



PENTECOST

Nativity News



Riding on the Wings of the Wind

JUNE 2017



MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

Photo: Murray Smith

To MAF they are “Touch & Go’s”. The Mission’s Cessna 206 and a team will arrive at a local aerodrome from which church staff and supporters are taken for short familiarisation flights before relaxing over refreshments while they learn more about the vision and the role of MAF worldwide. The plane is also opened to the public for inspection, and they can meet the staff and learn what this mission is all about.

Over the weekend of 18 to 21 May it was Blenheim’s turn, with Chief Pilot John Neal making eight flights which added to the usual “MAF experience” by landing briefly at an Awatere Valley farm airstrip. Among the 33 passengers were Vicar Bob, along with Susan, Raewyn and Jan, with the remaining passengers being from other Marlborough churches. Then nearly 150 people came to see the plane on Sunday afternoon, making this Touch and Go the most successful one yet.

On the ground, CEO Mark Fox engaged in many serious discussions with people (including one potential pilot and two possible aircraft engineers) wondering if God was calling them into His service via MAF, with Mark then speaking at all three Nativity services on the Sunday.

You can learn more on the Mission’s website at www.mafnz.co.nz



Pentecost (so called because it comes 50 days after Passover,) celebrates the birthday of God's church. On that first Pentecost Day, "all the Lord's followers were together in one place" – Acts Chapter 2 recounts the excitement as 'a noise from Heaven, like a mighty wind filled the house. Tongues of fire settled on each person, and they were touched by the Holy Spirit.'

Now the Holy Spirit filled these confused disciples with joy. Peter, emboldened by the Holy Spirit, began addressing the crowd of witnesses.

Our Pacific Island neighbours call Pentecost “White Sunday,” signifying the white garment worn at baptism. Here in mellow Autumn, we use red banners to symbolise the tongues of fire, white doves to represent the Holy Spirit, and brightly coloured flowers to symbolise the renewal of life.

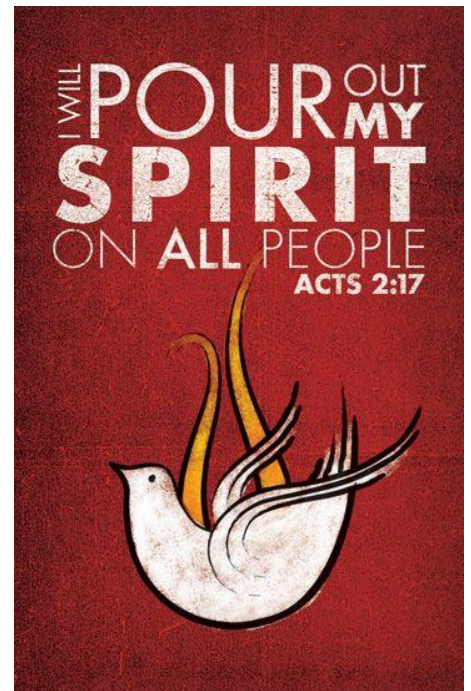
We are a busy and caring community here at Nativity Church. May this magazine inform you of some of the ways we can serve God here in Blenheim.

Blessings. - Rose Francis



Cartoon by Rev. J Sidebotham

Miriam Taylor





BOB'S BLOG

Dear Nativity family and friends

These are exciting times. While it's getting colder outside, God's passion and purpose is growing in us. Things are building in more than one sense.

A final Engineer's report on Nativity church showed that the old transept chancel and sanctuary is below the required 34% of building code. So we have had 7 months of discussion around the parish. Congregations, small groups and individuals were consulted. The outcome of that was a general consensus that most people don't want to prop up an old structure that may not meet future earthquakes nor Government standards. Nor do they want to leave a legacy of debt for future generations. We want to have buildings that will serve our mission into the future.

Vestry have responded by seeking professional advice that will provide 2 or 3 options for our way forward, and opening a fund for the changes to the building that will happen. Details will appear progressively on our website very soon. Most importantly you are asked to pray for the whole process. Like trees that seem dormant in the winter, but in reality are inwardly preparing for the

coming Spring, the early stages of this project will seem to take time. We must lay our foundations well.

