



Little Acorns



July – October 2023

The magazine of Holy Trinity
Anglican Parish, Woodville

Welcoming the stranger in need

“Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me” Matthew 10:40

The first Sunday in July is observed as Refugee Sunday in the Anglican Church here in New Zealand. There are currently more people displaced by war, violence, and persecution than at any other time in recorded history. In the face of millions of people on the move, some countries are closing their borders and turning people away. In the news over the last few weeks you may have seen items about a number of boats lost in the Mediterranean Sea with hundreds of refugees tragically drowned.

As a Church and a nation we need to be calling for more rather than less support for refugees, as well as making sure that New Zealand plays its part in welcoming people who because of war, poverty, or persecution are forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in another country. Giving hospitality to the homeless, the traveller and stranger is at the core of the Christian mission. The Bible is crystal clear in its expression of God’s loving concern for the stranger and refugee, from the time of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar wandering in the desert to Joseph taking Mary and the infant Jesus to flee their homeland and the murderous Herod to live for a time as refugees in Egypt.

More often than not, people seeking sanctuary are demonised, criminalised and marginalised rather than treated as equally worthy of dignity and respect. Refugee Sunday is powerful reminder that we are all created in the image of God, and we are all deserving of dignity and worth.

God’s unfailing compassion, especially for those who are suffering and going through a time of wilderness, challenges us to see and hear others. People are more than their immigration status; they are individuals with stories, creativity and gifts to share. Churches that have opened their doors to those seeking sanctuary can testify to

the ways they enrich their community. We should learn to see refugees not as an “other”, but as fellow travellers in the great journey of our shared life in this world, living in hope and seeking a new and abundant life.

And more than that, Jesus himself is clear in his words recorded in the Gospels that in welcoming and caring for others we are welcoming and caring for him. It can be hard and overwhelming to think about the many challenges and struggles that beset our world today. But we are never alone in these times, we are blessed to have an infinitely loving God who upholds us and helps us to face things one step at a time. Woodville may be a small town in an out of the way country, but we can play our part in welcoming strangers and pressing the authorities here and overseas to support refugees. We can each strive to see the face of Christ in all our encounters with others.

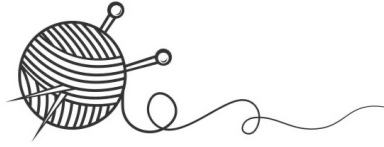
Arohanui, Rosie



In Memoriam

The last few months have seen the deaths of a number of Woodville, former Woodville or connected folk. Our sympathy and prayers go out to the families and friends of the departed. We remember:

- ⊕ Norma Evans
- ⊕ Hepa Tatere
- ⊕ Carolyn Barrell



Calling all knitters – hats for Seafarers

The Mission to Seafarers has put out a call to parishes across New Zealand to help provide them with new woollen beanies to hand out to the many seafarers visiting New Zealand on commercial ships of all kinds. Many of the sailors are from subtropical countries and struggle with the cold when down in this part of the world.

Please contact Rosie McMillan if you need a pattern or to drop off completed hats. We are sending the hats up to the Mt Maunganui Mission in batches. Back in 2015, when the last call went out, the parish knitted 25 hats!



Young at Heart, Older Folks' Social Afternoons

2pm on the fourth Monday of each month

Except for 24 July, when it will be 12pm soup and bun lunch

Holy Trinity Hall, Fox Street

Please contact Rosie McMillan if you'd like help with transportation.

July, a Month of Sundays

In July each Sunday has a particular theme.



Refugee Sunday (2 July)

When we remembered that Jesus and his family fled danger in their homeland and lived as refugees in Egypt. Welcoming the stranger and the outsider remains a vital practice of Christian communities today and is lived out in the support we give to refugees seeking to rebuild their lives in New Zealand.



Sea Sunday (9 July)

When we celebrated the work of the Mission to Seafarers, and pray for both their endeavours and all those who sail upon the world's oceans.



Bible Sunday (16 July)

When we prayed for all the groups and agencies – especially the Bible Society – working to translate the Bible into different languages so that people around the world may hear and read God's word in their own tongue.



