

Nativity

NEWS

DECEMBER 2022

Issue 23



EDITORIAL

BY ROSE FRANCIS

As we rush into Christmas I remind myself of Romans 12.2 *"Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould."* Never do we need that admonition more than at Christmas. The world wants us to commercialize Christmas instead of 'Christianizing' Christmas. Let us remember all that our 'true love' the Lord Jesus Christ has given to us, and let's have the most Christ-centred celebration ever! Praise His name.

I enjoy the trappings of Christmas, but the TRUTHS of Christmas trump the trappings of Christmas. So many of us get trapped in the trappings and forget the truth. Although Christmas is the celebration of what Jesus did for us, in return, we should make it all about Him; loving Him, praising Him, serving Him and emulating his attitude of humility.

We have asked members of our church how Christmas is celebrated in their homelands, and we feature in Out and About, three Nativity people involved in our community.

We catch up on our mission outreach, and Archdeacon Kevin talks about the Maori church in Marlborough. We report on interesting teaching series such as Going Deeper, into the Reformation.

Nativity News also has a dedicated column to our new status as an official Eco Church, where we share ideas and ways where we can help support God's Creation in our corner of the world.

Of course in this final Nativity News for 2022, there is a bumper crop of photos of our activities, including library updates, parish picnic, prayer breakfast, and Christmas float in the Santa Parade. (We're claiming back Christ's birth, not Santa's big day out!)



Do you remember the old acronym for JOY?

Jesus first
Others second, and
Yourself last?

As we plan and prepare for Christmas, may we enjoy the traditions, without getting trapped in the festive trappings. If Jesus is in His rightful place, and we put others before ourselves, the JOY of Christmas will be ours.



Wishing you God's peace, love, and joy
- Rose Francis & Editorial Team

**CHURCH PICNIC AT POLLARD PARK TO CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER.
WONDERFUL ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY THE VANUATU STRING BAND**



A REFLECTION FROM VICAR GLEN



Revd. Glen Ashworth

A BUSH WALK

Last week I took the opportunity to go on a one day retreat before the busyness of Christmas truly takes hold. I started with a bush walk around Lake Rotoiti which was stunning. On the way I was conscious that when the track was more difficult, with roots or muddy parts, I was having to look down at my feet but when the path was smooth and straight, I was able to look up and along the path ahead.

Being on a retreat, I leaned into these thoughts and reflected on recent times at Nativity and life in general. Covid-19 and the various restrictions we faced put a strain on us all and it has meant that we have had to focus on what is right in front of us. And that's ok and there will always be those seasons in life when we must do that. But my sense is that that is changing – the path is a bit smoother now and we can look ahead a bit more.

One of the big elements of the Advent season is the ministry of John the Baptist and his proclamation,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make His paths straight. (Luke 3:4)

Let's take the opportunity God may be offering us of a smooth path and use it to look ahead and to ask, where is it that our journey with Christ is heading? And what do we need to do to line up with that?



THE PRAYER BREAKFAST

19 NOVEMBER



High Tea

In honour of
Queen Elizabeth II

Kaye Dyer writes.....

It began with a dream.

"Organise a high tea in honour of the queen."

Was this God?

I checked with others and invited AAW to join us.

The hall was available. All lights were green.

Women were invited to book a seat and bring a favourite bone china tea cup.



We began with David Moxon's tribute and then around tables of six we reminisced. Some had brought medals or awards and had personal stories which we relived together.

It was time for the first round of tea.

Tables were loaded with asparagus rolls, chicken rolls, strawberry sandwiches, savouries, scones with jam and cream, muffins, ...



The fabulous celebration cake was cut by Alison Knight who shares the same age as Queen Elizabeth.



We reflected on the queen's life as a wife, mother, leader and queen. We remembered some of her quotes and reflected on her example as a woman who served God first and then her people.

There was a hum of prayer around our tables as we were challenged by her example as a "mother of the faith."

Following the queen's example, we were encouraged to ask God for openings where we can pass on the treasures God has built into us to the next generations.

After a beautiful blessing, we departed-grateful to God for having lived so much of our lives during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth said this of her faith:

"Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of His life, and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet, billions of people now follow His teaching and find in Him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them, because Christ's example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe."



*We thank and farewell
Jocelyn Wilkes
as she moves to Christchurch*

By Eileen Guard

Jocelyn will be sadly missed by the Nativity Church family having been involved in many aspects of church life. She has been a long-standing member of the Nativity Choir and also of our Care Cell - first when we were meeting at Norma Richard's home between 10-12 years ago and then when Norma became too unwell to continue as hostess Jocelyn volunteered for the role and for the last 6 or 7 years our Care Cell has met at Jocelyn's home. We enjoyed many a beautiful birthday cake when birthdays came along and as Jocelyn was very aware of the Seasons of the Church year so we enjoyed pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, hot cross buns and Christmas mince pies.