A second way that things are building is in our mission – overseas and locally. Bishop Richard, the Corins and Tuckers will be back with us in July, as well as a new family we have adopted, the Hughes family. Locally we will be launching The Marriage Course as our part in a Blenheim wide initiative of the Blenheim Christian Ministers Association – to run Alpha Courses. Running for 8 weeks at Vintners Hotel, The Marriage Course will provide a much needed strengthening of marriages in and beyond the Parish family. In turn and in time that will strengthen our wider community. You are invited to attend, or sponsor a couple for the course of a night, but numbers are capped at 20 couples. Have a look at our website for more details.

May you catch a sense of the excitement and potential that these two examples represent among many others.

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing" (Isaiah 43 v18-19)

God bless you and yours

Bob and Libby



**Shine Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your Word Lord, and let there be light!**

MEET OUR NEW PEOPLE'S WARDEN – JENNY BENNETT - BURROWS



Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself to you as your Peoples Warden.

My father, William Jefferies Bennett, was a dairy farmer and my mother Mary (Molly) Constance Bennett, a registered Nurse, cared for the family and several others who worked on the farm as farm hands. When we were older my mother returned to work as Westport's only Public Health Nurse covering the Buller region from Karamea to Punakaiki.

Born of Scottish descent, in the seaside town of Carters Beach which is located a few km South of Westport, I am the middle child of 5 children.

Our family is affiliated to Saint John's Anglican Church in Westport. My father, aged 88 years still attends weekly. I attended Sunday school at Carters Beach as, back in the day,

we didn't have a car to travel to Westport.

When I was young our family often holidayed in Christchurch staying with Aunty Joy and Uncle Reg Williams who was the Vicar of St. Pauls Anglican Church in Papanui. They were lovely warm people who loved the Lord. My mother had Multiple Sclerosis for many years and appreciated the support of her family. In my mid 20s I was living in Westport, married with 4 sons, and became interested in whether God was real or not? I visited the Vicar, Peter Swears at St Johns Anglican Church to ask the question, "Where is God in the Church". This question lead to some in-depth discussions and theological debate and finally to my Salvation.

In 1988 my husband and I, and now 5 sons, moved to Blenheim to live. My youngest son, Michael, was 1 year old and the oldest son, Mark was 12 years old.

On moving to Blenheim, we as a family attended Elim Church. I took up roles, such as leading a Women's Bible Study Group, Sunday School Teaching at an Outreach in Riversdale, and having a cell group in our home.

Initially, I was a stay at home mum, raising our 5 precious sons. Once they were older I started part time work as a Teacher Aid for a child with Health Disabilities at Grovetown School which my 2 younger sons attended. This gave me the opportunity to be at home with the boys during the holidays. I later went on to work at Marlborough Boys College and also to Special Educational Services working throughout Marlborough School District with high need children.

I started working at Open Home Foundation as a social worker in 2003. I currently serve there as the Practice Manager. Open Home Foundation is a Christian Social Work Service specialising in the care and protection of children. I have 5 wonderful Christian staff members working with me in the Marlborough office. There are another 13 Open Home Foundation Offices throughout New Zealand. We have dedicated Christian Foster Families who provide short, medium and long term care for children in our region. We work closely with our local Ministry of Vulnerable Children Oranga Tamariki, previously known as Child Youth and Family. Open Home Foundation also provides respite care for children in the Health Sector.

In 2003 I separated from my then husband. After this I decided to return to the Anglican Church where I had first found my faith in Christ and have been attending Nativity Church since that time. In service to Nativity I became involved in supporting the Youth Worker, including being "mother" during a Youth Outreach to Fiji. I also facilitated the Divorce Care Group for several years, and was available to serve during the services on a Sunday. Currently I am part of a team/cell group that runs the Taizé style Service 3-monthly and bi-monthly prayer vigils at St. Barnabas Chapel. I frequently attend the 10am Service, and at times the 7pm Services. I am aware that many people who attend the 8am service may not know who I am, so I will be attending some 8am services to get to know you more.

In 2009 I married Alan Burrows at Nativity Church. Alan is a contract builder, currently working for Haack Construction. Alan has 2 daughters from a previous marriage so we now have 7 grown up children. Alan gives his full support to me in my new role as Peoples Warden. Between us we have 13 grandchildren who are a delight to us both.