Social Services' Sunday (23 July)

When we gave thanks and pray for all those involved, whether as volunteers or paid professionals, in helping others – be it social workers, doctors, teachers, care assistants, counsellors, or meals on wheels.



Mid-Winter Dinner

The deepest jungle comes to the Holy Trinity Hall on
6pm Saturday 5 August 2023.

The theme for this year's dinner is ***Jungle Fever.***
There'll be a tasty themed dinner, games, music, and
spot prizes for creative costumes.

Tickets are \$20 per head.

Please contact Rosie McMillan to secure yours.



Woodville Food Bank

Woodville's Food Bank continues to provide food parcels to those in need. A big thank you to everyone who supports this vital community service! If you're able, please feel free to bring a can or packet of foodstuffs along anytime to a service – there is a collection basket at the rear of the church.



Bazaar and Flower Show

Holy Trinity Hall
Saturday 9 September 2023
Doors open at 12.30pm

- ❖ Baking, produce and raffles stalls
- ❖ Sponge cake competition
- ❖ Flower category schedules available from Woodville Medicines Depot, Vogel Street
- ❖ Staging of flowers to be finished by 10am, to allow judging to be completed by noon
- ❖ Prizes and raffle results presented at 2.30pm



Freewill Offerings

Just a reminder that offerings can be made with cash or via online banking. The online details are, bank account number 02-0796-0017499-00 and for the reference code please use your regular envelope number.

If you don't currently use the regular envelopes but would like to use online banking, please contact the Treasurer (phone number at the back of the magazine) and she will issue you with a reference number.

Winter



God, God,
today the sun did not rise
on the landscape of my heart.
There is nothing but darkness,
nothing to feel but a cold
that goes deeper than my bones.
I am like a bare tree standing alone
among the dead leaves of memory.
Storms of grief and anger beat against me
and there is no shelter.
Why did this happen?
I did not ask for winter.
It came suddenly, beyond my control,
stripping away my comfort
and leaving me desolate and helpless.
It hurts to think.
It hurts to be.
I know that I can't turn back the seasons.
Never again, will I enjoy last summer,
but in the deep cold of frozen sap,
there is a message of spring to come
and already, where old leaves fell,
there are the beginnings of new buds.
All I can do today, is lie still and wait,
knowing that when the greenness and light
come again, I will be bigger and stronger
than I was last year.

Joy Cowley
Psalms for the Road

Pastoral Visits

As disciples we are constantly called to be the hands and feet of Christ. Please let Rosie McMillan know if you would like a visit, or you're aware of someone who would appreciate a visit.



Parish AGM

Holy Trinity held its Annual General Meeting after the service on Sunday 19 March. The financial and ministry reports were presented. Barbara Boyden, Brian McMillan, Rosie McMillan, Nell Mountfort, Ian Riley, Sandra Riley, Rona Squires, Toni Tiddy, James Uren, Janice Wiri, and Jim Worboys were elected Vestry members. Janice and Rona were confirmed as Parish Wardens.



Holy Trinity Garage Sale

Holy Trinity's latest garage sale, held on Saturday 15 April raised over \$2,000 to help the parish's finances. A huge thank you to everyone who donated goods for sale.



Coronation High Tea

Woodville marked the coronation of King Charles III in tasty style, with Holy Trinity hosting a Coronation High Tea in our Hall on Saturday 6 May. The hall was decked out with bunting, flags and photographs of the new King and Queen. The 50 attendees enjoyed a range of bite-sized tasty treats, accompanied by a steady stream of tea.

Woodville Girl Guides and dancers from the Tararua School of Dance provided entertainment. Steve Bethell and Julie Timmins were awarded prizes for most regal Kingly and Queenly attire, and Dot Johnson got a special prize of English jaffa cakes for her Prince Harry costume. A rousing rendition of God Save the King helped mark the day's festivities.

The organisers would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers that made food or helped with preparations and serving on the day, all the amazing entertainers, and everyone who came along to make the day such a success.