Jocelyn was a great communicator and often had words of wisdom to impart at care cell meetings.

She was a Synod Rep during this time and was a worship leader at the 8.00am service, spending much time preparing prayers. She was very conscientious of putting her very best effort into all she did in our Lord's service. She also took her turn cleaning and preparing church linen.

As her family and her roots were in Christchurch Jocelyn made plans to go back there as her health was not so good more recently and she needed to be closer to her family. Her gain, our loss. She will continue to be a lovely Christian friend - long distance.

*Thank you Jocelyn,
From the Nativity Church Family*



By Alison Brice
Chaplain to the Elderly

It is good to be almost back to normal except for the mask mandate though covid has not gone away. Today we had to cancel the dementia wing service at Waterlea although we were able to have the rest home service.

At the end of the year, Peter Sangwine will be retiring as the rest home pianist. Peter has been a wonderful, loyal supporter over many years playing at all five homes regularly each month. Thank you, Peter.

REST HOME SERVICES AND CHAPLAINCY

I am very lucky that Kerry Abraham has agreed to take over from Peter and as a bonus, we will also get Yvonne his wife to help as well.

This year we have conducted extra services at Springlands Lifestyle and next year Waterlea has added services so that Nativity will conduct a service there each month. Nativity has a strong team of willing people who are appreciated by staff and residents alike. We walked into Aberleigh last month to be greeted with waving hands and huge smiles of welcome. It makes this ministry so worthwhile.

THIS MAGNIFICENT ARTWORK OF THE NATIVITY HAS BEEN GIFTED TO NATIVITY CHURCH



THE PRINCE OF PEACE



Jesus my Refuge

by Raewyn Parkes

A SLOW OBEDIENCE

by Raewyn Parkes

While on a creative retreat at Lindisfarne, Holy Island, England in 2019, I discovered the work of Mary Fleeson, a local artist. My first impression of her shop, The Scriptorium, was colour everywhere, one colourful painting after another, and then I saw 'Prince of Peace' and thought of Nativity. I knew I was to gift it to Nativity. Our travels continued, life moved on and I forgot. The addition of the name 'Scriptorium' to the side chapel for the Library's overflow of books reminded me. The picture now resides in the eastern transept. I would like to thank Kathy Taylor for helping me obtain the print, Miriam Taylor for her help in choosing the framing and Richard Dyer for the hanging of the 'Prince of Peace.'

On the second day of the retreat, the leader taught us how to work with pastels and then asked us to pick one of the photos he had taken around Holy Island and do an artwork of it. I chose a photo looking back towards England at sunset. I chose that photo because the purple hues in the sky reflected on the sand of the causeway. In the centre were the poles that marked the Pilgrims' way across to the island and a structure built on four poles with a half wall for protection from the wind, known as a refuge, for those pilgrims who got caught with a fast-rising tide. They could climb to safety and wait for the next low tide.

After some time working on our pictures, our leader said "It's a good thing to ask God while you're doing an artwork, 'Why did I choose this picture?'" As I went back to my artwork the thought, "It's because Jesus is your refuge" dropped into my mind. Because of its quiet authority, its consoling effect and that God is so often referred to as a refuge in the Bible, I chose to believe this thought came from God.'

As we all know when thinking a thought may be from God, we must test it against the Bible. This thought passed with flying colours. Psalms are full of God being a refuge and Christian friends confirmed this later. You are invited over the coming days, weeks, months and years to spend a moment or two with our picture, 'Prince of Peace' and ask God what he would like to say to you through this artwork.

**Art invites us to an
encounter, which is a gift
—a spiritual gift
that might bring us into
a deeper relationship
with God.**

Brother Lee Colombino, S.J.
Also Bob Dylan similar quote





Archdeacon Kevin Thompson

TE ARAPAI WHANAU

Marlborough Anglican Maori Mission

Since 1991 the New Zealand Anglican Church has operated as three Tikanga, or cultural streams – Tikanga Pakeha, Tikanga Maori, and Tikanga Pasifika. This allows each tikanga to develop its worship and its life according to its own language/s and culture/s, while adhering strongly to the one Faith and ethos of the worldwide Anglican Church.

