



Nativity NEWS

DECEMBER 2020

Issue 17

Editorial - by Rose Francis

As we move towards the end of 2020, we have much to thank God for. We have had a peaceful election, not to be taken for granted in these stressful times. New Zealand has faced many challenges brought on by Covid, but, thanks to the surging oceans surrounding us, and being a 'team of 5 million' who complied with necessary restrictions, we have been spared the horror still tormenting much of the world.

While we at Nativity prayed, and waited in faith for God's provision of a new minister, we have been blessed with a hard-working ministry team. John Neal, Richard & Kaye Dyer, then our deans, Joe Keighley and Sue Howarth took oversight of Nativity's daily life. Their experiences, encouragement and enthusiasm have guided us and grown our faith. Now as we prepare to welcome our new minister, Rev Glen Ashworth and his wife Sarah Jane and family, we thank those who have 'stood in the gap' and guided us through the interregnum.

This Christmas issue of Nativity News shows pictures of our parish family enjoying the picnic. We feature David & Paulette James in Service with a Smile. We honour our AAW women who have served for fifty years.

As the year ends, our youth group farewells school leavers, including two amazing young women who have been top students, and are now leaving Blenheim to begin University studies. We wish them well, and pray God's blessing over all our students who are resting from their study pressures to relax over the holidays.

I indulge myself by telling the story of my favourite carol: Silent Night. During student days, I worked as a nurse aid at Calvary Hospital. My first Christmas on duty I was invited to lead the Christmas Carolling through every ward. With flickering candles and cheerful voices, my group of nurses wended our way between beds and down corridors. We were singing Silent Night as we pushed open the last door and, to the strains of "sleep in Heavenly peace" I entered the mortuary! My carolling colleagues never let me forget it! Years later, as my Mother breathed her last, "sleep in Heavenly Peace" was playing while I held my dear Mother's hand as she breathed her last.

Many of us will feel the empty chairs in our family Christmas this year as we deal with loss and loneliness. Some people dread this season of memories of those who have gone from our world. Be kind, and reach out to those we know who may be struggling.

We who know God's love feel this is a season of joy and anticipation as we celebrate God's gift of His Son; who brought His peace and love to sinful people. We who have the Words of Life must share this good news with everyone we can. Let us spread ripples of generosity in our family and neighbours, friends and strangers.



Celebrate King Jesus!



**Wishing you the
blessings of Christ -
Love, Joy, Peace, Hope
from
The Nativity News Team:
Rose Francis, Jo Danks,
Heather Murchison
& Miriam Taylor**

Introducing.....



REV. GLEN ASHWORTH, SARAH ASHWORTH, AND FAMILY



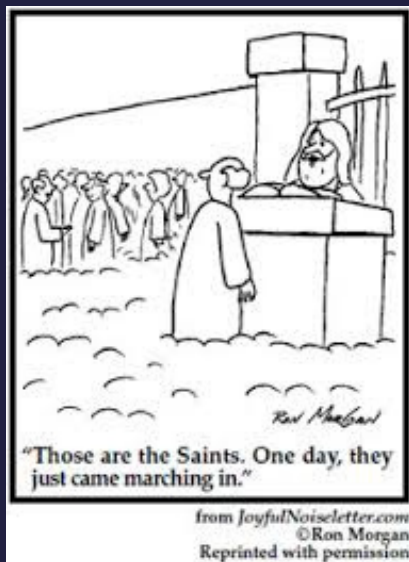
We are thrilled that Bishop Steve has appointed Rev. Glen Ashworth to be Nativity's Vicar, beginning on 1st February 2021. He, his wife Sarah Jane, and their three children, Lilly 11, Finn 9, and Daisy 6, will live in the Vicarage in Andrew St.

Aged 43, Glen is currently Vicar of St. Aidan's, Remuera, where he has been since arriving as a Deacon in 2015. He has a Bachelor of Theology degree and an Honours Degree in Biblical Studies. His background is in Education, having a Bachelor of Education degree and having taught three years in Taupo, as Head of Art at Lake Taupo Christian School. He describes his ministry style as collaborative / consultative and sees his main focus being the development of our Christian faith and practice for the work of ministry in all areas of our lives. For recreation Glen plays badminton.

Sarah's role for the last few years has been pretty much as full time mum to her three children. Prior to being a mum she was a primary school teacher, also completing study in disability and consumer rights. For the last 18 months she has worked in a preschool facilitating their preparation for school programme. Sarah wants our youngest Christians to find a place to express and grow their faith in Jesus; wanting them to know they have a part to play in God's amazing plan for our world.

We are looking forward to this new season of ministry at Nativity with excitement and anticipation after what has been a long parish interregnum. We are profoundly thankful to God for the many people who have assisted us through this period, who have sustained ministry and helped us prepare for this new season.

Let us uphold Glen, Sarah and the children in our prayers as they prepare to leave Auckland and settle in Marlborough. And we pray that they will find joy and adventure in this beautiful and diverse part of New Zealand.





