



# Nativity News

Nativity  
ANGELICAN FAMILY  
*A place in the sun!*

Spring 2016

## FLOWER GUILD CONVENOR HAS FLOWER POWER!



Vivienne James (nee Large) has 'flower power'. It is part of her genetic makeup, which is not surprising since both Father and Grandfather Large were nurserymen. Large's Rose Nursery has been in the forefront of the horticulture industry in Blenheim for many years.

Fifty four years ago Vivienne married Roy James and in 1976 they established James Nursery at St. Andrew's, on the outskirts of Blenheim. There they had a thriving plant business until they retired, twenty one years later. The horticultural genes have been passed down, with two of their sons in the business..... David owns David James Tree and Landscaping Services, and Philip and Wendy James, are the owners of James Nursery, in Alabama Road.

Vivienne became the Convenor of the Nativity Flower and Brass Guilds in 2003. She says it is a joy for her to share her God-given gift and love for flowers and creative arrangements with her Nativity family. The beautiful and often fragrant arrangements on the Nativity reception desk are created weekly by Vivienne. **The other Flower Guild members are, Maureen Parratt, (Assistant Convenor), Jean Drake, Elaine Hadfield, Peggy Woolley, Gwenda Gardiner, Pam Neal, Raewyn Parkes, Catherine Branson, Ngaire Newman and Gaye Elliot.** This devoted group have been called on to provide floral arrangements for every occasion in the church. They delight Nativity congregations time and again with their exquisite and creative arrangements - especially for seasonal celebrations such as Pentecost, Palm Sunday, Spring Flower Sunday, Harvest Thanksgiving (with various themes such as, Grandma's Pantry, Orchard Harvest, The Vineyard, Honey, Mussels, Lavender, Nuts and Olives), Garden Marlborough floral displays, and for special occasions such as the Sesquicentennial of Nativity, and the Bi-centennial of the first Christian Service held in New Zealand, on Christmas Day 1814. Vivienne keeps photo albums of the many arrangements and displays to help give ideas and inspiration in the future. 'Thank you', Vivienne and the Flower Guild for your wonderful work.



Pentecost Flame



Bicentennial of First Christian Service





## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - Rosemary Francis

**Ah the sweet music of Spring – a word full of anticipation.** Dictionary meanings for 'spring' include 'to move upward and forward;' 'to be released from a forced position or imprisonment', and, 'the natural outflow of ground water.' Also, 'the earliest and freshest time of the year.' All of these descriptions of 'Spring' apply to our Christian walk and add to a delightful season for us to enjoy. In this Spring issue of *Nativity News*, we are featuring the floral ministries and the musicians who lead our worship. They use their God-given talents to honour Him and to bless our church family.

J Edwards wrote: "Every saint in Heaven is as a flower in the gardens of God, and every soul there is as a note in some concert of delightful music." Music is love in search of a word. "It is the universal language of man." (Longfellow.) The Chinese character for music is literally "happy sound."



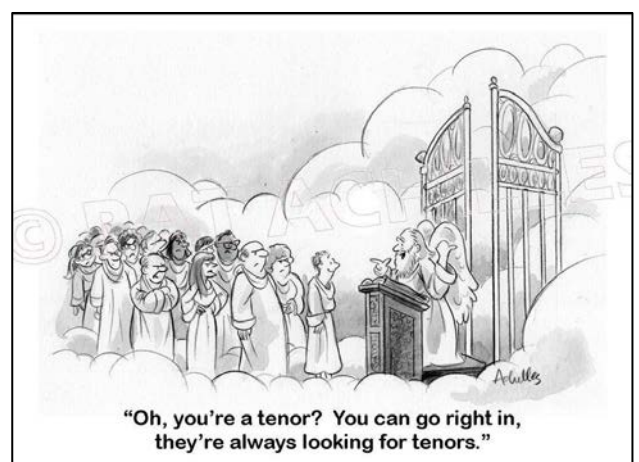
I can think of no better symbol of spring than the busy little birds, nesting and greeting every new day with a joyful song. We can learn a lot from the birds and the bees; they sing and buzz in the bush even when there's no one around to hear them. Like them, God has a song for each of us to sing, and when we have learned it amid the shadows of our challenges, we can sing it for ever. Our music may change, but our message does not.

