



ST MARGARET'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



Winter

When the days are cold and dismal,
we can do things for our comfort and
pleasure. We can prepare food we
will savor. We can invite people to
join us for dinner and enjoy their
company.

When we are struggling with a winter
time experience, a grief, a distress,
with pain, we can do things which
will settle our mind, warm our heart
and give us a sense of well-being.

In winter cold and rain and storm,
I rest in love; my heart is warm.

'WE WELL PEOPLE'
REV. JOHN HUNT

Greetings

In sitting down to write this article we have finally had a few days of winter sunshine. This made me realise that we were already over halfway through winter and that spring is only around 5 weeks away. There is a sense of relief in that because of the irritation of the cold, getting dressed in multiple layers to go out, restricted outdoor activities, higher power bills; need I go on. We often hear of the emotional impact that winter has on us, our moods are just a little gloomier than in summer. In all winter gets quite a bad 'rap'. Are there any upsides to winter? Maybe there are, here is a thought.



Genesis 8:22 reminds us that the seasons are a locked in part of our existence on this earth, as it says, "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease".

It 'shall not cease' because it is important, seasons are essential to the cycle of life in our world. Without winter, summer would not be what it is. Apple trees need the cold of between 0 and 7 degrees Celsius. Imagine oranges that are not orange. Cold is needed to 'kill' off the Chlorophyll in the peel, no cold would mean the orange will ripen but stay green, weird.

One of the habits we have is to equate tough times to winter, so winter, physically, emotionally and spiritually is seen as, and believed to be, a negative thing. Winter gets a bad 'rap'. What if we saw winter from an apple's perspective. What if winter physically, emotionally and spiritually became equated not with bad but with HOPE. Can we see winter as the time that brings out the best in us, the bright 'orange' we shine, that comes through, as Paul says in Romans 5:4, endurance, proven character and hope.

Bless you as you navigate the rest of the winter weeks, may God strengthen you and build in you the fruit that will be a blessing to all.

Rodney

**Rodney is testing having
Fridays off, until the end
of August.**

Lectionary

August 2 Pentecost

Gen 32: 22-31 Ps 17: 1-7, 15 Rom 9: 1-5 Mt 14: 13-21

August 9 *

Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28 Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b Rom 10: 5-15 Mt 14: 22-33

August 16 *

Gen 45: 1-15 Ps 133 Rom 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 23 *

Ex 1: 8-2: 10 Ps 124 Rom 12: 1-8 Mt 16: 13-20

August 30 *

Ex 3: 1-15 Ps 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b Rom 12: 9-21 Mt 16: 21-28

September 6 *

Ex 12: 1-14 Ps 149 Rom 13: 8-14 Mt 18: 15-20



- **Tea and chat** – 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** - Paul Thompson, Director of Youth Services at Kickstart Upper Hutt will be the speaker on Wednesday 12 August 7.30 p.m. in the lounge. Both men & women are very welcome.

ST. MARGARET'S AGM
WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST
IN THE LOUNGE
7.00 P.M.

The Annual report will be emailed out nearer the time. PLEASE NOTE – Contributors for this report should have their reports to Hazel no later than Sunday 2 August please.

ROSTERS

Date	Morning Tea	Lawns	Church Cleaning	Audio Visual
2 Aug	Jan Hill Margaret Patrick	-	Karen Coleman	Jenny Fisher
9 Aug	Sarah Smith Derilene Ashton	Stephen Fletcher	Lynley McInnarney	Alfred Enslin
16 Aug	Lynn Russell Jacqueline Kitchen	-	Ainsley Andrews	Chris Rosanowski
23 Aug	Heatherlee & Malcolm Foster	Rodney Ramsay	Shirley Harrison	Jenny Fisher
30 Aug	Margaret Opray/ Sandi Rothwell	-	Jan Hill	Hazel O'Brien
6 Sept	Coleman Family	Daniel Togaloea	Helen Bassett	Alfred Enslin



A very big thank you to David Lottering who, for many years, has helped with the operation of the Audio Visual system. All the best for the future David.

Board of Managers

In the last newsletter it was reported that Carol McConnell had resigned and, until the end of the year when her and Sandy leave us, we will be looking for an able person or people to replace her. If you feel that you can contribute to the Board of Managers, please have a chat with me. For those who may not be aware, our Board of Managers is a group of people tasked with the smooth running of the church managing things like finance, health and safety, building maintenance, grounds, facility hire and cleaning.

In terms of our buildings, we have found that the church roof needs some attention and that work has been approved and will start in the next few weeks, weather permitting. Fortunately, it is nothing serious, just some screws that have loosened and capping on the top ridge that has lifted, resulting in some water getting into the ceiling space.

Other projects we are investigating are the stabilising of some of our stain glass windows in the church and the strengthening of the ramps at the emergency exits of the hall. If you become aware of any maintenance related issues, please can you report it on the form that is in the kitchen, on the counter on the left as you enter.

As always, thank you to our wonderful team of amazing people on managers. Their photos are on the noticeboard outside the lounge if you want to know who they are and thank them.

