



Little Acorns



*Glory
to
God in
the
highest*

November 2019 – January 2020

The Quarterly Newsletter of
Holy Trinity Anglican Parish, Woodville

A Warm Advent

God is infinite, that's part of what being God is all about. Humans are very definitely finite, limited creatures. Our struggles to understand God are always destined to be incomplete, at least until we are called to our heavenly home. In the meantime, we use symbols, metaphors and complex theology and philosophies to try to explain elements of who and what God is. At Advent and Christmas we frequently talk about light coming into the world, warmth in the cold dark night.

This picture works particularly well in the northern hemisphere with Christmas arriving in the depths of winter. For us in the southern hemisphere it does feel quite so immediate a metaphor for Christmas in long, warm (well, theoretically warm) days of summer. For us, another metaphor may be more helpful. Summer can frequently be a season of drought. We can therefore talk about God pouring out his cool, lifegiving waters. Jesus as refreshment for a parched, dusty world; washing away sin, nourishing new life and growth.

To stretch the metaphor a little more, we can look on Advent as a season of preparation to catch some of the lifegiving water we are expecting to arrive. Traditional peoples in countries that regularly experience drought and monsoon dig wells, cisterns and canals to help gather the rains when they eventually arrive. So too we can make spiritual preparations to help harvest some of the lifegiving enrichment of Christmas. Prayer, reading, silent meditation – little fragments of quiet time and reflection carved out of the hustle and bustle of everyday living – can all be our spiritual wells, readying us catch some of the mystery, peace and hope that are part of God's great refreshing outpouring of life in the incarnation and birth of his son. Giving of himself to a wilted, thirsty world.

May your southern summer Advent and Christmas be safe blessed and full of lifegiving divine waters. Arohanui, Rosie



In Memoriam

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

- ⊕ Gary Cameron
- ⊕ Faye Scott
- ⊕ Justin Rivers

Monthly Prayer Meetings

Prayer meetings are held at 4.00pm on the last Friday of the month in Holy Trinity, all are welcome to come along! November is the last prayer meeting for 2019, which then resume in February 2020



Young at Heart, Older Folks' Social Afternoons

2pm Thursday 28 November, then resuming in January on the fourth Thursday of each month

Holy Trinity Hall

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



Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

12pm, Thursday 19 December

Holy Trinity Hall

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



Christmas Services and Events

Saturday 14 December 11.30am (to be confirmed)

Woodville Christmas Parade

Sunday 15 December 5.00pm

Woodville Combined Churches' sausage sizzle in Fountaine Square from 5.00pm, with the Service of Lessons and Carols – featuring the Dannevirke Brass Band - starting at 6.00pm (in Holy Trinity if wet)

Tuesday 24 December 8.00pm

Christmas Eve Family Eucharist at Holy Trinity

Carols start at 8.00pm, service begins at 9.00pm

Wednesday 25 December 9.30am

Christmas Day Eucharist at Holy Trinity



Farewell to Bethel Kappely

The church and wider Woodville family farewelled Bethel Kappely with an afternoon tea and presentation on Thursday 26 September. Bethel was born in Woodville and in her 91 years here has been an active member of the St James parish and a stalwart of the community. Bethel has moved to a home in Palmerston North. She is much missed!



Stand Up and Sing group

Stand Up and Sing, the community singing group, meets at 7.00pm on Monday evenings in Holy Trinity. All very welcome!



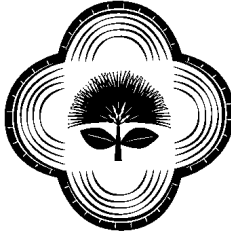
Christian World Service Christmas Appeal

When it comes time to prepare for Christmas we need to find ways be lifelines in a world broken by poverty, war and greed. Our church supports the Christian World Service (CWS) Christmas Appeal, first launched in 1945 by the then National Council of Churches to help war-torn Greece.

Making sure refugees have food, shelter and education, small farmers have seeds and water to grow food, and children have medical care when they need it are ways to bring fullness of life. Your gifts have helped so many families in the 74 years churches and the CWS have been working together.

The work is not done. This year more people have become refugees and many more face violence on a daily basis. Your gift this Christmas will help rebuild lives and give hope to people in need of food, water, support and medicine. Information about the CWS partner groups and the work they do will be available on posters at the back of Holy Trinity or online at www.christmasappeal.org.nz.

In Advent there will be envelopes available in the church to make a donation.



Message from the Ministry Team

The Ministry Team would like to thank all the hard workers who help keep Holy Trinity running, and wish everyone a Holy Christmas, and a safe and happy New Year. As ever the past year has brought its share of laughter and tears, and we remember those no longer with us, as well as those beset by illness. Our sincere prayer is that the year to come brings us greater happiness than sorrow. God bless you all!



Woodville Foodbank Thanks

The Woodville Combined Churches committee would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has donated either money or goods over 2019 – your generous support keeps this valuable service going , for people who face difficult times!



Come Let Us Adore Him

Come, all you shepherds and shearers.
Put down your blades,
kick the fleece into a corner
and hurry down to the birthing place.
Christ is with us.

It is dark right now in Bethlehem
but here the sun blazes in a fanfare of brass
and gulls float like scraps of paper
announcing to a blue, blue sea,
Christ is with us.

Not in a stable this time,
but in a house-truck parked down by the creek
under a snow of manuka blossom,
Mary, the baby, two cats and a dog,
and Joseph making pancakes over a little gas stove.
Go quietly now, for this is holy time.
Kick your boots off at the step
and go in with open eyes, ready to be surprised by God.
Christ is with us.

