



Kaka visits Stewart Island Retreat - see inside

Nativity News

SEPTEMBER 2023

Issue 25



Editorial

By Rose Francis

Thank you, God, for spring! After the bog and squelch of a rainy winter, my surroundings have become a 'Garden of Weeden.' Add 12 paws from my muddy buddies traipsing in and out of the dog door, and you'll understand why I dreamed of longer, warmer days and the growth and beauty of spring. Rising in darkness and the slipperiness of icy paths are challenges for our elderly people. Hibernation seems like a great adaptation, but as the weather improves, we're excited about preparing the soil and planting food and flowers. We plan to attract birds and insects, assist pollination and live more sustainable lives, recycling, avoiding waste, and caring for God's Creation. We, His stewards, can learn more about issues we must consider in this time of choosing a government to lead us through critical climate change challenges.

We've got a busy issue to celebrate the changing season. Nativity has shared the joy of baptising some of our members, and Bishop Steve confirmed them a fortnight later. You can read the testimonies of some of those who publicly declared their faith in this way. Our Nativity Library is gaining new books, and we review some of them. We'll also get to know Nativity's Glenn Webster, who is head librarian at Blenheim's grand new public library. We also feature Stewart Island where some of our ladies shared a lovely retreat.

We catch up on happenings at Repair Cafe, and the Bethel course. We can view photos from our fun and fundraising activities. We honour another quiet Nativity worker, who we nabbed for "service with a smile" Our volunteers contribute so much to the smooth running of our church, and their generous gifts of time, talent and treasure are a blessing to us all.

Conway gives us an update and 'sneak peek' into the new hall which has been steadily growing behind and alongside our current hall.

In the days ahead, you will hear Nativity's bell ring at an unexpected time. Church bells historically announced joyful events and tragedies, times of danger and things to celebrate. This Spring, the amazing little Godwits will return from their breeding grounds in Alaska, to feed along the coasts of NZ. When the first cloud of Godwits arrives in Marlborough, over a thousand of the plucky birds will make their home on the Wairau Lagoons for spring and summer. Nativity will celebrate God's amazing creation by ringing our bell. The cathedral in Christchurch pealed their arrival every spring, prior to the destructive earthquakes in 2010. Do explain our bell ringing to your neighbours, and share the good news of God's creation.



Some other facts about Godwits:

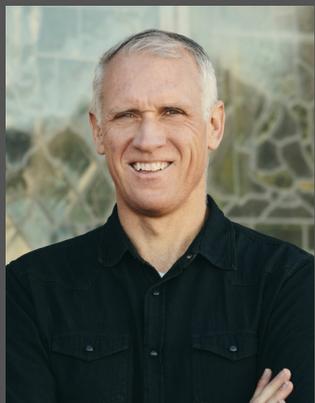
- Bar tailed godwits breed on coastal Alaska. A clutch of four eggs is laid in a shallow bowl often lined with lichen.
- They perform the longest non-stop flights of any non-seabird. There is no chance of an in-flight snack!
- We can expect around 75,000 migrants this spring; their flight takes 8-10 days.
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- Juveniles arrive in New Zealand when just four months old
- Once a delicacy, godwits are now protected in New Zealand.

UPDATE

From Vicar Glen

SHARING IAN'S STORY - BAPTISED AT 69

"For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour." John 4:37-38



Revd. Glen Ashworth

These words, for me, epitomise the experience of a man who recently came to faith here at Nativity.

The first time I had any contact with Ian was through an email. He introduced himself and then told me how he had been coming along to our early morning service, but felt uncomfortable about coming forward to receive communion because he had not been baptised. I replied, "Let's catch up and have a coffee!"

Over coffee, he told me his story. As a young person, he had attended an Anglican church, was involved in life there and sang in the choir. For whatever reason his brother was baptised and confirmed but Ian was only confirmed. Ian fell out of attending church regularly but always lived by Christian ethics and even wore a Jesus badge in the heady days of the 1960s and 70s. Ian's life carried on with a career in teaching and then later in business.

