



**Trentham  
Anglicans**  
at St Johns

**FAITH | FAMILY | FOR OTHERS**

## **CHRISTMAS MAGAZINE 2022**

*"This will be a sign to you...The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel." Isaiah 7:14*

Many people in our society seem to have no place for or faith in God. For many the idea of God is put into the same box as Father Christmas or the Easter Bunny. Why? Well there are many reasons. For some it doesn't seem logical, for others it seems too fantastical, and still others would say faith seems to have done more harm than good in the world. The end result is that many people just don't feel that God is relevant to real life. Perhaps it's because the story has been so sanitized and romanticized that it no longer reflects the reality of what really happened.



Perhaps it has been so used and abused that people feel it can no longer be trusted.

The Christmas story reminds us of the transcendent God, the one beyond all human capacity to define or describe, who works in our world through real people with real challenges. He didn't choose a fairy-tale princess to bear the saviour, but rather an unwed peasant girl. He didn't choose a political or business success story to name and care for Jesus, but rather a man with his own doubts and questions who wanted to do the right thing but needed angelic guidance to accomplish it. He didn't choose a nice safe and clean private hospital, but rather a smelly cold stable for animals. He didn't choose the powerful and influential to be the first to know about the birth of Christ, but rather those on the bottom of the social ladder, insignificant and probably illiterate farm hands. All of this helps flesh out the name "Emmanuel", "God with us." Or "God REALLY with us." That is, God coming to be with us as we are. Not as we know we should be, or are trying to be, or have

promised to be, or will be some day, but with us as we are now...today...in this moment. This is the promise at the heart of the Christmas story – that as God came before to be with, use, accept, and hallow Joseph and Mary at the birth of Christ, so also God comes to us in Christ to be with us, use us for good, accept us as we are, and redeem us by God's own presence. Yes, God is really with us! Yes, God is with us, really and truly as we are. Yes, this is our faith and our hope. This is the Christmas promise.

May you discover  
Emmanuel this  
Christmas.

Rev Andy Eldred



### **What we've been up to....**

After 6 years of tending her flock at St John's our Vicar, Rev Kathy Orr-Nimmo made the call to retire in May.

While leaving us with no permanent Vicar we have been blessed with an array of Ministers from within and outside the Parish that have given us a smorgasbord of relevant sermons that have been enjoyed by all. Rev Andy Eldred has been our unofficial Interregnum Minister who travels over from Greytown every Sunday to preach and lead us. We have also been very fortunate to have The Rev's Dave Smart, Jeff Roberts and Lance Kevey from within our Parish who have also taken services when Andy hasn't been able to make it, either because the road was closed or he has had other

commitments. The Church Wardens, Vestry and other Church Leaders have also been an instrumental part in enabling the smooth running of the Church and it is with pride that we continue to promote and celebrate this team approach.

It is this kind of team approach that Dallas Moore stepped in to take over the running of the Wednesday morning communion as Rev Lance Kevey was unable to take this service for a period of time. We thank God for Rev Kevey being able to resume this service recently. With the opening up of the rest homes, Rev Jeff Roberts has taken up the mantle of running monthly Rest Home services at Fergusson and Summerset. These have been well received and the numbers continue to grow. He also leads a monthly service at Summerset Village.

We have also trained up our Liturgical



Assistants to be able to administer the reserve sacrament which has enabled us to still have communion when none of the above Priests have been available. This has been a wonderful opportunity to share our ministry giftings and build our leadership team.

The partnership with Mahinga Kai has enabled us to share our community garden and grow vegetables that will help feed those that most need it.



### **More Normal Happenings:**

Thanks to the fundraising team We have had a number successful fundraising events. These include:

- Quiz Nights
- Garage Sale
- Plant Fair
- Baking Stall at the Spring Festival

### **God's Present Evening**

For the eighth year, the parish set up this opportunity for those on tight budgets to "shop for free". Parishioners and others, donated gifts and supper.

### **Regular Activities**

We have a range of traditional and contemporary services.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

### **Our Services**

**9:00 am Sunday** Traditional Communion

**10:30 am Sunday** Contemporary Communion with either All Age worship, or **Kidstuff** for children. All families are welcome as this is an intergenerational service.

**10:00 am Wednesdays** Communion

**9:00 am Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays** Morning Prayer in the Chapel in Church

### **Whanau Fundays**

Whanau Funday is a chance for us to gather with our Trentham community and share hospitality. This usually consists of a wee God spot focus, a game and family activity. At the moment we are trailing this as a Sunday BBQ after the 10.30 Service as people are more free then and may be passing through. The next one is on 11th

December. We would love to see you and your family there!

**Regular Home Groups** where people meet to share and explore life and faith, and to build friendships.

### **Rest Home Services**

The Fergusson Rest Home service is held in the Chapel on the Third Thursday of the month at 11am. The Sunnyside Rest Home Service will be held in the Care Centre Lounge on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2pm.

The Sunnyside Village service is on the last Sunday of the Month.

### **Fruit, Bread and Vege Run**

We continue to host the Bread and Vege run on **Wednesday mornings**. Many of their participants reciprocate by assisting in parish activities.

### **Men's and Ladies Lunches**

We hold separate Men's and Ladies Lunches at the Quinns Post. These are on a monthly basis.

### **Ezee Meals**

**Tuesday & Friday 9.30am-Noon** at the Hall, providing economical meals for our elderly and shut-ins. Feel free to drop in for morning tea. If you know anyone who might benefit from these meals, we can provide a menu and details of free delivery (if required) in Upper Hutt. Cossie Club members have continued to deliver each Friday.

### **Friends of St. John's**

Lifetime membership of the Friends assists in the upkeep of both the church building and the grounds. New members always welcome! (John: 04 528 7923)

# Our Christmas and Holiday Services

**Sunday 4 and 11 Dec** Regular 9am and 10.30am services

**Sunday 11 Dec**  
**12:00 pm** **Christmas Whanau Funday**—is a chance for us to gather with our Trentham community and share hospitality, a wee Godspot and a game, catch/up or family activity. We will be having BBQ's after 10.30 church

**Sunday 18 Dec 10am** **Lessons & Carols in the Church** with an opportunity to remember those we love who have died, including those buried in our graveyard. Please bring something for a shared morning tea.

**Wednesday 21 Dec** Last **rest home service** for 2022 (Summerset)

**Saturday 24 Dec**  
**11.30pm** **Christmas Eve Service** in the Church

**Sunday 25 Dec**  
**9am** **Christmas Day Service** in the Church

**Sundays 1 Jan to**  
**22 Jan 2023**  
**inclusive** **Holy Communion Service** at **10am** in the Church

**Tuesday 24 Jan** **Morning Prayer resumes**

**Wednesday 25 Jan** **10am service resumes**

**Thursday 19 Jan** **Rest home services resume** (Fergusson)

**Sunday 29 Jan** **9am and 10.30am services resume**

Please contact us on 528 5588 or go to [www.stjohnstrentham.org.nz](http://www.stjohnstrentham.org.nz) or email [office.trentham@xtra.co.nz](mailto:office.trentham@xtra.co.nz) if you would like further information about any Parish activities.