*Joy Cowley
Come and See, 2008*



Bazaar and Flower Show

Trestles of baking, sweets, produce, plants, sewing and raffles lined the Holy Trinity Hall on Saturday the 31st of August, while beautiful blooms filled the centre of the space and people enjoyed a soup and savoury luncheon. No one could mistake the day for anything but the Bazaar and Flower Show!

This year also saw the inaugural presentation of the Margaret Pinfold Memorial Prize for the most points in show. It was lovely to have Sarah Pinfold there to present it to winner Rona Squires.

This year there was also an exhibition of beautiful paintings by Bobbi Angelini, which added another wonderful note to the Hall.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed items, entered flowers or helped out on the day. Over \$2,100 was raised for the Anglican Women's Group funds.



Waiapu Synod

The Waiapu Synod was held on 21 and 22 September in the main hall at Woodford House in Havelock North. Rosie and Brian McMillan attended for Holy Trinity. Synod opened with prayers in the school's beautiful St Francis Chapel. The Bishop then delivered his annual charge, looking at the past year, including his recent trip to Papua New Guinea, building on the relationship that Waiapu started there a number of years ago.

Over the course of the first day the Synod worked through and approved four motions:

- formal Diocesan letters of sympathy and support to the Christchurch mosques;
- putting in place a climate change strategy (in line with what was agreed at General Synod in 2018), with the clear messages the church has an important role challenging the greed, selfishness and apathy that is slowly destroying the environment, and that action is required by us all;
- Diocesan standing committee to develop guidelines for vestries to be able to consider business by phone or another method when they can't get a quorum; and

- the Diocese writing to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance urging them to speedily implement the recommendations of the Government’s Welfare Expert Advisory Group, from earlier this year, aimed at improving the social welfare system.

Over the Saturday there was also:

- a great presentation from Robert Kereopa from the Anglican Missions Board on mission work being done across the Pacific and around the world, with Synod approving the mission giving target for 2020
- a presentation from Anglican Care Waiapu highlighting the ongoing shift and work underway to identify new opportunities following the 2017 sale of the residential care facilities
- a presentation from the Bishop and a group-based discussion on the drafting of the new canon D, the part of the church’s laws dealing with discipline for anyone holding a licence or position of authority; and
- a moving farewell to the Rev. Stephen Donald who has retired from ministry.

After the Synod service on Sunday morning the Synod received the usual assortment of annual reports from the different chaplains and groups across the Diocese, before reviewing the financial reports and approving the budget for next year, which is very much steady as she goes.

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.



Events

November 2019

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|---------------------------|---------|---|
| Monday 11 th | 10.45am | Armistice Day civic service in Fountaine Square |
| Monday 11 th | 7.00pm | Vestry meets in the Hall |
| Thursday 28 th | 2.00pm | Young at Heart social afternoon in the Hall |
| Friday 29 th | 12.00pm | Anglican Women's Group lunch |
| Friday 29 th | 4.00pm | Monthly prayer meeting in Holy Trinity |

December 2019

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|---------------------------|---------|---|
| Saturday 14 th | 11.30am | Woodville Christmas Parade |
| Sunday 15 th | 5.00pm | Woodville Combined Churches' sausage sizzle in Fountaine Square, followed by a Service of Lessons and Carol |
| Thursday 19 th | 12.00pm | Senior citizens Christmas lunch in the Hall |

January 2020

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|---------------------------|--------|---|
| Thursday 23 rd | 2.00pm | Young at Heart social afternoon in the Hall |
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Church Services

November 2019

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

December 2019

Sunday 1 st	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 8 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 15 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 24 th	8.00pm	Christmas Eve carols and Eucharist
Wednesday 25 th	9.30am	Christmas Day Eucharist
Sunday 29 th	9.30am	Eucharist

January 2020

Sunday 5 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 12 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 19 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 26 th	9.30am	Union Service

First-Footing Prayer for the New Year

This day is a new day
That has never been before.
This year is a new year,
the opening door.
Enter, Lord Christ—
we have joy in Your coming.
You have given us life;
and we welcome Your coming.
I turn now to face You,
I lift up my eyes.
Be blessing my face, Lord;
be blessing my eyes.
May all my eye looks on
be blessed and be bright,
my neighbours, my loved ones
be blessed in Your sight.
You have given us life
and we welcome Your coming.
Be with us, Lord,
we have joy, we have joy.
This year is a new year,
the opening door.
Be with us, Lord,
We have joy, we have joy.

The Northumbria Community

The above prayer is a 'first-footing' prayer. In Scotland and Northern England whoever first crosses the threshold of your home after the passing of midnight on New Year's Eve is the person who "brings in the year" for you and your house. This prayer invites Jesus to 'first-foot' for us, to bring in the new year for us.

Key contacts

Parish website: www.htwoodville.org

Role	Person	Telephone
Local Priest	Rev. Rosie McMillan	06 376 5972
Parish Wardens	Janice Wiri	06 376 4838
	Rona Squires	06 376 5076
Vestry Chair	Vicky Tomlinson	022 643 9419
Parish Treasurer	Janice Wiri	06 376 4838
Parish Secretary	Rona Squires	06 376 5076
Anglican Women's Group	Rev. Rosie McMillan	06 376 5972
Foodbank Coordinator	Jim Worboys	06 376 4023