Until the major influence of European settlers in the 1850's and 60's, the NZ Church was a Maori Church, speaking Te Reo, and spread by Maori evangelists. But after Bishop Selwyn brought the Church Constitution modelled on British Parliamentary lines, Maori were always out-voted and felt (they were) treated as poor cousins from then on. It was not until 1978 that a Maori Diocese of Aotearoa was established, with its own Bishop, Manu Bennet. This was run as five Archdeaconries, which in time became Hui Amorangi or Diocese.

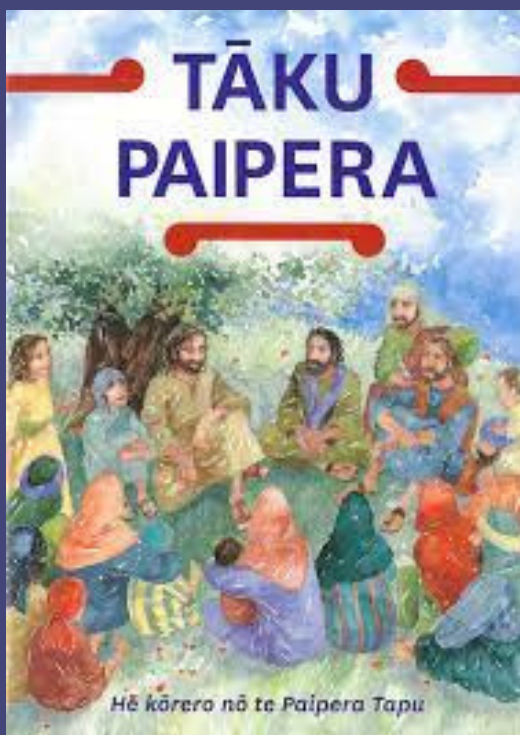
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The Maori Diocese of Te Waipounamu runs as five Rohe (regions, archdeaconries) containing seven Pariha (parishes), and includes the whole South Island, Stewart Island and the Chatham Islands. Te Arapai rohe takes the whole of Marlborough, from Arapaoa Island to the Conway River, and from the sea to Rai Valley – in theory as yet, because we have not been able to cover it all adequately, although we do travel to all parts of our rohe whenever required.

At this time we are staffed by myself as Archdeacon and missionary, aided by one other priest, my daughter Heeni te Rongopai, one Deacon, the Rev. Helen Joseph, and one Kaikarakia or Lay Reader, Mrs Erana Maxwell. Our regular congregation in Blenheim is small and mainly elderly. We would covet your prayers as we reach out to all Maori in our region. Everyone is assured of a very warm welcome to our service in Te Reo (and English); at 10.30am each Sunday at ComCol, corner of Scott and Francis Streets.



Archdeacon Kevin has gifted a copy of the Children's Bible - 'Taku Paipera' to the Nativity Library on behalf of the Maori Anglican Church.



Taku Paipera, was published in 2016 and is the first children's Bible in the Maori language, and uses colourful pages and short sentences to offer a more accessible alternative to adult versions.

"For Maori children, it's their language put to print, the stories of the Bible from thousands of years are now conveyed in their sacred language. It will help build their self-esteem and pride."



"This Bible will lead to the preservation of te Reo [the Maori language] and the continuity of te Reo and also the use and continuance of a traditional language to a modern language."

Produced by the New Zealand Bible Society, Taku Paipera received a traditional Maori welcoming ceremony at Middle School West Auckland's Bilingual Unit where the feeding of the 5,000 was read out to students.

Christmas in Brazil

Rosimeire Cookson



It is not easy for me to talk about Christmas because I haven't spent Christmas with my family since 2001. Unfortunately, it's the most expensive time of the year to travel overseas so we haven't been able to go.

As I grew up in a Christian family, Christmas was always the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Growing up, we were part of a church where a lot was done, from plays, children's and adult choirs which we all took part in. Most families in Brazil have a celebration on Christmas Eve. A family gathering, more formal, with lots of food and music, and involves the extended family. People stay awake until midnight to greet each other and open presents. On Christmas day, lunch is late and usually is a barbeque with lots of meat and salads.



Rosimeire, Anna and Chris Cookson are faithful members of the Nativity Family. Chris will often be seen with the music team playing the violin.

In 2015, I went to visit my family with my daughter, who was 4 years old at the time, and I don't know why, but she thought we were going for Christmas. It was July and we never do mid-year Christmas! I could see how she was getting frustrated and I told one of my cousins, who immediately said:

Let it be Christmas... Anna's Christmas!

We gathered all the family on the 8th of August and had a big party for our "Christmas Eve" and a big lunch the next day. We put on our best clothes, Christmas decorations and traditional food. We all wondered what the neighbours had thought when they heard us singing Christmas carols!!!

But for us, Christians, Christmas is not only about one day - we can celebrate the coming of our Savior every day!

