



St Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2020



"This do in remembrance of Me."

Services of Holy Communion

**Sunday, 6 December 2020 at 9.15 and 10.30am services
Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.**



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From the Minister's Desk

Partners in God's Mission of Love

Reverend Sally Carter

Incarnation

In the recent floods in Napier, Arya Jellyman-Mason was born.



Her father, Jayden was driving home from work in Ahuriri to Pirimai and as he drove the flood waters rose higher and higher until eventually, he abandoned his car and began the last kilometre walk home. He walked on the road so that he wouldn't accidentally trip on the curb. The water was still waist deep.

At home, his wife, Emma realised that the Braxton Hicks contractions she had experienced earlier in the day were the genuine article and that their baby was no respecter of the floodwaters rising all around their house.

Jayden arrived home soaked and chilled. A friendly neighbour with a 4x4 persuaded them that it would be a good time to leave Pirimai and they headed for Taradale. The ambulances were all tied up with the emergency and the family started to prepare for a home birth - not what they had been hoping for or planning! Luckily, their midwife was able to arrange for a team to take them to hospital and at 12 49am, Arya was born.

Even those of us who had no idea this was all happening feel joy and relief at Arya's safe arrival amidst all the chaos of that night.

2000 years ago, another baby was born into this world. In our imaginings, his mother, Mary and father, Joseph, rode many kilometres along a bumpy road, anxious at every turn about the soldiers who might question them, the bandits who might threaten them and the ominous power of Rome hovering over them all the way.

Tired and hungry, they arrived at the town where the baby would be born. Perhaps Mary's contractions had been strengthening as the journey wore on. A friendly innkeeper found a safe and warm place where Mary could continue her labour and there, in the early hours of the morning (or so I always imagine!) the baby Jesus was born to the relief and joy of all who watched. The Word of God was made flesh and dwelt among us.

In this seminal story of our faith, the Word made Flesh comes among us in the floods, the political oppression, the anxiety about pandemics, jobs, flooded homes, family tensions.

In this seminal story of our faith, the messengers from Heaven invite the marginalised shepherds, the pot smokers, the gentile astrologers, the emissaries and diplomats from powerful nations from far away to come. To come to adore, to find glimpses of hope, glimpses of peace, glimpses of joy and new possibilities in the innocent eyes of a newborn child.

As we reach the end of 2020, may we know that invitation too. To know that the Christ comes into an anxious, waiting world to be with us and stay beside us as we muddle along on our all too human journey.

Richest blessings to you this strange Advent and Christmas season.

Sally

Editorial

Rae Wildbore & Pam Clare

As this tumultuous year draws to a close, we bring the final newsletter for 2020 to you. At the time of writing, it's hard to believe that at this time last week, the streets of Napier were awash with water in a once-in-250-year rain storm. It seems such terminology for weather events will need to change as they increase in frequency world-wide.

It was disconcerting to see bird's eye views of our flooded city on national television and to not be able to identify familiar landmarks. Some parishioners or their family members or friends have been affected leaving them anxiously waiting for EQC assessors to check damage, with some even having to vacate their homes because of water damage. Fortunately, St Paul's buildings came through relatively unscathed, but it has been good to see the support so quickly put in place by the council, emergency services, agencies and volunteers for those in need.

In this edition we pay tribute to the Reverend Bob Foster who was a loved and respected member of our congregation after retiring from the ministry. It was his second career following a life dedicated to education and youth, and Rae, as one of his students at Central Hawke's Bay College, gives us an insider's perspective of being taught by Mr Foster.

Soon we will be in a time of preparation. Preparation for the season of Advent. Preparation to celebrate the birth of our beloved Lord and Saviour, who by the power of the Holy Spirit, lives in and through each one of us; a truly wonderful gift to mankind.

Our quarterly newsletter publication coincides with our quarterly invitation to the celebration of communion to which everyone is welcome to join on Sunday, 6 December. In

thankfulness for the many blessings we enjoy, may we gather together to give God the Glory.

The closing date for contributions to the March edition will be 17 February 2021, to be sent to the church office. Thank you.

Parish Directory

Sally Carter, Marian Eagle and Kaleen Cooke

Early in 2021 you will (if you wish) receive an updated copy of our parish directory. We think that after hard work by Kaleen, Marian and others on the pastoral care team, that we are pretty up-to-date with our records, but it is possible that we have missed a couple, so if you have moved or changed your phone number or email and have yet to let us know, please send an email to the office at stpaulsnapier@gmail.com; call in on 835 5359; or just drop by in office hours (10am-12pm). We would love to hear from you/see you. Also, let us know if you would like to be added into the directory or if you no longer want to be included.

