



ST MARGARET'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SILVERSTREAM

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026



IF

**GOD CAN HANG THE STARS ON HIGH,
CAN PAINT THE CLOUDS THAT DRIFT ON BY,
AND SEND THE SUN ACROSS THE SKY,
WHAT COULD HE DO THROUGH YOU?**

IF

**HE CAN SEND A STORM THROUGH SPACE,
AND DOT WITH TREES THE MOUNTAIN'S
FACE,
IF HE THE SPARROW'S WAY CAN TRACE,
WHAT COULD HE DO THROUGH YOU?**

IF

**GOD CAN DO SUCH LITTLE THINGS
AS COUNT OUR HAIRS AND BIRDS THAT SING
CONTROL THE UNIVERSE THAT SWINGS
WHAT COULD HE DO THROUGH YOU?**

Author unknown
"Gems Plus"

Greetings

Spring is here! Now I know that in New Zealand the temperatures only start changing in a month or two but just knowing it is spring puts a light in our hearts and a lightness to our step. Spring is all that it is symbolic of, the promise of new life, the Christian belief in the resurrection played out every year, the living embodiment of hope. As Spring approaches dare, we hope, hope for a resolution to the war in Ukraine, hope for common sense to prevail in the middle east and hope that we can do better in caring for our environment.



This brings us to September, which has traditionally become the month when we celebrate 'Season of Creation'. This year we are going to set aside all four Sundays to focus on the one element in creation that is the source of all life, water. The central reading for this month is Ezekiel 47 and verse 9 that tells us that "it will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live". Water brings life, the living water that Jesus promises brings life to our souls. In September we want to remember the crisis that our world is in, both environmentally and socially, we want to remember that we are people of hope and action and that we can bring change. In the famous words of Dr Seuss's Lorax
"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

This month we want to reflect, imagine and draw hope from Jesus that will launch us into action so that things can get better.

Radney



Living Water
 Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
 Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Lectionary**September 6**

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

September 13

Ex 14: 19-31 Ps 114 or Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21 Rom 14: 1-12 Mt 18: 21-35

September 20

Ex 16: 2-15 Ps 105: 1-6, 37-45 Phil 1: 21-30 Mt 20: 1-16

September 27

Ex 17: 1-7 Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16 Phil 2: 1-13 Mt 21: 23-32 9

October 4

Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Ps 19 Phil 3: 4b-14 Mt 21

(As mentioned in Rodney's letter, he will not be following the lectionary for September).

Profit and Loss

St Margaret's Presbyterian Church, Silverstream

For the month ended 31 July 2026

Account	Jul 2026
Trading Income	
Loose Offerings	393.20
Offering Automatic Payments	7,307.50
Offering Envelopes	1,875.00
Rent Received - Church, Hall etc	2,252.18
Special Offerings	95.00
Sunday School/Messy Church	
Donations	60.40
Total Trading Income	11,983.28
Gross Profit	11,983.28
Operating Expenses	
Total Operating Expenses	16,227.04
Net Profit	(4,243.76)

L&R Snell Trust

If there is anyone within the St Margaret's Church community that would like to study to become a teacher or any kind of educator, please get in touch with Alfred (treasurer@stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz).

ROSTERS

Date	Morning Tea	Lawns	Church Cleaning	Audio Visual
6 Sept	Margaret Opray Sandi Rothwell	Daniel Togalao	Rosenda Upton	Alfred Enslin
.13 Sept	Jo Rothbaum Sian Scannell	-	Helen Bassett	Hazel O'Brien
20 Sept	Sue Taylor Delwyn Frederikson	Paul Betteridge	Ainsley Andrews	Andries Labuschagne/ Alfred Enslin
27 Sept	Tina Vaurasi Sandi Rothwell	-	Lynley McInnarney	Chris Rosanowski
4 Oct.	Margaret Opray Derilene Aston	Malcolm Foster/Ray Betteridge	Karen Coleman	Jenny Fisher



We are very very short of people on our Church Cleaning Roster. This is not a hard job so please think about whether you could help. The church does not need to be cleaned on Saturday. It can be cleaned whenever suits you after the last Sunday service. A huge Thank you to Carol McConnell and Jan Hill who will be coming off the roster, for their many years of cleaning our church for us.



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 - Evening Fellowship - All welcome

Our next meeting is Wednesday 9 September at 7.30 pm in the church lounge. We will be singing some of our favourite hymns together.

