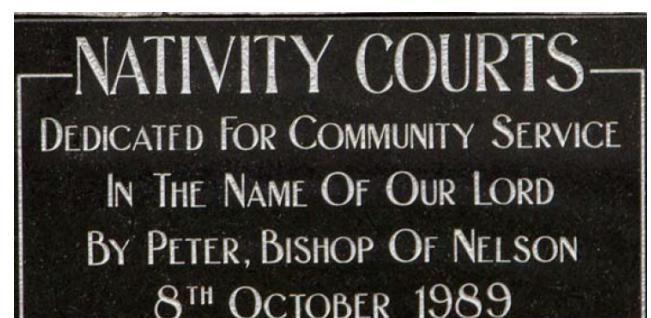
Final agreement was reached in May 1989 and the project was put out for tender. After consideration Glenroy Housing was the successful tenderer and construction began later in the year.

Information taken from The History of the Nativity Anglican Church, Blenheim. Chapter 14



Caroline Hansen pictured outside her Nativity Courts Home in 2020.

She considers it a blessing and a privilege to live where she does, so close to the river for walking, to Seymour Square and to the town. She says, 'What more could I ask for at this time of my life?'



Nativity ANGELICAN FAMILY EVENTS

WEEKLY

- SUNDAY** **8.00 am Sung Eucharist;**
10.00 am Family Communion
 Including: First Steps; Nativity Kids; Youth Group
- MONDAY** **9.30 am - Care and Share, Craft Group (fortnightly)**
 - Church Lounge
- WEDNESDAY** **4.00 pm (Each 2nd week)**
 - Intercessory Prayer - Barnies
- THURSDAY** **8.30 am - Walking Group**
 - Nelson Street Car Park
- 10.00 am Eucharist**
 - Barnies
- FRIDAY** **9.30 am Tunes for Tots**
 - Church Hall and Lounge

MONTHLY

- THIRD WEDNESDAY** **10.30 am AAW**
 - Barnies
- SECOND SATURDAY** **9.30 am Coffee Connections**
 - Raupo Cafe

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH** **Plant Sale**
 9.30 am Church Hall and Lounge
- SATURDAY OCTOBER 10TH** **Prayer Breakfast**
 8.00 am Nativity Lounge
- SATURDAY OCTOBER 17TH** **DIOCESAN SYNOD - Online Meetings**
- SAT/SUN OCTOBER 17TH/18TH** **St Andrews Garden tour & Scarecrow Competition**
- SUNDAY OCTOBER 18TH** **Nativity Parish Spring Picnic**
 (See advertisement within)
- SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14TH** **St Christopher's Market Morning 9.00 am**



**THE CHURCH OF THE
NATIVITY**

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