



# Nativity News



*Season of Growth after Pentecost - August 2017*



*Nativity Missions Month*

*Celebrating Mission*



Left: Principal, Mr Donald, receiving letter and donation from Nativity Church. Above: Pen-pals!

Nativity Mission Partners who serve in Southern, Central and Eastern Asia visited Nativity in July and inspired the church family with their stories, their joys and their challenges.

Jessica Foley-Taylor (Miriam's grand-daughter) and her mother, Bridget Taylor, travelled up to Vanuatu to continue the annual **Mission of Encouragement** which began in 2010. See over ->





**Little did my grand-daughter, Jessica, dream that when she offered to accompany me on my mission to Gaua Island, Northern Vanuatu, that she would be left 'holding the baby'!**

One week before we were to depart my husband, Malcolm, was admitted to hospital. It was obviously not going to be a brief stay so we immediately looked for someone to take my place at short notice. Fortunately Jess's mother, Bridget, was available.

*Left: Hilary Fechrarai's baby son born while Jessica was there and named after her....Jesster. Hilary is a summer RSE (Recognised Seasonal Employer) worker who attends Nativity.*

Jess, who is the director of Momentum Dance Studio at the Stadium, had offered to share dance with the children and women of Aworor. She shared her vision with her pupils and their parents at Momentum and they enthusiastically 'got on board'. They contributed gold coin donations towards the purchase of stationery for the Aworor village school. One of the pupils even suggested developing a pen-pal relationship with the school children.

Both the dance and the pen-pals were a huge success. Jess also met with the women on my behalf and worked through the programme we had planned....worship, poi making and dance, and enjoying a Maori stick game.

Jess presented letters of greeting and donations (of \$2000.00 each) from Nativity Church and friends, to the school and to St. Luke's Church. Anglican Priest, Father Bill, replied with greetings and thanks to Nativity Church. Both groups plan to spend the money on building renovations.

Mr. Donald, the Principal of the school said in a letter of thanks..... *"We are very grateful about the gifts you have given us. We would like to ask you to convey our words of thanks to our Christian friends and families who have contributed in one way or another to this big amount of money, especially our Christian friends of Nativity Church in Blenheim. In addition the children of the school have really enjoyed the activities ....especially the dancing and making friends with the students from New Zealand. May our Mighty God bless you all."*

The church and community of Aworor were indeed encouraged by this **2017 Mission of Encouragement** to their village.

A very sincere thank you to the Nativity family for your continuing generosity. *Miriam Taylor*



***After the church service Jessica presented Nativity's donation to Father Bill, and administrators of St. Luke's Church.***

**Coming out from our Month of Mission**

**Questions to ask ourselves posed by Jonathan Wasley:**

**Who are we? What are we called to be?**

**How can we be a Beacon of Hope in our community and beyond?"**



We've experienced a cold wet winter of mud and chilly winds. We are surrounded by skeletal trees and naked vines. Winter is a time of waiting, anticipating the resurgence of nature. Vines are heavily pruned, then we see swelling buds straining to unfurl. From lifeless-looking branches new foliage busts forth in new life, fresh growth, new hope. Welcome to Post Pentecost; the season of growth and creation. Our ministers wear a green stole through this period, to celebrate this growth. Jesus reminded His followers "I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in Me, and I in you, then you shall bring forth fruit" Let us abide in God as we grow in His grace.

During the winter, Nativity Church focussed on Missions. We were blessed by the visits of three mission families home on furlough from far away places. We heard how they venture forth in faith, reaching out to others, planting seeds of faith and nurturing new Christians. Such tender children of God require guidance and direction and encouragement as they learn about, and seek to grow in obedience and trust in God.

In this issue of Nativity News, our feature story is Vanuatu, where we regularly send a ministry team bearing gifts and services. Supporting such outreach is part of our work in God's vineyard. And groups of Ni-Vanuatu come to Marlborough twice a year, to work in our fine wine vineyards, for months at a time. The current team will return home in September, to be replaced by more Vanuatu nationals in November.

