



**St Paul's Presbyterian Church**  
"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

**NEWSLETTER – December 2022**



**"Do this in remembrance of Me."**

**Service of Holy Communion**

**Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 10:00am. Please accept this as a  
personal invitation to be present.**



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## Editorial

*Pam Clare*

This year, we will be doing things differently on Christmas Day, with St Paul's folk joining the Trinity Methodist congregation at Clive Square to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Several years ago, when we worshipped at Trinity during the Christmas season, I



photographed the baby Jesus lying in the hay, wrapped in a bright Pasifika quilt. Tongan and Fijian congregations, (also Korean) hold worship services at Trinity, and I loved seeing the Holy Child portrayed this way. I shared it with my ten-year-old grandson who had commented that our baby in the crib at St

Paul's was too pale, to show him that, yes, there can be diversity.

However, I got an online comment back from someone else, "reinventing history.....?" which at first irritated me, then made me laugh then made me think. Does it matter that we all have our own image of the Christ Child, that a child who affiliates with Ngapuhi views the baby in a different way from an older relative who holds dear a Christmas card image of a rosy cheeked blue eyed infant? Although we may hold diverse views, we can all be united at Christmas in celebrating the wonder of the birth of Jesus.

Where do you think, in a world with so much suffering, would Jesus have been born in 2022?

The Right Rev Hamish Galloway reflects on this in his moderator's Advent message.

Also, in this issue we hear of the inspiring work of Nourished for Nil, an organisation that finds food that was destined for either landfill or pig farms and distributes it to people in the HB community. The Hastings-based award-winning food rescue scheme recently merged with Napier and Hastings Community Food Banks to work smarter together.

In remembering our late queen, Bryan Rudd shares a memory of the Sunday she worshipped at St Paul's, with some new photos that have come to light taken on that memorable day. Who knew she was being closely escorted by a man with a sword in that familiar photo of Rev Hay accompanying her from the church?

And in keeping with the season, an intriguing Christmas story has been contributed revealing what the characters from St Paul's nativity scene get up to 'behind the scenes'.

Meri Kirihimete! A happy and peaceful Christmas to you all.



## **Advent Message from the Moderator –**

*Right Rev Hamish Galloway*

Is Jesus the help we are looking for?

There is a poignant segment in the Advent readings for this year that finds John the Baptist languishing in Herod's dungeon and doubting whether Jesus is the promised Messiah. Despite his earlier calls to prepare the way for the Messiah, events have turned for the worse. So, he sends his disciples to ask whether Jesus really is the promised Messiah, or should we look elsewhere (see Matthew 11: 2-3).

I am sure that there are many in the world today who share the doubt! Ukrainian Orthodox families experiencing Christmas this year in cramped refugee conditions so far away from home, or worse still, in areas of Ukraine where fear of missile strikes will dominate their 'festive' season! And, in a similar vein, homeless families in our country, crammed into temporary accommodation of motel units, struggling to meet rising food costs.

The story of hardship, anguish and suffering is repeated many times over in our world as we approach Christmas this year.

So where are you Jesus, in this world with so much suffering? With John the Baptist we may be justified in asking the question, Are you the hope we are looking for? Or should we look elsewhere?

Part of the answer comes for me in asking this question, Where would Jesus be born in 2022? In 2008, the UK Churches Advertising Network asked that question and came up with

this answer: a freezing bus shelter. They then made a poster depicting this and had it displayed in over 1,000 bus shelters across the UK.

This was a message of hope: God incarnated help that comes into the places of poverty and despair. Originally it was a baby born in the middle of a winter night, out where the animals were kept. This speaks a message of God's presence in the most unlikely and despairing places.

In the bus stop posters, some of the bystanders see what is happening and respond with worshipful devotion, while others are too busy checking the bus timetable.

May our churches help people to stop and notice the hope that the birth of Jesus brings to our needy world this year.





## **Nourished For Nil: Rescuing Food and Nourishing Communities**

Recently Jane Morgan, Sustainability Officer and Funding Coordinator, gave a presentation at Sunday Service about the background and work of the Nourished for Nil organisation. She spoke of how delighted they are to have recently merged with both Napier and Hastings community food banks which means by working together, they can make a greater difference in our community from both a food waste and environmental angle, while also helping people who are experiencing genuine hardship.