Fast forward to Ian as a 69-year-old, some forty-odd years later, who turns up at the 8am service at Nativity. Ian's grandson in Auckland happens to attend a Christian-run school holiday programme, where he received *The Action Bible* (a comic version of the Bible for kids). This became his treasured possession, and when he came down recently to stay with Ian, he asked if they would be going to church on Sunday. Ian blinked a bit - thinking, I haven't been there for a few years - but said, "Yeah, sure". So, he turned up at Nativity for the first time.

Also happening during this time is a health scare for Ian, which is a story in itself, but Ian prayed that if it was God's will, he would not die but find fulfilment. Ian and I met, and we talked about a plan to read the Bible and to meet up regularly to continue to discuss faith in Jesus. After a couple of these meetings, Ian stated that he was reading the Bible late into the night and couldn't put it down! We talked about the gospel message, and when Ian responded that he accepted that, we wrote a prayer together of commitment to follow Christ. A few months later Ian got baptised, a week later confirmed, and a week after that received his first communion as a believer.

I loved meeting and getting to know Ian - he's an amazing guy. It was a privilege to be part of his journey to faith. Ian has already overcome some resistance to his new faith and is a regular part of the worshipping life here at Nativity.

**Be encouraged that God is at work in the hearts of people within our communities,
and look to see where he may be leading you to be a part of it!**

**There were eight people baptised by immersion
at Nativity on May 14th 2023:**

Ian Watt; May, Lily & Neve Smith;

Alice Mundy;

Lucas, Brooklyn & Tyler Mulitalo

**You can read the stories of three of the young
people further on in this magazine.**



REPAIR CAFE



The Repair Café is now well into its second year and is a regular feature in Blenheim, being held every 4th Saturday of the month at John's Kitchen. More than 230 items have been repaired or assessed since the first Café event.

Gerrie Mead's House Group is behind this initiative which now, not only includes their group but also other volunteers who have joined the Repair Café team. They offer their skills/expertise and enthusiasm in a wide range of areas including sewing/mending; electronics and electrical; carpentry/furniture and appliances, tool sharpening and household items of all descriptions for assessment and repair, where possible. All are accompanied by friendly hospitality with a cuppa and a snack while people wait.

One of the volunteers has qualified as an appliance tester so that electrical repairs can be safety-checked. There is scope for the Repair Café to further develop and expand in the community e.g. attracting more volunteer repairers meaning it will be easier to ensure flexibility around the time each person is involved or someone with technical expertise or social media skills to increase publicity.

Repair Café has teamed up with Repair Café Aotearoa and Restart, a UK-based initiative that is gathering data internationally to support the call for the right of repairability of manufactured items and the availability of parts as well as calculating waste volume around the world.

While these are lofty goals indeed, Gerrie offers you an invitation to come and join in, even occasionally if you can, to do our bit to help extend the life of our local landfill, help save the planet, and bring social wellbeing.



SERVICE WITH A SMILE



Heather Wadsworth

Nativity is blessed to have Heather as part of our church family, and we thank you Heather for your service.

Heather married Peter at St Christopher's church in 1960 and, after living in the Sounds until Peter died in 1995, she moved back to Blenheim and became an active member of Nativity Church where she continues to serve in many areas. After ten years as a Nativity Synod representative, Heather retired from that role this year. She continues with her leadership of the Nativity AAW (Association of Anglican Women) because she recognises the importance of this group and is keen to see it remain active into the future.

Many will be familiar with Heather welcoming as a sides-person and serving morning teas at 8.00am services. Less well-known is her quiet and valuable service behind the scenes. Alongside others, Heather has cleaned the brass, repaired church linen and books and provided a willing pair of hands with events, setting up, sales and cleaning up.

Continuing to be fully involved with Nativity activities Heather is a long-time member of Shirley Dean's Care Cell, enjoys working with Don Cross on his Healing Horticulture courses and assisting at the Repair Café where she helps with sewing projects. She is also currently working with the Care and Share team making blankets to keep knees warm during winter services.



The Bethel Series Bible Studies

The Bethel Series Bible Studies originated in the Lutheran Church but has proved very popular in many denominations in countries across the world. Under the leadership of Rev Kaye Dyer, Nativity is the first church in New Zealand to run the recently updated course. The studies present an overview of the Bible based around pictures as visual aids.

