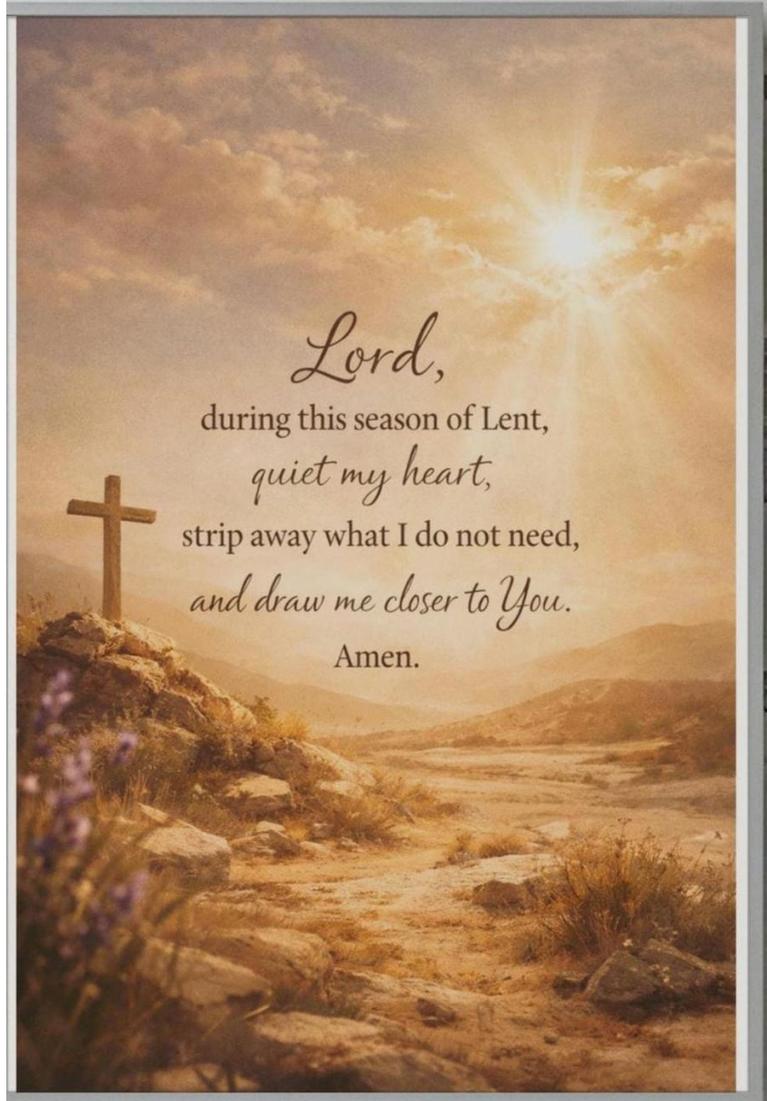




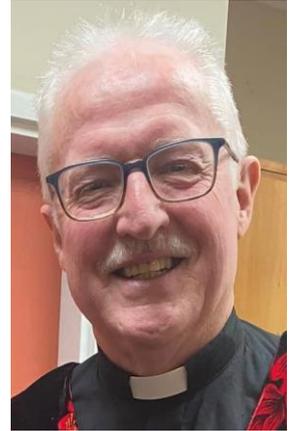
ST MARGARET'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

NEWSLETTER
March 2026



Greetings

We have entered the church season called lent. The word 'Lent' comes from the old English word 'Lencten', which means 'Spring Season'. Yes, spring in the Northern Hemisphere, for us it is autumn. The practice of lent is not a Biblical injunction; it started soon after the council of Nicea in 325AD. It started as a strict fast that was for new converts to Christianity as they sought to repent of their sins and begin their life of faith in Christ. But it very quickly became a practice for the whole church. Lent is practiced slightly differently by different church traditions, but whatever the differences, there are a few common elements to lent. Practices that are very useful for deepening our faith and experience of Easter. The 3 most common practices of Lent, which Lutherans call 'The Three Pillars of lent', are;