Nourished for Nil began in February 2017, when founder Christina McBeth and a few friends “rescued” 108 items of food they noticed in a café cabinet near the end of the day then shared it with 78 Hawkes Bay locals. And now they have over one hundred volunteers, two depots (Karamu Road and Onekawa), eight weekly distributions from four different sites, and 2.5 million kilos of food rerouted from waste to tummies.

They differ from Food bank in that, while they will purchase food if needed to ensure a balanced food parcel can be created, they love to seek out things that would otherwise go to waste.



They could not do what they do without the support and generosity of church groups, businesses and the wider HB community. Financial support is received from Westpac and Countdown, funding applications, a Give-a-little page, Trusts/bequests, government funding (MSD), contestable funding and from members of the public/cash donations.

**Napier church goers have donated a whopping 1099 kg over the last couple of months! Amazing!** (That's Jane's emphasis on her power point slide). And over all, in donated and rescued food, 2022 is tracking to receive the equivalent in tonnes of three 747 Jumbo jets!

The food is given to agencies who work with clients needing help. They determine need and assess criteria then contact Nourished for Nil to request a food parcel which they collect on behalf of their client.

So, what goes into a food parcel? Many recipients have no food at all by the time they seek help. The aim is to provide them with enough food for a few days, starting with some pantry staples. Bread and butter (or 'marg') are always included. Ready-made meals or things that are easy to prepare are always popular, and when making a parcel, consideration is given to how the various items could be made into a meal. A range of items is included that can be used for breakfast, lunch or dinner, and they try to personalise parcels based on information gleaned from the referring agency during the request process.



Agencies can make special requests, for example, food suitable for a young baby. Jane said that they'll even help people feed their pets, with cat and



dog food available, fish food, bird food, even guinea pig food – all donated. A side of vegetables is added and the parcel is ready for collection by the agency who deliver it to the client. Each parcel weighs around 23kg – this includes vegetables and bread. People who test positive with COVID-19 can also receive help and over 100 “isolation” parcels have been made up for contactless pick up. In the last three months, 966 parcels have been generated, feeding 1,828 adults and 1,616 children. Plus 33 dogs, 41 cats and 2 budgies!



A special mention was made of The Jack Johnson foundation (Jack is an American singer) which has pledged to donate \$500 (USD) to Nourish for Nil and will match ANY donations up to \$2,500 made to Nourished for Nil until 31 December 2022.

## Memory of Queen Elizabeth II 1926 – 2022

*Bryan Rudd*

Inez and I were married at St Paul's Presbyterian Church on the 26 January 1963, and on our return home from our honeymoon, we attended the morning service at which Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh worshipped at St Paul's on 11 February.



We had front row seats near the gate under the Norfolk Island hibiscus tree which still flowers in the church grounds, and there was an air of excitement and anticipation as we awaited the arrival of the royal couple. They were met by Rev Hay and the Very Rev Malcolm Wilson, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, and escorted into the church.

The service was broadcast to those parishioners seated in the grounds and to members of the public assembled across the road, and fortunately it was a magnificent day with the sun shining down. At the conclusion of the service, at which the Duke read from the scriptures, a guard of honour was formed by the elders and the royal couple spoke to one or two as they



came through with Rev Hay. They then chatted nicely to the Sunday School children as

they passed through their guard of honour from the gate to the car which was parked on Tennyson Street in the middle of the intersection.

It was an exciting and historical day for the Parish of St Paul's culminating in Rev and Mrs Hay lunching on board the Royal Yacht Britannia.





## Report from NFC and PSEC

*Kerry Marshall*

Recently I have attended the Annual General Meetings of Presbyterian Support East Coast and the Napier Family Centre, both organisations being part of the fabric of this parish. St Paul's was involved in the establishment of the Family Centre nearly 40 years ago and PSEC is the social service delivery arm of our church.

The challenges for both organisations are similar – underfunding of services meaning resources have to be diverted to fundraising and administration, and difficulties recruiting and retaining staff in these challenging times making consistent service delivery difficult. Despite these challenges, PSEC and the Family Centre continue to deliver much needed support to hundreds of people in our communities.



I have retired from the role of Patron for PSEC and Maitland Manning from Waipawa has been elected the new Patron. At the PSEC AGM, Noneen Ennor was acknowledged for her long service as a volunteer and

supporter. She and husband Frank were, for many years, parish representatives, attending many events and being ambassadors for PSEC. Noneen is an example of the many wonderful volunteers that give so much time and energy to these organisations, I know many of you at St Paul's do such

good work, something we should be grateful for. Parish Council has recently granted \$1,500 each to NFC and PSEC from the James Anderson bequest – thank you.