Kaye is hoping to offer a New Testament course next year but in the meantime she is looking to run a third Old Testament course. If you are interested in joining please contact Kaye for more information.

Glen presented the 6 participants of the second group, with their certificates during the services on 25th June.

Those who have completed this course have all spoken very positively of their experience and their growth in understanding scripture.

"God has become so much bigger for me."

"It was great for me being a visual learner."

"The course gave me a framework to make sense of the bible stories I knew."

"I was really struck by how important holiness is to God."

"I saw the way God dealt with people through time and see we face the same issues today."

"I enjoyed the group learning style and the sharing."



Rakiura Stewart Island Retreat

In April 2023, Raewyn Parkes (Nativity), Revs. Deborah Paton (Renwick) and Miriam Taylor (Nativity), participated in a spiritual retreat on Stewart Island, led by Rev. Glenda Hicks from the Christchurch Diocese. Five others participating came from Christchurch and Hawkes Bay. Deborah's husband, Brian, also visited the Island with us.

For five mornings we met in a beautiful home overlooking the small island of Iona in Golden Bay. The retreat was based around themes from the island - slowing down, listening, water, shells, and trees.

In the afternoons we explored some of the many walks while contemplating our morning prayers and discussions.

In the evening we met for dinner provided by Glenda and Rev. Barbara Walker from Hawkes Bay (also the author of Purple Hands - see *Nativity Library* page in this issue.)

Miriam Taylor



As we breathe the life-giving air of this Island, may you, God of our lives, breathe deeply into us and flow through us in these days of retreat. May we know the beauty of your creation, the constancy of your presence, the power of your protection and the fullness of your joy. Amen.

'Listening' was the topic of our second day.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus reflected God's glory in front of his startled friends, 'and a voice from a cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love: with him, I am well pleased. Listen to Him."

Matthew 17:5

Joyce Huggett writes: "I looked at this verse long and hard and found it difficult to believe that it does not say, 'This is my dear Son, talk to him.' Nor does it say, 'This is my dear Son, ask him for things.' Neither does it encourage, 'tell him your diagnosis when someone is sick.' No, It reads, This is my Son... Listen to him (*Listening to God*, p.85).

Over the course of the day, I thought "How good I am at talking to God, not so good at listening to God." An area of repentance in my prayer life, that requires discipline but is worthwhile.

Also, I experienced again the importance of taking time out of my ordinary life to be, and to be with God. The Spiritual discipline of retreat.

Raewyn Parkes



Prayer cannot bring water to parched land,
nor mend a broken bridge,
nor rebuild a ruined city;
but prayer can water an arid soul,
mend a broken heart
and rebuild a weakened will.



Deborah Paton
Delighted to meet a local!

Prior to attending the Retreat, I was stretched beyond what I thought I was capable of, losing my joy in the process.

In engaging with the process, of slowing down, listening, and being mindful of our surroundings in our Lord Jesus' presence alongside like-minded people, I received confirmation of my need to go with the flow of the Spirit, being invited into the day ahead, walking in grace and love. Just being. Today being sufficient. As I was refreshed my joy was re-established.

I discovered that the communion of the saints does not require speech any more than enjoying Christ's presence does.



Brian Paton

After a few intensive months at work I jumped at the chance to go with Debbie, Raewyn and Miriam to Oban on Rakiura Stewart Island. I didn't attend the retreat but did enjoy evening meals with all the attendees.

So I spent most of my time doing virtually nothing, lazing in the Presbyterian Manse with a stunning view and kaka for company. It is the longest period (ever) that this old active restler has spent just reading, sleeping and going for walks. The highlight was a walk around predator-free Ulva Island which is a small sample of what Jesus originally created NZ to be like. So many birds, all living in harmony and flourishing - fantails flitting around Kaka and Mohua, Saddlebacks, Kakariki flocks on the ground and in the tree tops. What a wonderful way to restore one's soul!



Ticket for the Ulva island Ferry



Saddleback



Stewart Island Robin



Dear God, there are times when I hear your voice most clearly in greenness;
in the singing of sap, the conversation of the leaves,
the whisperings of shoot and stem, root, sap and cell, calling me back to creation,
to feel again the freshness of You running through everything
like a bright emerald current.

