

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2025
JANUARY 2026



Irish Christmas Blessing

The light of the Christmas star
to you,
The warmth of home and hearth
to you,
The cheer and good will of friends
to you,
The hope of a childlike heart
to you,
The joy of a thousand angels
to you,
The love of the Son and God's peace
to you.

Greetings

This might sound a little weird, but as we approach Christmas, at the dawn of the Advent season, I would like to reflect a little on the Magi returning home after seeing Jesus. I am reminded of Stephen Covey's 7 habits of highly effective people, where one of the habits is to 'start with the end in mind'. As we start this Christmas season we need to keep an eye on the new year. What I mean is, what do we want to get out of Christmas? After the season has come and gone and we start a new year, how do we want to be different, changed by the Christmas celebration?



In Matthews account of the birth of Jesus we read about the Magi (Matthew 2: 1-11). Magi arrive at Herod's court expecting that is where a king would be born, they are told to go and search and when they find Jesus, they are to return to Herod and tell him where the baby is. After seeing Jesus, the magi are warned in a dream not to return to Herod, but to return home 'another way'.

We are going to take a journey this Christmas, a pilgrimage as you might say. We will journey back to Bethlehem, back to the stable and the shepherds. After we have encountered Jesus there, we will return to our daily lives in a new year. Hopefully, we will not return the same way, not by a different route, but changed people. We can return again the same as we have always been, or we can allow the meaning of Christmas to change us. A God who loved us so much that he was prepared to empty Himself and take on the form of a servant (Philippians 2:7) that we might find life. My prayer is that when the new year dawns, we will all be changed in some small way. Dare we dream that it is possible. God invites us into this season, to open our hearts and minds once again to the Nativity story, and through it to help us love and to serve better in all we do.

Merry Christmas.

Rodney



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sun. 14 Dec.	10.00 am	Christmas Pageant
Sun. 21 Dec.	10.00 am	Carol service
Wed 24 Dec.	6.00 pm	Christmas eve picnic
	7.30 pm	Carols on the lawn
	9.15 pm	Christmas eve service
Thurs. 25 Dec.	10.00 am	Christmas day service
Sun. 28 Dec.	10.00 am	Morning worship

Services during January 10.00 am

Lectionary

7 Dec	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7,18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
14	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:5-10	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
21	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7,17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
28	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23
4 Jan	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1(1-9) 10-16
11	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
18	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
25	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1,4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
1 Feb.	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12

The centre piece of our activities at St Margaret's is our Sunday worship services. It is a very special time in the week when we gather for worship. To get the most out of the hour we dedicate to worship, it is ideal that we have our focus on God and each other as a community of faith. Personally, I do believe that our worship time ends when the Benediction is said, there is something sacred about the time that we spend connecting over a cup of tea/coffee in the lounge. It is my hope every person who attends on a Sunday has a full and uninterrupted time of worship and fellowship.

Now, why have I given such a long preamble. I am of the feeling that there are several people in our parish, for whom Sunday is like a day of work, having to talk business after the service and sometimes even before. There are times that people miss out on tea all together because they are caught up in a discussion about a maintenance issue or a financial matter. I am therefore asking if we can all, I say 'we' because I am possibly the biggest culprit, try and keep church business discussions for another time. I understand that in an emergency it is necessary, no problem. For non-emergency matters please can you note the following emails.

For church maintenance matters please email;
admin@stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz

For financial matters please email Sarah at:
treasurer@stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz

For the Session Clerk, please email Chris at:
rosanowskic@gmail.com

For notices, emails, newsletter, name tags, copying, please email Hazel at:
hazmic.ob@xtra.co.nz

Please feel free to email Rodney for any matters.
minister@stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz

Important, Please note, on Sundays Sian and I are on duty; it is our workday, so you can talk to us about anything, no restrictions.

I thank you for your co-operation in making Sundays a blessed time for all.

ROSTERS

Date	Morning Tea	Lawns	Church Cleaning	Audio Visual
7 Dec.	Sue Taylor Delwyn Frederikson	-	Lynley McInnarney	David Lottering
.14 Dec	Lin Coleman Karen Coleman	Rhys West	Carol McConnell	Alfred Enslin
21 Dec	Jan Hill Shirley Harrison	-	Ainsley Andrews	Chris Rosenowski
.28 Dec	Sarah Smith Derilene Aston	Mike McInnarney	Rosenda Upton	Jenny Fisher
4 Jan.	Malcolm Foster Shirley Harrison	-	Helen Bassett	Alfred Enslin
11 Jan	Lynn Russell Jacqueline Kitchen	Chris Upton	Lynley McInnarney	Hazel O'Brien
18 Jan	Sandi Rothwell Jo Rothbaum	-	Karen Coleman	Chris Rosenowski
25 Jan.	Lin Coleman Karen Coleman	Clive McGovern	Shirley Harrison	David Lottering
1 Feb	Sue Taylor Delwyn Frederikson	-	Rosenda Upton	Jenny Fisher



With most groups taking a well-earned break, most activities do not start until February.

- **Friendship Centre** closes for the year on Monday 1 December and resumes on Monday 9 February.
- **Tea & Chat** meet again on Wednesday 4 February. All are welcome.
- **Evening Fellowship** resumes on Wednesday 11 February. This group is open to all men and women.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH
FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 5.30-7.00PM



ALL CHILDREN ACCCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT WELCOME. CHRISTMAS
ACTIVITIES FOR UP TO 12 YEARS OLD. BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN
WITH CRAFTS, GAMES AND FOOD!! A LIGHT MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED.



