



*"We aim to be a reflection of God to the community"*

Bi-monthly Newsletter of The Alexandria, Clyde Lauder Union Parish ~ Dec 22 / Jan 23

## OUR MINISTERS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Once again, we are about to start our journey through advent towards the celebration of Christmas and the birth of Christ on December 25th. With so many things we fall into a pattern of only seeing the world from our own perspective. Christmas and its celebration are no different. I remember having a friend at primary school who, due to their religious background, didn't celebrate Christmas or birthdays for that matter. But I wasn't aware into much later that Christmas and the birth of Christ could be celebrated on a completely different date at all. But I'll return to that fact later and its significance this year.

For centuries before Christ, Hebrew rabbis methodically and passionately taught the Jewish people that the Messiah was coming. They taught that the people should be ready to embrace their King when he appeared. They emphasized the need for holy living and obedience to God's law.

This explains how the lowliest shepherds and fishermen of that day were acquainted with the promises of a Messiah. People were not encountering the idea of god on earth for the first time when they met Christ. They already had an appreciation, and many were on the lookout for the saviour. This season of preparation was all by God's design. In contrast to today many are not looking for a saviour, nor even wish to acknowledge a heavenly realm, let alone the concept of God with them, Emmanuel.



Christmas Music Service 2017 St Enoch's

### In This Issue

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Today, we often mark Advent in the Christian church with the display of a wreath - its circle reminds us of God Himself, eternal and endlessly merciful. It is evergreen reminding us of the hope of eternal life.



The four outer candles incorporated into the display represent the time of waiting and preparation for the Messiah during the four Sundays of Advent thought by many theologians to represent the four hundred years of prophetic silence between Malachi and the angelic visitations of the Gospels).

The light of the candles reminds us of the Light of the world, and the prophetic promise of His coming. The white central candle of the Advent wreath, lighted at Christmas, reminds us of the fulfilment of His first Advent and the pure, humble means by which He came.

This advent we are making use of material from A Sanctified Art. From Generation to Generation: The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations.

We all have stories of the traditions that our families carry as we embrace the silly season. For myself for a few years following the early Christmas Eve service our family would have a supper of fish and chips. It was perhaps the only time each year my Gran would have fish and chips. And of course, there was the story of the disappointed one **expecting** savoury mince pies at the

11:30pm service only to be served fruit mince pies! Most of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.

In the Eastern Church Christmas is typically celebrated on the 7th of January, based upon the date on which Jesus was born, according to the Julian calendar. And for centuries Ukrainians have done this in line with the church in Moscow. But with the invasion that is endorsed by the Moscow patriarchy times are changing this year. The Orthodox church of Ukraine is allowing its congregations for the first time to celebrate Christmas on 25 December. In the past only prayers could be said on the 25th of December, but this year for some 7000 churches they will be allowed to hold full services. It seems the change is led by the young people of Ukraine: Taras Pshenychnyi, a professor of church history at Kyiv's Taras Shevchenko University, said his students had spontaneously raised the topic of Christmas and were in favour of shifting it to 25 December. But he said older people including his parents were reluctant to change to the Gregorian model, introduced by Pope Gregory in 1582. This year his family including his six-year-old son would celebrate on both dates, he said.



Let us all pray that they can celebrate Christ's birth on whatever day they like in total peace.

- Let us all take time to prepare this advent for the birth of Christ.
- Let us be open to the presence of Christ with us.
- Let us all share the good news the birth of Christ brings.
- Beautiful Advent devotionals with daily activities including art, readings, poems and recipes are available from our churches.



**Every Blessing this Christmas and Advent Season** Rev Andrew Howley

**PLEASE NOTE: Rev Andrew Howley is on parental leave from November 24th to December 22nd.**

**Poem for Christmas Eve: Author: Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed**



We tell this story every year  
My heart and I have an agreement.  
Every year we show up here—  
here in the sanctuary,  
here with the candles and the tall ceilings,  
here with the creaky church pews and the songs of silent nights.  
My heart and I have an agreement.  
Every year we show up here—  
at the end of the year,  
after another 12 months of humanity, of me  
trying to  
keep it all together,  
trying to

keep my head above water,  
trying to  
keep up appearances.  
Every year we show up here.  
We drop it all.  
We leave it at the door.  
We come into this space  
and I could swear it feels different.  
Maybe it's God.  
Maybe it's hope.  
Maybe it's love.  
But whatever it is,  
I need it  
every year,  
so we show up here.  
Tell us again the story of tonight.  
My heart needs it.