(The wood for the best violins comes from the wind-beaten side of the tree. Exposure to pressure, buffeting and difficulty strengthens wood and refines the grain, which helps the violin to 'sing'). At times like this, we shouldn't whine to be released. Let's ask God for strength to make our sadness sing. "He taught me to sing a new song. A song of praise to our God" (Psalm 40 v 2.) We are all 'strings' in the concert of God's Joy. And a word of encouragement for the elderly, is the proverb "The older the fiddle, the sweeter the tune"

Remember, Nativity, our church is not a trumpet corps; but an orchestra. We are not all supposed to sound alike because each of us is a different-shaped instrument. Add your simple melody to the rich harmony of our joined praise and worship. God doesn't order us to sing in tune. He encourages us to "make a joyful noise to our Lord."



Our earthly life is but a short rehearsal for a symphony we cannot stay to perform. Time is the rehearsal; Eternity the symphony. So, "Sing hymns of praise to the Lord. Play music on the harp to our God" as we prepare for the Heavenly choir.



NN Editorial Team:  
Heather Murchison, Jo Danks,  
Rosemary Francis, Miriam Taylor





## BOB'S BLOG - from Bob Barnes – Vicar

Springtime is an exciting time of year, and it's like springtime at Nativity.

We have a great leadership team, good administrative systems, and now – at the right time – several important projects that are coming together. The two biggest ones are to do with addressing the earthquake strengthening of Nativity church, and developing our youth ministry again.



After waiting for an Engineering report and some supporting information Vestry have appointed a 5 person task force to help the Parish into a listening and discussion phase of discernment. The 5 people are Margaret Rodley, Lyall Daines, Keith Buck, Brian Powell and Rosemeire Cookson. They will have a slideshow which explains what needs doing and some open questions, with which to go to as many small groups in the Parish. We need to develop our skills to listen to God and to each other, to discern what sort of building will be required into the next 50 years and more. In other words – what faith legacy are we leaving for our grandchildren?

It's an exciting time ahead. The Book of the Song of Solomon in the Bible describes God as a bridegroom, and the church as his beloved.

*My beloved speaks and says to me:*

*'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;*

*<sup>11</sup> for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.*

*<sup>12</sup> The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land.*

*<sup>13</sup> The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.*

*Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away (Chapter 2 v10-13)*



Yes it's springtime in the church, and God is inviting us on a journey. I hope you will catch the vision and be excited enough to join with God and his beloved church at Nativity.

God bless

ANTICIPATING



CHRISTMAS

## ARE YOU READY FOR JESUS BIRTHDAY?



At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear.....Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Luke 1:39-45

### FOR YOUR DIARY – TO HELP CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Christmas in the Park Sunday -11<sup>th</sup> Dec 5pm

Eileen Guard's Christmas Concert- Mon 12<sup>th</sup> 7pm

9 Lessons and Carols -Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve - Carols 10.30pm.....

Midnight Service begins at 11.00 pm

Christmas Day 8.00 am – Communion

Christmas Day Family Celebration – 10.00 am

## FROM THE ORGAN BENCH – by HILARY YOUNGMAN

Music is an important part of worship, a God-given gift that lifts us above the ordinary and mundane. We are fortunate at Nativity to have worship services with distinctly different musical styles, so whether our musical tastes are traditional or lean more towards the modern, there is something that speaks to each of us.

We have a magnificent organ at Nativity, and it has been an honour, a privilege, and my great joy to serve God as organist here. It is impossible to use the full resources of the organ at Sunday services apart from Easter Sunday and Christmas Day (you can't play O Come all ye Faithful on a soft flute stop only!) owing to the position so close to the congregation, but it is the best possible instrument for accompanying congregational singing, having a quality of sound that no other instrument can match.

In spite of its size, the pipe organ is a surprisingly delicate instrument. It is tuned twice a year, to winter temperature and summer temperature. However, things like nor'west winds can put the Trumpet out of tune, and I have known it to be in tune at 8am, and completely out by 9am. Fortunately there are other Reed stops available and they are not quite as weather-sensitive. It is a very good idea to try the organ before a service, to check what does or doesn't work! Organists become adept at working around small or intermittent faults.

Apart from the normal chuff sound as a pipe “speaks,” there are sometimes noises of a more alarming nature that can mean repairs are needed. When it comes to attention between tuner's visits, Alastair and Ken, under tuner's instructions, are very helpful, and I thank them both for this. On several occasions they have been able fix something which would otherwise have made the organ limited or un-useable.

Which leads me to the choir, a very committed group, who look on their musical contribution as an act of worship in itself. Rehearsals are a big part of choir life, and along with the hard work there is enjoyment and a real unity of purpose in our choir as we prepare to serve God and His people each week. Practices are never dull, and there is always plenty of laughter.