Mandate. Promises. Hope. Life

Fakaofu, Moderator



“Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool, for the Lord our God is holy.” (Psalm 99:5)

We are experiencing extraordinary events in very extraordinary times. Covid-19 has dominated our landscape recently. The unseen foe assaults, suppresses and slaughters. We must stand strong together, aligned. Our strength and defence lies in trusting, serving, and helping each other.

In our nation's general election, there was an unprecedented result in the majority victory for the Labour Party. Kiwis appreciate genuineness and efforts of compassion. The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern, our Prime Minister, showed this in

abundance: at the mosque killings in Christchurch, the devastation at White Island, and in the intrusion of Covid-19 on New Zealand.

In changing times, we stand on promises made and our hope for the future. Elections are built on promises. Our trust generates hope. We, as people of faith, understand this well. Our Christianity is all about promises and hope, in this world now and in eternity. In these extraordinary times of uncertainty, remember the Lord Jesus' words: "I am the way, the truth and the life." (John 14:6)

Stand firm in Christ our Lord and Saviour. Nothing in all creation will move you from your foundation.

Our lives have been shaken and unsettled. We have experienced the difficult parting from loved ones, families, friends, colleagues and neighbours. It is the most stressful and heart-breaking. Because of the circumstances, funerals have taken place with ten people present and no embraces or handshakes. It is very non-Christian like. But, we do our best. We share the love. We keep each other in prayer.

Our associations, our team, our comradery is changing. Folks move on from one job to another, change their situations, and pursue new opportunities. Life goes on. Go well with all our love and prayers.

Our Lord Jesus said, "Because I live, you also will live". (John 14-19).

Parish Finances

Sylvia Low

At the recent Session meeting, the latest financial reports were discussed. It's now six months since the budget was developed and there are many changes in our financial situation. Our parishioners have continued their generous support through

their giving and use of our facilities has recovered quickly after the Covid-19 lockdowns which means that we are doing much better financially than we expected. This table shows the position after three months of this financial year and our revised forecast for the full year.

| Year to-date 30 Sept 2020 | Budget | Actual | Full year forecast |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Income | \$39,550 | \$50,017 | \$198,000 |
| Expenditure | \$55,965 | \$52,002 | \$205,000 |
| Net (Deficit) | (\$16,415) | (\$1,985) | (\$7,000) |

The cost of maintenance on Asher hall has yet to be included as we are still waiting on detailed quotes for the work. At the moment, it looks like about \$30,000 to fix the leaking kitchen roof.

Once again thank you for your many contributions to the parish which are very much appreciated. The Thanks Offering has received \$5,700 in donations; this is an amazing contribution. Thank you all.

Care and Share

Dorothy Finlayson

This group meets monthly on the third Monday each month February to November. Our last meeting for 2020 was held on 16 November and 25 people enjoyed a fun afternoon.

We were entertained by a visit from Santa after a meaningful Christmas message read by Ella. A yummy afternoon tea followed music and entertainment.





After a difficult year meeting between lockdowns, the Christmas spirit is certainly in the air. All denominations are represented and some people bring neighbours and friends. Our wonderful sales table yielded \$500 to Napier Family Centre, the Food Bank and other needy groups. Christmas cakes were available at \$20 each (if you would still like one, please phone Dorothy on the number below).

The first gathering for 2021 will be held in the Church lounge on 15 February. Do join us for fun and fellowship. All welcome. Enquires to Dorothy 843 1266 findot@xtra.co.nz

From the Archives

Pam Clare

Recently the office received a query about a wedding that took place at St Paul's in 1963. A grandson was doing family research and wanted to confirm his grandmother's maiden name.

There is a link to Parish Records on the St Paul's website. Click on Menu on the home page, then click on the arrow next to Outreach. This will bring up Parish Records. Click on Index of Marriage Register and 51 pages of indexed marriage records, from Register No. 1, 1859-1871, to Register No. 15, 1921-1924 are listed. This index is



Inez & Bryan Rudd,
Married St Paul's Presbyterian Church,
NAPIER
26th January 1963

downloadable and searchable. Each entry gives the name, profession, date and marriage register book number.



Tony Diprose married Rhonda Sellar on 16 May 1992 at St Paul's Church, Napier. They were married by Rev Keith Sellar (Rhonda's father) and Pastor Ian Diprose (Tony's father).

