

St Paul's Presbyterian Church

"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER - November 2017



Message from the Moderator

Richard Dawson (Moderator PCANZ)

Dear Friends,

As we approach Christmas and the end of another year I want to call the whole Church to prayer. I am particularly aware of how important Christmas is both for the Church as a family and for her witness in and to the world.

Christmas and Easter are still universally recognised as Christian festivals even if the depth of understanding is not great. Many people only come to church on these special days. It is, therefore, important that we recognise the opportunities we have at these times to bring a message of hope and mercy to those who live outside the Church family.

I know many of you do engage the community in all sorts of creative ways at Christmas and I also know that many churches put on special services to mark the occasion. Can I encourage you to continue these traditions and to work as hard as possible to raise the Christ-child up at this time? However, I also know that this is a very busy time for staff and especially for Ministers, so I want to call the Church to prayer for our Christmas witness and especially for these people for this period. Can you please distribute this letter as widely as possible amongst your people and so call them to prayer for the areas I've listed below and can you engage in at least one special time of prayer in your parish where people can come apart and spend some quality time in praying for these things? The Church marches on its prayers. Let us, then, march together this Christmas.

Points for prayer:

1. That our witness this Christmas may be gracious and effective.
2. That we may find many ways to bless those who struggle with Christmas, especially the poor and distressed.
3. That we may bless our Ministers and staff through the Christmas period and ensure they get adequate rest and refreshment over summer.
4. That we will find the needed resources to staff churches over summer.
5. That we will all experience peace and provision this year, which is at the heart of the Christmas tradition.

Spring flower posies

Rae Wildbore (on behalf of Session)

For many years, possibly half a century or more, the women of St Paul's Parish have made Spring Posies for members and friends who are unwell, shut-in, have suffered a bereavement or need a token to cheer their lives. These posies have been made with love, sometimes men and children too have joined the working bee to help assemble them. Then after Sunday morning worship, folk in the congregation help to deliver these posies with love. This year, Session received many thank you notes from the recipients; it seems that they truly are a blessing. We never know how lives will be touched by this gesture; so, long may we continue to serve in this way. We remember with love those who have helped in the past and convey our loving thanks to all who assisted in any way this spring season.

What is music?

Jill McConnochie

About 20 years ago I attended a concert by the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra in a Concert Hall in the Christchurch Town Hall. While listening to the Music I thought of all the components that make up such a performance; the audience, the players, the building, the instruments, the players, the composers, and how the whole was interdependent on each of the parts. So what is music? Is it the notes on the page, and how did they get there? What was in the mind of the composer? From where came his (or her) inspiration? Did they picture in their minds how it would sound when played? The Instruments – who made them, all so different? Think of the skill needed to craft the string instruments, the brass and woodwinds, the variety of percussion. Then the players, and the skill and dedication put into hours of practice. All of these have a love and enjoyment of music. I was impressed with the building we were in, and thought of the architect and the components of such a concert hall – the acoustics here are so important; and to put on such a concert requires an audience of people who appreciate the music and the enjoyment it can bring to so many people.

So is music the notes on a page, the sounds made by the instrumentalist or singer, or is it what we hear? I could go on about recorded music and how it has developed over the years, as has music itself. But the interdependence of the different parts, also reminded me of the interdependence of people, and how we need each other. Think of the people on whom you are dependent for your daily living, and of the people who are dependent on you. Let us give thanks for those who love and support us, and pray for them and ourselves, as we live in community, here, in our city and in the wider world.

A spring story from Christian World Service

Rae Wildbore

South Sudan Struggles On: According to CWS partner the Maridi Service Agency (MSA), locals and settlers have harvested their first crops, providing much needed food. Prices have dropped slightly. While Maridi is calm, violence prevails in much of the country. In a high level meeting this month, UN and aid officials expressed frustration about the lack of progress - 7.6million or 60% of the country is in need of food aid. The fracturing of the country is making the delivery of humanitarian assistance more difficult. This month, David Shearer called for united action at the Security Council. Donations to the South Sudan Appeal will be matched by funding from the New Zealand Government.

Environmentally Speaking

Isabel Morgan

At the risk of being accused of ‘harping on’, here goes for some more on greenhouse gas emissions. Of the 197 countries that signed the Paris Accord, 168 have ratified it. NZ did so in 2016 and it will come into force here in 2020. President Trump pulled the USA out of what the previous administration had signed up to, but after strong protests in the USA, he declared that the USA would ‘make its own’, or words to that effect.