Please remember Napier Family Centre and PSEC in your prayers and in your advocacy for better treatment for those in need in our community.

## Eco-Church Update



Please look out for our new recycling bins in the kitchen. There are two bins for clean hard plastics – no.'s 1, 2, & 3, soft plastics, tins, cans, and glass. The bins are clearly labelled for what goes where. In addition, there's a bin for paper recycling kept in the office. Please make use of these bins, - they'll be emptied frequently.

In the corridor heading towards the toilets, we also have a recycling space where you can leave batteries, toothpaste tubes, coffee pods, and cling film.

We're also hoping to bring in eco-friendly cleaning products, hand soap and detergent in the coming months.

Any comments, encouragement, or questions please speak to Helen McClymont or Richard Loan

## **Pastoral Care**

*Marian Eagle*

Recently several of us from our Pastoral Care group paid a visit to our dear friends, Jerry Hoggarth and Owen Brown, at Elmwood House.



Adair opened with a meaningful prayer based around Isaiah 46:4. We sang three carols and shared some small Christmas treats.

We hoped the music would stir memories for them both. As you will remember, while they were in good health, Jerry and Owen attended St Paul's faithfully and both played an active role in our church life for many years.

## **Care and Share**

*Dorothy Finlayson*

Care and Share group have had a very enjoyable time. We finished the year at The Duke of Gloucester in Taradale where 20 of us gathered for a beautiful luncheon. Gifts were shared for The Food Bank and Napier Family Centre. Dorothy thanked several in the group who had helped during the year to make the programme so enjoyable. We thanked Adair for her input into St. Paul's and wished her well for her new post in Hamilton.



If you would like to join this happy fellowship group next year, we meet from February to November on the third Monday each month. All welcome. Dorothy Finlayson (8431266)



## **A Christmas Story - The story of St Paul's Nativity scene**

All was quiet at St Paul's as Bert, the security man, walked through the building on his midnight rounds. Suddenly, from out the back there was a loud crash from the cupboard housing the various decorations used throughout the year and as Bert opened the door a deep voice was heard saying "be quiet you lot or we'll be packed away for good." Bert shone his torch into the cupboard and there on the floor lay the pieces of the nativity scene, scattered around from the upturned box that had fallen from the shelf.

"What's going on here" thought Bert but his eyes widened when several of the pieces stood up and looked around. "Hey, what are you lot doing" exclaimed Bert in a voice that he hoped was commanding but in reality, was a bit timid. Bert wasn't a church goer but he had heard lots of stories about healing and miracles and was wondering how he was going to report this little episode.

One of the characters, a shepherd, gathered his robes around him, picked up his crook and looked at Bert. "Nothing for you to worry yourself about but perhaps you could help us settle an argument," said the small character. Beside him the other shepherds were rounding up the livestock that had started running around and off to one side a mother and father were righting a cradle and making a wee babe comfortable on the straw.

Bert's mouth opened but no sound came out as he took in the scene before him. As the shepherd waved his crook at him and asked again, "will you help us?" Bert nodded dumbly.

"Look" said the shepherd, "the bible story of the nativity makes it clear that the three kings didn't arrive at the stable until twelve days after the birth of baby Jesus. These characters over there" he continued, pointing at three kings standing in a corner Bert hadn't noticed, "these three want to be in the nativity scene before Christmas but we all know they don't belong here yet." Bert saw all the others characters nodding in agreement and scowling at the three kings who, he thought, looked really regal, even though they were a bit messed up from the fall from the shelf.

Another shepherd pointed at the kings saying "it clearly says in the bible that the kings were in distant lands and only began their journey when

the saw the star which they then followed. No, they don't belong in the pre-Christmas nativity with us."

Oh dear, thought Bert, what am I to do? "Well," he said, "I don't know much about the details of all this but if my memory serves me correctly, didn't Jesus say that we should welcome the traveller and it doesn't matter when they arrive, shouldn't you make space for them now if they are already here?"