I love to get lost outside in my flower and vegetable garden, tramping in our beautiful Country of NZ, spending time with family, summer swims in the rivers and ocean and riding on the back of Alan's KTM motorbike.

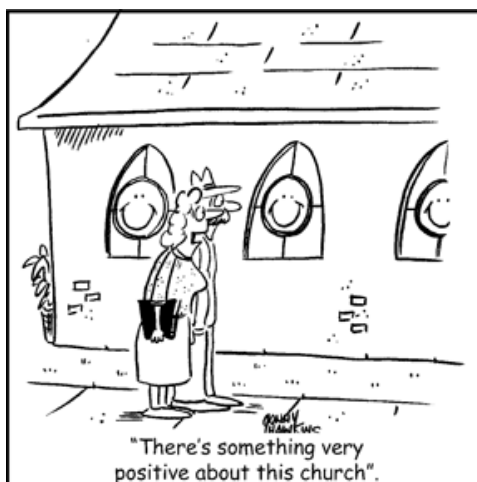
It is my hope as the People Warden that I will represent you well on Vestry, in Church duties and in the community. It will be hard to fill the BIG SHOES that Pauline and Roger Tisch have worn for many years, and I would like to personally thank them for their dedication to Nativity Church and the people who worship there. My style will be different, but my commitment to the Church family is the same.

I believe that Nativity Church is on a journey to something new in God, which is exciting. As we follow the Lord's direction, it is a privilege to serve the people of Nativity as we enter into this. I believe that we need to gather up the vision of what the Lord is saying to our church and what he wants to do with the people of Nativity and in our community. There will be a rebuilding in the natural and in the spiritual. I appreciate all the work that people do each week in the service of the Lord. I see your warmth, love and support throughout church life. I look forward to serving alongside you throughout this coming year.

May the Lord richly bless you.

Jennifer Bennett-Burrows.

Jenny will accept any feedback or queries and refer them to the appropriate ministry area!



MATT GWYNNE - YWAM

It was great to hear Matt Gwynne speaking at the 7pm service. He's certainly enjoying his time based in France with YWAM (Youth with a Mission). We enjoyed hearing about how his service for God is taking him to many places in the world, some fun and some challenging and of course Sheryll and Kevin are enjoying having him home for a short while. (Jo Danks)



MARK FOX AND JOHN NEAL - MAF

Mark Fox from MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) spoke at the 8.00 am and 10.00 am services - and again at the 7.00 pm service.

MEET OUR VESTRY ELECTED AT PARISH AGM – MARCH 13, 2017



Back: Stephen Sheat – Vicar's Warden; Roger Nicholls – Finance

Centre: Jennifer Bennett-Burrows – Peoples' Warden; Jo Danks – Secretary; Jocelyn Wilkes-Synod Rep.

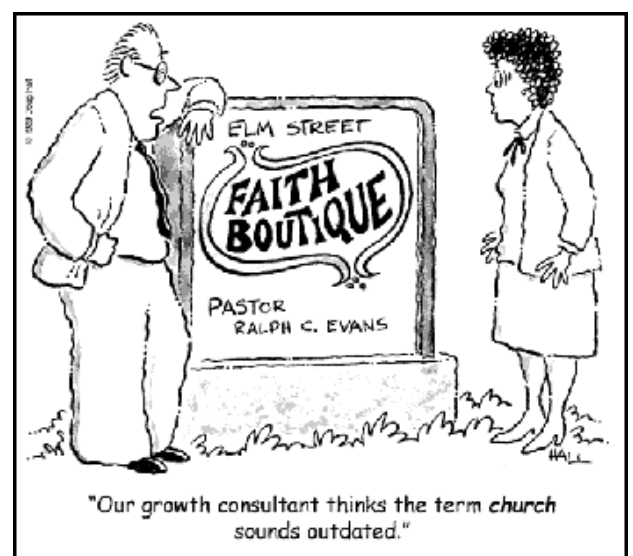
Partially obscured – Beverley Cross – Seniors / Pastoral Care

Front: Hamish Harper – Youth, Families and Children; Bob Barnes – Vicar; Keith Buck – Office Manager; Pauline Tisch – Deanery; Rachel Powell – Health and Safety; Konrad Cross – Property and Maintenance

IN A NUTSHELL... WHAT IS VESTRY?