Recent figures put out by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, tell us that statistics on NZ’s greenhouse gas emissions are not good. You may have heard them or read them. These figures should make us all realise that the world, and NZ, is failing in our obligations to address Climate change. Here is just one figure: NZ is the 7th highest emitter of greenhouse gases in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, per head of population. In the past few years, road transport has caused a large increase in greenhouse gases emissions.

None of the figures can make us complacent. Here’s one piece of good news to finish with: the ozone hole has almost closed and that is a direct result of the ban on CFCs.

Vanuatu, Marine Reach, Volcanoes and St Pauls

Murray Arnold (on behalf of Session)

This month started with the news of several volcanoes either erupting or threatening to erupt. One of those was the volcano on Ambae Island in Vanuatu, and the Government had made the decision to evacuate the 8,000 Residents. On the 2nd of October we received an email from David Cowie, the Director of Marine Reach New Zealand asking for help:

I am writing this from the bridge of the Pacific Hope as we sail out of Port Vila. Yesterday we received a call from the Vanuatu government asking us if we would rush up to the island of Ambae to help rescue thousands of people trapped on the island. It is a race against time to get everyone off so we are sailing at full speed to get there as quickly as possible. There are thousands of people on the island so it's not going to be an easy job. The plan is to do a number of "bus runs" carrying people to neighbouring islands. We expect the operation to take about a week.



The M/V Pacific Hope

It is going to be a financial challenge for us as we don't have the thousands of dollars in our budget to do this. However, people need to be rescued and we have an amazing crew of young people ready and willing to do the job. Your support is so crucial for us this week.

Our own session agreed to support this urgent call for help and to continue the long association the Presbyterian Church has had within Vanuatu previously known as the New Hebrides

We'd like to share with you a little bit of the story behind Marine Reach and what they were doing in Vanuatu. Marine Reach was founded in Tauranga New Zealand in 1990. It was established as a Christian maritime outreach associated with the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) mercy ministries. Since its inception, their ships, volunteers and partner ministries have reached over 500,000 people in the Asia-Pacific region through the ships Pacific Ruby, Pacific Link and latterly the Pacific Hope since 2013.

The Pacific Hope has been based in the outlying islands of Vanuatu offering dental, ophthalmological, and primary health care services for the last six months. Vanuatu has less than 1 dentist for every 35,000 people, and less than 1 medical doctor for every 30,000 people, in other words the equivalent of 2 doctors and 2 dentists for all of Napier.

Their vision is to see every person as Christ sees them, not just as an individual but also as part of a larger family and community, to love all who they encounter and show them that the Holy Spirit can come and begin a healing process that goes to the deepest hurts that medicine cannot reach. As part of their work they have established a Family Care centre and a Regional Training and Medical Centre, and have started running mobile clinics in nearby villages on the main island (Efate) and plan to start short term medical outreaches to the outer islands of Vanuatu. These buildings are the centre of ministries working alongside the Ni-Vanuatu people, ministries which have a particular focus of supporting women and children whose lives are often traumatised by abuse.

They ask for our prayers as they continue to work for and with the people of the many islands that make up Vanuatu. Prayer for the end of corruption in government, for Godly leaders who value people and can lead, prayer for the family care centre and those who work in that ministry, and prayer for the people themselves.

Grocery list

Submitted by Dave Thomas

Louise Redden, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had seven children and they needed food. John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store at once. Visualizing the family needs, she said: 'Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can.' John told her he could not give her credit, since she did not have a charge account at his store. Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family. The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, 'Do you have a grocery list?' Louise replied, 'Yes sir.' 'O.K' he said, 'put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries.' Louise hesitated a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed. The eyes of the grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down. The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, 'I can't believe it.' The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocer stood there in utter disgust. Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer, which said: 'Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands.' The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence. Louise thanked him and left the store. The other customer handed a hundred-dollar bill to the grocer and said; 'It was worth every penny of it. Only God Knows how much a prayer weighs.'