There are 35 marriage registers (1859 to 1963) held in the Regional Archives at the Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery in Napier and there is a register of marriages from 1964 held at St Paul's.

To access a copy of the 1963 marriage register entry, I emailed Cathy Dunn, Collections Assistant Archives at the MTG, and

received a photo of the entry the following day which was forwarded to the family member.

Obituary: Rev Robert Ayton (Bob) Foster, BA MA
6 July 1924 - 16 August 2020
Minister Emeritus

Rae Wildbore

Bob, as he was known to many of us, certainly had a rich and full life. He was born in Auckland, the son of William and Elma Foster. At the age of 4, his family moved to Napier where his father was appointed principal of Napier Boys' High School. Bob was educated in Napier before joining the army. Later he



Bob with duty elder Isabel Morgan following morning service at St Paul's. Two dear friends remembered.

went to Teachers' Training College and then on to Victoria University. He moved about various schools, teaching and studying extramurally to complete his BA.

I first met Mr Foster at Waipawa District High School in 1958. He taught English, French and music. He was also renowned for his love of sport, especially rugby and cricket. The cricket pitch was almost hallowed ground!

Our District High School closed at the end of that year and we amalgamated with Central Hawke's Bay College in Waipukurau at the beginning of 1959. Mr Foster spent a year teaching at Colenso High School here in Napier before returning to Central Hawke's Bay. Miss Jenny Wohlers came to this school from the deep south and she taught home science. It did not take long for the teenage pupils of the day to realise that there was a deepening friendship between Mr Foster and Miss Wohlers; imagine their delight when the couple became engaged during 1960.



Central Hawkes Bay College 1959.
Jenny dressed in a gym slip ready to play in staff vs student netball game with Mr Foster, her fiancée in pursuit; much to the amusement of the onlooking schoolgirls.

As a teacher for forty years, Mr Foster will be fondly remembered by many of his students for the expression he often used: "You miserable sinner, you!" I was one of them! The expression was always accompanied by a slight smile, together with a twinkle in his eyes! He was a great encourager and quick to praise when effort was recognised. I had long left school when he became Principal of Central Hawke's Bay College. I felt a great pride for him, a well-deserved honour.

I was not surprised when I later learnt that he had been ordained and then inducted into the Ahuriri - Putorino Parish where he served for seven years. A man of great faith, which he happily shared; an avid reader, who loved people and cared for his flock. Bob also took an active part in the Hawke's Bay Presbytery, the Napier Memorial Technical Band and was a member of the Iona College Council for many years, where his former experience in the education system was much appreciated. In later years he was a loved and respected member of St Paul's Parish.

Our love and sincere sympathy go out to Jenny, and the family: Mary and Peter Holt, Bill and Lizzie Foster, Vivienne and Shane Van der Sluis and grandchildren Jane, Helen and Grace.



Napier Technical Band at their 75th Jubilee in 2004. Bob was able to combine his great love of brass with active support as their president of the Napier Technical Band for 20 years. At their October concert this year, the band (his family included) played two significant numbers to remember him. In a tribute to Bob he was spoken of with great fondness and the huge support and kindness he showed to the band remembered.

A Prayer for Those Growing Old

Anonymous

Lord, Thou knowest that I am growing older.
Keep me from becomming talkative and possessed with the
idea that I must express myself on every subject.
Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone's
affairs.
Keep me from recital of endless detail.
Give me wings to get to the point.
Seal my lips when I am inclinded to tell of my aches and pains.
They are increasing with the years and my love to sepak of
them grows sweeter as time goes by.
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong.
Make me thoughtful but not nosey; helpful but not bossy.
With my vast store of wisdom and experience it does seem a
pity not to use it all.
But though knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Parish Register

Rae Wildbore

Funerals

Katherine Alexandra Drysdale died 27 October (Service held
at Dunstall's Chapel)

Graham Mitchell Cowley died 25 October

Irene Buttery died 13 November (Service held at Beth Shan
Chapel)