Farewell to Kath and Bill Bly

A moving farewell was paid to Bill and Kath Bly as they leave the town that has been home their whole lives. People from across Woodville and the district gathered at the Holy Trinity Hall on Sunday 21 May for an afternoon tea acknowledging Bill and Kath's lifetime of community involvement and service, and wishing them well on the next stage of their life journey as they move to Palmerston North.

Community choir Stand Up and Sing kicked off the proceedings with two numbers in tribute to Kath, who has been an active member of the choir since its start. The choir used the occasion to show off colourful new scarves that will be their signature look from now on and which matched the flowers presented to Kath. Mayor Tracey Collis then paid tribute to Bill's decades in local government representing Woodville, the Tararua District, and the wider Manawatu region, during a period of significant change driven by amalgamation and reorganisation. Generously supported by Kath, Bill was a strong consensus builder during some pretty fraught times and someone who the district has been able to call on as a facilitator and mediator in the years since he stepped back from more formal roles.

A number of community speakers, including the afternoon's MC Jim Worboys, then talked to the significant family, community, Union Church, and farming involvement of Woodville-born and bred Bill and Kath. Looming large in the reminisces was the Bly family's heavy involvement in the planning and running of the Woodville Centenary in 1975. A week-long festival with historical and contemporary events that had something for everyone, a heavily bearded Bill was one of a gang of outlaws that held up a stage coach and steam train, to the delight of the watching crowds. It was an incredible time for everyone involved.

Following the presentations, Kath and Bill offered their reflections on the warmth and energy of the Woodville and wider community, the good times and some of the challenges that have been faced as economic and social pressures affect communities across the country. A rousing rendition of for they are fully good fellows concluded the formal part of the afternoon, before everyone tucked into the sizeable afternoon tea and got to share informal stories and reminisces. In an increasingly mobile world, it's getting rarer to have two people spend their lives grounded in one community, so it was an honour for everyone to be able to acknowledge Kath and Bill and wish them all the very best for the years to come.

Floral refresh

A big thank you to the members of the Holy Trinity Anglican Women's Group who, at the Group's June meeting, who took the large collection of artificial flowers that had built up from different donations and made a set of new floral arrangements that can be used to decorate the church on different occasions. The arrangements are particularly useful in the winter months when people's gardens can be pretty bare of flowers.



Events

July 2023

- Monday 10th 7.00pm Vestry meeting in the Hall
Wednesday 12th 2.00pm Anglican Women's Group meeting in the Holy Trinity Hall
Monday 24th 12.00pm Young at Heart soup and roll lunch in the Holy Trinity Hall

August 2023

- Wednesday 9th 2.00pm Anglican Women's Group meeting in the Holy Trinity Hall
Monday 14th 7.00pm Vestry meeting in the Hall
Monday 28th 2.00pm Young at Heart social afternoon in the Holy Trinity Hall

September 2023

- Saturday 9th 12.30pm Holy Trinity Bazaar and Flower Show
Monday 11th 7.00pm Vestry meeting in the Hall
Monday 25th 2.00pm Young at Heart social afternoon in the Holy Trinity Hall

October 2023

- Monday 9th 7.00pm Vestry meeting in the Hall
Wednesday 11th 2.00pm Anglican Women's Group meeting in the Holy Trinity Hall
Monday 23rd 2.00pm Young at Heart social afternoon in the Holy Trinity Hall



July 2023

Sunday 2 nd	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 9 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 16 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 23 rd	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 30 th	9.30am	Eucharist

August 2023

Sunday 6 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 13 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 20 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 27 th	9.30am	Eucharist

September 2023

Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 17 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 24 th	9.30am	Eucharist

October 2023

Sunday 1 st	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 8 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 15 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 29 th	9.30am	Eucharist

Key contacts

Parish website: www.htwoodville.org

Email address: htwood@gmx.com

Role	Person	Telephone
Local Priest	Rev. Rosie McMillan	06 376 5972
Parish Wardens	J Wiri	027 694 5958
	R Squires	06 376 5076
Vestry Chair	B McMillan	021 860 856
Parish Treasurer	J Wiri	027 694 5958
Parish Secretary	B Boyden	027 270 2004
Anglican Women's Group	Rev. Rosie McMillan	06 376 5972
Foodbank Coordinator	J Worboys	06 376 4023