



The Te Kuiti Pipe Band kindly played at St David's "Spring Fling" on Saturday 18th November

A whimsical little scene at the Christmas Tree Festival.



All the articles in this display were knitted on the machine by members of the Knitting Club.



ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OTOROHANGA

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

Ranfurly St Otorohanga

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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



All the decorations on this tree are knitted.

This tree was an entry in the Christmas tree festival November 16th to 18th 2023.

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

John 1:12

But to all who received him,
who believed in his name, he
gave power to become the
children of God.

New Revised Standard Version

Gift giving

Have you thought this year about buying 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, 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 \$15
- Tear Fund's 'Gift for life' programme for gifts from \$10.
- Oxfam's 'Unwrapped' programme for gifts from \$15.
- Leprosy Mission's 'Really good gifts' programme for gifts from \$10.

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Session report

We were not able to meet as a Session in November. There were only two elders available.

Church bank account number: 02 0392 0018524 00

Website: saintdavid's.org.nz

God gave those gentiles the same gift that he gave us when we put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 11:17 Contemporary English version

**We do thank our sponsors,
who make our newsletter
possible.
Please support them!**

Copy for the February newsletter is
requested by Monday 22 Januray.
The Editor

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Calendar for December/January

Sun 3	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 10	10.00am	Communion
Wed 13	2.00pm	Managers
Sun 17	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wed 20	9.30am	Session
Sun 24	10.00am	Morning Worship
Mon 25	9.30am	Christmas Day service at the Baptist Church.
Sun 31	10.00am	Morning Worship
Jan 7	10.00am	Morning Worship
Jan 14	10.00am	Morning Worship
Jan 21	10.00am	Morning Worship
Jan 28	10.00am	Morning Worship
Feb 4	10.00am	Morning Worship

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Dec 3	Terry Cowland
Dec 10	Keith Budge
Dec 17	Dawn Phillips
Dec 24	Terry Cowland
Dec 31	Keith Budge
Jan 7	Terry Cowland

Jan 14	Keith Budge
Jan 21	Dawn Phillips
Jan 28	Terry Cowland
Feb 4	Terry Cowland

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I came across this New Zealand Christmas Carol last century!!!
Late 1980s at a guess. So nice to have something relevant to
our climate and place in the world.

So –

In New Zealand at Christmas time we don't have snow
We don't have shepherds as they knew them long ago,;
But every day whenever we see sheep,
We remember baby Jesus in the manger, asleep.
We don't have wise men bringing gifts for that birth,
We don't have the star to herald God here on earth,
But every night, whenever skies are clear
The Southern Cross reminds us of our Lord, most dear.
Christ was born in Bethlehem, remote in time and space
In a different hemisphere, different language, different race
But His eternal message today is the same;
He brings peace and brotherhood, blessed be His name.
Emmanuel, God with us.
Emmanuel, God with us.

Contributed by Jane McIlroy.

This life that I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave his life for me.

Galatians 2:20 Good News translation

**New Year**

Are you going to stay up and see the
New Year in?

Are you looking forward to the new
year?

Perhaps we are all hoping for some
things to be better next year:

Fewer floods and landslides.

Faster access to "elective surgery".

Lower cost of living.

Better educational outcomes.

But we have no way of knowing what
the new year will bring.

Jesus advised us: (Matthew 6 The Message.) "What I'm trying to do here is
to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can re-
spond to God's *giving*. People who don't know God and the way he works
fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep
your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about
missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.
³⁴ "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get
worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you
deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

And the apostle Paul reminds us: (Philippians 4 The Message.) Don't fret or
worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your wor-
ries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a
sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come
and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces
worry at the center of your life.

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