- 1) Prayer and devotions. This is a commitment to reading scripture and praying more intentionally than we normally would. There are many Lentin Bible studies that can be found online or at a Christian bookstore (Manna Book Store in Lower Hutt). You could also read the four Gospel accounts of the Jesus' experience from his entry into Jerusalem to His resurrection. Read them in small sections while stopping to think deeply on each detail. Then reflect on how what you have read might apply to you.
- 2) The second is fasting. This element has become less popular in the 21st century but still can be very valuable. The giving up of any particular food or practice is not a 'golden egg' in itself. The fast shows our dedication to preparing for Easter and remind us of the commitments we have made to read, pray, reflect and give. The modern practice of the fast is also expressed in not just giving up, but also 'taking up' something that we do not normally do that will help us focus more deeply on preparing for Easter. Whether you 'give up' or 'take up', it must be something that will keep you focussed on preparing for Easter.
- 3) The third is giving. Isn't it amazing that in the Christian faith, any pathway to a deeper experience of God and faith is accompanied by the giving of ourselves to others. This highlights an important aspect of Lent, it is communal. We do this together as a church and draw in our community as we give of ourselves to them. Please look for opportunities to serve people in you community over the next 40 days.

God bless you as you enter this season of Lent and may your practice result in a deeper experience of your faith and a deeper joy in your relationship with God and others.

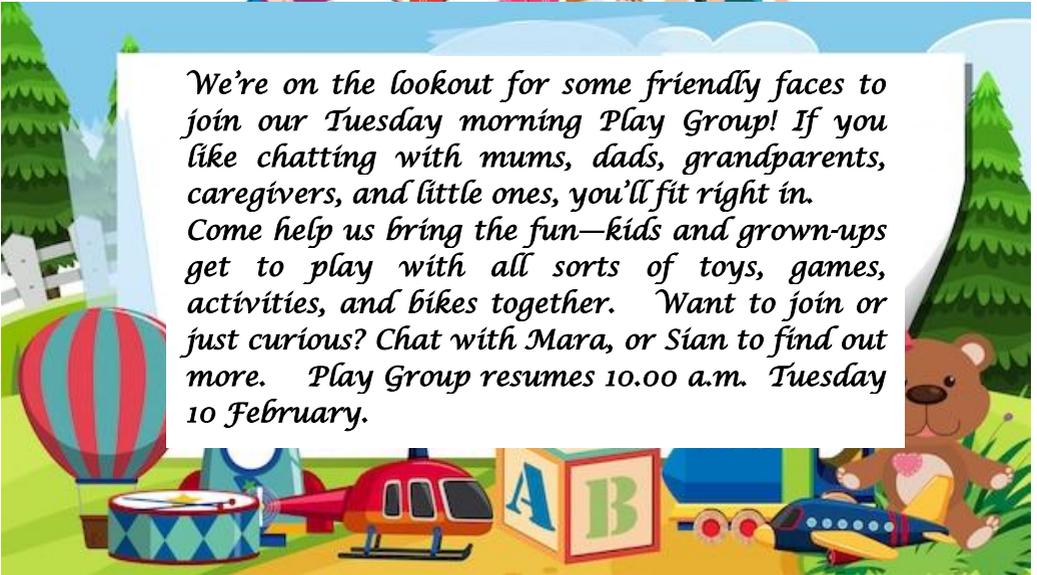
RODNEY

Lectionary

1 Mar.	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5,13-17	John 3:1-17
8	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
15	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
22	Ezekial 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1=45
29	Isaiah 50:4-9	Psalm 118:1-2,19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11
5 April	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2,14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 30:1-18



We're on the lookout for some friendly faces to join our Tuesday morning Play Group! If you like chatting with mums, dads, grandparents, caregivers, and little ones, you'll fit right in. Come help us bring the fun—kids and grown-ups get to play with all sorts of toys, games, activities, and bikes together. Want to join or just curious? Chat with Mara, or Sian to find out more. Play Group resumes 10.00 a.m. Tuesday 10 February.