From 'Greenness' Joy Cowley Aotearoa Psalms

Out & About

Our people out in the community



In this issue of Nativity News, we invited contributions from our people involved in Blenheim's new Library and Art Gallery. We asked them to recount how their involvement has developed over the years.

At Nativity, Glenn Webster is seen at the sound desk on a regular basis at Sunday morning 10.00a.m. services. Also, he and his wife, Linda, for some time, regularly served morning tea after the service. Glenn and Linda have three children and two grandchildren.

Alastair and Gaylene Elliot have been an integral part of the Nativity family for many years. They attend the 8:00a.m. services where Alastair is a member of the choir and plays the organ on occasions.

GLENN WEBSTER - LIBRARIES MANAGER - MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT LIBRARIES

I'm a fifth-generation Marlburian on my father's side. My great, great, great grandparents, William and Jane Robinson, settled in the Wairau in 1848. My great, great Webster grandparents arrived in Picton on the "Carnatic" in 1875 - the only ship to bring immigrants directly from London to Picton.

One of my primary school teachers at Whitney Street School was Miss Miriam Wilkie, later to become Mrs Miriam Taylor. At College, when thinking about career options, I considered being a primary school teacher or a librarian. A vacancy at the then-Blenheim Municipal Library sealed my fate!

In 1984, while employed, I completed my studies at Wellington Teachers College graduating with a New Zealand Library Studies Certificate. I was then appointed Children's Librarian / Deputy Librarian. At this time membership was free to those who lived in the Borough, with a subscription fee charged to County residents.

In May 1989 the library moved to the corner of Arthur and Seymour Streets (the old Dalgety site) a renovated 1,400 square metre building.

On 1 November 1989, the three local authorities amalgamated. I was appointed District Librarian, responsible for District-wide library services. The library became the Marlborough District Library offering free membership to all Marlborough residents.

In 1992, the library introduced an automated circulation and online catalogue system. This eliminated many of the manual circulation tasks and streamlined backroom duties. Free public internet and Wi-Fi services were to follow, funded through the National Library of NZ.

In November 2017, Picton Library and Service Centre Waitohi Whare Mātauranga opened and self-service kiosks were introduced.

Services and resources offered include e-audio and e-books, Tech Kits, reading programmes, Fiero coding club, LEGO club, group and one-on-one device/software training and assistance, 3D printing, housebound and rest home visits and JP services.

By Glenn Webster

On 12 May 2023, the 3,600 sq. metre Te Kahu o Waipuna opened containing the Marlborough Library, Marlborough Art Gallery and CBD Café. On 31 July the 100,000th visitor was recorded.



GAYLENE AND ALASTAIR ELLIOTT

GALLERY VOLUNTEERS - ART GALLERY - WHARE TOI.



It began with a phone call out of the blue in 1998, 'Would Gay and I be interested in attending a meeting called to establish a Civic Art Gallery in Blenheim'?

We were still on our Awatere family farm involved with the Awatere Church of the Epiphany at the time; with the spectre of retirement on the horizon and a shared interest in art and music, we attended the founding meetings of the then Millennium Gallery. We both became Friends of the Gallery carrying out weekly duties behind the front desk, helping and hosting fundraising events over the twenty-three years of transitioning to the new combined "Te Kahu O Waipuna" Library and Art Gallery.

My own roles as deputy chair of trustees and finance committee have been both a privilege and a rewarding responsibility. It has been a time for both of us to engage with people outside the bounds of our former community, forge new friends and tackle new issues.

Our continuing duties of greeting, asking and doing our best to engage with people, very much reflect the call on members of the Nativity parish to convey and practice a service of involvement and example of Christianity amongst the community, family, friends and strangers alike. The Art Gallery has a duty to encourage and inspire an appreciation of artworks "Ancient and modern".

By Alastair Elliot



*"We are artists
because
God is"
Peter Kreeft*



CREATION CARE

By Rose Francis

God created a rich and functioning earth and sea, providing all living things with food, water, fresh air and all that is needed to thrive. However, pollution of land, sea, air, and space, is increasing.