**Prayer by Sam Hargreaves @ engage worship**

Jesus Christ, born in a stable, be with the poor and homeless this Christmas time.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, born of Mary, be with young mothers across the world this Christmas time.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, visited by Shepherds, be with all who have to work this Christmas, and those who long to work.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, who became a refugee, be with those who fear for their lives, and those who have left homes and families this Christmas.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light. Amen.**



**ST ENOCH'S PIPE ORGAN**

It seems the organ at St Enoch's has quite a back history.

On **21st August 1945** at a Parish Council meeting it was decided there should be a suitable War Memorial for the Alexandra Church as there was a need for a new organ. This would be discussed with the congregation at the Annual meeting. The meeting was duly held and a sum of £600 had been received in donations or promised. It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that another organ be purchased.



On the **31st October 1951** Two members of the Council travelled to Dunedin to interview Mr Aldern regarding installing the pipe organ. It was then **installed in St Enoch's in January 1952** and the organ was **dedicated in December 1952.**

The organ was originally from St John's Church in Waikouaiti and was a war memorial.

The organ was originally built by Bishop & Starr. **Rebuilt by Aldern-Dunedin 1944. Dedicated December 1952.** Job No. 73933.

A one-manual & pedal instrument, **thought to be part of a Bishop & Starr 1873 organ** installed in **St Alban's Methodist Church, Christchurch** and removed in 1906 to **Waikouaiti Anglican Church**, from whence it was removed in 1940.

The organ has led quite a chequered life and has been rebuilt and moved a number of times and **is only part of the 1873 original organ.**



**SOME PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT THE SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS FETÉ**

**Our organisers Barbara & Sue**

**The BBQ Team**

**SANTACLASUS**

## Treasurers Report

For the past 2 months, October/November, the income was \$18,840.19 and the expenses \$17,801.39 leaving a credit of \$1,038.80.

The proceeds from the Mini Fair/Garage Sale of \$3,680.00 (total minus expenses) was a great help.

We also had a catering job for the N.Z. Cake Decorators Conference which helped fill the coffers.

This month, December, we catered for the Neighbourhood Support Christmas afternoon tea and we held our Christmas Fete, which was very successful and well supported by the parish and community. We are also catering for the Synod Roadshow gathering in our church, so our end of year financial position is looking positive.

The next planned market day at St Mungo's is January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 and we will have our usual garage sale and stall so donations of baking, jams, relishes, produce, etc. would be appreciated. Hopefully we will have cherries as well.

Helpers will also be needed so contact Pat Tyrell, 449 2695 or Sheryll Hanning, 449 2703 to volunteer or for further information..

**I.R.D. Tax Rebate** A huge thank you to those who have donated their I.R.D. tax rebate to our Parish. Unfortunately we don't know who you are!? If your I.R.D. no. is 041 456, please contact or see Don Melville so he can credit your donation to you.



Wishing everyone a Happy & Holy Christmas & a safe New Year.

*Linda Armstrong* - Treasurer

## **Christmas Star**

Poet; Unknown



A diamond shines no brighter  
Than that lovely Christmas star.  
It shines in all its brilliance;  
It's seen from near or far.

A symbol of the Christ child  
As He lay upon the hay,  
It tells to all the waiting world  
A King was born that day.

O Bethlehem Star keep shining  
Give us faith and hope and love,  
Keep our thoughts forever turning  
To the Saviour up above.

Give us strength and hope and courage  
To do our best by far  
And never falter in our faith  
As we watch that Christmas star.