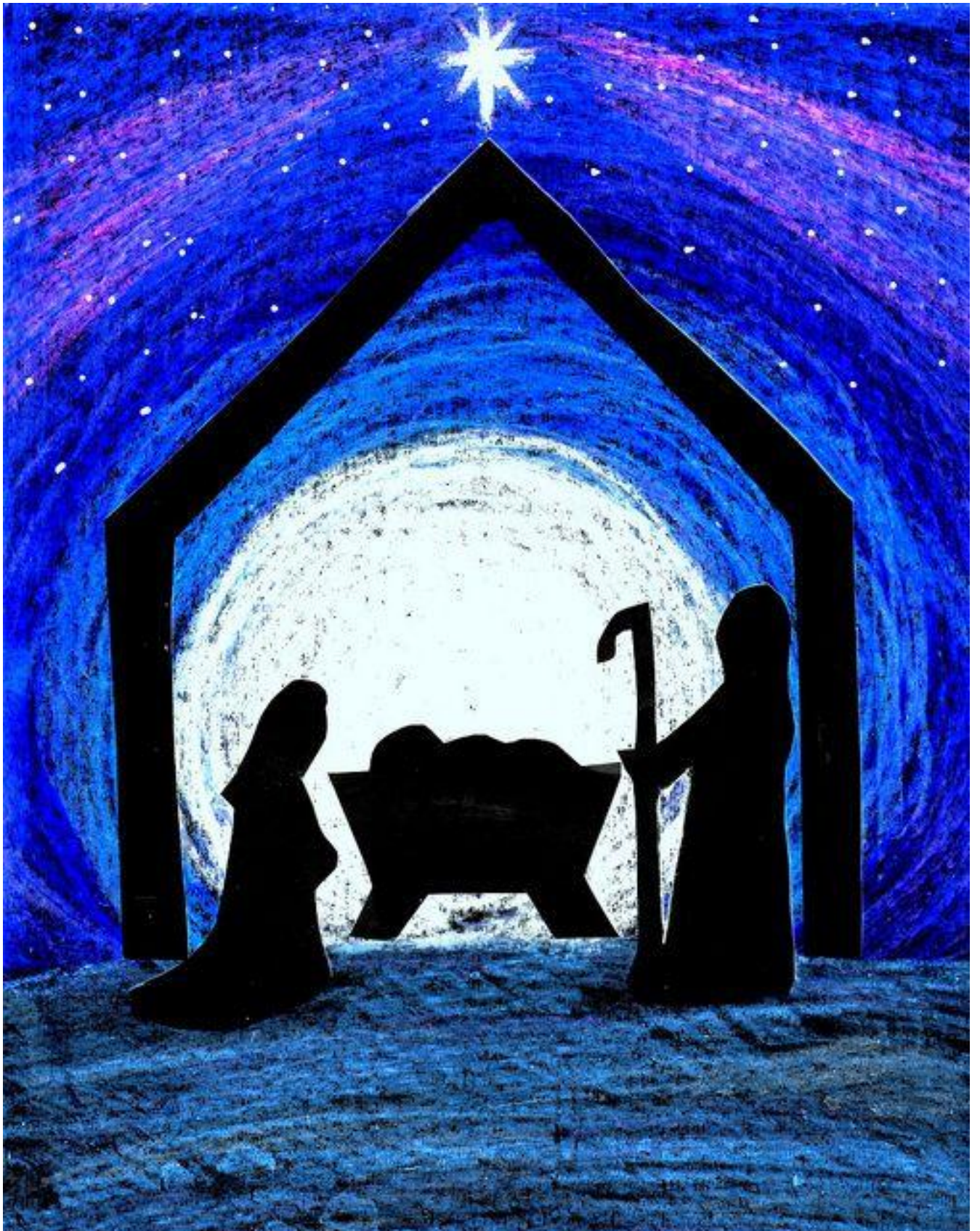
We extend our loving sympathy to the families of Katherine,
Graham and Irene.

Regular Events

- **Sunday Services:** 9:15am and 10:30am services each Sunday. First service (9:15am) service not held on statutory holidays
- **Care and Share:** 3rd Mondays from 1:30 until done in the church lounge (February – November)
- **Lunch group** meets monthly on the 1st Friday at noon for food and fellowship at various venues around the city
- **Choir** meets each Sunday at 9.30am in the church
- **Jitterbugs Pre-school Music and Movement** each Tuesday from 9am (during the school term).

Upcoming Events (depending upon Covid-19 Alert Level)

| | December |
|------------------|---|
| 6 th | Communion 9:15 & 10:30am services |
| 13 th | Gifting Service (time to be confirmed) |
| 20 th | 9:15 & 10:30am Lessons and Carols Service |
| 24 th | 9:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| 25 th | 9:30am Christmas Day Family Service |
| | January |
| | No first service during the month |
| | February |
| | Nil at the time of publication |



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Phone

Please feel free to phone me with any questions or if you would like a visit.