Brazil is a large and diverse country and there are people who have special traditions and ways of celebrating Christmas. In the last few years, I have noticed that even my family has changed the way we used to celebrate and they don't have big gatherings anymore. I think the pandemic played a big role in downsizing family gatherings.

I am looking forward to visiting my family again and whatever time of the year we go, it will be like Christmas!



Christmas in Korea

Gina Smeaton



When I say I'm from Korea, one of the most frequently asked questions is 'South or North?'. The hermit nation of North Korea keeps attracting media attention.

It took my home nation, South Korea, producing what has now become well-known, such as Samsung, Hyundai, Gangnam Style, BTS (Boy Band) and Squid Game (Drama TV series) etc. to finally catch up.



Freedom, specifically freedom of faith, is a South Korean concept. While our population is increasingly becoming agnostic or atheist, with 56.1% non-religious, the two major faiths are Christianity 27.6% and Buddhism 15.5%.

Christ's birthday and Buddha's birthday are both celebrated as national holidays.

December in Korea is very cold and the Santa costume is perfect for the weather. It is the image at Christmas that I remember with affection.

Bing Crosby's 'White Christmas' song can be heard everywhere; the Salvation Army's handbell sounds calling for donations towards the Christmas Kettle (fundraiser for the poor); shops full of young people; and warm food.

Christians and non-Christians all wait for Christmas Day as it is the best shopping day.

Unlike Kiwis, we don't travel to visit family as it is just one day since Boxing Day is not a holiday in Korea.



Ken and Gina Smeaton. Ken is one of Nativity's much-appreciated organists and Gina prepares the altar for Holy Communion.

Christmas in the UK

Marion Preston



I don't remember much about my own childhood Christmases, as it's so long ago and we moved around a lot but I do remember lovely patterns of frost on the inside of our bedroom windows and the icicles hanging on the outside window sills. We used to break them off and suck them--though sometimes they got stuck on our tongues, much to the amusement of our other sister!

We shared turns in opening a window in the Advent Calendar, and got more excited with each passing day! We also made secret cards and gifts for our parents to unwrap on the day too.

We used to make our own paper chains, and Mum would help us decorate our real tree with twinkling lights and tinsel. There were different coloured glass baubles to hang on the tree and a fairy to go on the top. We used to quarrel about whose turn it was to put it there each year!



There were also little chocolates wrapped in silver paper on the tree, and some presents under the tree from relatives. We went to church as well for the Christmas service when we were older. The church was a long walk away!

I also remember the snow in the back garden and making a snowman with my younger sister.

Father Christmas left our gifts in a pillowcase tied to the end of our beds—but we weren't allowed to open them until Mum & Dad were up too.



The young girl who used to love opening the doors on the Advent Calendar and sucking icicles that hung from the window sill on Christmas morning, grew to become a Coronary Care nurse in Northern Ireland.

She and Ken Preston met at a Methodist Youth Camp and they married in 1971.

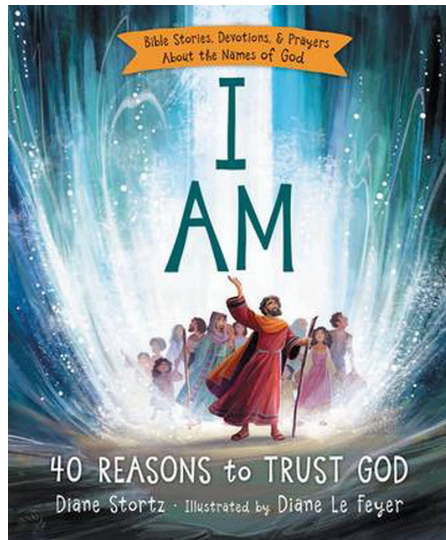
Ken and Marion are now an integral part of our Nativity Church Family.





