



Winter in the north



ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OTOROHANGA

JULY 2023

Ranfurly St
Otorohanga

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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



Winter in the south.

CHURCH & Parish Life contacts

TREASURER Claire Sherrington (07) 873 7670

SESSION CLERK Dawn Phillips (07) 873 8735

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ber: 02 0392 0018524 00Website: saintdavid's.org.nz**Church Life Survey**

Over the last month, those who regularly attend church services have been filling in the Church Life Survey 2023. This is an anonymous survey designed to analyse the present state of the church in Aotearoa New Zealand. Some of the questions asked:

Over the last year, do you believe you have grown in your Christian faith?

How often do you spend time in private or family devotional activities?

How often do you read the Bible on your own?

Do you believe that Christians have a responsibility to actively care for the environment?

How important is it to you that this local church is part of this denomination?

What do you think should be given priority by this local church in the next 12 months?

What size do you think this local church will be in about 10 years time?

This last question is particularly interesting to us, since our average attendance at worship for June has been 11.

General Assembly

General Assembly 2023 will be held from **Wednesday 27 September to Sunday 1 October 2023**. The venue will be **Saint Kentigern College**, Pakuranga, Auckland. Assembly will begin with a powhiri and opening communion service starting at 6.30pm on Wed 27 September and will conclude with the closing communion service 10am on Sunday 1 October. We are to send a commissioner.

July is Bible Month.

The theme is *The Bible is Life*.

The Bible Society invites us to join with them to dive deeper into the riches of Scripture .

"To guide you on this journey, we have carefully selected Scripture for each day in July. These verses are filled with messages of life, hope, and inspiration for you to meditate on and explore in greater depth. You can find the complete list of daily verses on a beautifully designed and free downloadable calendar on the Bible Society website, biblesociety.org.nz." Press the tab "be equipped" and click on Bible Month 2023.

Notes from the Managers

St David's has sent a donation to help the victims of flooding in Wairoa.

A reminder to any who might be alone in the building, eg doing cleaning, to shut the outside door, which is self-locking. This is for your safety.

Preaching Roster

July 2	Terry Cowland
July 9	Keith Budge
July 16	Dawn Phillips
July 23	Terry Cowland
July 30	Keith Budge

Copy for the August newsletter is requested by Monday 24 July.

The Editor

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Throughout this winter season,
in nature's mid-year womb,
Christ grant you life and laughter
to lighten frosty gloom-
to lift our flagging spirits
beyond these short-lived days
to Advent and each coming
which fills our lives with praise.

You come as puddles crackle
beneath the children's feet;
You come in lifeless branches
outlined against the sleet;
You come when lives diminish
as smog envelopes all;
You come as snow which blankets
earth's grime beneath its fall.

You come as fire and candle
and all that warms the heart;
You come in party feasting
in music, dance and art;
You come in ancient stories
of years that are no more
You come as liberation
and power for all the poor.

We seek to know your presence
in grey days and in bright;
in all the earth's abundance
and during nature's night.
But when we cannot see you
through blindness or through pain
enfold us in your dying
and rise in us again.

Bill Wallace: Tune: Tyrolese

Matariki: a time to prepare,
learn, share and celebrate.

- Acknowledging family—time for remembering those who have passed on from this world
- Sharing our resources
- Celebrating our culture, language, spirit and people

* Dreaming and setting goals
for the future.

Mānawatia a Matariki

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Session report

The Ministers' Association are looking to hold another Light Party on 31 October at Windsor Park. Each church will contribute financially. We are to organise some old-fashioned games, and help with the barbecues.

It is also hoped to enter a combined churches float in the Santa parade on Friday 1 December.

On 11 June after the church service was over and most people had left, we were approached by a couple asking for monetary assistance. The situation became alarming, and the police were called. The whole incident has us thinking about how we should handle any future similar occurrence.

While we are keen to help those genuinely in need, we do not want to be the perceived easy target of conmen. What are your thoughts?

Jesus said: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6: 27—31. There is our golden standard.

As always, your church office-bearers value your prayers. God bless us all.

Dawn Phillips Session Clerk

Calendar for July

Sat 1	12.00	Mid-winter luncheon
Sun 2	10.00am	Morning Worship
Fri 7	10.00am	Cuppa & Chat
Sun 9	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wed 12	2.00pm	Managers
Sun 16	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wed 19	9.30am	Session
Fri 21	10.00am	Cuppa & Chat
Sat 22		🔔🔔 Ann & Nigel wed
Sun 23	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 30	10.00am	Morning Worship

Cuppa & Chat

The organisers of Cuppa & Chat invite all interested to come to their next two mornings, July 7 and July 28, to hear their guest speakers.

On 7 July Constable Collett will be talking about how to keep ourselves safe

and on 28 July, there will be a speaker talking about mobility scooters, safety issues, and other matters.