*Children of All Ages Welcome to our Family Service
on 8 March
where we will be looking at Living Water!
Invite your friends and family*



From our Family Worker

All things Children's church has resumed for 2026. School is back and so are we! We had fun during Family Service in February with some object lessons about salt and we learnt a little about what it means to be salt of the earth.



Sunday School and Youth Group began the year in time for Shrove Tuesday. Both learnt about the history of Shrove Tuesday, why we make pancakes and a few other interesting facts, before the fun of cooking, and of course eating, yummy pancakes!

ROSTERS

Date	Morning Tea	Lawns	Church Cleaning	Audio Visual
1 Mar.	Jo Rothbaum Sarah Smith	-	Helen Bassett	David Lottering
.8 Mar	Lynn Russell Jacqueline Kitchen	Rodney Ramsay	Lynley McInnarney	Alfred Enslin
15 Mar	Malcolm & Heather- Lee Foster	-	Carol McConnell	Jenny Fisher
.22 Mar	Sue Taylor Delwyn Frederikson	Daniel Togalao	Karen Coleman	Hazel O'Brien
29 Mar	Lin Coleman Karen Coleman	-	Rosenda Upton	Chris Rosanowski
2 April	-	-	-	Jenny Fisher
3 April	-	-	-	David Lottering
5 April	Jan Hill Derilene Aston	Paul Betteridge	Carol McConnell	Alfred Enslin



- **Evening Fellowship** meets on Wednesday 11 March 7.30 p.m. in the lounge. The speaker will be Don Barclays 'Homing Pigeons'. Both men and women are very welcome.
- **World Day of Prayer – Friday 6 March, 1.30 p.m.** at Upper Hutt Uniting Parish, corner Benzie Ave, and Fergusson Drive.
- **Tea and chat** – 4 March 2.00 pm at 2 Fendalton Crescent. On the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 p.m. a group comes together at the home of Jacqueline and Lynn to share a simple afternoon tea and enjoy a chance to chat. All are very welcome.
- **Study Groups** will resume on 10 March. 10.00 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Financial Summary

St Margaret's Presbyterian Church, Silverstream
For the month ended 31 January 2026

Account	Jan 2026
Income	
Loose Offerings	532.90
Offering Automatic Payments	6,762.50
Offering Envelopes	1,325.00
Rent Received - Church, Hall etc	86.96
Total Income	8,707.36
Gross Profit	
	8,707.36
Operating Expenses	
Total Operating Expenses	19,136.50
Net Profit/(Loss)	
	(10,429.14)

From the Board of Managers

There has been so much happening at St Margaret's over the last few months, with the painting of the church after dealing with wood rot around the front windows and the repairs to the lounge ceiling. Thank you all for your patience as these projects happened. They are both complete and I must say that the church looks really sharp with its new coating. A big 'thank you' to Sarah and Richard as they managed both these projects.

There are few otherings that have happened or are still to happen. We have employed a new church cleaner in Aimee Allardice. The old copier in the room behind the church has almost breathed its last so is being replaced with the better printer/copier in the minister's office. Coming up soon is something we have not done for a while, a fire drill. This will take place after a Sunday service in March or April, watch the 'press' for details.

Also, we are organising a church 'Working Bee' for the Saturday 14th March. We will need lots of hands-on-deck to do some deep cleaning inside the whole complex and to do three fairly big projects in the gardens. You will already have heard the announcements in church. If you have not signed up to a particular job, please do so.

You will also have heard in the notices that we are needing to appoint a new treasurer. Sarah is needing to step down from this role, so if you know of anyone

who has the necessary skills and is willing to service in this role, please let myself of Chris Rosenowski know. Sarah will be stepping down at the AGM this year.

If you are wondering who is on this amazing committee, doing all this hard work, their photos are on the notice board. Please give them a big 'Thank you'.

