



ST MARGARET'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

The Bridge

There are times in life
when we are called to be bridges,
not a great monument spanning a distance
and carrying loads of heavy traffic,
but a simple bridge to help one person from
here to there over some difficulty,
such as pain, grief, fear, loneliness,
a bridge which opens the way
for ongoing journey.

When I become a bridge for another,
I bring upon myself a blessing,
for I escape from the small prison of self
and exist for a wider world,
breaking out to be a larger being
who can enter another's pain
and rejoice in another's triumph.

I know of only one greater blessing
in this life, and that is,
to allow someone else
to be a bridge for me.

Aotearoa Psalms

Joy Cowley

Pleroma Christian Supplies Otane NZ

Greetings

Lent is over and the very special time of Holy Week is here. Holy Week and Easter is by far the most important time in the Christian calendar, the time when we remember, celebrate and reflect on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Are we prepared to hear again the good news of this Gospel? News that is so perfectly summed up in a passage from the gospel of John. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3: 16-17 NRSV).

This is the time that we reflect once again on how much God loves us – Yes, you!

Because of this love God’s thoughts and actions in our lives are focused not on condemning us, but our salvation. That we can have life, not just in heaven one day, but an eternal quality of life now. A life where we grow into and experience all that God wants to do in and through us.

The Easter weekend reminds us that it came at a cost and therefore we should not take it lightly, selfishly or arrogantly. The eternal quality of life is only possible because of what Christ has done for us.

So, the invitation stands, an invitation to journey deeper in our relationship with God. To help ourselves with this, please consider making a special effort to read scripture, pray more often and attend the services offered at St Margaret’s. The list of services will be in this newsletter, please take note of them.

God bless you this Easter.

Rodney

Lectionary

5 April	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2,14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18
12	Acts 2:14a,22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
19	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
26	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
3 May	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5,15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14

ROSTERS

Date	Morning Tea	Lawns	Church Cleaning	Audio Visual
2 April	Maundy Thursday	-	-	Jenny Fisher
3 April	Good Friday	-	-	David Lottering
5 April	Jan Hill Derilene Aston	Paul Betteridge	Carol McConnell	Alfred Enslin
.12	Sandi Rothwell Sian Scannell	-	Helen Bassett	Chris Rosanowski
19	Margaret Opray Margaret Patrick	Malcolm Foster Ray Betteridge	Lynley McInnarney	Hazel O'Brien
.26	Jo Rothbaum Sarah Smith	-	Ainsley Andrews	David Lottering
3 May	Lynne Russell Jacqueline Kitchen	Malcolm Galloway	Jan Hill	Jenny Fisher



- **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.
- **Evening Fellowship** - Wednesday 8 April, 7.30 p.m. in the lounge. The speaker will be Reid Perkins from Upper Hutt Heritage.

Session Notes

In early March Session undertook its annual Retreat beginning with a review of the decisions made in the Retreat in 2025 and the subsequent activity.

Last year Session had discussed the prospect of having a community garden project. At that time, Session deferred the project and given the drainage issues that have arisen subsequently Session confirmed the earlier decision.

In 2025 Session had received a proposal from a community group to enhance the Community Pantry we run by adding a library, which they would administer. The addition of the library occurred during the year, and Session is pleased with the success both the Pantry and Library enjoy and affirmed their ongoing operation.

The planned resumption of Messy Church activity for 2025 occurred. Session confirmed that Messy Church would be held again in 2026. Play Group was also to resume during the last year and that was successfully achieved.

The employment of a family worker was also a key objective for 2025 Retreat. Session was delighted to welcome Sian Scannell into the role during the year.

Other achievements during the last year included the family movie and the quiz nights. However, in its review Session agreed that these would be better held every other year.

Another suggestion from 2025 was a community memorial service which did not occur. The idea has not been abandoned, and discussions on the

timing and form of a service continue. The intention is to hold such a service during 2026. Note: this is separate and apart from our annual St. Margarets Day service.

Last year, Session had reviewed the monthly shared lunch and decided to discontinue the lunch. The 2026 review confirmed that discussion, noting that there continues to be alternatives to the shared lunch.

Sharing was a theme associated with the use of Zoom to broadcast our weekly worship services. Alternative electronic ways of broadcasting which cope better with music than does Zoom are available. However, Session was unaware of any that enabled the existing Zoom based interchange with congregation members using Zoom at both ends of the service. Session decided to remain with Zoom while acknowledging the difficulties with music.

Under the heading of discipleship, Session was pleased to note that the Sunday school has a coordinator and that there are a number of young people involved in the Youth Group.

During the review comment was often made regarding publicity especially regarding the availability of worship via zoom, the availability of the pantry and library and Bible studies. Greater use of social media is intended to address this shortfall.

Now that may have read like an annual report, but is only a summary of the Session review of the last 12 months. As for 2026, read on.

Rodney posed a question to Session; “what is our ‘why’” and referred to the existing strategic plan for St

Margaret's which is "*We seek to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our community.*" He suggested if we look at our "why" under the five broad headings used by the PCANZ (Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand)

These are:

1. Teaching and nurturing
2. people in Christian faith.

3. Loving service responding to human need.
4. Proclaiming the gospel.
5. Seeking to transform society.
6. Caring for God's creation.

However, in the next few newsletters I will describe the responses from the Session Retreat of this year under these headings.



EASTER SERVICES

Thursday	2 April	7.00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday service
Friday	3 April	10.00 a.m.	Good Friday service
Sunday	5 April	10.00 a.m.	Easter Sunday - Communion



Each week many members of St, Margaret's contribute to the Upper Hutt Foodbank. Clive & Jeanette McGovern are involved in this much-needed part of our community, and they have set out guidelines for the types of food and containers that would be gratefully received.

