



Nativity News



Lent - Easter 2018

SUSAN AND GRAEME HOWARTH - NATIVITY BIDS FAREWELL



Jan Burroughs writes:

Susan arrived at Nativity about 6 months after I started at Reception. The thing that struck me about her was her ability to get alongside people and learn what made them tick. She was able to discern spiritual giftings as well as the talents people possessed and was able to direct them into ministries within the church to help grow not only the individual but for the betterment of the whole. She was always willing to go the extra mile to make sure the gospel was heard. Jesus is her passion.

Graeme was her silent partner on many occasions joining her on her visits and sitting waiting for her. His patience was endless. Jesus is also his passion.

Both Susan and Graeme were generous of their time and energy given for Nativity. Both were able to talk to people from all walks of life and never shied away from straight talking. Often their own agendas and friendships were put on hold as they attended a crisis here or an emergency there.

We will see the results of their ministry at Nativity for a long time to come.

We had lots of laughs along the way and hopefully many more to come.

I feel sad to see them go and wish them well for their next adventure.

THE STOLE

When Susan was ordained she wanted a stole that would invite the telling of God's Story. She commissioned Kaikoura artist, Greg Atwell, to design it for her. The stole is a unique masterpiece. It depicts God's story, the Gospel Story, beginning at Creation, on the upper part. Sue's own story, her Whakapapa, is depicted on the lower part.



**Reverend Susan Howarth – MOSP
Mission Order of St. Paul**



EDITORIAL BY ROSE FRANCIS

We are on the journey of Lent, as we prepare ourselves for Easter. Lent is a time when Christians observe a period of repentance, self-denial and spiritual discipline. The purpose of observing Lent is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ, his suffering and his sacrifice. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the forty days of Lent, (not counting Sundays.) Good Friday marks the end of Lent and beginning of Easter.

Some churches in England are reducing their use of plastic this Lent, to create awareness of the mess man is making of God's creation. Here, each of us can give up a bad habit, such as smoking or swearing, or a favourite thing like eating sweets or chocolate. The goal of such self-denial is to strengthen our faith and spiritual discipline as we draw closer to God.

In the Northern Hemisphere, Lent comes at winter's end, when their world awakens from months of chill. Here in the far south, Lent comes as we harvest the bounty of God's good Earth. It is right that we pause in our solemn Lenten walk to give thanks and celebrate the bounty with which God has blessed us. Autumn is a time of plenty, and the ancient festival of harvest thanksgiving reminds us of God's generosity, and our responsibility as stewards of his creation.

I believe we can combine these two important events in our church life; by concentrating on the 'fruits of the Spirit.' In Galatians 5, we read "*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law*"

These attitudes are not given to us; we have to work on self-improvement as we learn to react to life in a God-honouring way. Like fruits, they take time to develop and ripen. God expects us to work with Him on developing these Fruits in our lives. I am using this Lent to improve my issues with patience, and self-control. These are gifts we can bring to God – not only at Harvest time, but throughout our lives. They are the sacrificial gifts that please Him, bless others, and enrich our own lives.

Our Harvest Festival and picnic following, is also our farewell to Sue and Graeme Howarth. After many years sharing their ministry with us in Nativity, they are moving to Havelock where Sue takes up her position of parish priest. It's a lovely rural church, with the vicarage alongside, and a friendly congregation looking forward to welcoming the Howarths. I attended a service there last week and know that this is a big step of faith for Sue and Graeme. Go forth with our blessing, dear friends. Our loss is Havelock's gain. Come back to see us often, we will be praying for you in your new place.

*Let us all experience all the good fruits of the Spirit.
Let negativity be turned into positivity.
Let rejection be turned into acceptance.
Let bitterness be turned into sweetness,
Let despair be turned into hope,
Let doubt be turned into blessings,
Let loneliness be turned into company.
Let sadness be turned into joy,
Let hate be turned into love,
Let anxiety be turned into peace,
Most of all let death be turned into eternal life.*



Editorial Team:

Heather Murchison, Jo Danks, Rose Francis, Miriam Taylor



BOB'S BLOG

Dear Nativity Family and Friends

These are interesting times. In the church, in the nation, and in many of our lives, change is afoot. It matches the seasons we're in – Autumn and Lent.