NATIVITY LIBRARY

A Book Review by Katherine Mundy



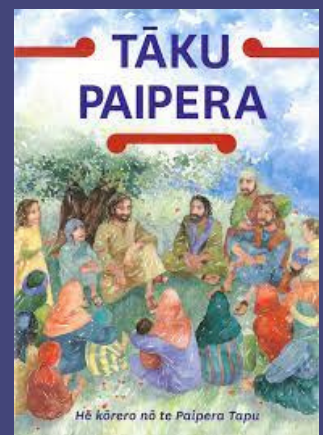
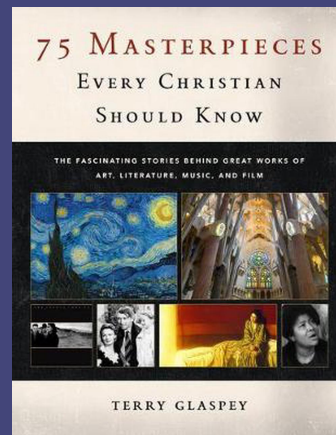
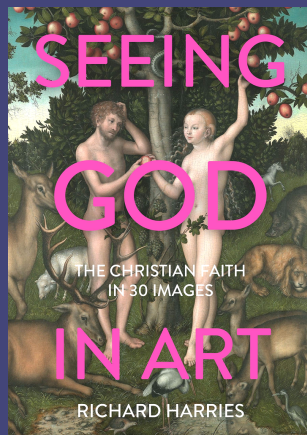
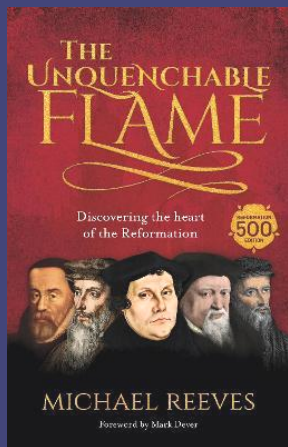
"I AM - 40 Reasons to trust God"

by Diane Stortz, illustrated by Diane Le Feyer

is a collection of Christian Children's short stories, about reasons to trust God. God's names tell us who he is, what he is like and what he does. This book covers 40 names for God. At the start of each story on the left-hand side is a name for God in English and Hebrew, followed by where it is found in the Bible and the story; also what it means, a prayer, and 'learn more'.

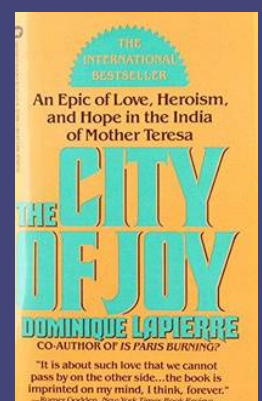
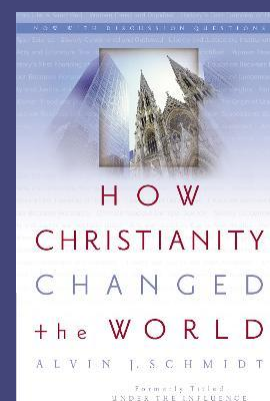
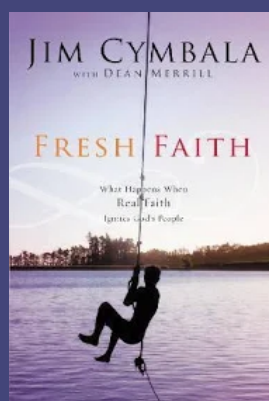
I like this book because it has a short bit about why each name is important and how you can relate to it. The prayers are nice simple ones, that relate. The book has good pictures which add to the story. It is a good book for parents or grandparents to read to children too.

I have learnt that one of the names for God in the Bible is "The Lord is my banner" meaning God protects us.



THESE NINE BOOKS ARE NATIVITY LIBRARY'S MOST RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Grateful thanks go to Kevin Thompson and the Maori Anglican Church for 'Taku Paipera' - a Children's Bible in te Reo, and also to Jane Clarke whose donation to the Library enabled us to purchase 'Seeing God in Art' and '75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know'. If you wish to add to the Library Fund for the purchase of other special books please note 'library donation' with your cash or online giving.



Out & About

Our people out in the community

CONGRATULATIONS JENNY ANDREWS - QSM

By Miriam Taylor



We, the Nativity family, are proud that one of our own has been acknowledged for her service to others by being awarded the Queen's Service Medal in the year of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

Jenny's investiture was held on 20 September 2022, 12 days after Queen Elizabeth's death. The Honourable Dame Susan Glazebrook, Judge of the Supreme Court in NZ, officiated in the absence of the Governor General, Her Excellency Rt. Hon Dame Cindy Kiro.

"Māku e kii atu, he tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata. What is the most important thing in the world? Well, let me tell you, it is people, it is people, it is people." This proverb could be said to epitomize Jenny Andrew's life.

Jenny enjoys people and has worked with and for others all her adult life. She began her working life as a third-generation florist in Blenheim. Every bunch or posy of flowers ordered, represented a life story and Jenny's listening skills and empathetic nature responded to her clients.

Jenny did not seek re-election for another term this year after 24 years on the Marlborough District Council, 12 of those as deputy mayor. In 2023 she will have been a JP (Justice of the Peace) for 30 years and she has been a Marriage Celebrant for 20 years.