In memory of Jennifer Gay Bristow "Jenny" (1936 - 2017)

Bryan Rudd, Elder

On 7 October 2017, St Pauls lost a valued member of the Parish - Jenny Bristow. Jenny had been unwell for a little time but throughout her ordeal she maintained her commitment to and involvement with the Church to the end. Along with husband of some 25 years, Sam and Jenny were involved in and associated with many activities of the St Pauls Parish and the previous Parish of St Stephens. Jenny was a valued and active member of the St Stephens and St Pauls Thrift Shops until their closure 3 - 4 years back. Very active in the St Stephen's Full "O" Hope Fundraising, the various catering Groups of St Stephens & St Pauls, a member of the Women's Groups of each Parish, a member of the Choir and along with Sam helped maintain the gardens within the two Parishes. The gardens alongside the office, which they planted in Spring Bulbs, will, when in flower, be a constant memorial to their work. Jenny was also involved with the Forest & Bird Society and Community Singing Groups; she was a friend to many and will be sadly missed by all. To Sam and the Family we extend our sincere condolences and may Jenny Rest in Peace.

Hymns

Ella Haigh

Ye gates, lift up your heads on high

This hymn is based on Psalm 24 verses 7-10 and was published in the Scottish Psalter of 1650. It was included in the Metrical Psalms section of the Church Hymnary, and is also in With One Voice. The tune, 'St George's, Edinburgh', was composed by Andrew Mitchell Thomson, 1778-1831. It is said he named the tune after the church where he was a member.

To hear it at its best, this rousing hymn – a favourite of mine – needs to be sung by a large congregation and choir, which include many men's voices. The men sing the question 'But who of glory is the king?' and the women answer 'The might Lord is this', then everybody sings 'ev'n that same Lord, that

great in might and strong in battle is'. The hymn ends with triumphant Hallelujahs and resounding Amens.

Christ is made the sure foundation

Anonymous Latin hymn of the 7th or 8th Century, translated by John Mason Neale in the 19th Century. Neale was born in London in 1818, the son of a minister who died when John was six years old. He won a scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge and was the finest classical scholar of his year. He mastered 12 languages and had a knowledge of 8 others. After suffering ill-health and struggling with poverty, he died at the age of 48. He is best known for his translation of hymns from Greek and Latin. He wrote the words of the carol 'Good Christians all, rejoice'.

Christ is made the sure foundation is sung to two tunes: Grafton – a French Church melody of 1881; and Westminster Abbey – from an anthem by Henry Purcell in the 17th Century, adapted by Ernest Hawkins in the 19th Century. Henry was the most gifted and most famous of four generations of London musicians. In only 37 years he wrote an enormous amount of beautiful music. He was a choirboy at the Chapel Royal and when about 20, was appointed organist at Westminster Abbey. Three years later, he became one of the organists at the Chapel Royal. He held both these positions until the end of his life. He wrote music for the church, theatre and the court. He was a Royal Musician from his childhood and served during three reigns: Charles II, James II, William and Mary. Some of you may remember the famous record of Purcell's 'Nymphs and Shepherds' by the Manchester Children's Choir and the Halle Orchestra.

Thank you

Inez Rudd, for and on behalf of Stitch N Time Group

I would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to Session and all those individuals who supported and contributed to the "Operation Christmas Child" project that the Stitch N Time Group undertook and supported this year. Your contributions allowed us as a parish to complete some 82 boxes which was a tremendous effort by everyone and will bring many smiles and glee to the recipients. Operation Christmas Child is the biggest children's project in the world and in 2016:

- Worldwide, some 11.5 million boxes were collected and distributed
- Some 350,000 of those boxes were given by Australians and New Zealanders

It will be interesting to learn of the 2017 contributions. Again sincere thanks for supporting the effort of St Paul's and look forward to continuing support in 2018.

HB PRESBYTERIAL

Isabel Morgan (Liaison)

Will meet on Thursday, 9th November in St Paul's Lounge. Morning tea at 10am and meeting at 10.30am. All women of St. Paul's are invited to come.

Garage Sale

Helen Morgan (on behalf of the Tidy up Team)

In preparation of our Garage sale on 11 November from 8am, the team would be very grateful for any surplus plastic bags. These can be brought along on any Sunday prior to the event. Please keep this date free. The congregation are invited to come to the Church lounge and have a look at Garage sale items on Friday, 10 November from 2:30-3:30pm. If anything belongs to you, this will be your opportunity to take it. Anything you would like, feel free to make an offer.