And just like that, it's a wrap!!

Fair '25 came and went and what a wonderful day had by all !!! Even the sun came out to play !

The queues started forming a good hour before opening for those keen to grab the bargains and then a steady flow of people wandered around throughout the morning - most leaving with armloads of goodies.

There was a lot of positive feedback from the community on how much they look forward to the fair each year and it's a privilege to meet their needs and expectations. But we would be remiss in thinking, the fair was a Saturday event. We cannot begin to thank all the many people and hours that it took to bring the fair together on the day. To mention just a few

- the set-up crews that spend all day the week before the fair sorting 2nd hand clothing/manchester and the night crew that follows.
- the hours sorting books
- the marquee security sleepover team
- the hauling of heavy stored Steptoe items to the marquee when that's up
- the hours of baking and cooking for the café and the cake/preserves/sweet stalls
- the collection and safe delivery of many, many plants of all shapes and sizes
- The hours, creating, crafting and pricing of all the stall holders and then getting their goods to the fair for set up
- The crew that updates the signs each year and puts them up well in advance of the fair and back down again in storage until the next year
- The crew that advertises on various community platforms, church newsletter and social media
- The many willing (and sometimes bribed) people that deliver all the fair donation leaflets within the community
- The crew that receives the donated goods/empty boot loads of cars on the designated days/evenings
- The crew that pickup donated items throughout the community
- The stall holders and their volunteers on the day
- The money handlers/counters/bankers

- The after-fair pack up / clean up crew when bodies are already tired

And this year, a big thank you to the crew that avoided disaster during the fair set up week when a spring storm decided to dump an unwelcome volume of water that leaked into the lounge roof cavity. Without the set-up crew on site, it would have resulted in a lot of wet carpet and electrical damage just days out from the fair. A big thank you to the crew that came so quickly after making a temporary fix to the problem and those who will be putting in place a permanent fix.

We also want to shout out to the wonderful support we received from the community members below.

Community Support

- New World Silverstream for their voucher that we put towards groceries to offset some stall holder costs and prizes for the Youth Group led games stall



- Carlton Party Hire for their very generous discount they give us for the marquee hire



- Watson's Garden Centre for their heavily discount tomato plants, plants and shrubs



- Lions Club for donating their Eftpos machine for the day



And above all THANK YOU to the members of St Margarets who year on year, show your support to the fair and help make it the success it is.

Fair Team '25

From the Board of Managers

Another year draws to a close and there is so much to be thankful for. What am very thankful for is a Board of Managers that are always looking forward, asking what needs to be done to make St Margaret's a special place where people can gather and grow in their faith through worship and fellowship. Mission accomplished!

Joy seems to know no bounds, as when last did you hear of a building project being on time and under budget. Yes, that was our new kitchen! Under the expert management of Sarah Smith, the kitchen was completed on time. When we presented the plan for approval at a congregational meeting, we estimated that the cost would be around \$40 000, so we asked for a contingency to be built in and a budget of \$45 000 was approved. The total cost of the kitchen was \$32,352.25. Worth a big 'well done' to the team.

On the subject of money, the final tally for the fair this year was \$23857.60. Another cause for joy and celebration. As I type this article there are contractors on site painting the church. We will go into the new year looking all bright and fresh.

To the whole Board of Managers committee, I say a very big 'Thank You' for the time and effort put in. Though most people in the church are unaware of all that you do, it is deeply appreciated.

Rodney



Thank you to all the Sunday School Teachers and Youth Group Leaders. Your valuable time and genuine love and care for our church family's children is much appreciated.

There will be a morning tea for the children after the Pageant on Sunday 14 December as it will be our final Sunday School session for 2025.

Youth Group's last day together is Sunday 7th December.

Sunday School will resume Sunday 15 February.

Youth Group will resume Thursday 12 February.

Looking forward to seeing you all back again in 2026 ☺

Thank you

Sian Family Worker

Profit and Loss

St Margaret's Presbyterian Church, Silverstream
For the month ended 31 October 2025

<u>Account</u>	<u>Oct 2025</u>
Trading Income	
2001 - Offering Automatic Payments	7,502.50
2002 - Offering Envelopes	1,545.00
2010 - Loose Offerings	605.50
2100 - Fundraising	550.00
2420 - Rent Received - Hall etc	1,599.98
261 - Church, Hall & Lounge Hire	69.57
Gross Profit	11,872.55
Operating Expenses	
Total Operating Expenses	25,852.67
Net Profit/(Loss)	(13,980.12)



December 2025

January 2026

Minister: Rev. Rodney Ramsay 0211259835 **Family Worker:** Sian Scannell 0273631315
Session Clerk: Rev. Chris Rosanowski 971.7530
Website: <https://stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz> **Hall Bookings:** Carol McConnell 0272210609
Facebook: St. Margaret's Family Page

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Friendship Gr	2 Play Group Bible Study 10.00 & 7.30	3 Session 7.00	4 Choir practice 7.30	5	6
7 Communion	8	9 Bible Study 10.00 & 7.30	10	11 Choir practice 7.30	12	13
14 Christmas pageant	15	16 Bible Study 10.00 & 7.30	17 Board of Managers	18 Choir practice 7.30	19	20
21 Carol service	22	23	24 Chr. eve picnic Carols on lawn Chr eve service	25 Christmas Day service 10.00	26	27
28 Morn.Worship	29	30	31	1 Jan.		

Services available on Zoom each Sunday <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89367824002>

If you are unable to watch the Zoom service live, but would like the link, please contact Lynley McInnarney 0272780010