We welcome our Pacific Island friends into our parish. Their harmonious singing lifts our worship to greater heights. These people are missing home and family (and tropical weather!) Please befriend them and help ease their lonely time away from home as they work hard to support their families.

Another feature of this issue of Nativity News is highlighting the efforts our mature parishioners. They make a unique contribution to our parish life, bringing their wisdom of hard-earned experience, and generosity, to bless us. Whatever our age and stage of development, we should all be abiding in God, budding, growing and developing fruits for His kingdom.

*"Let the wonderful kindness and the understanding that come from our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ help you to keep on growing." (2 Peter 3 v 18)*

**Rose Francis**



**PETER STEICKE – LOVE OF THE FATHER'S HEART**

**TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER – 7.00 PM - NATIVITY HALL**

Peter Steicke is a Speaker, mentor, motivator and former senior pastor of Lutheran Mega-church in Adelaide. He will be speaking in Nativity Hall at a 'service' to which everyone, from all churches in the area, is invited. He speaks about understanding our identity, and gaining the freedom to live fully and love fully.





## Bob's Blog

Dear Nativity family and friends  
There's an old saying:

*"Living above with the saints we love, that will be Glory.  
Living below with the saints we know – that's a different story."*

Along with the progress being made on the Picton to Christchurch railway and SH1, Marlborough's positive feeling seems to be growing.

So too here at Nativity. People are seeing our children, youth and young families growing as Jonathan and Rose lead those areas. New people are coming to worship and staying as people find a place in ministry and purpose, as Sue develops those teams. People are cared for by each other and other parish staff like Raewyn our parish Nurse. We know we're not just being self-serving, as we reach out to others. For example, The Marriage Course blesses Marlborough people, and we make a difference in Vanuatu, Southern, Central and Eastern Asia. There we continue direct support to villages, and three of our families living in those places. Yes, we do want to get along, "here below".

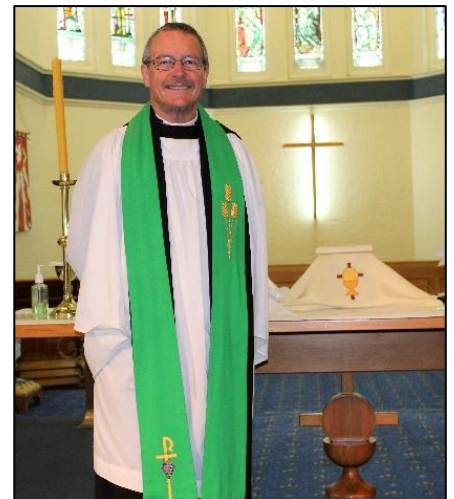
We're also being encouraged by seeing progress on redeveloping our buildings. The Liaison group of Nicci Leitch, Roz Mundy, John Briggs and myself picked up the work of the Restoration Task Group that lead Parish discussion. With Stephen Sheat, we met with Architect, Alec Bruce (son of former parishioner Dr Bruce). He's generously offered to present a Feasibility Plan by the end of October. Because of his respect for this community and what we are doing he wants to do this initial work at no charge to us.

Like the rebuild of the coastal transport route we have much to do in many areas. We are not finished yet. There is a cost, both to reach out to someone who is unknown to us or to someone who is different to us. It will cost to strengthen our buildings physically as well as making them fit for purpose into the future. We are well on the way.

Relationships are paramount. Continue to bless each other as we travel on this journey, engaged in our ministry of drawing people in to God's purposes, growing up in our faith.

*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life for evermore (Psalm 133 v1&3b)*

God Bless. Bob and Libby



*Green stole for Season of Growth after Pentecost.*

## WE PROMISED TO BRING YOU THE PHOTOS FROM GOVERNMENT HOUSE



**LYALL DAINES - MNZOM**  
In the 2017  
New Year's Honours  
Lyall was awarded the  
MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND  
ORDER OF MERIT, for Services to  
Rugby.

