



Little Acorns



November 2023 – February 2024

The magazine of Holy Trinity
Anglican Parish, Woodville

A vulnerable birth into a dark world

God must weep at humans' cruelty and intolerance towards each other. In Gaza, Sudan, the Congo and Ukraine, children, women and men are being killed by the same anger, fear, and ignorance that led the powerful 2,000 years ago to kill God's own son. It probably seems strange to start a message in a Christmas-focused magazine on such a bleak note. But it's sorrow at the corruption of human potential that drove God to such an incredible act of vulnerability and love two millennia ago. Setting aside his infinite power, God chose to fully inhabit a vulnerable human life. And with that radical act changed the world forever.

Jesus was born totally helpless to young parents camped out far from home in a stable in the depths of winter. Right from the start of Jesus's life we see the upending of all expectations of power, might and glory, at least in a worldly sense for those looking for a Messiah to sweep away their enemies. Instead we have a chosen one, the most incredible Messiah who shows us the power of love, the might of service, and the glory of humility. A God who calls us to leave behind our fear and anger, to embrace justice and compassion, to care for the broken and outcast, to see each other as holy.

The authorities and worldly powers have always struggled against this call for humility and sacrifice, and it can often feel like those bound up in hatred and greed have the upper hand. But in every time and place, every land and generation there are those who have heard the call of angels and the message of a vulnerable God born in the cold night and who hold fast to that message, who seek, however imperfectly, to live it out. Like small lights flickering in the night, each of those people, each of us, together push back the darkness. We are here and together, as a global community, as the body of Christ, we can push back against hatred and death, we can fight for justice and liberation, for all people everywhere to be free to live with peace and dignity.

The task is never easy, and at times, like at the moment as we look at events around the world, it can feel like such a sorrowful struggle. But we are not alone, the God that calls us to understanding and compassionate service is the God who is always with us, upholding us in the Spirit, knowing exactly how we feel, having lived a full human life himself that began in total vulnerability in Bethlehem and led him all the way to the cross. But beyond the cross we know there is resurrection and God's eternal love.

Arohanui, Rosie



In Memoriam

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

- ⊕ Ann Cumming
- ⊕ Mary Patterson (daughter of Jack and Mary)
- ⊕ David Walker
- ⊕ Esther Knight
- ⊕ Gordon Beale
- ⊕ Mary Reuben
- ⊕ John Shannon
- ⊕ Ray Walker
- ⊕ Ralph Mountfort
- ⊕ Bruce Todd
- ⊕ Eric Rivers

Our sympathy and prayers are also with Kay Brabender, Sandra Riley, and Gaye Parkes who have all sadly lost siblings.



Esther Knight
1936 – 2023

Esther was a very active member of the St James church family, before coming along to Holy Trinity when St James closed. A lifelong member of the district, Esther was a member of a wide range of community groups and loved by all who knew her for her generosity, helpfulness and kindness. A true farmer's wife, Esther's homemaking skills were legendary – as anyone who got to taste her baking or saw her beautiful garden could attest. Esther's deep and quiet faith always shone through, and was an inspiration to many.



Mary Reuben
1931 – 2023

After growing up in Pahiatua and then moving to the far north and then Auckland as a young married woman where she raised a large family with her husband Abraham (known as Prince), Mary moved to

Woodville in the 2000s shortly after being widowed. Mary quickly became a beloved member of the community, with her wisdom, ready smile and warm wit blessings to all who knew her. Mary was an active member of the St James church family and then the Holy Trinity parish family after the closure of St James. Last year Mary moved north again to be near family. Across the country Mary touched the lives and hearts of many.



Ralph Mountfort
1932 – 2023

Ralph was an active member of the Holy Trinity church family, helping in the maintenance of the buildings and grounds, including as probably our longest serving lawn mower, and for many years stepping in as the church's organist. This was just one way in which Ralph was able to act on his love of music. Whenever we had a community dinner or afternoon tea you could always rely on Ralph to play the piano and get everyone singing along.

Born and living all his life in the Woodville district, Ralph was very much a part of the community. He was a holder of a lot of history. His memory of people and events will be sadly missed, along with all the many other talents and joys he brought to his life and those around him.



Young at Heart, Older Folks' Social Afternoons

2pm on the fourth Monday of each month (except December)
Holy Trinity Hall, Fox Street

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



Concerts

Saturday 2 December – 7pm

Tararua Combined Choirs' concert, featuring Woodville's Stand Up and Sing, Dannevirke's Viking Choir, and the Totara Children's Choir, at Holy Trinity Woodville, tickets \$10 adults and children under 13 are free

Sunday 10 December – 7pm

Woodville community carols with the Dannevirke Brass Band in Holy Trinity



Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

12pm, Monday 18 December 2023

Holy Trinity Hall

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



Christmas Services

Sunday 17 December – 7.30pm

Service of lessons and carols at St Andrew's Kumeroa

Sunday 24 December – 8.00pm

Christmas Eve Family Service at Holy Trinity

Carols start at 8.00pm, service begins at 9.00pm

Monday 25 December – 9.30am

Christmas Day Service at Holy Trinity



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.