As humans, we are charged with being faithful stewards of our world as God commanded.

It is good to see local efforts to clear rubbish and destructive weeds from our waterways.

Picking up litter left by others may not seem important, but it will keep our land tidy, stop the spread of harmful bacteria and perhaps save a creature from ingesting inedible items. It is a good witness, particularly to our young people, for whom our actions speak more loudly than our words.

An elderly man who a bucket in the undergrowth and hauls it out during droughts to water young trees growing along the river walkway.

Another person deals with wilding pines on the hills. Some protect monarch butterflies and raise orphaned birds. Feeding birds in winter, with suitable grain, slices of fruit, and sugar water helps them through the chilly winter to be in peak shape for breeding.



Growing native plants with berries, and flowers that attract and provide pollen for abundant insect and bird pollinators, brings such diversity and interest to the smallest gardens. Even potted natives and flowers on the porch encourage our biodiversity to flourish.

Many prefer to compost food waste rather than toss it in bins where it ends up rotting in the landfill producing methane gases. We are learning the value of recycling and reducing waste.

We are so blessed in Blenheim to have beautiful natural attractions around our town; sea, lakes, rivers, hills, walkways, cycle trails, wetlands and tramping routes.

As spring brings new life to birds, animals and plants, we stand in awe at the intricacy of God's seasons, and it spurs us to consider our role in keeping creation pristine for our future generations to enjoy.



Missions

Report by Pam Neal
Secretary Diocesan Missions Council
and Nativity Missions Contact



What do Japan, Cambodia, Middle East, Central and South Asia, Pakistan, Nepal, Uganda, Jordan, have in common?? Mission partners from the NZ Church Missionary Society work in or into these countries, some being in very sensitive areas so little information can be published.

In New Zealand, CMS also supports the work of the five Māori evangelists. In the 19th century, Māori Christians spread the Gospel throughout the country, often arriving before missionaries. This initiative continues that work and they appreciate our support and prayers for protection and grace as they bring much blessing to the areas in which they work.

Howard and Muriel Karaka are working in the Port Waikato area and have many opportunities to minister at funerals, on the Marae and wherever there is an opening.

Keri-Ann Hokianga works in South Auckland, reaching out in many ways, including a weekly half hour radio service in English and Māori.

Fran Hokianga works in the Far North.

Troy Nathan is the most recent person to join the team. Troy loves Jesus and began to follow him while in prison. The person he assaulted brought him a Bible and a chocolate! and that began his journey wanting to learn more and now years later he is delighted to begin this new ministry.



Muriel & Howard
Karaka



Keri-Ann Hokianga



Troy Nathan



Fran Hokianga

The support of Anglican Missions is very important and our church makes a monthly contribution to Anglican missions. CMS missionaries originally came via England, and the NZ branch began in Nelson over 200 years ago. Also established in Nelson was the "Anglican Missions Board" as it was then known so that funds could be raised from the wider church. However sometimes there is confusion over the relationship between AM (Ang missions) and NZ CMS though they do work well together. So to simplify the relationship we can say that AM is the overall umbrella to provide publicity and raise funds and CMS is the "sending organisation" to commission the people to many different parts of the world.

Service with a Smile

Paul Burrough



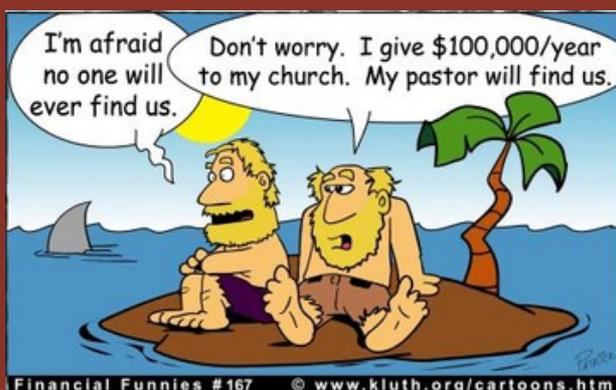
Since joining Nativity Church in 1991 Paul has willingly served in many ways.

While Jan was working at Nativity as the receptionist, Paul's contribution as a voluntary handyman was called upon often, a situation that continued on past Jan's retirement in 2019 and more recently has increased.