Seen with Governor General  
Dame Patsy Reddy (on left) and  
wife, Elaine, (on right).

Lyall and Elaine we share your joy!



## OPERATION COVER UP - ANOTHER MISSION OUTREACH

On 8<sup>th</sup> July the Operation Cover Up team held a display of their knitting at St Christopher's Church Hall. Operation Cover Up is a branch of Mission Without Borders, and about 50 volunteers (from the Blenheim area) knit blankets, jerseys, toys, beanies, scarves and anything else warm and colourful, that will bring comfort and pleasure to orphans and street kids, the homeless and poor families in many Eastern European countries like Romania, Moldova and the Ukraine. Margaret Rodley and Hazel Crouchley are just two of our Nativity family who put love into knitting for Operation Cover Up. The group is always looking for wool, and of course financial contributions to help with the cost of shipping their love overseas. Gifts of wool or donations can be dropped off to Ruth Buckley or Valda Henderson (8 and 9 Lybster Street) or at Cloudy Bay Funeral Services in Boyce Street.



Hazel Crouchley and Margaret Rodley admire the display. Hazel is one of the team of partially sighted knitters who love to be able to contribute.



## SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE CONNECTIONS

I look forward to the second Saturday in each month, because that is the day I arrive at Raupo around 9.30am to meet up with Nativity ladies from each of our services. There may be 5 or there may be 15, but it is always interesting. I try to speak to every-one, but mainly I seek out some-one to whom I have said no more than "good morning" or some-one I have known for a while but never had a long conversation with. (At times I have still been there at 11.30) It always amazes me how much I learn about some-one I thought I knew.

The staff at Raupo are always welcoming and friendly and have been known to go the extra mile as they did on Audrey Barnes' birthday. (Audrey second on right)

Coffee Connections, which has been going for about 6 years, may not be for every-one, but you won't know if you don't come along at least once..... and discover a new friend maybe.



**COFFEEOLOGY:**

ESPRESSO YOURSELF

STAY GROUNDED

Better Latte than never

TAKE LIFE ONE CUP AT A TIME

TAKE TIME TO  
SMELL THE COFFEE





## SERVICE WITH A SMILE

### ALISON BRICE - NATIVITY'S CHAPLAIN TO THE ELDERLY

Reflecting on my life I find God has been preparing me for this role since before I was born. It was uncanny that Bob said the same thing in his message today and that Moses was 80 when he began his work.

In the mid 1980's Reverend Pat Robbins started church services for elderly people in the geriatric ward at Wairau hospital. **Eileen Chowdhury, Shirley Woods and Vera Baskerville** helped her and as they were part of my cell group I helped in school holidays and if the service was at 4.00pm. Other

denominations then wanted to take services as well so through the Ministers Association a yearly roster was drawn up. More rest homes were built and with this growth and the decline in Rev Pat's health we were all persuaded into taking and leading services. I still remember the trepidation I felt at preparing the talk, and taking the service. Today I am still taking Rest Home services as part of my job and am most grateful for the willing helpers I have. **Robin Robb** now reminds us when and where the service is. Robin and **Grace Petrie** take care of Aberleigh and Maxwell Care and I look after Waterlea, and Springlands and **Rev Miriam Taylor** has Ashwood Park.

**Miriam Mc Namara, Trish Horrey, Toshiko Collinson** also assist at services and visiting. Later, Waterlea and Ashwood Park asked us to include a service in their dementia wings. What a blessing it is to hear these folk singing the time old songs of their Sunday School days and joining in The Lord's Prayer and Grace. Today we have parishioners who regularly come and help with supporting, singing and handing out song sheets. **Peter Sangwine** plays the piano and **Nita Harris** the violin.