CONGRATULATIONS MIEKE AND HANNAH!



Mieke de Bruyn, the 2020 Dux of Marlborough Girls' College writes:



Over the past 10 years, I have been blessed enough to have been surrounded and supported by a truly wonderful church family. Nativity is a very special place to me, one where I continue to learn and grow alongside my friends. I will be very sad to leave next year, but will carry with me the lessons of kindness, acceptance and a strong faith for the rest of my life.

Next year, I will attend the University of Auckland. In the first year, I will study Biomedical Science, after which I will hopefully be accepted into the Bachelor of Optometry course, which will take a further 4 years of study. I have always wanted a science-based career, and one which helps people. Vision is such an important element of our lives and I believe that helping people to see better helps them to live better. Of course, there are a multitude of science-based career pathways out there, and who knows what opportunities could arise during my studies. I will always keep an open mind, and may very well end up taking up a different pathway after my first year, but at this stage my goal is optometry.

Thank you all, and I'm sure I will see you around from time to time.

Dignity, Sincerity, Consideration

In the Marlborough Girls' College 2020 Prizegiving, Hannah Smit won the J E Barker award for Dignity, Sincerity and Consideration for Others. She also won the Marlborough Lines award for Science and Technology and the Ally Jerram Trophy for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability.

Hannah is heading to Massey to study Agricultural Science.

Paulette and Jacinda, leaders of Nativity's Youth Group, say Hannah is 'willing to give anything a go,' is a good sport, and very caring; particularly for the elderly. She is also known as 'the master of balloons' (ask our youth to describe this talent!)

Mieke and Hannah are growing in grace, and as they spread their wings, we ask God's blessing and protection to surround them.



Thanks Nativity Family!

Mieke's Dad, Philip, writes.....

Mieke is shortly heading for Auckland as she has now completed school. She joined the Nativity family at the age of eight and has been shaped by what she experienced during her time with the congregation. She had the privilege and joy of being loved and guided by many in the church, especially those in Nativity Kids and Youth Group. Mieke was never made to feel guilty or uncomfortable for missing Sundays due to other commitments and the like. Instead she experienced acceptance and the love that is central to our Christian faith. A big thank you to all!

There are many things that Mieke could do and things that she could excel in for which we as parents are very thankful for. The biggest blessing of all, however, is that we can see that Mieke has started her personal journey with our Lord Jesus Christ. We are truly thankful for that.....

Thank
you!

FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO AAW



Alison Fuller



Wendy Noble, Shirley Dean, Jean Drake,
Vivienne James, Ngaire Newman



Betsy Frizzell



Anne Dillon

Badges of honour for fifty years of service were presented to these Nativity AAW members by Reverend Susan Howarth. Presentations were also made to Alison Knight and Melva Neal at Holy Trinity, Picton, by Bishop Richard Ellena. Picton AAW is now in recess.

AAW, Association of Anglican Women, was formed in 1969. Encompassing the former Young Wives, Fellowship Groups and Mothers Union. Some Mothers Union groups are still active today - mostly in Polynesia.

AAW is affiliated to the National Council of Women which gives members a voice for lobbying Government and to work for positive change through Social Concerns.

The Aims of AAW are ...

*To Unite in Prayer and participate in the Mission of the Church
To Promote, Safeguard, and Nurture Christian Family Life.*

Heather Wadsworth - Leader



Nativity News
is full of 'stars'!
You're one
of them!

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FAMILY SERVICE WITH A SMILE

David and Paulette James



**2020
ARBORIST
OF
THE YEAR!**

David and Paulette James are familiar faces and helping hands around Nativity. David has attended our church since he was five years old and has seen many changes in those fifty years. Paulette was a Motueka girl and married David thirty-two years ago. They have two children, Sam aged 27, and Mary-Claire, 25.

This dynamic couple met through an adventure camp training weekend. Their relationship grew out of their shared passions for youth ministry and outdoor tramping adventures which allowed them to spend precious time together while getting to know the young people in their care.

Paulette is a Speech Language Therapist with the Ministry of Education. Along with Jacinda Thompson, she is currently leading a Sunday morning youth group. She has been active in youth ministry several times during her involvement at Nativity and has led a young Mum's cell group for a number of years while her children were young.

David is an arborist and has recently been named 2020 Arborist of the Year by the Society of Commercial Arboriculture which is based in New Hampshire, USA. This award recognizes an individual who has, through their professional and volunteer work, shown outstanding dedication to the field of commercial arboriculture.

Over the years David has fulfilled many roles at Nativity, including youth ministry from the age of sixteen, being Vicar's Warden through times of transition, serving on Vestry and as Parish Nominator. David also produces the wonderful Christmas Trees that adorn Nativity every year.

When in youth ministry David and Paulette were responsible for a motor-bike being driven down Nativity's aisle to the sound track 'leader of the Pack'.....still remembered with delight two decades on!

