

# THE MESSENGER

## November 2018



*Building the  
Church Together*

THE MESSENGER is the official magazine of the  
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HOLY TRINITY  
DEVONPORT

Church Community since 1856





## From the Vicar's Desk

Rev Charmaine  
Braatvedt.

It's mid November and once again we are standing on the brink of this crazy, frenetic season we call Christmas. What makes this a busy time of year for most of us is the pressure to complete all the tasks assigned to 2018, fulfil the social expectations that family and friends will gather and spend time with each other, and attend all the extraordinary commitments of end of year office parties, school prize givings and the rest.

Somewhere hidden in the midst of all this the reason for the season.

### **What, one might well ask, is the point of all this frenetic activity?**

For Christians and the Church it is of course the celebration of the Incarnation, of Christ coming to be with us in our humanity.

As we rush from one thing to the other let's not forget the reason for the season: that the Son of God came to be among us as the Word made flesh. Furthermore let us not forget what His coming signaled.

God sent Jesus to reconcile us with God and to entrust Christ followers with the task of reconciling people with one another.

As people reconciled with God through Jesus, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation. As Paul so eloquently puts it in 2 Corinthians 5:18:

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation .*

Our task in this world as children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ, is to live out the message of Christmas which is reconciliation. Christ brought the Good News that through him we are reconciled to God and by following in his way, we are called to be reconciled to our fellow humans.

Looking around us we see there is a lot of work to be done in this regard. Our world is divided by conflict and broken relationships. There are divisions among the people who make up our families, our communities, our world. These divisions cause great pain and suffering.

Essential to the work of reconciliation is a non-judgemental presence. We are not sent to the world to judge, to condemn, to classify or to label. When we walk around as if we have to make up our minds about people and tell them what is wrong with them and how they should change, we only create more division.

Jesus says it clearly *Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate ..do not judge...do not condemn...forgive* (Luke 6: 36—37).

In a world that constantly asks us to make up our minds about other people, a non-judgemental presence seems nearly impossible, but it is one of the most beautiful gifts of a deep spiritual life and one which this Christmas we can give to those around us who long for reconciliation in their lives.

Our sacred tasks as Christians is to bring about reconciliation. So whatever you do in the busyness of the Christmas Season, ask yourself one question: Does it lead to reconciliation?

Based on the writing of Henri J M Nouwen  
*Bread for the Journey.*

### The Messenger

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Editor      | Rev. Charmaine Braatvedt                 |
| Publisher   | Andie Levell                             |
| Front cover | Last year's 5pm Christingle Service      |
| Insert      | Jasper Brant—All age worship<br>Nov 2018 |

**Please note that our traditional Christmas Eve service begins with half an hour of carol singing at 10.30pm and continues with Midnight Mass from 11pm—12am.**

## Hall Update

*28 Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'*

Luke 14 28—30

The next phase in the re-development of our Parish Hall into a facility that will meet the current needs of the Parish and future proof it will commence early next year. We have engaged the services of a fundraising consultant who will assist us as we launch our fundraising campaign in the first quarter of next year. Rob Hay has graciously agreed to be our Campaign Director and two Vestry sub committees have been formed to expedite the process. One of these, the Property Development Committee, is currently in the process of preparing an application for Resource Consent with the Council.

We will all be given an opportunity to be a part of making the vision to re-develop the Parish Hall a reality and the excitement of this new venture is palpable.

Everyone is invited to pray intentionally for the smooth progress of the Hall Project and to prayerfully consider what talents each of us may have that we can offer the various teams of people that will be needed to make this project a reality. We are also invited to look at our own financial circumstances and resources with the view to investing in this fresh expression of Church.



Below  
Vestry has appointed Warren Rodgers to manage our Hall fundraising campaign. Warren comes to us with 30 years experience as a professional fundraiser



Above  
Rob Hay has been an active member of this Parish for 15 years. He has been on the Vestry leadership team and was Vicar's Warden for three years. Rob is currently the leader of our 9.30am music teams and sings in the Choir. Rob is also a busy lawyer in his spare time!

## Community Shop



## Volunteers Needed

Help needed for behind the counter and sorting.

If you can spare a few hours a month, please contact  
Tina on 021 055 6990

## FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

Tuesday December 4th  
11am—Parish Hall

### The 60's Up Choir

will be entertaining us with seasonal music followed by a light lunch.



## TAIZÉ STYLE SERVICE

at  
Holy Trinity Church

Join us for a reflective  
Service on Sunday  
25th November at 5pm  
when we will reflect on the theme of  
ADVENT

Holy Trinity Church  
 Devonport  
 9 Lessons and Carols  
 2nd December 2018, 7pm



The Festival of **Nine Lessons and Carols** is an Anglican worship service that contextualises the birth of Jesus Christ in the Biblical Narrative. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music. The service started in Truro, UK in 1878 when the Bishop formalized the cathedral's Christmas Eve service into the 9 Lessons we know today. The service traditionally begins with the Carol *Once in Royal David City*. The first verse is usually sung solo.

