



There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Luke 2:8-9



Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."



ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OTOROHANGA

DECEMBER 2024—JANUARY 2025

Ranfurly St
Otorohanga

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Linked together as disciples of Christ to share our faith with and give loving service to the community.



Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

CHURCH & Parish Life contacts

TREASURER Claire Sherrington (07) 873 7670

SESSION CLERK Dawn Phillips (07) 873 8735

ROOM BOOKINGS Nina Mark (07) 873 6963 / 027 237 2382

Calendar for December 2024 / January 2025

Sun 1	10.00am	Morning Worship
Fri 6		Christmas parade followed by carol singing in St David's
Sun 8	10.00am	Communion
Wed 11	2.00pm	Managers
Sun 15	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wed 18	9.30am	Session
Sun 22	10.00am	Morning Worship
Tues 24	7.00pm	Christmas Eve service at Harvest
Wed 25	9.30am	Christmas Day service at Baptist Church
Sun 29	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 5 Jan	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 12 Jan	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 19	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 26	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wed 29	9.30am	Session



Church bank account number:

02 0392 0018524 00

Website:

saintdavid's.org.nz

Copy for the February newsletter is requested by Monday 27 January.

The Editor

Preaching Roster

Dec 1	Terry Cowland
Dec 8	Keith Budge
Dec 15	Dawn Phillips
Dec 22	Terry Cowland
Dec 29	Keith Budge
Jan 5	Terry Cowland
Jan 12	Keith Budge
Jan 19	Dawn Phillips
Jan 26	Terry Cowland

ADVENT 2024 begins on 1st December

There will be an Advent candle to help us focus on different aspects of the Christian Christmas.

Julianne Managh from St Pauls', Katikati has shared what they have done over a number of years to celebrate Advent.

'We dress up in different colours each week and bring into church a flower of that colour and place them up the front by the candles. The children, and adults look forward to this every year'

So, how about we join them ?

Week 1 (1st December) is Hope – colour – Yellow

Week 2 (8th December) is Joy – colour – Pink

Week 3 (15th December) is Peace – colour – Blue

Week 4 (22nd December) is Love – colour - Red

From the Advent Message of our Moderator, Rev Rose Luxford.

Hope, peace, joy and love. Can we use these themes to motivate us to action in our particular context? For instance, can we ask/challenge ourselves with questions such as, how can I bring a sense of hope to those in need around me – in prayerful and practical ways? How can I work towards peace where there is brokenness? We can be very intentional in seeking to incarnate the Advent themes into our lives... hope, peace, joy, love. We are all part of the Body of Christ. As we all seek to incarnate these themes into our daily living, we strengthen the presence and effectiveness of the Body of Christ here and now. And we do this in the strength of Christ and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

From Rev Nigel Crocombe

One of the super great events of world history is that on a particular day (I don't think that the date of celebration matters all that much) Jesus Christ was born. ***Jesus Christ who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death -- even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name. (Philippians 2:7-9)*** The actual date may not matter much, but the event matters enormously.

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Garage sale

We held our Garage Sale on 9th November – much better weather than the downpour we had last year.

Good numbers attended with \$590 raised. This money is going to KIDshine – a subsidiary of Presbyterian Support Northern - to provide resources for counsellors working with children requiring therapy.

Heartfelt thanks go to Kathy, Janice and Dawn who attended on the tables and talked to our shoppers, to Claire as cashier, and to Lloyd Gibson and Jamie Owston who provided much needed muscle on Friday – setup day, and to Lloyd again for Saturday afternoon pack down. Keith and Nina helped selecting which boxes from the garage needed to come into the hall and several parishioners arrived with baking, plants and goods to add to the tables. Thank you all.

The Lions came and retrieved all that remained that we didn't want to keep for yet another year.

I'm delighted to say the garage looks much emptier and it's now much simpler to get around.

Jane McIlroy

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Giving gifts?

Buy **gifts that keep on giving**. The idea is to include with your gifts to family and friends a card to say you've made a donation (to buy a goat or a hen, for example) to help families become self-sufficient. As your gift is a donation, for those in New Zealand, it is eligible for a tax rebate from the IRD. Take your pick from scores of ideas and lovely cards to be found on the following websites:

- World Vision's 'Smiles' gift programme for gifts from \$10.
- 'Gifted' programme of Christian World Service for gifts from \$35
- Leprosy Mission's 'Really good gifts' programme for gifts from \$10.

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11



Nā, ka mea te anahera ki a ratou, "Kaua e matakū, tā te mea he kaikauwhau tēnei ahau ki a koutou mō te hari nui, meāke puta mai ki te iwi, katoa. Nō nāianeī hoki i whānau ai he Kaiwhakaora mō koutou i te pā o Rāwiri, arā a te Karaiti, te Ariki.

Ruka 2: 10-11