Some of her other involvements have been with the Marlborough Musical Theatre as a member of the support team; the Marlborough Historical Society; Ten years with Garden Marlborough; Alzheimer's Foundation as part of the fundraising team; Friends of the Hospice; Senior Citizen's Age Concern. Jenny along with Pauline Mead, also founded Estate Busters Blenheim - to help families with estate assets dispersal and downsizing.

Jenny's strong Christian faith and reliance on God's Word have guided her through both good times and difficult times. As a child, she won a Bible for memorizing the 23rd Psalm. It is this Bible she uses as a JP when taking an oath is required.

All her life Jenny has been part of the Nativity Church Family. She and husband Kevin, her strongest supporter, were married at Nativity 51 years ago. Jenny and Kevin often attended the 7.00pm service when it was operating and now mostly attend the 8.00am service.

Pam Saunders out in the community

My involvement with the textiles of the Marlborough Historical Society started many years ago. It has been a wonderful interest and I have never stopped learning. Our group worked out of a lean-to behind the shops in Beavertown so when Ralph Denton left monies to the Society and we were able to build a museum, and then Archives at Brayshaw Park. it was hugely exciting.



Today, at the Marlborough Museum, we work in a light, airy workroom with a reference library and we spend a lot of time describing and photographing our collection for computer records which, in turn, means we can find the articles easily.



We plan exhibitions of the textiles which enable us to bring up to date what we have. We love receiving textiles that have Marlborough provenance, as the stories are ones that should be recorded because often they are part of the social story of our area. We have a WWII wedding gown made out of white cheesecloth.....the young bride was marrying quickly as her fiancé, who had been called up, and was leaving soon, so her nursing friends fashioned this simple gown.

We are working with conservator Rangi Te Kanawa on a patchwork that was stitched on the Edwin Fox and has an 1896 newspaper as one of the templates. We are also working on a kiwi feather cloak. The people we meet, who are so knowledgeable and generous with sharing their skills, make our work constantly interesting and we are always learning.

I have been very blessed to have skilled workmates who also give up their time and have formed friendships that will last all my life.

Pam Saunders

Throughout New Zealand there are government appointed Ministerial Justices of the Peace. Here in Blenheim there are nearly seventy, and well over one hundred in the Marlborough region. JPs who volunteer and meet certain criteria are appointed as a result of community recommendations to the local Member of Parliament and then the Minister of Justice. Apart from being perceived as a person of good standing in the region, there must also be a balance of ethnicity, gender and of geographic location. Once appointed a JP is no longer a volunteer but a State-appointed officer and thus accountable to the State. They are required to remain diligent and capable, to both the State and the communities they serve.

The main tasks for a JP are to certify copies of documents (e.g. passports, birth certificates etc.), witness signatures, take Statutory Declarations and swear or affirm Affidavits. It is very important to process the documents appropriately as errors may result in serious delays. There also are a small number of Judicial JPs who undertake further training and preside over certain court sittings.

At Nativity there are five Ministerial JPs: myself, Jenny Andrews, Peter Oliver, Glen Webster and Pam Rentoul.

Kate Bristed

Kate Bristed JP *out in the community*

If you visit the Blenheim Library between 10.00am and 12noon on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday you may see Nativity's Kate Bristed in her role of Justice of the Peace. Miriam asked her to explain to us the role of a JP and to inform us of other JP's from our Nativity Family.



To access the services of a JP a computer search of 'find a jp' will take one to the JP Federation website where all are listed there by region. Alternatively, there are JPs available Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday in the Blenheim library 10am to 12noon (and Picton library Wednesday 11am to 1pm).



CHRIST'S AIRCRAFT - THE MINISTRY OF MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

by John Neal

MAF is an international Christian aviation organisation serving around 30 developing countries to reach people living in some of the world's most isolated communities. Operating more than 120 light aircraft, MAF flies into some 2,500 remote destinations – a figure no other airline in the world can match – transporting essential medical care, food and water supplies, relief teams and church workers enabling physical and spiritual care to reach countless thousands of people cut off due to formidable geographical barriers, natural disaster and political unrest.

MAF was formed just after World War II by ex-RAF pilots (including two Kiwis, Murray Kendon and Trevor Strong) who caught a vision of small aircraft being used for positive purposes in the name of Jesus Christ.



Currently New Zealanders are serving with MAF in Kenya, South Sudan, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Arnhem Land (Northern Australia) and Cairns in Northern Queensland. They range from young single men like Andrew MacDonald living in Juba, South Sudan, to Glenys Watson, a mother of four girls based at Goroka, PNG whose husband Jonny is a professional expert at assessing and evaluating suitable land for remote airstrips.