Board of Mangers

There is very little to report in this month's newsletter. The work of the board continues to roll out. You may remember a number of months ago us asking if anyone knew of a drainage specialist. Well, we found a few people and work has been completed in getting the water off the roof, out onto the road. This will relieve our grounds of a lot of standing water. It took some clever plumbing and an electric pump in the drain at the back of the church to solve the problem. A big 'Thank you' to Richard Harrison for managing this project. We have also addressed a leak in the church roof.

Please can I remind everyone that, if you see a maintenance issue that needs addressing, please write it on the form in the kitchen, on the left as you go in, or email Rodney during September as Richard and Shirley will be away for most of the month.

Many thanks, Rodney

The 60th Annual General Meeting

The sixtieth Annual General Meeting of the congregation was held on Wednesday evening 26 August 2026 with thirty-one members attending. Moderator Rev Rodney Ramsay opened the meeting with prayer. Apologies were received from sixteen people who were unable to attend.

As is usually the case, this year's Annual Report contained the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September last year and the meeting agreed to accept these minutes as a record of the previous year's meeting.

The purpose of the Annual Report is to document some of the activities that the congregation has undertaken during the previous twelve months. Reports from the Session, the Pastoral team and Te Hahi along with those from church groups active within the congregation during the year were also received. A separate report was received from the Board of Managers. In the discussion that followed this report, the long-time involvement of Carol McConnell as Secretary to the Board was recognized, as was the intention of her and her husband to move away from Silverstream later in the year. The considerable time and effort that Richard Harrison gave over the year in maintaining the St Margaret's property was also acknowledged.

The Treasurer Alfred Enslin then spoke to the financial situation of the congregation. The financial statements he tabled were accepted with little discussion. The Budget for the 2026/27 Financial year showing a deficit of \$11,822 was tabled. The meeting was advised that we had approval of a grant of \$25,000 from Presbytery Central for the ongoing funding of the Family Worker position. The meeting approved the deficit budget.

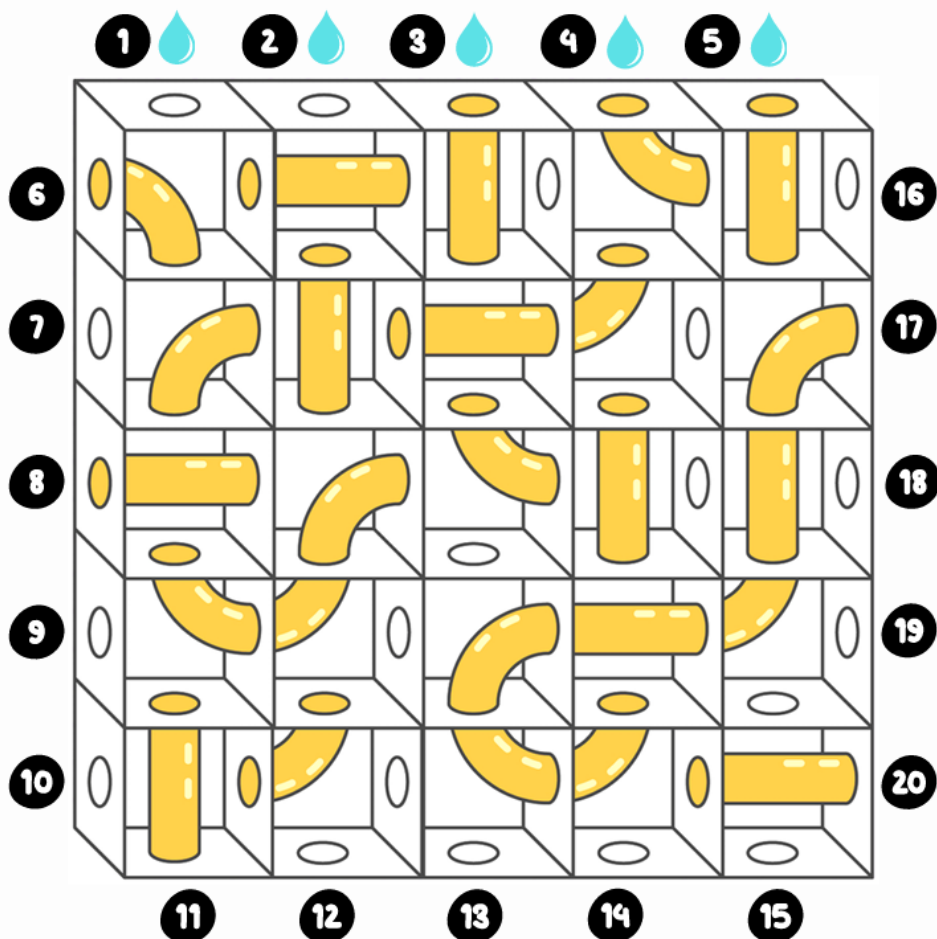
Membership of the Board of Managers was then confirmed by the meeting as being Alfred Enslin, Ainsley Andrews, Richard Harrison, Sarah Smith, Chris Upton, Jo Rothbaum, Rhys West, Carol McConnell, and Peter Stern. The Board was also given the authority to co-opt further members during the year. A Reviewer, Rowenna Janes of Laurensen Accountants Ltd, was appointed by the meeting.