It's not easy to list all the areas where Paul has quietly gone about helping, fixing and generally keeping things working and tidy around Nativity. Some less well-known achievements include assisting the Children and Youth ministries (in the early days), working with Blue Door when it was first established, painting the side chapel, building Nativity's food pantry, and making the cross for the front of the reception desk.

His most recent project has been the refurbishment of the seat on the lawn at the front of Nativity. Added to that list are the more mundane essentials we so often take for granted including lawn-mowing (in days before the contractor) and more recently, raking leaves and acorns, water pressure cleaning the buildings and surrounds, and general maintenance. Paul also enjoys being involved in a care-cell, a number of prayer activities in the parish, assisting with communion and in his words "keeping a pew warm".

Just for a Giggle!



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

U I J K O O J N R T L U S E X O D U S N D I E M
 L H G S N P U O K C T G H N I J S W P F W S P J
 M C E H N J M B F S E M A J A O R K R Q E A M E
 W A N H I A Z H L E I K E Z E I U F Z S R I U R
 Z L E T N T I J O S H U A Z Q P P T Y U B A H E
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 T E E A N R X R N N X E S A R D S A N O S J P D
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 A A H J E M L N E D H V X T V T E K H P H G V N
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 N S Q I T P O S D A N I E L O E U K J S M A R K
 S C O I O R N E H A B A K K U K Y S R E B M U N
 S B R E V O R P E Q Y J J U D G E S T H E R B Q

Acts	Amos	Chronicles	Colossians	Corinthians	Daniel	Deuteronomy
Ecclesiastes	Ephesians	Esther	Exodus	Ezekiel	Ezra	Galatians
Genesis	Habakkuk	Haggai	Hebrew	Hosea	Isaiah	James
Jeremiah	Job	Joel	John	Jonah	Joshua	Jude
Judges	Kings	Lamentations	Leviticus	Luke	Malachi	Mark
Matthew	Micah	Nahum	Nehemiah	Numbers	Obadiah	Peter
Philemon	Philippians	Proverbs	Psalms	Revelation	Romans	Ruth
Samuel	Thessalonians	Timothy	Titus	Zechariah	Zephaniah	

SUGGESTION: MARK OT AND NT IN DIFFERENT COLOURS

Introducing...

Children and Families Leader

Hi, for those of you who don't know me, I'm Rebecca Silva. I'm very excited to have the privilege and opportunity to serve Nativity's families and children. Nativity has welcomed my husband, Silas, myself and our four children with genuine care since we arrived here in Blenheim in 2021. I've been teaching Sunday school since I was 17.

As a primary teacher, I love teaching and the most important thing for us to learn is to know our Creator through his Son Jesus who died for us. I hope to work together with you as families and as the church family at Nativity so that more people can know this great message. Jesus still saves and boy do we need saving!



Rebecca Silva



Bianca Shepherd

Eldercare Coordinator

Kia ora. I am Bianca, a follower of Christ, originally from Romania (moved here 15 years ago). I have graduated from Applied Languages University and work as a translator for Spanish (I studied French, German and Italian as well). I have worked for Alzheimer's NZ. I am passionate about the Gospel and sharing the Good News. I look forward to bringing glory to God in this role at Nativity Church. My husband and I have been blessed with 3 wonderful children."

Tunes 4 Tots



An Eldercare newsletter will be published each month to inform parishioners of local groups and opportunities available. This newsletter will be sent out via email and a hard copy will be available in the church for those who prefer it. Also, check out the Eldercare Facebook Page.



**Saturday, September 9th 2023
at Wairau Valley Anglican Church - Renwick.**

Get together with family and friends for Tearfunds's biggest multi-venue, nationwide quiz ever! Every dollar raised will help transform the lives of people living in poverty.