BY ROSE FRANCIS

ON CHRISTMAS EVE 1818, the organ in the German village church of St Nicholas in Obendorf was faulty. The culprit was a hungry mouse which had eaten through the organ bellows! Curate Joseph Mohr was desperate; he wanted music for the village's Christmas celebrations. Mohr brought his poem to Gruber, the organist, to see if he could arrange it for a choir led by a guitar. He could - and did, in a few hours. Thus that beloved carol 'Silent night' was first sung 220 years ago. Soon other churches in Germany were playing and singing it, and the sweet sound travelled across the world.



We share greetings of peace and good will at Christmas, but, sadly, the world is full of hate and conflict. During the atrocities of the First World War, there was one memorable, bizarre, beautiful glimmer of peace. On December 25 1914, while German and allied armies faced each other across the hell of a war-torn battlefield, a homesick soldier began singing the carol 'Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.' A shocked hush fell over the soldiers, guns were silenced. Then, one by one more voices joined in singing the hope-filled message of Christmas peace, in both English and German.

Soldiers from both sides lay down their weapons and climbed out of the trenches. They met together, foes as friends. Hardened soldiers who had spend weeks trying to kill each other, now embraced, exchanged souvenirs, and sang Christmas carols - together!



Surely this evoked memories of happier Christmases, shared with their loved ones in their childhood homes. The men even organised a football match, in honour of Christmas. Then, sadly, the following day they went back to their respective trenches and resumed their horrific orders to kill each other.

For that one precious day, these young men doing their national duty, had understood and observed God's Peace on Earth, and good will to all people; the message of Christmas.

Do we know God's peace? The heart of human problems is the problem of human hearts. We have shut God out of our lives and turned from Him; choosing to do things our own way. We need to be rescued from the mess we have made. And the good news of Christmas is that God sent His Son as the 'go-between' to mend the rift which separates us from God.

That is why we rejoice at Christmas, welcoming the Baby in Bethlehem. This was God's way to heal broken hearts; His divine restoration plan. May we all know His peace - and do our best to share it with others- this Christmas and through the coming years.

Rose Francis



Silent Night



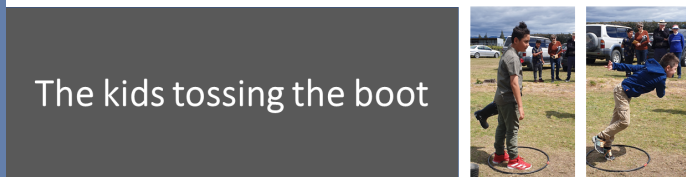
SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER

PARISH PICNIC

At Rod & Jenny Tyney's Home



The kids tossing the boot



The BIGGEST kids tossing the boot



...and the ladies!



BROWSE AND BORROW - NATIVITY LIBRARY



Nativity has lovely resources for people to borrow. Recently we received some children's books and resources from Nelson. This delightful collection includes books for young tots, children, pre-teens and resources for adults working with all these age groups.

The main Nativity Library has been carefully sorted and displayed in an easy to browse way.

There is a wide range of books available for borrowing, with new items being obtained all the time.

The Carecell resource library is due for some sorting but does contain some interesting and challenging resources for groups. This library will be getting some attention and new resources over the coming months



**CHRISTMAS GIFT
IDEA !**

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS WITH THE LOVED YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE.

They will be blessed to receive this book and CD, while 100 per cent of the book sales will support NZCMS missionaries in Gulu, Uganda. The author's cousin, Tessa Laing is working on social justice issues in Gulu, and her husband Nick is a doctor who is establishing clinics in remote areas.

Rosemary Francis, of Nativity Church in Blenheim, has written and illustrated the story of the first Christmas. She has also created the story of Holy Week. Each book comes with a professionally recorded CD to read along with.

Fit for a King (The Christmas story) and That Amazing Week (The Easter story) Cost \$25 each, plus P&P.

Both books are available at Nativity's office.

Books can also be purchased through Prismaprint, Blenheim. Ph: 03 579 4709



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A place for our creatives to meet,
encourage and share their skill.

Meeting fortnightly on Mondays
9:30am - 11:30am in the Nativity Lounge



Nativity Album



Thank you to all who supported
Nativity's hugely successful plant sale!



Thank you Parish Nurse Raewyn .
Not re-tired - Just re-treaded!



Ordinations at the Cathedral in Nelson
Rev. Courtnay Wilson - Kaikoura
Deacon Stephen Gully - Hospital Chaplain - Nelson
Rev. Waitari Maina - Victory Church - Nelson



WOW! Our Intermediates are into Film Production!

Nativity Album



Taizé Service in Barnies - Sunday 6th December 2020



Christmas Services



Christmas Eve - 10.00pm

Christmas Day - 8.00am & 10.00 am

December 27th - One Service @ 9.00am

January Services - 8.00am & 10.00am

**INDUCTION SERVICE FOR
REVEREND GLEN ASHWORTH
AS VICAR OF NATIVITY
THURSDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2021 - 7.00 PM**



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faithful sponsors who help
support this publication
and we wish them
all the Blessings of Christmas*

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