Regards

Rodney



It is with sadness but with full understanding that we have received a notice from Sarah Smith that she will be stepping down from the role of treasurer at this year's AGM. We are grateful for the incredible job she has done over the last year and fully support her reasons for stepping down.

We are therefore on the hunt for someone with bookkeeping experience that can take over from her. If you are interested in exploring this as a way of serving the church and the community, please let us know.

If you have questions about what the role entails, please contact Sarah Smith at treasurer@stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz

Or you can contact Chris Rosanowski while I am away at - rosanowski@gmail.com

Or myself after the 4th March at minister@stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz

Regards

Rev Rodney Ramsay
Minister at St Margaret's Presbyterian Parish
Silverstream
Upper Hutt
Mobile: 0211259835

Session Report

Apologies for the somewhat prosaic title of this contribution to the monthly newsletter. While not wanting to run a competition any bright ideas about an alternative name would be welcomed.

One of the things that you may have noticed was the carpentry work at the entrance to the church complex and in the ceiling of the lounge. That work was a consequence of the problem caused by the flooding in the ceiling cavity above the lounge and entranceway. The work has now been completed as has the painting of the premises with the exception of the exterior back wall of the hall. There are no immediate plans for that painting to begin.

Early in March Session has planned a retreat spending a day reflecting on the past year's activity and planning for 2026. The review will consider progress on the development of our disaster plan, the operation of the pantry, Messy Church, the family worker (noting that Sian has only recently started in the role), play group, and the work of the pastoral care team. Planning is likely to include social events and may well need the formation of a social committee for which volunteers are likely to be looked for.

Session is also aware of the difficulties with music that those who worship with us using Zoom experience. Alternatives are being considered but at this stage no decisions have been made, and we will continue to use Zoom recognising that music doesn't travel well through that medium.

Session will endeavour to provide brief summaries of its activities in each monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

Chris Rosanowski
Session Clerk



St Margaret's "Winter Warmers **and** Craft Fair" is coming up.

When: Saturday 23rd May 2026 10.00 am until 1.00 pm

Following on from all the feedback received last year we are going to trial running and marketing the Winter Warmers as a joint event with a craft fair this year.

All the crafts will be set up and sold from inside the church (where we had some smaller Steptoe items last year) and all the secondhand items including last year's Steptoe type items will be sold from the hall with the cafe remaining in the middle, in the lounge. In no way are we setting this up to rival our November Fair. It's just a way to accommodate and display everyone's talents and skills and the items that are so generously made and donated by both our church whanau and our local community. By separating our new and old items we are hoping to appeal to more buyers as well as allowing space for everyone's beautiful handiwork to be displayed.

At the Winter Warmers and Craft Fair we will be selling anything that reflects winter warm clothing, jackets, hats, scarves, beanies, blankets, baby knitting, books, puzzles, board games, baking, sweets, crafts, house plants etc., etc. as well as our **local cafe**, selling warm soup and cheese rolls plus other warming treats along with a BBQ operating outside.

What you can do to help us prepare is..... start sorting out, making, potting up and gathering items that we can sell on the day.

Please note - At the Winter Warmers we don't sell furniture and big items.

Manpower is also needed to make this fundraiser a success. If you are interested in getting involved, by organising an area or running a stall we would love to hear from you and would welcome the support. So, if you have a stall/area in mind, are happy to run a stall/area or help on a stall, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Sheryn 021 936067 sheryn.jacques@ajpark.com or Lynley 5288213 or 027 2780010 mcinnarneys@gmail.com

Together we can all help make this a successful fundraiser for St Margaret's Church

Wanted any knitters/crocheters/crafters looking for some wool or cotton to craft with towards a St Margaret's fundraiser



Lorna Moir, who has been a prolific St Margaret's crafter for many years, has donated a very generous amount of wool/cotton for people to take and work up towards the Winter Warmers and Craft Fair alongside for the main fair. If you are interested in acquiring some of this wool or if you have already taken some and would like more of a specific colour please contact Lynley

on 0272780010 or email mcinnarneys@gmail.com and she will organize getting it out to you alongside a pattern if you would like one for inspiration.