Thanks are due to Eileen, for all her hard work for Sunday by Sunday music, and thanks too, to Alastair for preparing us for such services as Choral Evensong and Nine Lessons and Carols. There is plenty of behind-the-scenes work preparing music and other tasks necessary to the smooth running of the choir, and that work by various choir members is much appreciated. Thank you.



Back at the organ – thank you to Ken for playing at 8am once a month, and using his musical gifts in this way. At 10am, thanks to Rod for his musical contribution on the first Sunday of the month, and thanks to Grant Wright from St Andrews, who often plays at 10am at Nativity on the third Sunday of the month. No, I haven't taken the day off – I am playing in Grant's place at St Andrews that day. A little inter-church co-operation! The organ is rightly known as the King of Instruments, and organists are a privileged group, with insight into something very special.

May God bless all musicians who use their gifts for Him, and may He also bless the people who are led by them in worship







## THE 8.00 AM CHOIR

Ken Smeaton, Peter Sangwine, Alistair Elliot, Richard Shattock, Toshiko Collinson, Natalia Shabanava, Pat Parkinson, Eileen Guard.

Margaret Hastings on previous page  
Hilary Youngman organist / pianist

### ABSENT:

Rev. Kevin Thompson,  
Rev. Putiputi Thompson,  
Jocelyn Wilkes



**THE 10.00 AM MUSIC TEAM** – From left – Hamish Harper, Dave Martin, Jan Burrough, Robyn Rolston, Christopher Cookson, Rev. Bob Barnes, Libby Barnes. Absent: Rachel Powell



## THE 7.00 PM MUSIC TEAM

*I will sing and make music with all my soul...  
I will praise you, O Lord, amongst the nations.  
I will sing of you among the peoples.  
Psalm 108:1,3*



Bruce Vallance, Peter Lewis, David Plant, Fabio Silva



## THE FLOWER, BRASS AND LINEN GUILDS - SERVICE WITH A SMILE!

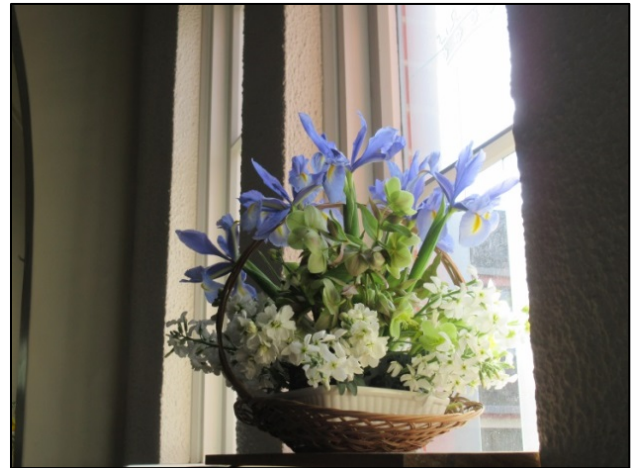
Doreen Hester



Gwenda Gardiner



Jean Drake – Convenor of Linen Guild



**BRASS GUILD** – Vivienne James ( Convenor), Anne Dillon, Annette Vercoe, Doreen Hester, Valda Henderson, Elizabeth March, Heather Wadsworth, Jane Sheat, Catherine Branson, Jocelyn Wilkes, Willis Alford, Maureen McPhail

**LINEN GUILD**- Jean Drake (Convenor), Suzanne Sampson, Fay Johnstone, Alison Fuller, Anne Dillon, Annette Vercoe, Jocelyn Wilkes

**FLOWER GUILD**- Vivienne James (Convenor), Maureen Parratt (Assistant), Jean Drake, Elaine Hadfield, Peggy Woolley, Gwenda Gardiner, Pam Neal, Raewyn Parkes, Catherine Branson, Ngaire Newman, Gaye Elliot

If you would like to serve God and His Church by becoming a member of one of these Guilds please contact Vivienne, or Jan at the Office.



**R. How long have you been the Chaplain at Wairau Hospital?**

K. Just over 16 years, I started in July 2000 although I have also worked and trained at Middlemore Hospital, Auckland Hospital, and Porirua Psychiatric Hospital.

**R. What is the 'job' of a Chaplain?**

K. It is quite extensive and varied. Mainly it is to provide both Pastoral and Spiritual Care to patients, family, and staff, irrespective of their beliefs or values, or non-belief. However, we must never postulate, and can only share the Gospel if welcomed, or invited to do so. My role also involves various

meetings with staff and other health professionals, taking Chapel services for special occasions, administrative tasks, and training and supervising our team of Chaplaincy assistants.