IT ISA group of individuals who are ...

- United in the Holy Spirit
- Supportive encouragers and co-workers with the clergy
- Responsible for oversight of the church's operations
- The spiritual leadership of the parish
- Informed about the parish and life of the wider church





BLenheim COMBINED CHURCHES

GOOD FRIDAY 'IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME'

Around 800 people gathered in Blenheim to remember the world-changing events of that first Good Friday 2,000 years ago.

Organised by the Combined Churches of Blenheim, we were comfortably seated in our grand new ASB theatre. A powerful presentation on screen plainly, simply reflected

on the fact that 'it could have been me' committing those terrible acts against the Son of God.

This was the second combined Good Friday service we have shared with other believers, both very moving and thought-provoking. The Salvation Army Brass Band, and Elim Musicians led the congregation in musical worship. I had the privilege of inviting a new friend, Dominique; a young German back-packer to this Good Friday service. She reckoned it was her best New Zealand experience, overwhelming and memorable. All of us were blessed by sharing in this God-honouring service.

Rose Francis

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

VAUGHAN MCKENZIE – ALWAYS WILLING TO GO THE 'EXTRA MILE'



Vaughan moved to Blenheim about 14 years ago.

He attended several different churches before, about two years ago, was led to Nativity where he now feels at home.

While he was attending the Baptist church he became involved helping with their new data projection computer and also learned their sound system. Now at Nativity he enjoys serving in the way he is best able to by helping to operate the sound and data projection systems.

He is a regular at the 10am service setting up the sound system for the worship teams and working the sound and data desk. He is also a regular on the music computer at the 7pm service. Vaughan is often accompanied by his sons David and Elijah.

Thank you all for the ministry you undertake so caringly.





Jude Dell Jan Burrough Keith Buck

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

OUR SUPERB ADMIN STAFF!



Jude Dell: Vicars P.A. looks after the vicar's appointments, administration and Nativity Courts. Plus, anything that other clergy need attending to. Has a great knowledge of the Nativity over the past 22 years.

Married to Tony, has two married children and 4 grandchildren.

Jude's main task daily is to turn the urn on for our cuppa teas, and in the winter turning on the heating system before staff get to work. Can often be found fixing staff computer issues!

Jan Burrough: Receptionist. Meets and greets people as they come into the office and then directs them to whom they wish to see if she cannot answer their queries. Also prepares the rosters for volunteers, and tries to make sure they have all they need to do their ministries.

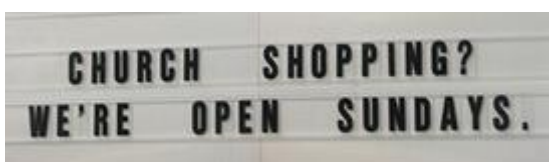
Married to Paul, has four adult children and eight grandchildren, with the possibility of more. Been at Nativity 25 years, 15 of which were in children and youth ministry. The last 9 years have been in the office.

Main task is to make Jude laugh!

Keith Buck: Parish Administrator. Does the accounts and organises the maintenance/repairs to be done around the place. Often picking up jobs no one else can do.

Keith has two children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Main task is general dogsbody!



**"ATTITUDE
IS A LITTLE THING**



**THAT MAKES A BIG
DIFFERENCE"**

NATIVITY YOUTH AT LOCHMARA BAY



Nativity Youth off to Youth of the Nation Conference in Whanganui



PURPOSEFUL TRAVEL

SHANE AND JENNY DOWNES SHARE THEIR MISSION EXPERIENCES

In March this year we had the opportunity to visit Crossroads Foundation (www.crossroads.org.hk) which is based in **Hong Kong**. Our missional support task there was to rip out old lights, fans and wiring and rewire and replace the lights and fans in their new reception area. While there we also had the opportunity to partake in their simulations that the foundation has created. These were very powerful experiences, giving you a better understanding of what it would be like living in poverty, being blind or living with HIV. I would recommend anyone who was thinking of doing 'third world' mission to attend the poverty simulation as it certainly changes your perspective on how people can sell off their children or body parts just to create a chance of a better future for other family members. With volunteers from all over the world at Crossroads it was great to expand your world view and to be able to sit down over lunch and discuss issues with people from all different cultures. Communal prayer was held from 8-9 am each morning and was powerful.