Wool available is DK, Aran or Chunky plus Cotton so think baby/children's knitting, rugs, dish cloths, make up removal pads, fidget toys, scarves, hats the list is endless.

Thank you so much for your generosity, Lorna. We value all your support and dedication and look forward to sharing everyone's creations with you, both at the Winter Warmers and Craft Fair in May and at the Main Fair in November.

St Margarets Centenary Publication

Information Update (1)

The centenary of St Margarets will be acknowledged and celebrated on and about the 23rd of November 2030.

In May 2025 Session considered and approved a framework for the research, compilation and publication of the history of St Margarets and its Ministers, leaders, congregation and community. This work has commenced with Andrew Coleman managing the project for us. It is timely to provide an update.

The framework for the centenary celebration publication of St Margarets Silverstream details the focus areas. These include:

The historical context, that will include what Silverstream and the area was like pre-1915, through to the current times with significant events identified, especially if they have a connection to St Margarets Silverstream and/or its Ministers, leaders, congregation and community.

Did you know - the main Māori settlements that we know of in the Upper Hutt basin were a kainga (village) at Whirinaki, around where St Patrick's College, Silverstream, currently is; and another at Haukaretu, sited at the bend of the river now occupied by the suburbs of Totara Park and Māoribank. A major pa, Pa-Whakataka, situated in the Te Marua area, provided fortified protection for the latter settlement, while another pa,

Parihoro, did the same somewhere in the vicinity of Whirinaki.

Did you know – that Presbyterian church services commenced in Silverstream around 1915 and were conducted by the minister of St David's Upper Hutt. Continued population growth in the Silverstream area led to the building of St Margaret's in 1930. Following the official opening on 23 November 1930 St Margaret's remained part of St David's parish until 1 July 1952 when it and St Andrew's Trentham were formed into Heretaunga Parish. This arrangement continued until 1 July 1966 when St Margaret's and St Andrew's each became separate parishes.

Prominent early colonial families, that settled in what was then known as 'The Upper Hutt' and through them and others the settlement established and grew.

Did you know – that Thomas Cotter reportedly was the first person to state on documents that Silverstream was his residence; that the first Pākehā settlers to arrive in the valley were Richard and Hannah Barton. Richard Barton had been Superintendent of the Duke of Sutherland's Trentham Hall estate in Staffordshire and was sponsored by the duke to lead a party of men from off his lands to the 'new colony'. In 1841 Richard Barton became the first person to purchase land in the Upper Hutt district. The 100 acres property was named Trentham in honour of the home estate of Richard's sponsor. Today much of

their former property comprises Trentham Memorial Park and the Royal Wellington Golf Club at Heretaunga; that following the Bartons were the Browns who settled in 1847. Scotsman James Brown was a former weaver from Paisley who migrated to New Zealand with his Irish wife Mary and four children in 1840.

The construction of St Margarets, from the forming ideas to the actual project plan and construction.

Did you know - that Mr Andrew Fletcher was the designer and contractor for the brick-built church. He was at the time the Wellington Manager of Fletcher Bros Ltd formed in 1915 and renamed Fletcher Construction Company Ltd in 1919. He was the uncle of (Sir) James Fletcher, who was known as a relationship builder with big aspirations to be part of the growth and development of New Zealand.

The opening of St Margarets, on 23 November 1930 and attended by many including the Moderator of the General Assembly.

Did you know – that the Very Rev. W Hewitson was the Moderator and at that time he was the retiring moderator, meaning he had served in that capacity during the previous two years, and as such it is possible that the opening of St Margarets Silverstream was his last official event. The Very Rev. G. Budd took over the role of the Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly later in 1930.