Derek Harding



John Neal

The Board of MAF NZ – two of its members being Derek Harding and John Neal – is currently bringing into fruition the “Kendon-Strong MAF Center”, a hangar at Tauranga airport which houses the mission's Cessna 206 aeroplane and which is being fitted out as a training centre for would-be pilots and engineers.

You are invited to learn more from the mission's NZ website at www.maf.org.nz – especially their **“Buy a Jerrycan of Jet Fuel”** cards which you can send to family and friends for Christmas, fuel that keeps the MAF fleet in the air!

Renee Brewer has waited 10 years, but her dream to work as a pilot for a non-profit organization is about to become a reality.



Brewer, 26, will be flying a Cessna 208 Caravan across the jungle in Papua New Guinea dropping off supplies to remote communities and doing medical evacuations for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

She has to raise \$48,000 a year, from people who commit to donating on a regular basis.

Taken from the MAF website October 2022





MISSION UPDATE

From Pam Neal, Secretary
Diocesan Missions Council



NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS

CHRIS AND CATHERINE

were recently back in NZ, the highlight being Sasha and Sam's wedding which was a wonderful celebration. Sam works for a Christian group at Dunedin University and Sasha has another year to complete her studies to be a midwife.

The English lessons at the Community Centre continue and Catherine and her colleague have been able to run weekly creative craft classes for kids. Remember them and the 12 students and Catherine completing an ESOL course.

Chris has been very busy with the Rural Training courses. Prayer is especially asked for a couple living and working in one of the villages, especially as "Anna" needs surgery and heart medication.

Back here, NZ CMS have two evangelists and church planters.....

Howard Karaka and his wife Gladys work in the Port Waikato area and have had the privilege of pastoral care of many on the Marae, especially attending and conducting many tangihanga, house blessings, hospital and pastoral visits and Marae ministry with growing attendances at church services.

Keri-Ann Hokianga works within the Mihingare (Anglican) Church in South Auckland. Her main focus is particularly on reaching Maori and those outside of the church. She heads up a 30 min mainly Maori radio Anglican service (Karakia Ratapu Te Pihopatanga o Te Tai Tokerau) and the sermon is in English). Keri-Ann has a lovely singing voice and this is available via podcast as well.

Uphold them both in this growing and important ministry and pray for the Lord of the harvest to send more workers.

WAYNE AND BRONWYN

RESETTLING IN NZ

After ten and a half years on annual contracts and getting a new visa each year, we're back in NZ, aware of many blessings including citizenship. The prospect of returning to NZ was daunting as we didn't know where we'd find affordable housing or suitable jobs but we have been reminded of God's provision time and again.



Bronwyn and Wayne's
Farwell

Gradually reclaiming gear that friends have helped store, there have been plenty of moments when we realise that we're very different from when we packed up, sold, gave away or stored our gear.

The concerns that still tug on our hearts include the challenges faced by our brothers and sisters who are restricted from meeting together and limitations that have been intensified in line with Covid restrictions in China. The international students, many of whom have graduated and moved to new locations around the world also have a special place in our lives.

We're grateful for the care that has been expressed by members of Nativity over the years and look forward to sharing more stories when we can meet in person.



Back in NZ, with the
joy of the birth of their first grandchild

NATIVITY AN ECO CHURCH

by Rose Francis

You are invited

to join a special group of people concerned about our environment. We know God placed humans in a garden and required them to be good stewards, caring for all Creation (Ge 2 v 5). At this time, our Earth is in crisis; people have polluted land, sea and air. Even space is cluttered with man-made junk!

Christians should be in the front line of those working with nature, and not against it. We can lead by example and share initiatives to improve our world, restore its productivity and beauty, and make it a healthier, happier and safer place for all inhabitants.



Did you notice that we have placed a poster of Earth on the noticeboard in our hallway?

The Power of One!

PEGGY WOOLLEY

Sometimes we feel overwhelmed by the size of a challenge.

What good can just one person do?

Here's Peggy Woolley, who is seen every Sunday morning at the share table in Nativity's foyer. She has personally cut out and glued pictures and verses onto 400 stars and angels; decorations to be handed out to children at the 'Santa Parade'. Move over Santa!

This is Jesus' birthday! Nativity's float will stand out as telling the story of the birth of our Saviour.

It is my prayer that 400 different families in Blenheim will have the gospel message decorating their otherwise secular trees. Thank you to all our people who organized the float, and especially Peggy for her patient hours of 'planting the good seed.'

Alongside it is a box in which we invite you to put your name and contact number. We also want your ideas and questions about things that concern you and your neighbours. We can offer to join you to help shine our light in the places where God has planted us. It may be that we can bless others by removing weeds, clearing litter, or planting trees.