We then travelled on to **Vietnam** and though not doing anything specific there you can do a bit of research, and by buying a coffee at the right cafe be supporting people who have been saved from child labour or the sex trade and being retrained in skills where they can go on to future employment; or by

eating at various restaurants set up by NGOs help support young people into a better future. There were some amazing testimonies to be heard.



Next onto **Cambodia** where we went to visit Anne and Anthony McCormick who are CMS missionaries at World Mate Emergency Hospital in Battenbong. Anne has set up an Activities Programme at the hospital where both patients and caregivers can spend time. Again we used our various creative skills and made a puppet theatre to be used by patients and caregivers.

Another experience was the world famous Battenbong circus where children from disadvantaged backgrounds have been given the opportunity to learn theatre, dance and circus skills at the same time being given an education and healthy diet.

So even though a lot of our time was doing the usual touristy things our trip took on a whole new dimension by adding in a few days of service where we could utilise our talents and making some conscious decisions to support the local activities that were set up to upskill and help the local communities.

By intentionally inviting God along on the trip, He responded and joined us there, provoking, challenging and changing us.





Eileen Guard

THE PRAYER ELDERSHIP

*Is any of you sick?
He should call the elders of the church to pray
over him and anoint him with oil in the name of
the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make
the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.
If he has sinned he will be forgiven.
James 5:14-16*



Grace Petrie



Libby & Bob Barnes

The Prayer Eldership Team
seek to encourage spiritual growth,
in our Nativity family,
through prayer.



Kevin & Sheryll Gwynne



Sue Howarth

Led by Sheryll and Jane the team is
available to advise, support, and co-ordinate
prayer groups and prayer initiatives in the
parish, such as seminars, retreats and quiet days.
The eldership team facilitates prayer support both
during the services and in people's homes. They
also offer training for new prayer intercessors.



Jane Sheat



Jan Burrough

The Prayer Eldership feels privileged to
be part of the prayer life at Nativity.
If you need more in depth prayer ministry outside
of church services please contact the facilitators,
who can arrange this for you.



Ruth & Barry Struthers



STAFF RETREAT DAY HELD AT MOENUI BAY – 14 MARCH 2017



Jesus and the disciples withdrew to a quiet place to pray. Luke 9:10

Following Jesus example the Nativity staff withdrew to a quiet place to experience God's refreshing.

The morning included prayer, teasing out the Scriptures as a group, and eating lunch together. In the afternoon each one spent time alone out in the beauty of God's creation listening to Him. A silent communion, where we served each other, concluded a most rewarding day.

During her time alone with God, while sitting at the water's edge, Libby wrote the poem below.....

Constant and Lapping

In and out, forth and back,
Swishing, swishing
Cleansing, washing, rhythm and refreshing
Patterns, plopping, peace
Waves of strength, waves - gentle,
Washing over me, bringing movement
In and out, forth and back.
Constancy. Constant is your love Lord
You bring sustenance to my soul
You lead me beside quiet waters
You say I will be like a well - watered garden,
like a spring, whose waters never fail.
You saved me
through the washing of re-birth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit
In and out, forth and back,
Swishing, swishing
Waves of strength, waves - gentle
Such is your constant presence
As I lap up your love Father God.

Libby Barnes





This was a group of about 12 people from Lower Hutt, Watering Hole, who love the Lord, who want to see people healed and set free to be what God has called them to be. All have been through the healing process with God, and still are. They were people just like us, no hype, or fuss, the ministry times were authentic, gentle and real.

We were up and down in our seats as Sue Loan the leader led us in prayers of confession, forgiveness and teaching on dealing with wrong thought patterns, and our speech - basically keeping our eyes on Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.
Philippians 4:8

We saw a lady who was unable to move freely physically, after prayer become completely free to jump around and lift her hands above her head. It was so exciting. A gentleman had his neck healed as well. There was emotional healing for many.

