



Little Acorns



November 2021 – January 2022

The Quarterly Newsletter of
Holy Trinity Anglican Parish, Woodville

An Uncertain Advent

It has been a strange few months, with COVID's Delta variant in the community and the different lockdowns and protocols that have been in place. In all this New Zealand is lucky, as a first world nation we have enough vaccine doses to go around (the challenge is getting everyone vaccinated). In Africa to date there have been only enough vaccine doses delivered for 5% of the continent's population. Our duty as a global Church and a nation is to help those less fortunate, especially in such uncertain times.

We shortly start the season of Advent, a time of preparation and expectation, that first grew out of uncertainty. Mary and Joseph faced enormous uncertainty from the moment of the annunciation when Mary learnt she was to carry the God made flesh. While the focus in our church calendar is contained in a month, for Mary and Joseph the pregnancy was of course the usual nine months of change. Then there were the years of raising Jesus. His childhood and early years are glossed over in the New Testament, apart from a few small incidents, but his earthly ministry didn't start until around 30. In all that time Mary and Joseph must have watched with a sense of expectation as Jesus grew and matured, unsure what his role on earth was to be.

We are faced with these aspects of God beyond all comprehension, someone both infinite and also familiar with human timescales. Like Mary and Joseph we need to try and give our uncertainty and worries over to God. I know it is easy to say that, but of course it is so hard in practice, something I know I struggle with. But the value lies in trying, in being alert to the moment, taking the steps we can, but not worrying about the things beyond our control or influence. We are enfolded in God's love. Things may not be easy, indeed they can be frustrating, painful, sorrowful, but we do not bear them alone.

The troubles we face now will eventually pass, although that makes them no easier to bear now. But we are a community, both with each

other and with the one we follow. God is a light to us, and we can be a light to others, a light of the world like that star from long ago. The power, warmth, and support of community can overcome darkness and despair. We will worry for the future, we are human, but as Christians we're blessed with knowing that none of us is alone, that we have a God that cares for us, and knows us more completely than we will ever know ourselves. And we're blessed with a God who loves us – loves us so much that he accepted human life in all its messy uncertainty and lived with us in a full, rich human life.

In the name of that life, of the Christ Child, I wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas season, Rosie



In Memoriam

The last few months have seen the deaths of two members of our immediate and wider Woodville family. We remember:

- ⊕ Noel Squires
- ⊕ Alan Wicking
- ⊕ Shirley Cox
- ⊕ Madge Rossiter
- ⊕ Jean McLean
- ⊕ Mike Barnes
- ⊕ Doreen Goodin

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the families and friends of Noel, Alan, Shirley, Madge, Jean, Mike and Doreen.



Bidding Farewell to Shirley

It is with heavy hearts that we are bidding farewell to one of our parish's special members. Shirley Hale is moving to a villa at the Name retirement village in Palmerston North. It will be great for Shirley to be in a smaller house and closer to her daughter, but she will be sorely missed in Woodville. Shirley has been an active member of the church and wider community, and has touched the lives and hearts of many. Our love and prayers go with Shirley as she heads off on her next adventures.

A farewell function for Shirley is being held in the Woodville Sports Stadium (Ross Street) at 2pm on Sunday 28 November.



Young at Heart, Older Folks' Social Afternoons

2pm Monday 22 November, then resuming in January on the fourth
Monday of each month

Holy Trinity Hall

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



Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

12pm, Monday 20 December

Holy Trinity Hall

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



Christmas Services

Friday 24 December 8.00pm

Christmas Eve Family Service at Holy Trinity

Carols start at 8.00pm, service begins at 9.00pm

Saturday 25 December 9.30am

Christmas Day Service at Holy Trinity

A decision is yet to be made on when and where the Woodville Combined Churches' community carol service will be held, details will be advertised separately when they're available.

People in Need?

As disciples we are constantly called to be the hands and feet of Christ. Please let Rosie McMillan know if you:

- ❖ are aware of someone who would appreciate a pastoral visit,
- ❖ know of someone who is struggling or on a tight budget, and could benefit from meal support or another form of assistance



Christian World Service Christmas Appeal

At the close of World War Two, the National Council of Churches launched the first Christmas Appeal by asking New Zealanders to remember “the millions in the east and the west, who are hungry, cold and homeless”. The first appeal went to the people of Greece who had given food and shelter to New Zealanders during the fighting. For the last 76 years, your gifts have helped people in every corner of the world find the food, warmth and shelter they need for each day. Working together with CWS, we have supported local partners to tackle hunger at its root and made known God’s love for the world.

With your help, displaced people have planted new gardens, farmers have learned to grow food in tough climates, and families are eating a more nutritious diet. In Sri Lanka and South Sudan, in Lebanon and Haiti, many more families need that support to thrive.

The economic cost of Covid-19 has been high. Your gift at Christmas will give people the life that has been taken from them. Instead of hunger and worry, they will watch new gardens flourish and their children thrive. With your gift and prayers, we can help many more families. Please give generously to the 2021 Christmas Appeal.