The congregation's thanks were given to Rev Rodney Ramsay for his leadership during the time of his ministry and to Hazel O'Brien for her administrative work week by week for the congregation.

The meeting concluded, to the surprise and delight of those attending, at 7:28 pm.

WATER WAZE

Where will the liquid come out if poured in
HOLE 1, HOLE 2, HOLE 3 HOLE 4, OR HOLE 5?



Family Worker:

I attended 'The Gathering' in Palmerston North and was able to catch up with the Youth Enablers. The PYM website also has some very useful resources.

Unfortunately, I came down with the flu, which made me less productive than usual. Being unwell has highlighted our ongoing need for more volunteers for Tuesday morning Playgroup. Please think about how you could possibly help.

I look forward to celebrating the theme of Living Water during Seasons of Creation this month and seeing what our children and youth learn from it.
Blessings
Sian

It's save the date time –

SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER 2026



The fair committee has met, and a lot is already happening behind the scenes. Thank you to everyone who has reached out to us to offer assistance in any shape or form. This is what makes our fair so special every year and we really do appreciate all the support we can muster leading up to the fair.

Stall Holders

We are in the process of finalising our '26 stall holders. As always, if you can offer assistance to any of the stalls leading up to or on the day, we welcome your time and energy. Please feel free to reach out to the stall holders named below. If you can help with running either the toys or homewares stalls, then please see Sheryn or Lynley.



Books – Chris Rosanowski

Café – Carol McConnell and Karen Coleman

Cakes – Lois Rowe

Games/help on the day to relieve stall holders – Youth Group

Lucky Dip – Ainsley Andrews

Christmas Table – All things Christmas – Margaret Opray

Toys – [stall holder required]

Plants/Tomatoes – Rosenda Upton/Ray Betteridge

Packaged Giftsets/Baby crafts – Lyn Ritchie

Clothing – Sarah Smith/Nicole Jury

General Craft Sian Scannell

Steptoe – Richard Harrison/Clive McGovern

Manchester – Sheryn Jacques

Sweets/Raffle – Shirley Main/Lynley McInnarney/Anne Pemberton

Harvest/preserves/pickles – Jacqueline Kitchen

Accessories – Naomi Young, Rachel Tebbutt

Homewares - [stall holder required]

Glassware/China – Marilyn Anderson

Hazel's crafts – Hazel O'Brien

Sausage Sizzle – Rhys West

Ginger beer – Margaret Donaldson

DVDs, CD, puzzles, art and frames – Rodney Ramsay

Fair-wares

It's never too soon to put your fair cap on – if you have spare time, we welcome home-grown busyness with potted plants, preserves, crafts, relishes and any donated items after a good declutter.

Spread the word

We get a lot of donated referrals from people who are in the process of moving away, downsizing, etc. so if you have family or friends that are on the move, remind them we are looking for books, secondhand clothing, Steptoe, kitchenware, accessories, jewellery, manchester (just no TVs, computers or lounge suites).

Closer to the fair day, we can also offer pick up of secondhand goods. If donated items can be held on to until nearer the fair day, that helps with limited space available at the church.

If you want any **wool to knit or crochet** for sale at the fair or for future fairs, **please contact Lynley 0272780010** and she will get some to you

Donations

Raffle and lucky dip donation boxes are set up in the hall foyer.

There's also a box there for baking supplies which are also welcome i.e., sugar, flour, butter (yes, more important than ever) and condensed milk, golden syrup etc. A lot of the time this is donated by the people on the stalls themselves but if we can share the cost, it benefits all.

If you have any questions, please reach out to one of us

2026 Fair Team – Nicole, Lynley, Malcolm G, Diane, Sarah, Sheryn, Delena, Chris

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

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