*Robin Robb*

One day while walking along the corridor of Ashwood Park I looked into open rooms and saw these old people just sitting or sleeping. That night God put it on my heart that I should visit and be a contact for Him, to talk to and pray with those who wanted me to. While talking to a lady at Waterlea she said that they didn't have Anglican services there. I looked up the roster and found that we only had four services a year. Again God gave me the idea of taking a care cell with communion. I now take a monthly Care cell at Waterlea with the help of **Sue Gosling**, at Springlands Life style with **Jocelyn Wilkes, Elaine Hadfield and Gloria Ryan** and the one at Ashwood Park has just gone into recess but with **Shirley Dean and Vivienne James** we have started more visiting and prayer with individuals.

Another initiative that came about through prayer was an afternoon of board games for people wanting fun and fellowship. We call it **Link** and I still coordinate it on a **Friday afternoon in the lounge from 1.00pm.**



With the appointment of **Raewyn Parkes** as **Parish Nurse** we have developed a great pastoral relationship with Raewyn working in the community and me in the rest homes. At times the privacy law has hindered us knowing who needs us but we are grateful to friends and families who inform us directly or through the office. This is a most rewarding ministry, a growing ministry and can always have more helpers. *Alison Brice*

## CONNECTING THE GENERATIONS

*Dear Rose, Raewyn and girls,*

*Thank you for your visit last night and your lovely gift. I was so surprised and "gob smacked" I don't even know if I thanked you properly. I really appreciated what you did and it made me feel good.*

*Just meeting you all in my home was awesome. We don't get enough time to talk to young folk.*

*If any of you want to visit a rest home - maybe to a service or just around the rooms just let me know. It's quite an experience.*

*Thank you all for your time last night,  
Alison Brice*

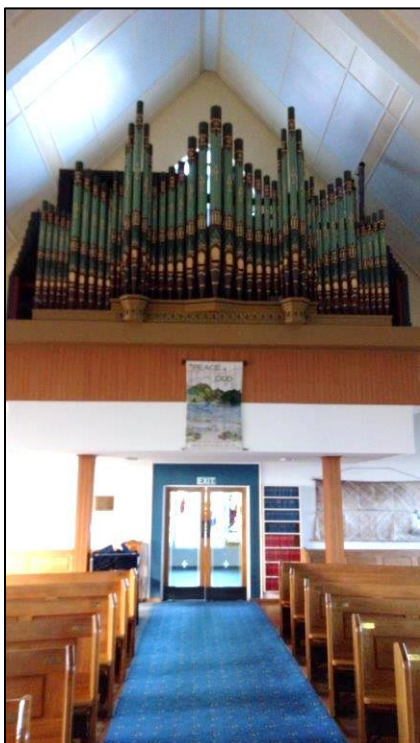


## ANGLICAN CARE, MARLBOROUGH - FUND RAISING QUIZ – HELD FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST



The aim of this new initiative is to establish a trust fund in order to give assistance to disadvantaged individuals (under the age of 18 and over the age of 65), and families who live in Marlborough. The Quiz Night launched the project with members from Spring Creek, Renwick and Nativity churches participating. Gerrie Mead, the Diocesan Social Services Enabler, spoke to the group about this new initiative and ways that people could support it. More from Gerrie next Nativity News!

**Left:** One bright team giving themselves a 'head start'!



## ORGAN CONCERT

24<sup>th</sup> September 2017

2pm @76 Alfred Street, Blenheim

**Door Sales: \$10 per person**

***Celebrate Daylight Saving. Invite your family, friends, Work colleagues and neighbours, to join you for a relaxing afternoon out, and enjoy the Talents of Local Organists.***

***Stay for a: Cuppa & Cookie, after the show***





## MEET ROBYN AND ANDY PETRIE- CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Hi, we are Andy and Robyn Petrie. We have three children; Anne 14, Tim 12, and Luke, 9.