**Super Sunday Club Pageant**

Experience the Christmas story in a fresh way  
 on Sunday 9th Dec  
 at 9.30am in the Church



This year the Super Sunday Club will perform their traditional nativity play in the Church rather than the Parish Hall. We are giving the children leadership roles in the service and the re-enactment of the nativity story will

have a contemporary flavour of a news broadcast.

**Community Carols**

for the whole family

Thursday 13th December

6.00pm

Picnic on the lawn

7.00pm

Carols in the church

at Holy Trinity

Organised by the Combined Churches  
 of Devonport & Belmont

This year the combined churches of Devonport will once again put on this family event. For some years we endeavoured to hold a carol sing along outdoors at Windsor Reserve but the vagaries of the weather meant that we were cancelling or re-locating the event more often than not. So the ministers have chosen to hold the event at Holy Trinity Church.

The idea is that people will bring along a picnic or purchase sausages and ice-creams from stalls located in the church grounds. We will have face painting and a bouncy castle so that from 6pm to 7pm people from the wider community can mix and mingle. At 7pm everyone will go into the Church and we will have an hour or so of carol singing and Christmas entertainment.

The event is designed to appeal to everyone, young and old and is designed to be an opportunity for the churches to reach out to the wider community . Please invite your friends and family to this event. A koha will be taken and the money will go to Auckland City Mission and Seasons grief programme for young children.

Helen Gwyn from the Light Devonport Church will be the guest speaker at the Community Carols Service.



*A Service of Reflections  
on Christmas*

**Thursday 20th December 6pm**

**for that season in your life when  
Christmas may not be  
the jolliest of times**



This service was developed by Heather Hill about 4-5 years ago. We have had it on our Advent Church Calendar for two years.

It has various names like *Blue Christmas*, *Longest Night* or *When Christmas Hurts*. It acknowledges that the holiday season with all the festivities can be hard for those whose hearts are not feeling very Christmassy this year. The service reminds us that we are not alone. It is a gentle contemplative reflection on the Birth of Jesus and the Incarnation. It provides an opportunity for people to hear about the God of love who comes to us in the midst of the mess and pain we are experiencing in our own everyday lives and the lives of those around us.

If this appeals to you for whatever reason then please join us for this Communion service during which the Holy Trinity Choir will lead us in the well known carols we all love to sing.

**Dr Sue Braatvedt and the Holy Trinity Choir**



Celebrate Christmas Eve with your children or grandchildren at our traditional

**Christingle Services**

**24th December**

**5.00pm at Holy Trinity  
for younger children**

**7.00pm for older children and teenagers**



A **Christingle** is a symbolic object used in the Advent or Christmas **services** of many Christian denominations.

**Christingle** means 'Christ Light' and is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as the "Light of the World". The tradition was started in Moravia in 1747. The word may have come from the word *Christkindl* meaning Christ child or from the Scots Christmas and ingle meaning fire making it Christ light.



The service is particularly appealing to children and youth and is a way to tell the story and explain the meaning of Christmas in a child centred way.

**Daniel & Matthew Kirk and Robbie Brant**

The 5pm Christingle service is aimed at pre schoolers and primary school children while the 7pm service is aimed at intermediate and high school aged young people.

**Christmas Eve  
Midnight Service**  
Sing along Carols 10.30—11 pm

**Midnight Mass 11pm**  
*The people who were in darkness saw a great light!*

**Christmas Day**  
8am **Holy Communion** NZPB  
9.30am **All Age Christmas  
Communion Service**



THERE'S ALWAYS "ROOM AT THE INN"

**CHRISTMAS  
COMMUNITY  
LUNCH**

11.00 AM Onwards A kiwi Christmas

**Holy Trinity Church is holding a festive lunch for anyone who would like to partake in a communal Christmas meal**



**Tuesday 25th December 2018**  
Straight after the 9.30am service

**No charge but pre-booking is essential!**  
Approx start/finish times: 11am—1pm

**Contact Emily Morrow on [pelmorrow@mac.com](mailto:pelmorrow@mac.com), 021 176 6559 for more information or to book a place.**

## Farewell to Mike and Mary Jo Holdaway



**Mike and Mary-Jo Holdaway**

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to our two St John’s students who are taking a six month break to return to their own home Church, St Stephen’s, in Ashburton at the end of this year. Mary Jo and Mike have spent a year with us in the Parish and it has been a great joy and delight to have them worshipping with us and ministering to us.

When asked if they had enjoyed their placement here in the Parish of Devonport, they had this to say:  
*“We enjoyed seeing the many ways in which the Parish is committed to intergenerational worship. We hugely appreciate the warm welcome we received from the whole congregation and how inclusive this congregation is. There is a vibrancy in the Parish and we sense the presence of the Holy Spirit here.”*

Mike believes that the Parish is spiritually strong because it is outward looking and missional. He appreciated the external connections the Parish has such as those we have with David Friend in Mukinge Zambia.