**R. Are other members of Nativity involved?**

K. Yes. We have a very valued team of VCA's ( volunteer chaplain assistants ) from different Churches, which includes Stan & Moira Paul, and Jo Lane. Until recently Jenni Bowers was also involved. They play an integral part of this ministry.

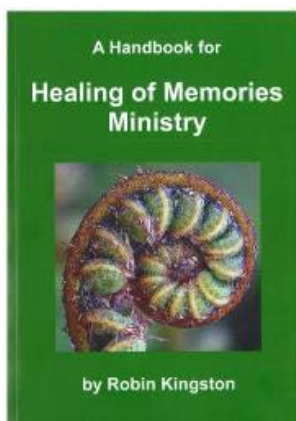
**R. Who funds this ministry?**

K. The ICHC ( Inter-church Council for Hospital Chaplaincy ) is the national governing body, through them, the Ministry of Health, and the DHB pay half of the cost of Chaplaincy. The remaining half has to be funded locally. We are fortunate in Blenheim, that every Church in the Ministers Association support and contribute towards these costs, in addition we run fund raising events from time to time, and individuals sometimes also make a contribution.

**R. What is your personal reward?**

K. Being able to make a difference to a patient or family, by "being there" to offer support during a time of anxiousness, suffering, grief, or death. Sometimes a listening ear is all that is required. Although in my experience, very few people ever turn down the offer of a prayer, even if they have little or a distant experience of faith. Chaplaincy is a very rewarding ministry.

**BOOK REVIEW - By Kevin Gwynne.**



In his introduction Robin makes it clear that this is not a book for those advanced in this ministry, but rather a handbook for those with limited experience, or those wanting to begin.

Robin urges us as Christians to become involved in this ministry, adding we will "be surprised " at the results we see. Yes, he says, people are set free from their past, because God is gracious and loving!

The book is presented in two parts. The first covers the basic principles and concepts of how Healing of Memories ministry is conducted, and what is involved.

Part two goes into more specific detail and provides valuable insights in applying this ministry. Although at times a bit repetitive, Robin writes in a clear, easy to read style with great clarity on his subject. The book consists of a number of small chapters making it concise and simple to follow.

This Handbook is interspersed with personal stories and testimonies of people who have experienced past traumas, suffering, or had bad events that have happened to them, however through the Healing of Memories ministry, they have been healed through prayer and the grace of God.

Scripture is also helpfully used throughout, to endorse and emphasise the principles outlined in this ministry.

Robin says, "Loss or grief never goes away - but how we handle it is what counts."

And finally another quote, which really sums up the essence of the book, and it's subject.

"God wants to see His people being healed of the effects of past hurts, and He wants us to be able to help them be healed."

*Footnotes: 1. Archdeacon Robin Kingston is the former Vicar of Greymouth, now semi-retired, but remains actively involved in this ministry. 2. 'Healing of Memories' is in the Nativity Parish Library.*



## The Joy of Being Involved – Roz Mundy

Hello! I am Rosalind (Roz) Mundy, wife to Dion and mother of Alice (7) Katherine (4) and Aaron (2), and a face many of you will recognise from behind the scenes.

A ministry fair, soon after Dion and I joined Nativity as newly-weds, was really quite exciting. We soon became *involved* with a cell group, special events and then children's ministry and morning teas. This helped us to get to know a segment of the church quite quickly and feel more at home.



Roz and Dion Mundy – Valued Leaders at Nativity



I have been *involved* in **First Steps**, the programme for the youngest children in our church (mostly under 5's), since I became a new mother and more and more I see this as a real family ministry that I can both contribute to and benefit from greatly. **While our focus is on the children I think that this programme can also affect the lives of whole families.** Some days the Bible story, prayer and discussion we share each week with the children can really impact on a family, especially those to whom Christ is new, but other times the most important ministry to a family is to give the parent(s) a break from their responsibilities and a chance to listen and worship with others. The lounge, home to First Steps on a Sunday morning, can be a support network and for me the support and love from our

special helpers, especially those that have grown up children and have been through the ups and downs of parenthood, is an invaluable part of this ministry.

As much as I enjoy time sharing with our little people I also appreciate the opportunity to listen to a sermon and take part in a regular service. As parents, Dion and I both believe that it is important for our children to grow learning to love God and want to learn more about Him and share Him with others. It is also important to us that they create strong relationships with other Christians of all ages.