Contact Colleen Elwood 027 314 7265 or mrscaelwood@gmail.com



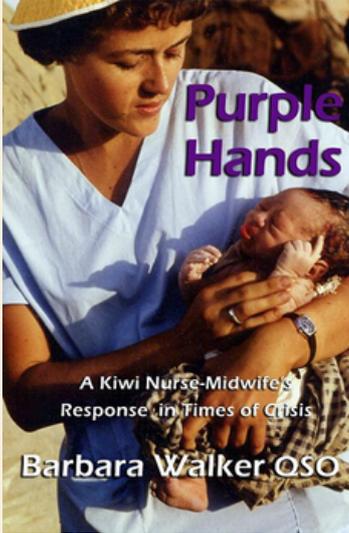
NATIVITY LIBRARY

Browse & Borrow

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, between 9.00am and 12 noon.



Katherine Mundy, newly appointed Junior Librarian, holds up the Nativity Library Bag, available for each family in the Church.



Purple Hands by Barbara Walker QSO

Reviewed by Marion Preston

I found this book quite riveting for although I too had been a midwife and I had to travel in sometimes dirt tracks up steep hills in out-of-way places - I had never felt threatened or scared, as I knew the women and the families were always pleased to see me and we had respect for each other.

However, Barbara Walker QSO, had constant obstacles to overcome and never knew what she would come across on any of her journeys. Thank goodness for her steadfast faith in God and his steady guidance!

It is not for the faint-hearted or for anyone who is a bit squeamish, as her everyday life and of those around her, were at times barely basic. How close she came to death but survived was all down to her faith in God and her stubbornness to follow where she was sure that He was leading. I have the utmost respect for her and her work for so very many poor people in terrible conditions. Her book is well worth reading.

Have you noticed?

In order to make more space in the library the theology study books, including biblical commentaries, have been shifted to the pews in Sanctuary behind the altar. These are still able to be borrowed.

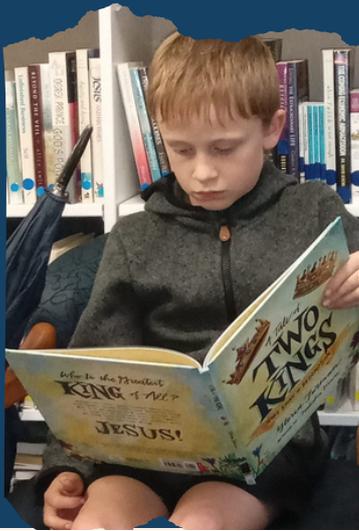
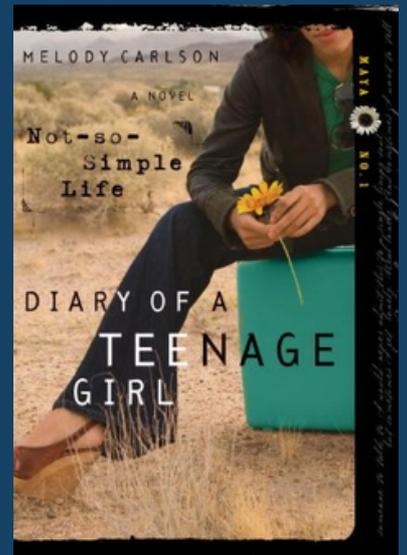
A Not-So-Simple Life - By Melody Carlson

Reviewed by Lily Ashworth

A Not-So-Simple Life follows the story of Maya Stark, the daughter of Nick Stark, a famous musician who is currently on tour. While Maya's life may seem glamorous, she is actually stuck at home with her addict mother Shannon, struggling to make ends meet. Finally, Maya decides enough is enough and gets a job to try and support herself, but that plan fails when her mother finds the money and Maya is back to square one. So she goes back to work and starts over, but when Shannon gets arrested Maya doesn't know what to do.

She packs up and goes to stay with her cousin Kim and Uncle Allen who bring her back to a calm and balanced lifestyle. While staying there she finds her faith and things work out for her.

I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to those who are feeling a little lost. Maya's story is very inspiring and shows us that with God's help, you can always turn your life around.



Team AWESOME!

Meet our new
Fun and Fundraising Team



Stephen and Nikki Leitch, Janet Guard and Konrad Cross

The Midwinter Dinner held on 19th June at Bamboo Gardens, with a silent auction, was their first fundraiser, towards Nativity's Hall renovations. The auction items were 'food themed' and included delectable food hampers, gift baskets, craft beers, wine, poultry, French-style macarons, a Celebration Cake, invitations to High Teas, Wine Tasting and more!