Mary Jo said that we should be encouraged by all the good things that are happening here.

We will miss their support and encouragement for the mission and ministry of this place but wish them well and hope to see them on their return to their studies in Auckland some time next year.

Good news is that we will be welcoming a new St John’s student into the Parish from Tikanga Pacifika. Rev’d Sela Havili will be with us for a one year placement as of 1st December. We look forward to welcoming her and her family into the Parish.

Last year we hosted a free Christmas Lunch for anyone in the community who was keen to attend. We specifically invited all those to whom we have given food parcels during the course of the year and encouraged the congregation to invite anyone who they knew were away from friends and family to join us for Christmas Lunch.

The congregation generously supplied pre-cooked vegetables and desserts on the day and the Church supplied the ham and the chicken. 70 people showed up to a delicious meal and like the miracle of the loaves and fishes, everyone was able to



take enough food home with them for yet another meal. The Parish Hall was decorated for the event and looked amazing and everyone who attended said they had had a wonderful time and encouraged us to do it again this year.

I think the true meaning of Christmas was evident in this initiative and am delighted that we will be repeating the experience again this year!



## Hannah's Youth Update

The end of my first year as youth pastor for Holy Trinity is coming to a close and gosh is it exciting! We now have a leadership team of seven leaders: Sydney-Anne Martin, Daniel Howie, Cameron Boyce, Maia Brown, Mia Hawes, Jerry Dean and of course Selwyn! We will have just finished our end of year leader's retreat when you read this, where we will be doing some training but mostly it's a thank you for their hard work and a chance to bond together as a team. I am so grateful for the hard work and dedication all my leaders put in each week, if you see one, give them a pat on the back and tell them they're doing great!

Coming up we have our end of year Christmas party! It's going to be a lot of fun so come along if you can, 7:30pm on the 30th November. Coincidentally it is also my 30th Birthday so come and help me celebrate!

Jerry and Mia have both finished their fundraising and are super excited to be heading to Fiji on our Missions trip in just over a week. Thank you so much to all of you who supported them by buying their baking each week or giving donations, they were blown away by your support and generosity which really added to their sense of belonging to our Church. The BOLD group are all very excited for our missions trip and the ministry we get to partner with in Fiji. Pray that our young people will be challenged, encounter God and come back filled with a passion for God's work in our communities.



Our Parish Hall played host to youth from all over Auckland at the annual Anglican Youth Ministries Ball

## Holy Trinity Church help create a nationwide ROARING CHORUS to mark the Armistice centenary.



Commander Brett Fotheringham (standing in the photo above with Quin Rodda and Lurline Woodhouse) was our guest preacher. He challenged us with the question: What is peace and how can we build a lasting peace? Quin Rodda read the names on the Honours Board in the Church and after the service we observed a two minute silence followed by a lot of noise, designed to recapture the jubilant celebrations when armistice was declared 100 years ago.



### BAPTISMS

Jasper & Robert Brant  
Mei, Aya & Rio Smith

### FUNERALS

Conal Kelly  
Joan Henderson  
Eric Thorrington

### WEDDINGS

Amy Meyer & Christopher van Rossum  
Natalie Berryman & Christopher Carlin  
Emily Wang & Neo Li



# Advent and Christmas at Holy Trinity

## Sunday 2nd December Advent 1

- 8.00am Communion Service
- 9.30am All Age Family Service followed by Christmas Parade in Devonport
- 7.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

## Sunday 9th December Advent 2

- 8.00am Communion Service
- 9.30am Super Sunday Club Pageant in the Church

## Thursday 13th December

- 6.00pm Picnic on the Lawn at HT
- 7.00pm Community Carols at Holy Trinity. Combined churches of Devonport/ Belmont. Bring a picnic.

## Sunday 16th December Advent 3

- 8.00am Communion Service
- 9.30am Communion Service

## Wednesday 19th December

- 11.00am Christingle Preparation in the Hall

## Thursday 20th December

- 6.00pm Reflecting on Christmas

## Sunday 23rd December

- 8.00am Communion Service
- 9.30 am Communion Service

## Monday 24th December Christmas Eve

- Christingle Services at Holy Trinity Church
- 5.00pm aimed at Primary & Pre-schoolers
- 7.00pm aimed at teenagers.
- 10.30pm Carol singing in Holy Trinity Church
- 11.00pm Midnight Eucharist at Holy Trinity Church

## Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day

- 8.00am Christmas Eucharist  
New Zealand Prayer Book
- 9.30am Christmas Family Eucharist
- 11.00pm Christmas Lunch in the Hall

## Sunday 30th December

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Contemporary Communion Service