We came to Blenheim almost nine years ago. Andy started helping out in children's ministry about eight years ago and Robyn about five years ago. Why? Because it's FUN! The children of Nativity are a delight and joy to be with and ***we get to express our faith in many different and creative ways.*** For, children's ministry is not just reading and knowing Bible stories, but also exploring our spiritual gifts and being part of a group that supports and encourages each other.

I am continually challenged by how we could be doing children's ministry better. At the 2016 Scripture Union conference, we considered the four different ways children (and ourselves) meet with God: Through His Word, through serving others, through symbols and quietness (particularly difficult in children's ministry!) and through creativity. So I try to use a variety of ways in sharing my message on Sunday mornings to enable children to connect with God in their own way.



Scripture Union research also tells us ***one key to children in church becoming adults active in church, is spending time in church.*** I think this is an important challenge to us as a church. What does this mean and look like for Nativity? How do we encourage a more inter-generational church? All questions to consider as we grow as a church.

Please keep Nativity Kids in your prayers. Give thanks for the wonderful children we have attending Nativity; that they will grow in their love and understanding of God and their love and care for each other. Pray for us and the other leaders at Nativity Kids, that we will be guided and sustained by God and our love of Him in however the future looks for children's ministry at Nativity.





## THURSDAY MORNING WALK GROUP



Enjoy some exercise and fresh air on a Thursday morning. A small chatty group meet at 8.30am by the Henry Street footbridge off Nelson Street and walk for about 45 minutes. Dogs are welcome and people come along as time and commitments permit. There is an occasional variation to this, starting from Monro Street and walking towards the Burleigh Bridge.

Contacts for this are:  
Pam Neal 5777442 (0212047818)  
Fay Johnstone 5783763

Left: A few of the hardy souls who braced the cooler temperatures for their weekly constitutional

## FROM THE ARCHIVES - NATIVITY CHURCH ASSETS ALBUM - ALISON FULLER

This assets album was discovered in 2015 and since then has been brought up to date. A copy of it is available to be viewed at the office.



Alison concludes the album with these words....

***It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have been able to write about the items that have contributed to the history of the Church of the Nativity, and to have found out a little about the lives of some of the people featured. I have had the valuable assistance of Miriam McNamara and would like to acknowledge the time and care that Colin Benjamin put in to taking all the photos.***

***Alison Fuller 2016***

***Parishioner since 1954***

This magnificent Altar linen from Europe is the most recent gift to Nativity

This linen will be used in Saint Barnabas Chapel.

The donors wish to remain anonymous.





## DEEP CHURCH.... TAIZE STYLE....IN SAINT BARNABAS CHAPEL



On 16<sup>th</sup> July the Deep Church (Taize style) service held in St Barnabas Chapel was a quiet and peaceful way to spend time with God, reflecting on His call to all of us to be his missionaries.

For those who haven't attended one of these 'Deep Church' times it's difficult to explain exactly what form the service will take. For a start, it isn't really a 'service'. There's no sermon, no form of service, no communal prayer, no hymns – it is based lightly on the Taize style of worship that originated in France and includes a style of monastic chants, Scripture readings, sometimes

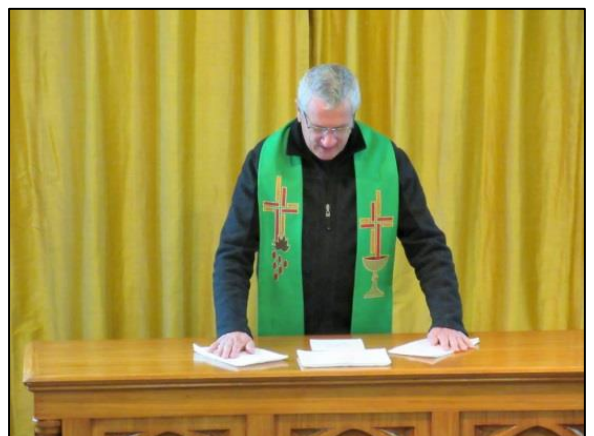
guided contemplation, and periods of silence. The Taize description of silence is taken from the Hebrew text for Psalm 65 which says "Silence is praise to you, O God". When words and thought come to an end, God is praised in silent wonder and admiration.