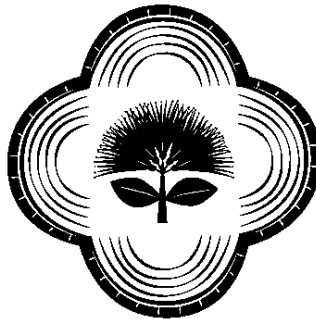
Information about the CWS partner groups and the work they do will be available on posters at the back of Holy Trinity or online at www.christmasappeal.org.nz. In Advent there will be envelopes available in the church to make a donation.



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 2021 – your generous support keeps this valuable service going during a very difficult year for a great many people!

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.



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. The past year has seen New Zealand and the world continue to go through a pandemic, and has brought its share of laughter and tears. 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, as we enter a new phase of dealing with Covid-19. God bless you all!



Come and See

Light to splinter darkness.
Hope to lift the soul.
Peace to ring the changes.
Grace resounds for all.

Night, the time for birthing.
Stars to guide us on.
Angels' voices singing,
joining with our song.

Come and see the newborn.
Come with new-found joy.
Come, for heaven's rejoicing.
Mary's infant boy!

*Stephen J Maunder
Iona Community*



Raising the rafters to help fund beds

Holy Trinity had its rafters raised for a good cause on the afternoon of Sunday 25 July, with wonderful performances by the Dannevirke Pipe and Brass Bands, and Woodville's community choir Stand Up and Sing. Over a hundred attendees raised more than \$500 for the Starship Foundation's appeal to fund extra paediatric intensive care beds at Auckland's Starship Hospital.

The concert featured a mix of performances by the bands, Stand Up and Sing, and smaller groups and solos, all of them showcasing what amazing musical talent we have in the Tararua district. The organisers would like to thank all the musicians, singers, and everyone who attended and helped raise a great sum for a very worthy cause.

The ticket sales from the mid-winter dinner (see the next item) were also donated to the Starship appeal, which saw Holy Trinity donate a total of \$1,882 for the intensive care beds. With groups and communities across the country all helping to raise money, hopefully it won't be long before the Starship Foundation reaches its target!



Mid-Winter Dinner – A Night in Sherwood Forest

Merry men, fair maidens, a Nottingham Sherriff and even a King or two filled the Holy Trinity Hall on the evening of Saturday 31 July for Holy Trinity's 14th mid-winter dinner. It will probably be no surprise reading that introduction that this year's theme was 'A Night in Sherwood Forest'.

The evening featured themed games, a multi-round quiz, and a delicious three-course menu that included mixed platters, roast beef, and black forest cake. People had a great time, filling the hall with laughter, chat and music. A big thank you to everyone that came along – people's ongoing support makes the dinner the fun event it is. Planning has already started for next year's dinner.



Bazaar and Flower Show

A sunny late spring day helped draw people to the Holy Trinity Hall on Saturday 16 October, where they found tables laden with baking, sweets, produce, plants, crafts and raffles. A large selection of beautiful blooms filled the centre of the hall, so no one could mistake the day for anything but the Church's Bazaar and Flower Show! While COVID had delayed when we could hold the bazaar, and meant we had to be careful about the total number in the hall, it certainly didn't dampen the spirits of everyone involved.

The Anglican Women's Group wish to thank everyone who came along, entered flowers, or donated baking or raffle items to make it a fantastic day!



Events

November 2021

Tuesday 4 th	11.30am	Men's Fellowship, Salvation Army Hall
Thursday 11 th	10.45am	Armistice Day civic service in Fountaine Square
Tuesday 18 th	11.30am	Men's Fellowship, Salvation Army Hall
Monday 22 nd	2.00pm	Young at Heart social afternoon in the Hall
Sunday 28 th	2.00pm	Farewell for Shirley Hale in the Woodville Sports Stadium, Ross Street

December 2021

Tuesday 2 nd	11.30am	Men's Fellowship, Salvation Army Hall
Tuesday 16 th	11.30am	Men's Fellowship, Salvation Army Hall
Monday 20 th	12.00pm	Senior citizens Christmas lunch in the Hall

January 2022

Monday 24 th	2.00pm	Young at Heart social afternoon in the Hall
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Church Services

Please note that if there is a revision to the COVID alert level then services listed as morning worship may become eucharists – we'll update the Holy Trinity website with changes

November 2021

Sunday 7 th	9.30am	Morning worship
Sunday 14 th	9.30am	Family service
Sunday 21 st	9.30am	Morning worship
Sunday 28 th	9.30am	Morning worship

December 2021

Sunday 5 th	9.30am	Morning worship
Sunday 12 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 19 th	9.30am	Morning worship
Friday 24 th	8.00pm	Christmas Eve carols and service
Saturday 25 th	9.30am	Christmas Day service
Sunday 26 th	9.30am	Morning worship

January 2022

Sunday 2 nd	9.30am	Morning worship
Sunday 9 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 16 th	9.30am	Morning worship
Sunday 23 rd	9.30am	Morning worship
Sunday 30 th	9.40am	Morning worship

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.

COVID-19 Reminder

As a nation we need to remain vigilant about the pandemic. In the church and hall, we have the government-issued tracking scanner codes and a book for those who do not have mobile phones. Please ensure you either scan or sign in for all services and events. We also have instructions about what we can do at Delta Level 2 in the church, please ensure you follow all directions.



Key contacts

Parish website: www.htwoodville.org

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