I found two familiar faces amongst the team. Two ex-Blenheim people. It was great to catch up and see what God has done in their lives.

I would recommend this ministry team to anyone who is able to attend their conferences. You can find them on the web for all their information. www.firebirdnewzeal.org

VANUATU MISSION 2017 - MIRIAM TAYLOR



From July 05 to July 15 Miriam will be on mission on the island of Gaua in Northern Vanuatu.

This year Jessica Foley-Taylor, Director of the Momentum Dance Studio at the Stadium, (Miriam's grand-daughter), will make the journey with Miriam. She will share dance with children, and with the women.

In previous years Nativity have been most generous with their support for Gaua. This year it has been decided to purchase stationery items for the school from Luganville town, on the Island of Santo before travelling north to Gaua Island. It is also hoped to make a donation to the church for repairs to the Priest's house and to the school for repairs to the teachers' houses.

If you would like to make a donation towards these projects it would be most appreciated by the school and church community. Please leave in a marked envelope in the offering bag, or at the office, or give to Miriam direct. With grateful thanks. MT

SEEN AROUND THE CHURCH.....





The Marriage Course

An eight week course designed to help you and your spouse strengthen your relationship.

The course helps couples to:

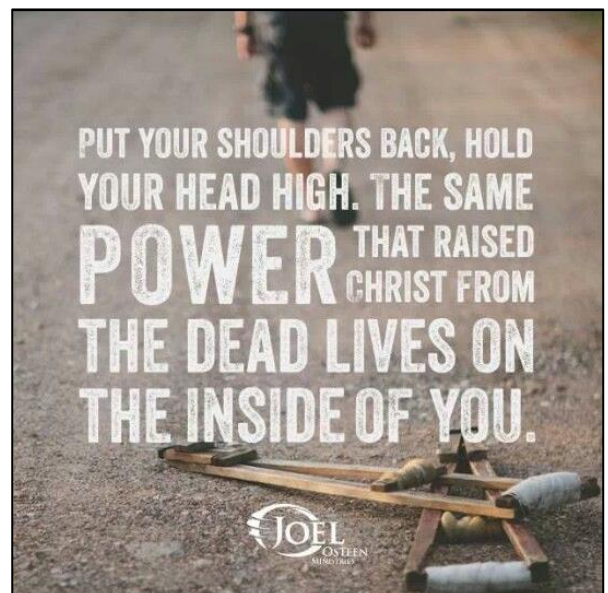
- Understand each other's needs
- Communicate more effectively
- Grow closer by learning methods to resolve conflict
- Recover from the ways you may have hurt each other
- Recognise how your upbringing affects your relationship
- Improve relationships with parents and in-laws
- Develop greater sexual intimacy
- Discover each other's love language and much, much more...

We are intending to run this course during the third school term based out of a local winery in conjunction with other the local Blenheim churches.

The cost will be \$150 per couple for the whole eight week course.

For more information on course and frequently asked questions

See www.nativity.org.nz/the-marriage-course.html





THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

76 ALFRED ST BLENHEIM

OFFICE: PHONE 5783909

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

Wednesday 7 th	AAW	Church Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 10 th	Coffee Connections	Raupo Café	9.30am

JULY

Wednesday 5 th	AAW	Church Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 8 th	Coffee Connections	Raupo Cafe	9.30am.
Saturday 8 th	Operation Cover-up Display	St Christopher's Hall	10am
Tuesday 13 th	Seniors' Lunch	Spring Creek Hall	TBA

AUGUST

Wednesday 2 nd	AAW	Church Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 12 th	Coffee Connections	Raupo Cafe	9.30am
Wednesday 16 th	Renwick Dinner & Bottle Auction	Renwick Church Hall	TBA

SUNDAY SERVICES:

8.00 am - Traditional Eucharist Service

10.00 am - All Age Worship Service

7.00 pm – Informal Service in the Hall

Children & Youth programmes –
Sunday at 10.00 am.... *During School Term only.*

TUNES FOR TOTS - 9.30am Friday

During School Term only.

'THANK YOU' TO OUR SPONSORS WHO MADE THE PRINTING OF THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE

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