Autumn and Lent are synonymous in our part of the planet. That's rather ironic given it comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning

Spring – which it is in Britain. Nonetheless they both speak of a dying that leads to new life.

Days shorten. Temperatures cool (seemingly very early this year!). Leaves take on red and brown colourings, become hard and eventually fall to the ground. Many fruits and vegetables come to harvest at this time of year. Out of that ground where death settled, new life grows. Indeed, we've just had our annual Harvest Festival which reminds us to be thankful for what we have – be it much or little – and that in this country we won't starve.

That's autumn. The parallel season of Lent also tells the story of a shortening of grace in the people who surrounded Jesus, and in us. It tells of the cooling of faith and the hardening of attitudes that can beset us like them. Chiefly it's a time we remember how God who was born among us in Jesus, like a leaf that once nourished and protected, died and went into the ground.

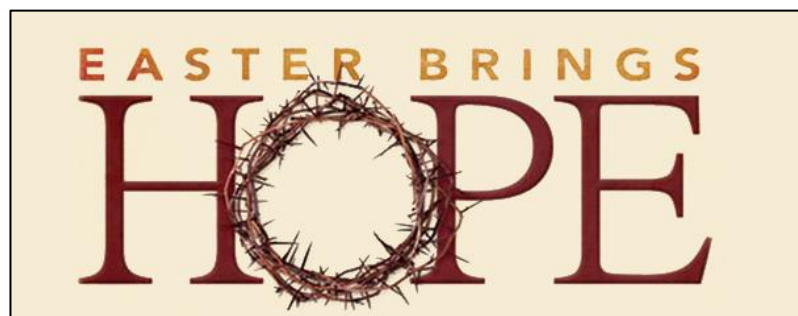
From that Lent event there also came the greatest harvest of all – the resurrection to new life, of Jesus from the dead. Despite our failures, we too are part of the fruit of that. That same new life can be ours.

Whatever is looming in or past your life, the call is there from God. Lay down your life. Take up what He gives you. In January two of our Nativity Saints – Joan Bright and Gordon Deacon, have already made that transition from life to Life in him, never to die again. Jesus said:

"I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (John 12 v24, 25)

May you reap the Lent harvest, the fullest blessings of life in all that your life holds.

Bob and Libby



HARVEST THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL AND PICNIC



SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY



Congratulations Rose - Winner of the Best Hat - with its flowers, fruits, praying mantis, birds, bees and butterflies!



HATS, SCARECROWS, FUN, FOOD, FLOWERS AND JOY!





STAMPS – KEEP THEM COMING!

Nativity has been collecting stamps for many years to sort and sell to raise funds for overseas mission. Though “snail-mail” is less used nowadays, with the growth of electronic communication, the stamps are still worth collecting. The Anglican Missions Board sells stamps on Trade Me, in auctions and to dealers around the world. In 2016 they raised \$6,700.

When stamps are donated here, I sort them a little but hand them on to Laraine Nicholas, the real star of the show, who actually enjoys trimming and sorting. She returns them to me in neat packages labelled “NZ on paper”, “World on paper” etc. I usually pass them on to Pam Neal who takes them on her next trip to ABM in Wellington.

Recently we have been told that there is no longer an outlet for any “Kiwi Stamps”- there are just too many of them. You can help by discarding these and also, if you have time, stamps that are damaged in any way.



Laraine Nicholas



Margaret Jarman and Pam Neal

This could be from pen-marks, heavy postmarks, staple impressions, torn, bent, corners missing or any perforations missing. This keeps the quality of the bulk stamps high, so they can fetch a better price. Laraine is happy to do the trimming

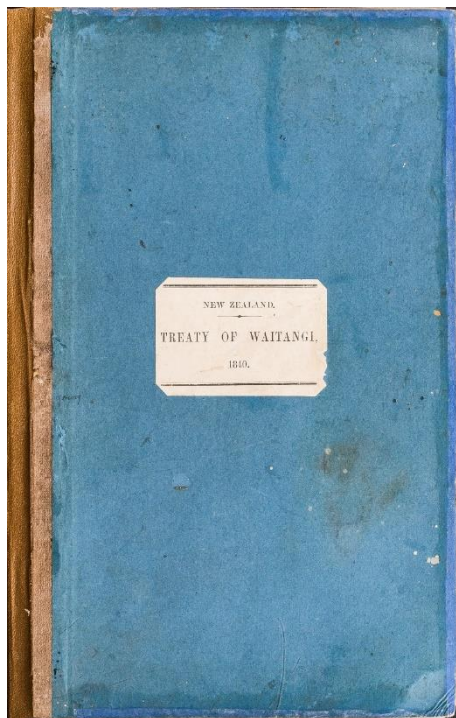
but if you wish to do it, please leave 3mm (about ¼ in.) of paper around the stamp – any more than this and they have to be re-trimmed as they are sold by weight, any less and you risk cutting the perforations. Philatelists like some paper around the stamp to hold with their tweezers.