The candle light, and soft chants created a beautiful place to simply still our minds and 'be'.

As one of the people who attended said "I love just being there, and spending quiet time with Jesus".

Everyone is welcome to these 'services'. The next one is planned for 15 October. If you want further information please call Alan Burrows on 027 553 9713.

Right: The team – Keith Buck, Dave Pigou, Alan and Jennifer Bennett-Burrows, and Jo Danks (behind the camera)



On July 16, 2017 Bp. Richard Ellena conducted a re-dedication of St. Barnabas and blessed the new altar linen



# upcoming EVENTS



## SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	AAW	Church Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Connections	Raupo Cafe	9.30am
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Fund Raising Dinner (24/7 Youth leaders)	Bamboo Gardens	6.00pm
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Steicke (Love of the Father's heart)	Church Hall	7.00pm
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	She Connects – clothing swap	Church hall	2-4pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Equip Seminar	Renwick church	7-9pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Heart Help	Church Lounge	10.00am
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Organ Concert	Nativity Church	2.00pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Equip Seminar	Renwick Church	7-9pm

## OCTOBER

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	AAW	Church Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Connections	Raupo Cafe	9.30am
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Taize service	Barnies	7.00pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Equip Seminar	Nativity Church	7-9pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Heart Help	Church Lounge	10.00am
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Equip Seminar	Nativity Church	7-9pm

## NOVEMBER

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	AAW	Church Hall	7.30pm
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	CWCI event	Baptist Church	7.30pm
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Connections	Raupo Cafe	9.30am
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Heart Help	Nativity Lounge	10.00am
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Market Morning	St Christopher's Hall	9.00am
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Seniors' Lunch	Church Hall	12 noon
TBA (Libby)	Secret Sisters reveal	Church Hall	TBA



**she CONNECTS**  
more than just clothes

**CLOTHES SWAP shop**

**Saturday 16th September 2.00-4.00pm**  
Nativity Centre  
76 Alfred St

**\$2 entry**  
**\$1 per item**

Drop women's clothing, shoes & accessories at  
Nativity Church Office  
11-14 Sept. 9am-4pm  
Must be in good condition please

All proceeds go to **WOMEN'S REFUGE**

 SHE Connects  woi-conf@outlook.com



**EQUIP**  
MINISTRY EDUCATION

**2017**

**Marlborough:**  
**The Big Story of the Bible (Kate Dugdale)**  
Renwick Anglican: Wednesday September 20 and 27  
**Handling the Bible (Kate Dugdale)**  
Nativity Anglican: Wednesday October 18 and 25

Time: 7-9pm  
All are welcome to attend  
Contact: [kate@bishopdale.ac.nz](mailto:kate@bishopdale.ac.nz)

 **Bishopdale College**



**THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY 76 ALFRED ST. BLENHEIM**

**OFFICE: PHONE 5783909**

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

**8.00 am - Traditional Eucharist Service**

**10.00 am - All Age Worship Service**

**7.00 pm – Informal Service in the Hall**

**10.00 am - Children & Youth programmes**



**WEEKLY PROGRAMMES:**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Prayer for the Parish</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>178 High Street</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Eucharist Walking Group</b>	<b>10am 8.30am</b>	<b>Chapel – ‘Barnies’ Nelson Street Car Park</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Tunes for Tots Link</b>	<b>9.30 1pm</b>	<b>Church Hall Lounge</b>

*See previous page for upcoming events*

**‘Thank You’ to our sponsors who have contributed to the printing of this magazine.**

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