Afternoon Fellowship

Marian Emslie, Convenor

November Meeting on the 22nd at 1.30pm. Theme: Dressing the tree and all those decorations. A special Christmas afternoon tea and sharing.

Swinburn House: Christmas gift books project

Marion Fell, Elder

Some background information: in late November 2000 at St Stephens, the teachers invited a minivan of eight "senior" 4 year olds with their driver and a staff member to join their Friday morning end-of-year Christmas morning tea in the lounge at St Stephens with the Sunday School children. This was followed by an informal telling of the Christmas story and songs as they all sat in front of the "models" of the Nativity Scene display. On the following Sunday morning service in December, at the Sunday school closing service, Parishioners donated \$4 books (sponsored/discounted by Paper Plus) for the 46 children at Swinburn house. These children had recently transferred from the Miller Room/Haigh Hall complex at St Stephen's to establish this new Pirimai complex in association with Birthright.

Since St Paul's/St Stephen's merger in 2006, this kind sponsorship has continued with Parishioners supporting gift books @ \$5 each for Swinburn house children aged 2 -4 years. I invite you to support this again during Sundays in November when books and x36 children's names lists will be in the foyer. Still \$5/book! A list will be available to add your name and buy your book to be wrapped and returned by Sunday, 26 November. I look forward to your support again this year.

A Stitch in Time Group

Dorothy Finlayson (for the team)

The last Stitch in Time meeting for 2017 was held in the Church lounge on 16 October. We have had a very busy and interesting year and will continue our good work after April 2018. We have recently been able to help with the filling, packaging and postage of 82 shoe boxes that have been sent to help with Operation Christmas Child. This has been a great effort and we are thrilled to have been able to help in this way. At present, the group is completing new drapes to donate to St Paul's for one of the small rooms in Asher Hall. This will enhance the appearance after the tidy-up clear and clean-up of the room. Also, with the help of the Pastoral Care team, we are preparing a High Tea to be held on Thursday, 30 November 2017. Transport is offered, so please contact a team member or your Elder for a ride. (See High Tea Notice)

Christmas "High Tea

Marion Fell (Elder for Pastoral Committee)

"High Tea" will be served in the Lounge at St Paul's on Thursday, 30 November at 2 pm. All are welcome. Replies for numbers attending: a list for names will be in the foyer from Sunday, 5 November. Any queries please contact Ella Haigh on 843 6385. *** A special invitation and transport arranged for our newsletter recipients who have difficulty attending regular church services.

Newsletters

Rae Wildbore

Recently, our Parish office staff began collating and producing our monthly Newsletter. Kerry Marshall and I edit this before it goes to final print, ready for distribution. During this transition period, a few errors have occurred and I sincerely apologise to all whom this has affected. Submissions are very welcome from you all; these may be emailed to our Office: stpaulsnapier@gmail.com - or if you prefer, hand written articles will be accepted, by the monthly closing date, which is advertised in the weekly Bulletins as well as in the monthly Newsletters.

December Newsletter

Items for the December Newsletter to the Parish Office (stpaulsnapier@gmail.com) by Monday, 20 November 2017

This newsletter was delivered by..... phone.....

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

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1.30pm '500' Cards	2	3 12noon Parish Luncheon Group 3.30pm Church Choir practice	4 9am Praying together
5 Worship Reformation Sunday 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 Choir practice Thank Offering	6	7 9am Jitterbugs 7pm Session	8 1.30pm '500' Cards 7.30pm Bible Study	9 HB Presbyterial 10am tea 10.30am meeting	10 2.30 garage sale viewing 3.30pm Church Choir practice	11 8am garage sale 9am Praying together
12 Worship 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 Choir practice	13	14 9am Jitterbugs 6pm Fireside	15 1.30pm '500' Cards	16	17 3.30pm Church Choir practice	18 9am Praying together
19 Worship 9.15,10.30, 7pm 9.30 Choir practice	20	21 9am Jitterbugs 7pm BoM	22 1.30pm Afternoon Fellowship 7.30pm Bible Study	23	24 3.30pm Church Choir practice	25 9am Praying together in the Lounge
26 Worship 9.15, 10.30, 7pm 9.30 Choir practice	27	28 9am Jitterbugs	29 1.30pm '500' Cards	30 2pm Christmas High Tea		