Almost any plastic container sourced from your grocery order or chemist can be used. Unsuitable containers are taken to recycling. **Glass** bottles are not required.

1. Plastic Bags: bread-bags of all sizes
newspaper bags cut on the short side
larger plastic bags, perhaps double the size
of a bread-bag
Small plastic bags are not required
2. Small plastic containers with lid
e.g. Pill container
3. Medium containers with lid
Medium containers with larger diameter lids
(2 – 3 cm)
(Some hair-wash, conditioner or similar
containers)
4. Larger containers **with lid**
butter and margarine containers, take-away food
containers, honey pots, peanut butter / marmite
plastic pots with screw-on lid

Yoghurt containers small and 1kg with lids
5. Egg cartons of any size





Each Sunday morning the service at St Margaret's is available on Zoom. It has been a lifeline for those who are unable to attend the service physically. If you are unable to connect to Zoom and would like some help, please contact Lynley 027280010. Each newsletter at the bottom of the calendar on the back page, the following notice is printed.

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

Family Worker Report

Over the month of March there has been a big effort from our Playgroup Volunteers, Sunday School Teachers and Youth Group Leaders to complete the PCANZ WOF Course, which is all about keeping our kids safe.

The WOF training takes approximately 5 hours and encompasses essential training on Child Protection, Ethical Practice, Health and Safety Practices, among other things.

Sessions were interactive and provided lots of practical scenarios and examples.

I appreciate the time you took out of your busy lives to attend as many sessions as you were able.

Sian





Recycling

Are you aware that St. Margaret's supports recycling?

There are small containers on the left-hand side as you enter the hall complex, just before the ramp. These are emptied regularly.

To give you an idea of what can be recycled.

There are 3 containers for the recycling of the following items on the shelves on the left-hand side as you enter the hall complex, just before the ramp, for the recycling of the following items collected through our local Silverstream Lions Club (Contact person: (Peter Stern).

1. Vision Eyeglasses including sunglasses which Lions Clubs in NZ collect and recycle for the Pacific Islands. Our Local Silverstream Club also has collection boxes at both the Pinehaven and Upper Hutt Libraries.
2. Wine and Soft drink bottle screw caps, these are aluminum and are collected for recycling in bulk with scrap metal dealers and the money collected goes to the funding extra's for kids that are on or have to undergo Kidney Dialysis. The Kidney Dialysis itself is funded under the health system but there are lots of extra's for which there are needs.
3. Aluminum can tear tabs including the tear tabs on Bundaberg Ginger and similar bottles; again, these are collected for recycling in bulk with scrap metal dealers and the money collected goes to funding extras for kids that are on or have to undergo Kidney Dialysis.
4. ***No toothbrushes or toothpaste tubes please.*** These can no longer be recycled.

Also available in the same collection area is another container

Plastic bottle tops. Jacqueline Kitchen collects these and her grandchildren enjoy 'posting' them into the recycle bins at the recycle station in Upper Hutt.

Available in the kitchen are 2 bins

- a) cardboard, paper (must be clean – no used serviettes)
- b) tins, plastics (numbers 1,2,5)

Financial Summary

St Margaret's Presbyterian Church, Silverstream
For the month ended 28 February 2026

Account	Feb 2026
Trading Income	
2001 - Offering Automatic Payments	7,140.00
2002 - Offering Envelopes	1,670.10
2010 - Loose Offerings	547.90
2160 - Special Donations	100.00
2200 - Interest Received	52.35
2420 - Rent Received - Church, Hall etc	1,547.81
Total Income	11,058.16
Total Profit	11,058.16
Operating Expenses	
Total Operating Expenses	20,633.11
Net Profit/(Loss)	(9,574.95)



Working bee

The working bee postponed last month will now be held on Saturday 2 May. Further details to follow.



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

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

Thank you to everyone who has offered to run a stall or help at a stall on the 23rd of May. Also a big thank you to everyone who has started sorting items to sell or making items to sell. We really appreciate all your support and talents. Remember, if you are crafting items and need them stored we have containers and space to store things, just contact Lynley and she will collect anything. If you are sorting second hand items for sale we would appreciate it if you could hold onto these items until May as storage space at the church is limited.

If you are keen to get involved on the day, here is a list of the stalls:

- Café (focus on soups, cheese rolls, slices etc)
- Crafts – all homemade items | Some craft supplies, patterns etc
- Second-hand clothing – (focus on winter coats, jackets, jerseys, fleeces etc)
- Bedding and Manchester – (focus on blankets and warm sheets etc)
- Plants (both indoor and outdoor)
- Baking, cakes and sweets
- Preserves, jams and harvest offerings
- Raffle - there is a donation box in the hall for raffle items
- Books, magazines, puzzles, board games
- Sausage sizzle
- Small items of Steptoe [note no large furniture items at this fair]

Please contact Sheryn 021 936067 sheryn.jacques@ajpark.com or Lynley 5288213 or 027 2780010 mcinnarneys@gmail.com if you are available to help or would like any information. Remember there is no pressure to be involved beyond what you would like to do.

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



Wool - Thanks to Lorna Moir's generosity, we have enough wool to last for several years worth of fairs. If you are keen to knit or crochet something at any stage for this or any future fair please contact Lynley and she will deliver wool to you.

Bags - The larger size paper bags from the supermarkets are also being collected and will be used for "Fill a Bag" on the clothing stall and at the book stall. If you have spare bags at home please leave these in the box in the hall foyer. This collection will be on-going.



Winter Raffle We are putting together a delicious Winter Warmers raffle.

Gratefully accepting 'winter' themed donations ie; hot chocolate drinks, canned or packet soups, chocolate, crackers etc. There is a box in the hall entrance for donated items – thank you !!!

April 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

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

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