Rodney

Financial Summary

St Margaret's Presbyterian Church, Silverstream
For the month ended 30 June 2026

Account	Jun 2026
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Trading Income

Fundraising - Winter Warmers	94.00
Interest Received	1,996.46
Loose Offerings	549.60
Offering Automatic Payments	7,120.00
Offering Envelopes	1,894.00
Rent Received - Church, Hall etc	556.53
Total Trading Income	12,210.59

Gross Profit	12,210.59
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Operating Expenses

Total Operating Expenses	14,191.99
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Net Profit	(1,981.40)
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Family Worker report

July has been mostly School Holidays, so all the children and youth activities have taken a break.

We have been following the Bible Society programme of no one left behind, which came with Sunday School activities. These activities were available at the back of the church during the holidays.

We had a quieter Family Service this month as it fell inside the school holidays. It coincided with Matariki. Rodney taught a new song, and I taught actions Rodney and I had made up to go along with the Macarena tune. A bit of fun.

Messy Church was on the last day of term 2. The theme was creation. Jo Rothbaum has the beginnings of a mural which will go up in the foyer once it is completed. We had star making, seeds to plant, fishing game, animal biscuits to ice (and eat 😊) among other things. We were fed well once again by Tasi and the crew. Thanks to all who came to participate and help.

Sian Scannell
Family Worker

Tables Tables

The church has several old wooden topped, metal legged, trestle tables to give away (for a donation). Please call Richard Harrison 027 285 7169 if you are interested in any of these.

Session Notes

In the discussions Session had at its July meeting were a number of matters of either a progress report or internal routine management. However, one matter was neither and asked for Session to determine a policy for the support we would provide where a congregational member's funeral was held at a venue other than St Margaret's. Uncertainties regarding the availability of things such as crockery, equipment and heating facilities can mean that to provide refreshments, as we can at St Margaret's is more difficult. Session discussed the matter in some depth and resolved that where a family asked St Margaret's to provide refreshments their request would be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on venue and availability of people to help.

As indicated in last month's Notes, the Church Council met on Wednesday 22 July to discuss three significant matters; the 2026/27 budget, a proposal to purchase a manse and to set the date for the Annual General Meeting of the congregation. Dealing with the last matter first, the AGM will be held on Wednesday, 26 August 2026 in the Church Lounge at 7 pm. At that meeting the Budget will be presented for approval.

Chris Rosanowski
Session Clerk

Craft and Knitting

Our knitters and crafters are continuing to be busy and as we are building up a lovely range of knitting and crocheting along with other crafts. These are all being stored at my place and **can be purchased at any time, with all the money going to the church fundraising**. If you're looking for that special baby or toddler gift, a blanket, pot scrubbers, dish cloths, bibs etc. the list is endless just send me a message.

Lynley 027 2780010 or mcinnarneys@gmail.com

For those of you who are knitting, crocheting and crafting on behalf of the church, please remember I have wool and buttons available for use

Craft & Knitting





Messy Church July 2026



St Margaret's International Dinner was enjoyed by many on a chilly July evening. There was lots of wonderful food to enjoy from many destinations. Thank you to all who came. Rodney blessed our food with an Afrikaans grace.

Tina Vaurasi won best dressed. She was dressed to match the delicious Indian dishes she had prepared. Other notable mentions were Shirley Main, dressed in a beautiful Kimono, and Helen Bassett as the Rose of Tralee.

There was a Name the Flags competition and a 'guess where this piece of music comes from', which produced much laughter. Thanks to Sarah for putting those together.



A fun social evening enjoyed by all. Thank you again to all who helped make the evening a success; including the decorators, the cooks and bakers, the kitchen hands, and all who participated in the games.



August 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
2 Communion	3 Friendship Gr Dance 3.30-9.00 Dancing 1-2.30 HV Singers 7-9	4 Dance 5.30-8.00 Pilates 6.00 Study group 10 am & 7.30	5 Dance 3.30-8.30 Session 7.00 Tea & Chat	6 Pilates 6.00-7.00	7	8
9 Family Service	10 Friendship Gr Dance 3.30-9.00 Dancing 1-2.30 HV Singers 7-9	11 Dance 5.30-8.00 Pilates 6.00 Study group 10 am & 7.30	12 Dance 3.30-8.30 Evng. Fellowship	13 Pilates 6.00-7.00 Youth Group 7.10-9.00	14	15
16 Morn.Worship	17 Friendship Gr Dance 3.30-9.00 Dancing 1-2.30 HV Singers 7-9	18 Dance 5.30-8.00 Pilates 6.00 Study group 10 am & 7.30	19 Dance 3.30-8.30 Bd. Managers	20 Pilates 6.00-7.00	21	22
23/30 Morn.Worship Deadline for Newsletter (23 rd)	24/31 Friendship Gr Dance 3.30-9.00 Dancing 1-2.30 HV Singers 7-9	25 Dance 5.30-8.00 Pilates 6.00 Study group 10 am & 7.30	26 Dance 3.30-8.30 AGM 7.00 p.m.	27 Pilates 6.00-7.00 Youth Group 7.10-9.00	28	29

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

If you wish to have a particular service recorded, please contact Lynley McInnarney 0272780010. Services are no longer recorded each week