In a recent survey by Scripture Union, 30% of responding churches in New Zealand had less than 10 children attending or none at all. We are very fortunate at Nativity to have a congregation large enough to allow for a paid Children and Family ministry worker (Sue Howarth), and be able to share the ministry with more than 1 or 2 leaders on a Sunday (unlike 53% of churches), but there is always room for growth and more support for those that are *involved*. There are a lot of pressures on us all in society and church attendance can very easily be pushed to the side as other activities or just the need for rest take its' place. The survey also showed that 67% of churches are running a pre-school music programme **We have had families join Nativity as a result of our outreach via Tunes for Tots and consider this a very important aspect of this ministry.** *Being involved* in **Tunes for Tots** is an amazing experience

seeing the wide range of families who attend and enjoy music, movement, play, food and fellowship.

Do come along one Friday during term-time, have a chat to some of the parents and caregivers or the children and see for yourself!

**Tunes For Tots**



**Spring**

**Mundy Musing in  
by Dion Mundy**





As the days warm up and blossoms start to open I can't help but think of God. We live on a lifestyle block, so we see God creation each day in the world around us as we feed the hens and prepare to milk the goats. We love sharing this lifestyle with Alice, Katherine and Aaron as it lets them experience the wonder of all the life around us that the LORD has made. We can stop and show them a blossom about to open and talk about how it could become a fruit if the bees pollinate it. We can turn the compost and find all the creepy crawlies in the heap and explain that God has a purpose for each and every one of them. Our children get to experience general revelation (God in the world around us) so we can link this to our reading with them of God's word in the Bible. In spring with new life and new growth it seems a lot easier to explain hope and rebirth.

However we also have to face other aspects of the Bible we might not find so palatable. I work the dirt to feed my family in the here and now due to Adam's sin. We live in a broken world due to sin and we are not yet back in the perfect relationship with God. However I have hope due to God's promise in Christ. God wants us back and has shown us his plan to redeem us. We must accept his gift of grace to return home to him.

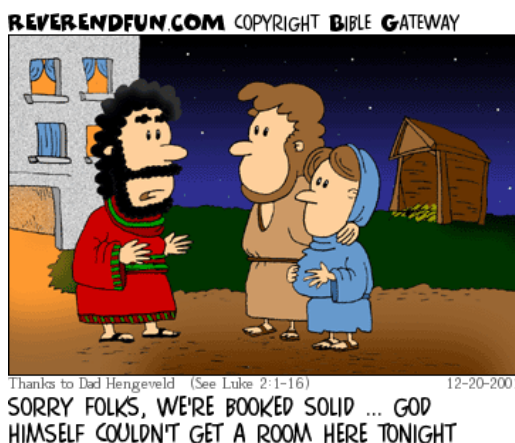
While I can accept God's grace, I still have to face the consequences of living in a broken world. I know that come autumn I will have to kill the pigs in the sty and some of the goats. Christ's perfect sacrifice means the goats will not have to die for my sin but the blood will still be on my hands so that I can help feed my family. I make sure that any animal we grow to eat has a good life and we do not waste the lives we take. I am reminded that in the time to come we will not need to take life to survive. That we will live with God without death and without sin.

So what must we do before then? We are called to spread the Good News. We should start at home. First our family, then our friends and then our wider community. The LORD has provided us with his word and also the world around us to bear witness to him. We are called to be stewards of the resources we do have and should not be wasteful of what we have received. So in our case we try to manage the land so that it can continue to feed families after ours. We plant trees and encourage growth. And we pray.

We accept that some things we plan do not happen and celebrate the things that do. But most of all in our family we start meals with, "Thank you LORD ...." and invite God in to our whole life not just the small part we spend at church.



## ANTICIPATING CHRISTMAS



VISITING  
OUR



SOME OF



## SEASONAL CONGREGATION ON THEIR OWN TURF – NICCI LEITCH



*Over the past 5 years our carecell has befriended a small group of men from the Solomon Islands who have worked in the vineyards over the summer season.* We have dragged them up mountains clearing rat traps and killing pine trees, taken them out on the Sounds fishing, given them paint brushes and garden tools to clean up houses and we've had them around for Christmas. In particular, we have become good friends with Selwyn and George. This is how our visit to the Solomon's developed. It was never intended as a mission - it was a trip to meet their families and experience a snippet of their lives.

So in July, Stephen, myself, our daughter Gabby and Konrad Cross set off for an 8 day adventure in the Solomon Islands. We spent time in George's village on the Island of Malaita, meeting his family, participating in a church service, visiting the school, swimming in their private beach and swimming hole, helping prepare the coconut for the meal, being entertained by the whole village with wonderful music and dance and most memorable was a walk in rain the like we have never experienced before – we couldn't have been wetter.