Personal journeys to Silverstream and personal stories of St Margarets Ministers, Leaders, Congregation and Community, will be a feature of the centenary publication. There will be a series of oral history interviews to reflect and offer many personal perspectives. The areas covered will include the following:

- oral history interviews of people whose families have ‘come from afar’ prior to establishing themselves in Silverstream.
- oral history interviews of people who can recall and recount times dating close to 1930 (with previously captured oral histories in 2000 and 2006 by Hazel O’Brien being referenced).
- oral history interviews of people who have a long-standing association with Silverstream.
- oral history interviews of people who have led St Margarets Silverstream as Ministers.
- oral history interviews of people who have had leadership roles (Session Clerks, Boards of Managers and/or Committee members) at St Margarets Silverstream.
- oral history interviews of people who have knowledge and/or participated in Women’s Groups of St Margarets Silverstream.
- oral history interviews of people who have knowledge and/or participated in Sunday School,

either as a ‘teacher’ or as a participant, of St Margarets Silverstream.

- oral history interviews of children and youth currently from St Margarets Silverstream, with the focus being on what they see as the future of the church.

Andrew Coleman will coordinate the oral history interviews.

A wide range of information sources have already been established, and these will grow with the oral history interviews and input from others. The sources referred to and reviewed to date include the records held at St Margarets Church Silverstream (including Session and Board of Management agendas and minutes, records of ‘committees’ of the Church including Women’s Group, Youth Groups and Sunday School, plans of the establishment and further

development of the Church properties, and photos of the Church and its Ministers, leaders, congregation and community); the Presbyterian Research Centre (Archives); The Chief Archivist; Alexander Turnbull Library; Upper Hutt Library (that includes ‘Recollect’ an online database for the Upper Hutt City Library Heritage Collections); and publications such as ‘The Making of a Modern Town: 1900-1945’ and ‘Silverstream School and Community’.

It is an exciting project and one that hopefully you will all enjoy and contribute to.

Andrew Coleman is keen to hear from you with your perspectives and information. If you want to make contact please do so through his email (andrewcolemannz@gmail.com).



March 2026

Minister: Rev. Rodney Ramsay 0211259835
 Session Clerk: Rev. Chris Rosanowski 971.7530
 Website: <https://stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz>
 Facebook: St. Margaret's Family Page

Family Worker: Sian Scannell 0273631315
 Hall Bookings: Carol McConnell 0272210609

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion	2 Friendship Gr Dance 3.30-9.00 Dancing 1-2.30 HV Singers 7-9	3 Dance 5.30-8.00 Pilates 6.00	4 Session 7.00 Tea & Chat Dance 5.-8.30	5 Pilates 6.00-8.00	6	7 Session retreat 9.00-4.00
8 Family Service	9 Friendship Gr Dance 3.30-9.00 Dancing 1-2.30 HV Singers 7-9	10 Dance 5.30-8.00 Pilates 6.00 Study group 10 am & 7.30	11 Dance 5.00-8.30 Evng. Fellowship	12 Pilates 6.00-8.00 Youth Group 7.30-9.00	13	14 Working Bee
15 Morn. Worship	16 Friendship Gr Dance 3.30-9.00 Dancing 1-2.30 HV Singers 7-9	17 Dance 5.30-8.00 Pilates 6.00 Study group 10 am & 7.30	18 Dance 5.00-8.30 Bd. Managers	19 Pilates 6.00-8.00	20	21
22 Morn. Worship	23 Friendship Gr Dance 3.30-9.00 Dancing 1-2.30 HV Singers 7-9	24 Dance 5.30-8.00 Pilates 6.00 Study group 10 am & 7.30	25 Dance 5.00-8.30	26 Pilates 6.00-8.00 Youth Group 7.30-9.00	27	28
29 Morn. Worship	30 Friendship Gr Dance 3.30-9.00 Dancing 1-2.30 HV Singers 7-9	31 Dance 5.30-8.00 Pilates 6.00 Study group 10 am & 7.30		2 April Maundy Thurs service 7.30	3 April Good Friday service 10.00	

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