We can share these challenges with like-minded people while we might share our Christian testimony with those who share our environmental concerns.

Nativity is the 35th Anglican church in NZ to become an Eco-Church.

Please join us as we seek to bring hope and help to heal our hurting world.

Nativity's Repair Cafe is part of our Eco-outreach. Once a month volunteers gather at John's Kitchen where they help recycle, restore and repair broken items to extend their useful life without clogging up landfill. They were recently honoured by our Mayor with the Environmental and Conservation Award. Well done, team!

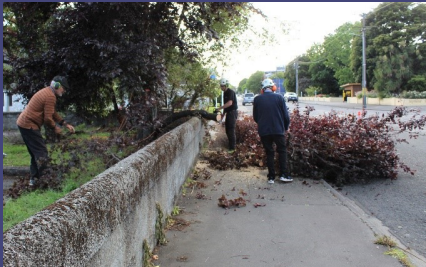
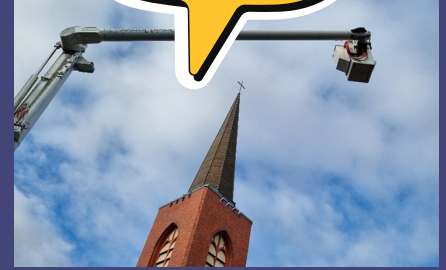
Australasia and India experienced massive flooding this past winter. Other countries are suffering extreme heat, destructive fires and droughts which have killed hundreds of people and thousands of animals. God's Creation is groaning under the destructive exploitation of mankind and climate extremes that we have contributed to.



GOING HIGHER

WORKING BEE 3rd DECEMBER

THANK
YOU!



GOING DEEPER

How the Reformation has shaped our beliefs

Each Sunday afternoon during the month of October teaching sessions were given on the Reformation concluding on 30th October, the day before Reformation Day celebrated each year on 31 October. This was a Deanery initiative.



OUR SUNDAY 10.00AM

KIDS

GROUPS



FIRST STEPS

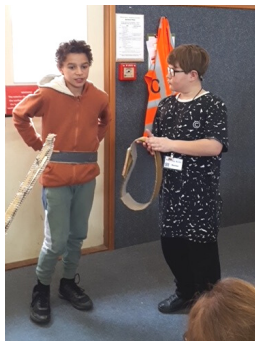
Leader: Bryony Millar

First Steps is a little group at the moment but the children really enjoy it as evidenced by us sometimes having difficulty getting the older ones to move up when they turn 5. We have two brand new baby additions to our group which is lovely. Special thanks to Gail who is proving to be a brilliant help. Please do feel free to bring your grandchildren when you can. If you have a spare hand to help put things away after you have had a cup of tea that would be much appreciated.

NATIVITY KIDS

Leaders: Rosalind Mundy & Sarah Ashworth

Nativity Kids, between the ages of 5 (or nearly) and 12, have been largely following a lectionary-based programme with some variations to tie in with the wider church happenings such as the Armour of God during the Ephesians series, the Matthew 25 Challenge, a combined session for the Marlborough Anniversary weekend and preparing fruit kebabs to share with the parish at the picnic. This is a great group of children and an important part of our church family!



Nativity Kids in pairs investigated what each component of the Armour of God signifies and then created and modelled their own.

NATIVITY YOUTH

Leader: Di Smit



Nativity Youth are a committed group of delightful young people who are really growing in their walk with Jesus. We have a lot of fun on Sundays. Recent activities have included playing three legged tag, petanque and eating lots of ice cream. We have continued our series on the disciples' radical lives based on the book of Acts.



NATIVITY'S FABULOUS
FLOAT IN THE

Christmas

PARADE



Nativity
ANGELICAN FAMILY

Nativity News Team:
Rose Francis, Jo Danks,
Raewyn Parkes, Miriam Taylor

WISH YOU A JOY-FILLED

Christmas

NATIVITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Invites you to



Christmas Services

SUNDAY 18th December

7pm - 9 Lessons & Carols

SATURDAY 24th December

4pm - Children's Service
10pm - Christmas Eve Service

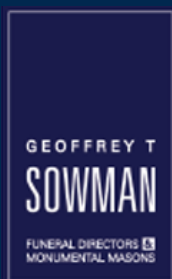
SUNDAY 25th December

8am - Christmas Service
10am - Christmas Service

76 Alfred St Blenheim

Visit www.nativity.org.nz for more details

TO OUR SPONSORS - A BIG 'THANK YOU'
AND WISHING YOU THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS - LOVE, PEACE, HOPE, JOY



Proud to be
associated with the
Church of the Nativity

Caring for the Marlborough
community for generations.

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