We then spent time with Selwyn's family who live in a boarding school complex an hour from Honiara. We stayed with the Anglican Melanesian Brothers where Stephen and Konrad enjoyed attending 6am mass. Once again Gabby helped prepare cassava pudding which involved banana leaves, layers of ground coconut and coconut milk and cooking in an open fire. We made sure we included some swimming and lots of conversations with the local teachers and brothers. There was, of course, a night of entertainment with music and dancing – amazing!

They were wonderful hosts and were proud to show us where they lived, explain how their country operated, the conflict they have experienced and the hopes they have for the future. We were truly blessed in our experience and thank God for the wonderful relationships He enabled.

### **TONY AND PIP HAWKE'S CARE CELL HOSTED VANUATU SEASONAL WORKERS WITH A BBQ LUNCH AFTER CHURCH**



*Nativity seeks to help seasonal workers to feel at home at Nativity during their time in Marlborough by encouraging them to take part in the church services; serving at Communion, reading the Lesson and delighting the congregations with their beautiful singing. Nativity also likes to offer hospitality. This group of men enjoyed a BBQ in Lawrie and Pam Saunders lovely garden. They are seen here with two members of the Care Cell, Margaret Rodley and Pam Saunders.*





## A VISIT TO KENYA – 100 YEARS ON..... by MARGARET RODLEY

My daughter and I recently spent four weeks in Kenya. We had three main objectives for the visit.

We hoped to do some family research, as in 1916 a 100 years ago my father and his first wife arrived in Nairobi as CMS (Church Missionary Society) missionaries.



We wished to go on a camping safari so we could see the amazing animal migration and experience rural culture away from the large city environment.

Most of all we wanted to spend time with a Kenyan family we have known since the 1970s. As a small boy, we sponsored the father through 'Save the Children'. We have kept in touch over the years and Gordon and I saw him in 1989 when he was in his 20's. Now 51, he has a lovely wife and four children!

Our visit more than fulfilled our expectations. We obtained little information about my father, but the quest was interesting with further research suggestions gained. The safari was fantastic. We saw the 'Big Five' animals plus numerous others. The village visits too were so interesting. Best of all the many times we saw Moses and the family have cemented our friendship more.



Moses is training as a pastor and the family is part of a small group which started up a church at the beginning of this year. They hope to licence the church soon. Life is challenging as they lack worldly things, but they are rich. They have such a love for their Lord-so desire to serve him. Starting with 40 people the number has doubled. God is definitely using them as they invite, share the gospel, love, and nurture those in their neighbourhood, regardless of background, tribal affiliation or religious belief.

We have returned humbled and enriched.

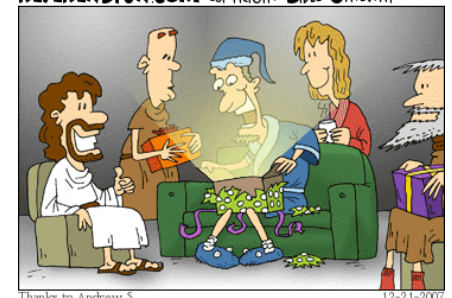


*"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.  
....A Saviour has been born to you;  
He is Christ the Lord....you will  
Find him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

ANTICIPATING  CHRISTMAS



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Thanks to Andrew S.  
ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!

THE GOLDEN OLDIES MISSION TO FIJI - by HEATHER MURCHISON





## Bula Vinaka.

For 5 years now, this team from New Zealand, founded by Graeme Mitchell and based in Christchurch has travelled to Suva for 10-14 days. The Golden Oldies idea grew from thinking that older people with life skills, work experience and (perhaps) more time and money could easily be part of a mission team. Last year our accommodation was at St John's Bible College, however, with cyclone damage and repairs underway, we were billeted at St Christopher's orphanage.

Why Fiji?? Graeme had visited and learned the plight of the squatters, approx. 100,000 (about 1/10th the country's population,) who through no fault of their own, have no land rights and live in villages, frequently without sanitation, running water and electricity. The G.Os are involved with many projects to assist these villagers.

During one's first visit, the 'interns' spend most of their time visiting these villages and places where help and compassion are evident. This is to observe and understand this side of Fiji – the side which very few tourists know much about.

During subsequent visits, the 'graduates' use their skills in various programmes.

This August was my second visit and with another nurse, spent time at the medical centre. The highlight of our time there was watching the Olympic rugby 7s final, when the centre stopped for half an hour and all the staff, patients and visitors watched the game on the only TV in the complex. It was such a special time to share with them, with all their jubilation, winning their first (able-bodied) gold medal.