I will be pleased to accept donations of stamps at any time and pass them on to Laraine in batches – so keep them coming! Stamps can be left at office.

Margaret Jarman



WHY WOULD NATIVITY HAVE A COPY OF THIS IMPORTANT DOCUMENT?



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.

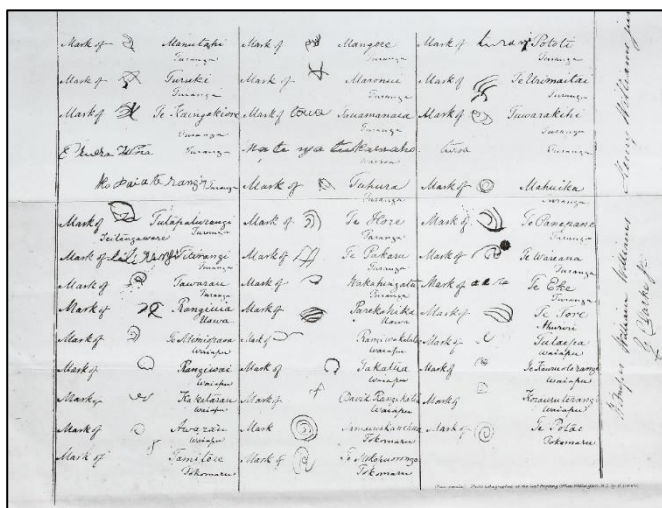
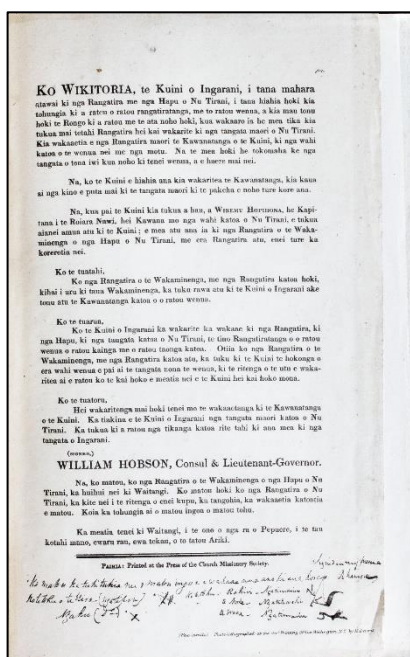
As it is part of our history, though a puzzling part, there are plans to bring it to Nativity, perhaps one Sunday, for those interested to see it.

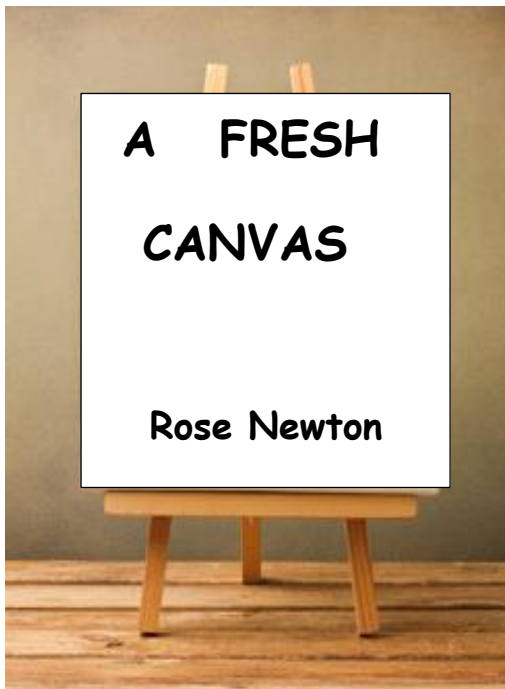
The question, “Why would we have a copy of this?” still awaits an answer.