They all looked at him and shook their heads. "Come on" said Bert in a commanding voice (he did actually sound more commanding this time), "isn't the main point of your nativity scene the babe in the manger, not you lot standing around? Isn't the point of the scene to show how everyone came to worship the baby Jesus? Are you going to let your squabbling over some timing issues ruin the day?"

The nativity scene characters shuffled their feet and looked at each other embarrassed that, after all, this time acting out the Christmas story, they had let some petty things get in the way of their reason for being.

"You're right Bert" one of the shepherds said and the others nodded. Waving the kings over, they helped each other climb back into the box that lay on the floor. "Please put us back on the shelf Bert and when they come to unpack us and put us on display again, we'll remember your words and play our parts so that everyone is once again reminded of the very important birth that happened in Bethlehem all those years ago."

Bert put the cover on the box and slid it back onto the shelf. Closing the door, he carried on with his rounds and a few nights later, when he saw the nativity scene in the church foyer, he could have sworn he saw one of the shepherds wink at him.

*Anonymous*



## **Parish Register**

*Rae Wildbore*

- Anne Elizabeth Burden died 29th September 2022
- Anne Silson died 20th November 2022

Our loving sympathy goes out to their family and friends.

## **Remembering Anne Burden**

The folk of St Paul's have many loving memories of Anne, her sincere commitment and faithfulness to our parish over many years, and also her many talents and avenues of service. She was a long-time member of Fireside, taught Sunday School when her children were young, sang in the choir right up to her last Sunday at church, and was a willing volunteer whenever needed. A service for Anne was held at St Paul's on 4th October 2022.



*Anne selling Devonshire Tea tickets at Art Deco Fete 2020*

## Who's on 'Keith's Seat'?



It's Adair and Bridget!

These two firm friends have been working happily together in the church office for the last eighteen months but sadly for us all here at St Paul's, Adair has now completed her two-year internship. She will be missed for her joyous approach to her faith and her ability to form connections with the congregation, to actively participate in the life of St Paul's and even to get us to try new things. She will be leaving a legacy, setting us up to be the first Eco church in the country and establishing the Thursday morning prayer group.

However, this means that following Adair's commissioning, when she takes her final service at St Paul's, she is beginning her work as a practising minister alongside her husband Eric who has also been completing his internship at St John's Church in Hastings. They will be returning to their home in Hamilton where they have received a call from Nawton Community Presbyterian Church. They will also be exploring new church initiatives in northwest Hamilton.

Bridget (Dunn) was appointed to the office administrator role in June, 2021 where she is the first point of contact with St Paul's. If you spend any time in the office you will know what a busy job it is, with constant interruptions which she deals with cheerfully and wholeheartedly while also coping with the many administrative tasks of a church office. As well as her daily interaction with parishioners and facility users, she enjoys meeting a range of people from the wider community and the variation involved in her work.

For those who have only spoken to Bridget on the phone, you would know immediately that she was born and bred in Ireland. After completing her first university degree in European Studies, Bridget moved to London where she secured a job enabling her to further qualify as a chartered surveyor. It was at this company where she met Simon, then got married and now they have three grown-up children. The family moved to New Zealand in 2004 and love living in Hawkes Bay and all that it has to offer. She enjoys tennis, Pilates, cycling, attending lots of music concerts, and hanging out with her super cute Pomeranian Poodle Macey.

### **Upcoming Events**

<u>Sunday 11th December</u>	Gift Service
<u>Sunday 18th December</u>	Carols and Readings Service
<u>Sunday 25th December</u>	Christmas Day service at Trinity Methodist at 10am
<u>Sundays 1st &amp; 8th January</u>	Service at Trinity Methodist 10am
<u>Sun 15th, 22nd &amp; 29th January</u>	Rev Susan Jones (retired minister from Wellington) will take the services at St Pauls, Trinity joining us.

## **Regular Events**

**Sunday Services:** 10am service each Sunday during the ministerial vacancy.

**Care and Share:** Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 1:30pm in the Church Lounge (February – November)

**Lunch group** meets monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at noon for food and fellowship at various venues around the city

**Jitterbugs** Pre-school Music and Movement each Tuesday from 9am (during the school term).

## **March 2023 Newsletter**

The closing date for contributions to the March newsletter will be **Monday 19th February 2023**. Please forward articles to **Pam** at [pamclare@extra.co.nz](mailto:pamclare@extra.co.nz) or **Bridget** at the church office. Details below.

## **Contact Us**

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