*Two nebulizers donated to the Medical Centre. An answer to their prayers!*

We visited Maniava, a village a long way from anywhere, where twenty eight of their thirty two homes, with all their belongings, had 'blown into the forest' during the cyclone. Thirty two families had sheltered in the four remaining homes until the tents began arriving. We visited with food supplies, children's books, toothbrushes and pens. We hope to be involved in their rebuild when a brick making machine, using the local clay is put to use.

One day we took over the cathedral, where we ran workshops – basic home maintenance, basic accounting, sewing and craft instruction and we girls measured blood pressures and blood sugars. Diabetes is a major problem over there.



The G.Os liaise with the Bible College in Suva and are supported by the Anglican missions, the CMS and the Diocese of Polynesia, with Archbishop Winston Halapua taking an interest and thinking about increasing our involvement next year. Donations and fund raising keep us afloat. We all arrive at the airport with a minimal amount of luggage, ready for our cases to be filled with supplies and medical equipment to be taken over. Fiji Airways help with some of the extra luggage.

*For more info about this venture, please Google the Golden Oldies Mission*



*Three other Marlburians also took part in the mission.....Rev. Dawn Daunauda and Sana Daunauda, and Dr. Rob Cameron – all from Awatere.*



## THE GERIATRIC GARDEN

## NATIVITY'S GARDEN



Come, wander with me in my garden,  
which gives me great comfort each day.  
This pathway leads past the nostalgia  
to beds of dementia gay.

I'll pick you some scarlet alzheimers  
with maybe forget-ful-ness blue  
as well as a few little asthmas  
to add an alternative hue.

And now to complete your own posy,  
I'll add some sciatica sprigs  
with trimmings of climbing fibrosis  
and fragrant incontinence twigs.

My favourite bloom is arthritis  
which grows in profusion just here,  
while this hypertension's so pungent,  
It keeps all your sinuses clear.

And don't you just love that angina  
beside the glaucoma so bright!  
the flatulence perfume's exquisite  
and often much stronger at night.

There's nothing to equal a garden  
for bringing one pleasure and peace,  
where one can grow pretty offensive  
while slowly one's marbles decrease.

By Mona Randall.

*First, plant 5 rows of PEAS*

Presents – Matthew 13: 14-30  
Promptness - John 15:1  
Preparations - 2 Cor 9:6  
Purity - Gal 6:7  
Perseverance -  
Ephesians 6:18

*Plant 3 rows of SQUASH*

Squash gossip.  
Squash criticism.  
Squash indifference

*Plant 4 rows of LETTUCES*

Let us be faithful to duty  
Let us be loyal and unselfish  
Let us be true to our obligations  
Let us love one another.

*No garden is complete without TURNIPS*

Turn up for meetings,  
Turn up with a smile.  
Turn up with determination.  
Turn up with new ideas

*'WE SHALL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS.'*

*"Let us consider how to stir up one another to  
love and good works, not neglecting to meet  
together as is the habit of some, but  
encouraging one another..." (Hebrews 10 24-  
25),*

### Nativity Twilight Garden Tour

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Tickets \$10.00 per person

From Nativity Office

Meet at Nativity Car Park at

5.00 pm – leave at 5.30pm

**FAMILY SOUP AND PIZZA NIGHT - A FANTASTIC FUN OCCASION!**



**PAUL BOYS BAND AND  
BLENHEIM UKULELE  
GROUP PROVIDED  
WONDERFUL MUSICAL  
ENTERTAINMENT**



**EVERYONE GOT INTO THE HOKI TOKI!**

Photos from Chris Cookson



**THE PARISH PARTY AFTER MORNING CHURCH WAS A JOY!**



**BALLOONS, BUBBLES AND PARTY HATS!**



**Happy moments, praise God  
Difficult moments, seek God  
Quiet moments, worship God  
Painful moments, trust God  
Every moment, thank God**

SPI

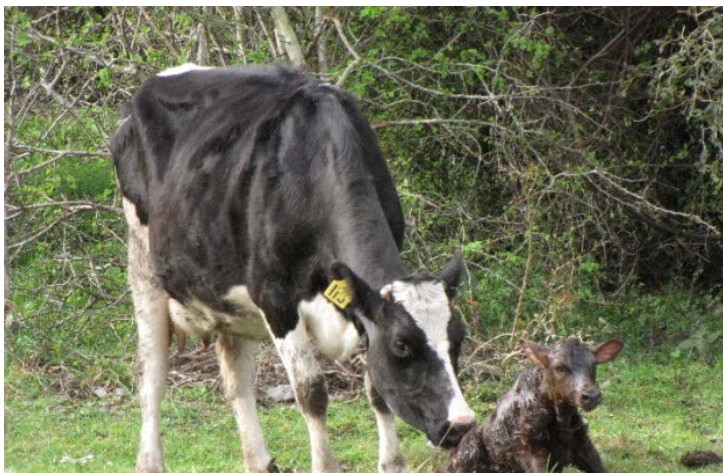


When earth escapes wintry bondage-  
 we welcome Spring to centre stage.  
 As Winter's freezing, icy blast  
 Moves on, our world thaws out at last.  
 From the hardest sod of winter chills  
 burst forth the golden daffodils.  
 After winter's chilly dearth  
 crocus, jonquils break the earth.