Miriam McNamara



Miriam McNamara, Catherine Branson, Beverley Kingston, Alison Fuller





In February we kicked off our new evening service; “Canvas”. Starting at 5.30pm and finishing at 7.00pm, the service is family friendly, and designed to be interactive and inter-generational.

So far, we have made new friends, laughed a lot, and had fun while we connect with God! Each service starts with an activity to encourage connecting with those you might not usually get to know. We worship together and hear a Message. The service is designed to change shape, allowing creative room for God to move.

The name “Canvas” came to me as I was praying. I wanted something that communicated the colour, diversity, and creativity of “The Church.” The service is a blank canvas, on which we can cultivate a space where all kinds of people can encounter the Living God in creative ways, and experience community with one another. “Canvas” represents the church as God’s Masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10). It is a metaphor for the New Creation that God is designing in each of our lives to replace the mess we made by

ourselves.

It is becoming more and more evident that God is doing a new thing at Nativity, as the change in the evening service has naturally spread to a change in the way we are doing Youth Ministry. No longer held on a Sunday Morning, Youth is held as three different “Life Groups” throughout the week. This suits the different personality types and needs of our diverse youth, and will help them build authentic relationship with God, and one another. All Youth are invited to be part of the Canvas Service, and to serve at the 10am services. We will still have events together including Easter Camp, and Gain Camp.

Change can be very scary, but I am finding that when we look at the big picture, we get a sense of what God is doing. I am learning to lean in, trusting God to meet needs in simple ways, and to have fun along the way. As it turns out, God has VERY good ideas!

Jeremy and Rose Newton







BAPTISM OF LUCY SHEAT



Jo Danks writes... 'It was a real privilege to join with others to share and witness the baptism of Lucy Sheat. It might have been a tad nippy, but nothing could dampen the warmth of such a special time.'

SERVICE WITH A SMILE



Love of Flowers in her genes.

Elaine Hadfield, aged 86, is stepping down from her many decades serving on the 'Flower and Brass' Committee. Elaine still lives in Percy Street, in the large garden where she grew up. Her mother was Blenheim's first florist, working from the wooden tubs in the wash house. Her father was a farmer, and later became caretaker of the Boys' College. During the War, students were moved to Sunday Schools for lessons, and their college became a military hospital. Elaine remembers her father beginning his long work days at that time lighting coke heaters in the school rooms.

Elaine recalls her Sundays in Nativity Kindergarten, then moving on to Sunday School classes with Miss Elsie Viggers. She went on to Nativity's Bible classes at Bohally, which was a residential home for out of town pupils. Elaine sang in an angelic white robe and veil, in the junior choir; then joined the intermediate choir. Nativity has been a big part of her life all these years. She still has a blackboard from the old Sunday school, which she now uses as a table top.

In 1950 Elaine did her nursing training at Wairau hospital. She had several years of nursing in Westport, then made a trip to the UK. She returned home to Blenheim and Nativity when her mother became blind.

We may never know how many people have enjoyed Elaine's talent at floral arrangements in Nativity. She has used her talent to bless us. **Truly, a service with a smile.**

THE BOYS GROUP

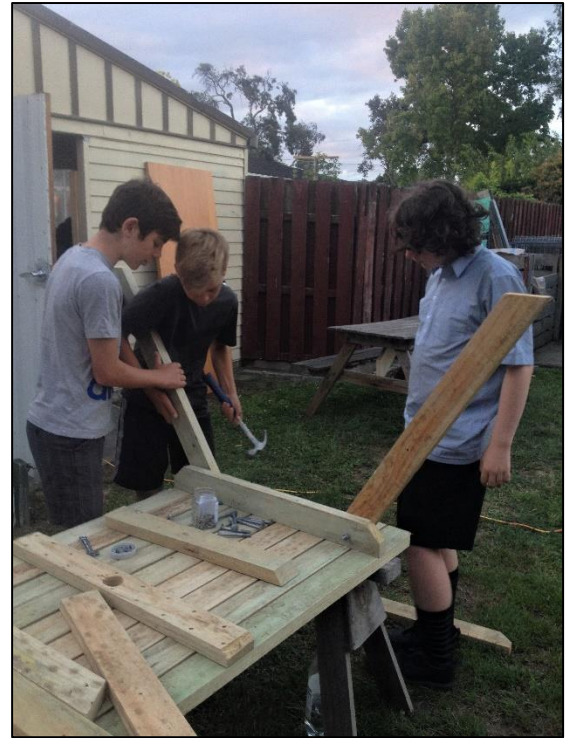


On Wednesday afternoon a group of college students meet under the leadership of Jeremy Newton.