Wine Tasting at the Tyneys'



A very convivial 'High Tea' was held at the Tyneys' home with fourteen guests. Rod entertained by playing many of the old favourite melodies on his piano.



Gift Basket

Hilary de Bruyn gave demonstrations in making French Macarons.



Raewyn Parkes & Jan Burrough hosted High Tea at Raewyn's home

TUNES 4 TOTS

Fridays @ 9:30am
Suzanne Kellaway - Coordinator



This year we have had quite an upheaval with the move across the road to the Wesley Centre and we look forward to our new hall and kitchen. We were sad to lose lovely Linda Lloyd this year but very appreciative of her musical input to our programme for the previous year. The music leadership role this year has been a combined alternate effort between Kathy Taylor and Sarah Ashworth, which has been brilliant.

Although our number of wee ones has been down it is still a lovely group of mothers, dads and caregivers. The all-important play session afterwards is a lovely time for catch-ups with our yummy morning tea.

Please come along and see what we do. Music starts at 9.30am on Friday during the school term in the Wesley Centre - across the road from Nativity carpark.



NBAS

Nativity Beer Appreciation Society

A visit to John Neal's shed on
Sunday, 20th August



BAPTISM AT NATIVITY

Three baptism candidates speak about what their baptism meant to them

TYLER MULITALO

I am 14. I enjoy school and like to do my best. My favourite sports are rugby and rugby league. I would really like to be able to be a rugby player when I leave school and possibly even an All Black. I may go to university and perhaps focus on maths because I'm quite good at maths. I chose to get baptized because I know that getting baptized strengthens my relationship with God. The main reason I think this is good is because I trust God will help me in all I do, especially when I ask for His help.



LUCAS MULITALO

I am 14 and enjoy history, especially around the time of the two world wars. I admire the traditions and dress from that era along with the Peaky Blinders. My favourite sport is rugby but I am doing rowing on Sunday mornings for the next 6 weeks as I did well in the rowing test we did in PE at school. I think I'd like to join the police when I leave school. I chose to get baptized because I felt like God was speaking to me and telling me to. I thought it would be like this movie *Di took us to - the Jesus Revolution* - but it was much different. Well, it wasn't slow-mo! It was amazing though. Deus vult.

BROOKLYN MULITALO

I am 14 (like my brothers). My favourite subject at school is English. I've always enjoyed drawing so I guess you could say it's a hobby. I might go to university and study architecture when I leave college. I am learning piano which I really enjoy and my favourite sports are rugby and league. I would really love to play rugby professionally when I'm older. I chose to get baptized because I wanted to strengthen my relationship with the Lord. Plus I liked the baptism candles!

MARLBOROUGH'S RETIRED AND NOT-SO-RETIRED CLERGY!



There are eighteen retired and 'not-so-retired' Anglican clergy and their spouses in Marlborough, living as far afield as St. Arnaud and Havelock. Actually, most are in the 'not-so-retired' category and still officiating and preaching regularly in our churches.



Three times a year this group gather together over a midday meal and enjoy catching up and sharing news. This year we have twice met at Spring Creek in St. Luke's Hall which is a lovely quiet venue, preferable to a restaurant, for those with hearing aids! In March Bishop Steve joined us and we began with a Communion Service in the church. He expressed his appreciation for the continuing faithful service given by this group.

Coordinator - Miriam Taylor

Hall Redevelopment

Since February this year, the hall has been expanded, ranch sliders installed in the north-facing wall, the new kitchen is almost completed and store rooms framed.



Shortly, the walls will be painted, the kitchen completed, along with the accessible toilet and store rooms. Following this, the toilets will be renovated, and the ramps and outdoor pergolas will be built. The building works are currently on schedule to be completed by the end of the year!



WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday 8.00am NZPB Communion
Sunday 10.00am Family Communion

Thursday 10.00am St. Barnabas Chapel

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES

Sunday 10.00am
First Steps; Nativity Kids; Nativity Youth

Tunes 4 Tots Friday 9.30am
During School Term

*Currently held at Wesley Centre,
Henry Street*

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