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.



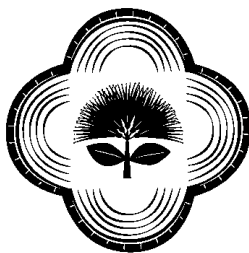
Christian World Service Christmas Appeal

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 78 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 medical clinics and programmes are helping keep millions of people well and treating a variety of illnesses and conditions. With your gift and prayers, we can help many more families. Please give generously to the 2023 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.



Message from Vestry

Vestry 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 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. God bless you all!



Love Came

Late last night,
while we were busy wrapping the presents with perfection,
busy nicking our knuckles and swearing under our breath,
trying to assemble the grandchild's first bicycle,
you were neatly hanging glory's garment in the closet,
setting out on your journey to us;
waiting to be wrapped,
not in silver foil with a great big red bow,
but in the swaddling clothes of our lives.
And you crept so quietly into our world,
coming to keep an eye on all those we overlook;
coming to set back on their feet
all the ones we knock over in our rush each day;
coming to open our hearts
to each person we are so determined not to love;
coming to make a home for all those we toss aside;
coming to keep faith with all who have forgotten how;
coming again and again and again and again...

Thom M Schuman
The Soft Petals of Grace

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.



Hats for Seafarers

The Mission to Seafarers 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.

The knitters of Holy Trinity have made more than 40 hats which have all been sent up to the Tauranga branch of the Mission to Seafarers. As New Zealand's busiest port, Tauranga is a great place from which to distribute assistance to the sailors from around the world.



Mid-winter dinner – Jungle Fever

Explorers, wild animals, and exotic tribespeople mingled in the Holy Trinity Hall on Saturday 5 August, as they all found themselves in a jungle clearing for the evening for the annual mid-winter dinner.

The evening featured themed games, a multi-round quiz, and a delicious three-course menu. 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 good crowd turned out at the Holy Trinity Hall on Saturday 9 September, where they found tables laden with baking, sweets, produce, plants, raffles, and a white elephant stall. A 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!

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

Waiapu Synod 2023

The Diocesan Synod was held in Taradale on 22–23 September. The Synod papers and reports are available online at www.waiapu.com.

The first day was spent in conference mode and after presentations by Bishop Andrew, Rev. Dr Hirini Kaa, and two researchers the synod members broke up into groups to discussing a set of strategic questions about the future of the church as a whole and how we live out our mission in our communities and the diocese as a whole. The discussions will be considered by Standing Committee over the coming year.

There were reports and presentations from the Anglican Missions Board, the Diocese's Safeguarding Risk Manager, the Diocesan finance IT project, and Anglican Care Waiapu. Three Bills were considered and approved on changes to the liturgical calendar and sentences and collects for different observances.



Young at Heart Teddy Bears' Picnic

The September Young at Heart social afternoon had an extra dose of sweetness with a teddy bears' picnic. Attendees all brought along a favourite teddy – there were some of a significant vintage – with spares available for anyone who no longer has a teddy about the house. Games, singing and a delicious afternoon were shared – fortunately the bears didn't eat too much.



Events

November 2023

- Wednesday 8th 2.00pm Anglican Women's Group meeting in the Holy Trinity Hall
- Monday 13th 7.00pm Vestry meeting in the Holy Trinity Hall
- Monday 27th 2.00pm Young at Heart social afternoon in the Holy Trinity Hall

December 2023

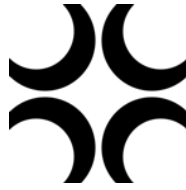
- Saturday 2nd 7.00pm Combined choirs concert in Holy Trinity
- Saturday 9th 10.00am Woodville Christmas Parade
- Sunday 10th 7.00pm Woodville community carols with the Dannevirke Brass Band in Holy Trinity
- Monday 11th 7.00pm Vestry meeting in the Holy Trinity Hall
- Monday 18th 12.00pm Senior citizens' Christmas lunch in the Holy Trinity Hall

January 2024

- Monday 22nd 2.00pm Young at Heart social afternoon in the Holy Trinity Hall

February 2024

- Monday 12th 7.00pm Vestry meeting in the Holy Trinity Hall
- Wednesday 14th 2.00pm Anglican Women's Group meeting in the Holy Trinity Hall
- Monday 26th 2.00pm Young at Heart social afternoon in the Holy Trinity Hall



Church Services

November 2023

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

December 2023

Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 17 th	9.30am	Eucharist
	7.30pm	Lessons & carols at St Andrews Kumeroa
Sunday 24 th	9.30am	Morning Worship
	8.00pm	Christmas Eve Eucharist
Monday 25 th	9.30am	Christmas Day Eucharist
Sunday 31 st	9.30am	Eucharist

January 2024

Sunday 7 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 14 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 21 st	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 28 th	9.30am	Eucharist

February 2024

Sunday 4 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 11 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 18 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 25 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