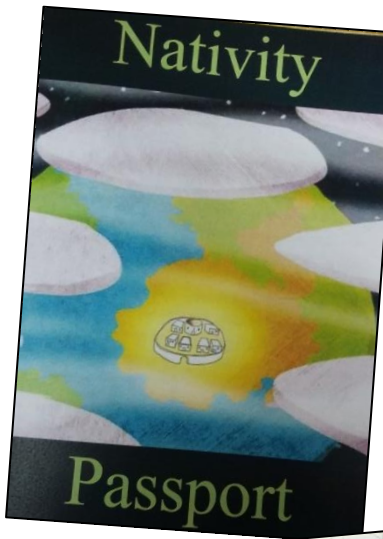
Here they are assembling a table donated by the Fun and Fundraising Group.

The Boys Group are looking for ideas for projects to work on. Can you help?

Donations of tools and materials would be very welcome.



NATIVITY ALBUM – THE CHRISTMAS PASSPORT JOURNEY - 2017







Off to Convergence!



Speakers at Convergence were

Bishop Richard Ellena and

Steve and Watiri Maina.

Family fun and Children's programmes

made it a great time for all ages.

NATIVITY ALBUM

CONVERGENCE FAMILY CAMP KAITERITERI – JANUARY 2018

About one third of those attending Convergence were members of the Nativity Church Family.

Photos supplied by Hamish Harper



The Long Slide!



Calendar of Events

MARCH

Wednesday 7th	AAW	Church Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 10th	Coffee Connections	Saveur Café (Raupo)	9.30am
Saturday 17th	She Hopes	Elim church	10.00am
Monday 19th	Parish AGM	Church	7.30pm
Sunday 25th	Taize Service	Barnies	5pm
Friday 30th Good Friday - Combined Churches Service ASB Theatre			

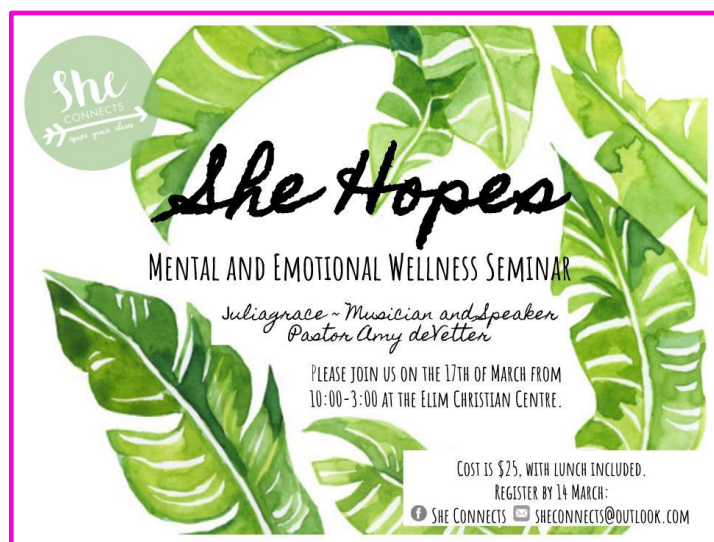
Saturday March 31st – Sunday April 1st Day-light Savings ends (02am)

APRIL

Sunday 1st	Easter Sunday		
Monday 2 nd	Easter Monday		
Wednesday 4 th	AAW	Church Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 14 th	Coffee Connections	Saveur Café (Raupo)	9.30am

MAY

Wednesday 2 nd	AAW	Church Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 12 th	Coffee Connections	Saveur Café (Raupo)	9.30am
Tuesday 22 nd	Waitoto Children's Choir	Church	





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CHURCH OF NATIVITY WEBSITE - www.nativity.org.nz/

SUNDAY SERVICES:

8.00 am - Traditional Eucharist Service

10.00 am - All Age Worship Service and

Children's programmes

5.30pm - 7.00pm 'Canvas' –

Intergenerational activities and worship

See previous page for upcoming events

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