Snowdrop tears and violets shy  
 nestle under trees nearby.  
 Bulbs burst forth in pretty clumps  
 all around the rotting stumps.  
 Lilies' slender creamy throats  
 stretch above their leafy coats.  
 Fragile branches, empty, stark-  
 prayerfully raised; stiff and dark

Sun-swelled budlets now unfurl-  
 as ballerina blossoms whirl.  
 Petals fall like drifting snow-  
 covering all the bulbs below.  
 While nodding stems their flowers bow  
 escaping wintry mud-soil now.  
 Daffodil buds with papery tips,  
 pink camellias - painted lips.

Fragrant lilacs' cloying blooms,  
 daphne sprigs - such sweet perfumes.  
 Clouds of bold hydrangea florets  
 shielding shy half- hidden violets.  
 Freesias, mauvey, pink and cream  
 sweetly perfume every dream.  
 Pussy willows' velvety, grey-  
 catkins have turned gold today



Winter departs as Spring comes round  
 while newborn babies prance around.  
 Anticipation is dancing there-  
 Spring's sweetness on the morning air.  
 Willows dress in soft green fronds,  
 waving gently near the ponds-  
 where floats on water froggy –scum;  
 while hovering, the insects hum.

Showery days and rainbow arching,  
 tulips beside the path are marching.  
 Woody forsythia -decades old-  
 smothered with flowers, purest gold.  
 Jasmine's waxy flowers blush,  
 lavender, and sage, fragrant to crush.  
 Honeysuckle, fuchsias - nectar dripping.  
 Clover flowers in the grasses slipping.

Twittering birds in busy flight-  
 building nests with all their might.  
 Honey bees hover, noisy abuzz-  
 filling with pollen their quivering fuzz.  
 Pink and white blossoms all enchant-  
 (promise of fruitful Autumn impart.)  
 Spiders' webs of gossamer spun,  
 butterflies flutter-by one by one.

Calves, chicks, foals, baby lambs-  
 proudly follow ewes and rams.  
 Kittens, pups, squealing piglets,  
 fluffy goslings, ducklings, egrets.  
 Out with the spade, trowel and hoe-  
 seed packets opened, ready to grow.  
 Spring is here, that is the reason.  
 Thank God, it is His brand new season.

Rosemary Francis

# THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY - 76 ALFRED ST BLENHEIM

OFFICE: PHONE 5783909



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

### NOVEMBER

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Remembrance Service 7.00pm**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Nativity Twilight Garden Tour

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Coffee Connections - Raupo Cafe. 9.30 am

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> St Christopher's Market morning 9.00 am

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Seniors Luncheon – Nativity Centre 12 noon

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Secret Sisters' Reveal - Nativity Centre 2.00 pm

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Deanery Picnic at Pollard Park

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> – Susan Howarth priesting at Cathedral, Nelson – 7.00 pm**

### DECEMBER

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Family Service 10.00am & Final 7pm Evening Service

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Coffee Connections. Raupo Cafe. 9.30am

**11<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas in the Park Sunday -5.00 pm**

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Eileen Guard's Christmas Concert- 7.00 pm**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Nine Lessons and Carols- 7.00 pm**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Nat Kids Party & All Age Service – 10.00 am**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Parish Office closes**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Final Thursday 10am service for year**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve - Carols 10.30pm and...**

**....Midnight Service begins at 11.00 pm**

**Christmas Day 8.00 am – Communion**

**Christmas Day All Age Celebration – 10.00 am**

### JANUARY

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Parish Office opens.**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Coffee Connections - Raupo Cafe 9.30am**

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**8.00 am – Traditional Eucharist Service**

**10.00 am – All Age Worship Service**

**7.00 pm – Informal Service in Hall  
In recess from 4 December through January**

**Children & Youth Programmes –  
Sunday at 10.00 am – During School Term**

**TUNES FOR TOTS – 9.30 am FRIDAY  
During School Term**

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