## **CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS CRAFT – make your own manger for baby Jesus**

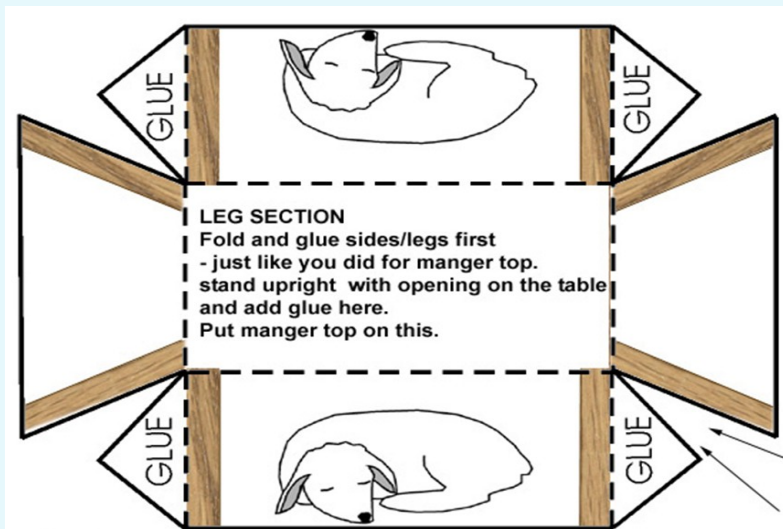
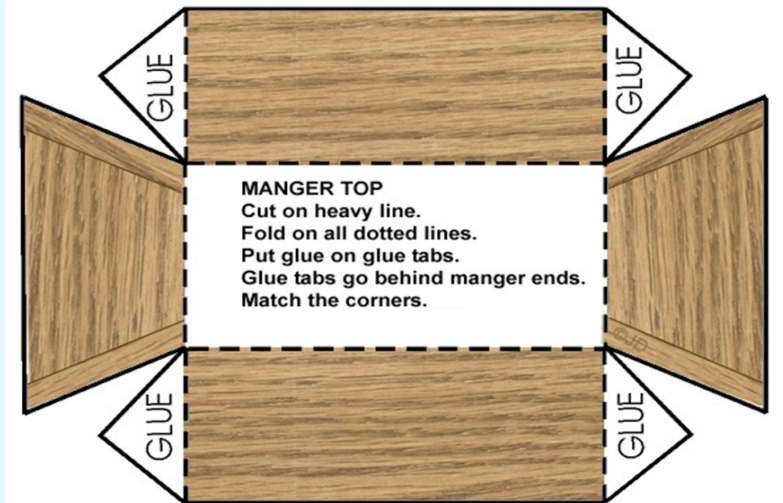


## **HOW TO MAKE A MANGER FOR JESUS– Parent help needed.**

Easy Cutting instructions: To cut each inside corner, put your scissors in to cut along one line until you reach the point corner. Pull out your scissors and put them back to cut along the other edge until you get to the pointy corner. **DO NOT TRY TO TURN YOUR SCISSORS IN THE POINTY CORNER.** Sundaykids.com



Paste this page onto cardboard. When dry cut around the outside of each picture. If you need help ask an adult to help you.



# Celebrate, Celebrate, Celebrate!

## 65 Years of Marriage

You may have read in "The News" of Thursday the 17th November that Les and Evelyn celebrated their 65 years of marriage at the MHSL in Ranfurly. The room was festooned with balloons (Blue, Yellow) & white.

Their bond is very strong. Evelyn makes her way to Ranfurly regularly to visit with her Les. They are a great couple and they share a love of giving to others. Sharing what they have and being very hospitable to those who are having a difficult time. **Congratulations Les & Evelyn.**



## We Welcome two new babies to our parish.

*Rajan, Anita & Ivana welcomed*



*Ryan Kaji Shrestha to their family on 7th October 2022*



*Andrew, Rosalie & Theo Welcomed*

*Josiah Roland to their family on*

*27th November 2022*



St Enoch's was the inspiration for one of the cakes displayed at the Cake Decorators convention. Photo: Shannon Thomson-The News

## CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE

*A remembrance tree will be displayed in St Enoch's and people are invited to write a remembrance message on a card and attach it to the tree.*

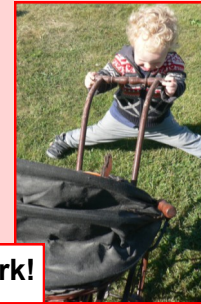


# Past & Upcoming Events

**PARISH MINI FAIR & GARAGE SALE**  
**23RD OCTOBER 2022 & CLYDE MARKET DAY AT ST MUNGO'S**



**Baking Stall**



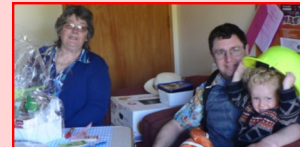
**Its hard work!**



**Plants Stall- Inside & outside!**



**Book browsing**



**Linda, Andrew & Theo**



**Garage Sale items**



Again the light party was well supported and enjoyed by all attending, that is until the clouds, thunder & lightning rolled in. The rain came down in bucket loads and unfortunately there was a mad rush to take the tents down and take them away to be dried out. Thanks to all who contributed with supplies and volunteered to help before, during and after the event.



**ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BBQ LUNCH**  
**WHERE: St Enoch's Church Grounds Centennial Avenue**  
**12 noon 25th December 2022**  
**Free Event ALL WELCOME**

**Remember :** On the 1st January 2023-Contact Sheryll Hanning. 448 2703 5th February 2023-contact Pat Tyrell 449 2695 or Sheryll Hanning as above. The Clyde Markets will be held in the St Mungo's grounds. We will be selling baking, produce & jams. Helpers welcome at 9am to price & set up. If anyone is keen to help please phone Sheryll- Thank You.

**MARKET DAYS AT St Mungo's CLYDE**

## REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

### Weekly

<b>House Study Group</b>	Resumes February 2023 <b>Contact: Valerie Anderson</b>	3A Mayfair Grove Alexandra <b>448 8049</b>
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### Monthly

<b>Afternoon Fellowship</b>	4th Thursday of the month 1.30pm <b>Contact: Various</b>	June Sinclair <b>448 8281</b>
<b>St Mungo's Fellowship</b>	3rd Wednesday of the month 2.00pm <b>Contact: Sheryll Hanning</b>	Various Feb 2023 <b>449 2703</b>
<b>Parish Council</b>	3rd Wednesday of the month—summer <b>Contact: Kathy Milligan</b>	St Mungo's 4.30pm <b>021 0261 5866</b>

### ACLUP MINI FAIR/GARAGE SALE October 23rd 2022

This is the total  
takings as at 31/10/22

<u>INCOME</u>	
Plants	\$1,262.00
Cheese Rolls	\$620.00
Garage Sale	\$569.70
Baking	\$452.70
Books	\$208.40
Raffles	\$191.00
Dawn's Stall	\$108.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,411.80</b>

There will be expenses of approximately \$350 for cheese rolls, advertising etc. BUT there have been donations, monetary, raffle prizes, potting mix, cheese etc., as well as all the goods to sell and all the volunteer hours which helped raise a great total. A huge thanks to everyone involved.

Linda Armstrong Treasurer

**EDITORS NOTE:** The next ACLaim will be Feb/March 2023 please have any articles to me by **Monday 23rd January 2023**. Contact me with any information for ACLaim. *Gay Gordon*. Thanks to Jackie Roy for helping me with proof reading the ACLaim.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS** From the ACLaim Team  
Gay- Editor, Jackie - Proof Reader



Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

## Upcoming Worship Services

<b>Dec 11th</b>		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Combined Christmas Music Service</b>
<b>Advent 3</b>		<b>Alexandra</b>	

<b>Dec 18th</b>	Clyde	<b>9.00am</b>
<b>Advent 4</b>	Alexandra	<b>10.30am</b>

<b>Dec 24th</b>	Alexandra	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
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<b>Dec 25th</b>	Clyde	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
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<b>Jan 1st</b>	Clyde	9.00am	<b>Communion</b>
<b>Christmas 1</b>	Alexandra	10.30am	<b>Communion</b>

**2020**

<b>Jan 8th</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Epiphany 1</b>	Alexandra	10.30am

<b>Jan 15th</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Epiphany 2</b>	Alexandra	10.30am

<b>Jan 22nd</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Epiphany 3</b>	Alexandra	10.30am

<b>Jan 29th</b>	St Aidans Anglican	Combined Service
<b>Epiphany 4</b>	Alexandra	9.30am Check weekly bulletin

<b>Feb 5th</b>	Clyde	9.00am	<b>Communion</b>
<b>Epiphany 5</b>	Alexandra	10.30am	<b>Communion</b>

<b>Feb 12th</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Epiphany 6</b>	Alexandra	10.30am

<b>Feb 19th</b>	Clyde	9.00am	
	Alexandra	10.30am	<b>Transfiguration</b>

## Contact Us

**Minister:**  
Rev. Andrew Howley  
  
Phone: 03 448 8511  
021 518 053  
  
Email:  
Andrew.howley.nz@gmail.com

**Parish Clerk:**  
Kathy Milligan  
  
Phone: 021 0261 5866

Email:  
[sheeba398@gmail.com](mailto:sheeba398@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.alexchurch.org.nz](http://www.alexchurch.org.nz)

Like us on FaceBook  
  
[Facebook.com/alexchurch](https://www.facebook.com/alexchurch)

### Worship Times

**Sunday:**  
  
Clyde: 9.00am  
  
Alexandra: 10.30am

**If you require  
transportation to  
church please ask!**

**Telephone Jennifer  
Bowie: 448 7369 or  
Don & Sue Melville  
448 9233**