

Dates to Remember	
Thursdays	7am-7.45am Prayer at the Church Office
Sun 10 th Dec	Congregational meeting after church - Church Leader vote
Mon 11 th Dec	Journey To Bethlehem Movie - tickets at MUP Office
Sun 17 th Dec	Combined MUP/Fiji Fellowship Christmas Family Service
Thu 21 st Dec	8pm 'Carols In The Community'



Church Office Hours: 9am - 12noon, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays).

'Prayer Chain' – Any matters requiring confidential prayer support, can be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Val Judd or Elaine Oates.

Monday Bible Study – Meets Mondays at 1.30pm in the Church House. Last meeting for 2023 will be 18th December. For more info contact Elaine Oates.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study – Meets Tuesdays at 1.30pm in the Church House. Everyone welcome. For more info contact Maureen Wilson.

'Men's Fellowship Breakfast Group' – Meets at 7am on Tuesdays. Contact John Hawksworth for more info.

'Womens Lunch Group' – Has finished for the year. Will commence again end of January 2024. Contact Amanda Lewis for more info.

Women's 'Growth Group' – Final meeting for the year this Thursday 7th December at 1pm in the Church House. Contact Elaine Oates or Diane McLean for more info.

"I want to be so full of Christ that if a mosquito bites me it flies away singing, "There is power in the blood."
 - unknown

Giving/Tithing - If you wish to tithe or make a donation to Mangapapa Church, our account number is: Mangapapa Church, 03-0638-0381084-00. Please make sure you say 'tithe' or 'donation' in the reference. If you would prefer to give using our 'Envelope' system, then see Jenny Phin who will set you up with envelopes allocated to you.

	Today	Next Sunday 10 th December
Greeters	A Clement, M Wilson	M Raitaukala, I McCoy
Creche	Parents	Parents
Ministry Team	E Oates	A Clement
Cups of Tea	W Carstens, L Hindle	J Dyas, M Freeman
AV & Sound	P Madsen / N Dunn	R Nelson / S Patrick
Counters	N Coffey	G Stevenson



Our motivating vision is...
'To be His Love, Light and Life'



Sunday 3rd December 2023

**10am: "Waiting In Faithful Hope"
Our Spirit Waits (for Christ's 2nd Coming)**

Mark 13:37 – "And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Leading: Dione Russell

Preaching: Stewart Patrick

Duty Elder: Stewart Patrick

Church Office: Dione Russell 06 867-9604 9am – 12noon
 E-mail office@mup.org.nz Website: www.mup.org.nz
 Mangapapa Church, P.O. Box 2146 Gisborne 4040

Elders Team

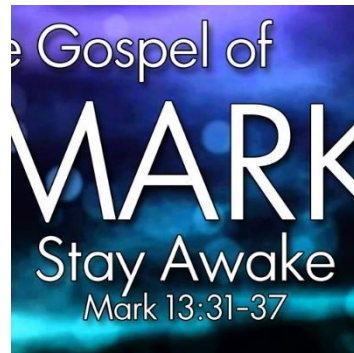
Stewart Patrick: 021 047 0795 Rodney Judd: 06 863-2400 Al Clement: 027 855 5949
 Paul Madsen: 027 511 4769

Children go out at 10:15am to their programmes.

If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and don't share them.

Wow, it's Advent! It is the first 'season' of the Church year, with the next 4 Sundays leading up to Christmas, then it's Christmas Day. We might think that the first

Lectionary Readings for Advent should be about the events leading up to the birth of Jesus? But no, very significantly the first Advent Sunday readings focus upon Christ's 2nd Coming, at the end of this Age. Why is that? – Looking forward, before looking back, is vital for the church/believer, which is opposite to the world. The fact of Christ's 2nd Coming must seal in the believer; our works of **Faith**, our labour of **Love**, and patience of **Hope**. It is these things that will ensure the believer "stays awake".



Shane & Ali Roche - Notice of MUP Congregational Meeting & Vote Sunday 10th December (following the 10am Service).

At a meeting of the MUP Leadership Team on Tuesday, all team members reported 100% positive feedback from the screening of the Interview with Shane & Ali last Sunday. Thank you for your feedback and questions. A decision was made for the MUP Search Team and Leadership Team to present Shane Roche as Church Leader to the congregation for approval by vote, at a congregational meeting on Sunday 10th December. E-mailed votes will be accepted from those unable to attend the congregational meeting. This is the motion what you will vote 'Agree' or 'Disagree to;



'That Mangapapa Church (Union Parish) extend a Call to Shane Roche to the full-time paid position of 'Church Leader' at Mangapapa Church, Gisborne, NZ, subject to NZ Immigration Visas and work approvals being obtained.'

Notice of this Congregational Meeting is posted on the Church Notice Board in the foyer. We confirm Shane Roche is in good standing in his church and community and in answer to these questions arising from feedback received, we further advise;

- Q. "What would be their awareness of the Maori cultural aspect here in NZ?" – This was discussed in their first meeting with Stewart & Marilyn in the UK, and was brought up in the first ZOOM interview with MUP Leaders and the Search Team, back in September. They have lived and worked in one of the most culturally diverse cities of the UK in Birmingham and beyond, and enjoy it all. Yes, there will be much to learn here, but we are confident they will embrace it.
- Q. "Is MUP in a position financially to take on a paid full-time Church Leader?" – Yes, our financial position has grown stronger during this period of having no paid full-time Church Leader, even with taking on the part-time 'Lay Leadership Assistant' during this period.

- Remember too - the interview video is available for screening to individuals or groups that have not seen it. Contact Stewart or Dione at the MUP office for this.



For Prayer this Week:



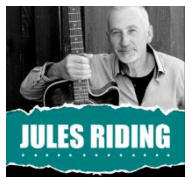
- **Pray for Shane & Ali Roche & Ali's family** – A small Memorial Service for Ali's Grandfather is to be held the Wednesday 6th Dec, as the funeral cannot take place until the end of December. Also pray for the letter required from Ali's University where she trained, as she has been told by them it may take up to 15 weeks before she receives it!
- **Pray for those unwell, receiving treatment or recovering.**
- **Pray for "the peace of Jerusalem".** (Psalm 122)



Christmas Advent Season – We have new displays being prepared now both inside the auditorium and out by the street. Our lawn Nativity scene will see the addition of a Stable surround and a large star along with additional lighting.

- 1) **Combined Christmas Family Service with the Fiji Fellowship – Sunday 17th December.** This will be full of fun and we will share in a BBQ lunch together too.
- 2) **'Carols in the Community' – Taking Carols to the street corners, 8.00pm Thursday night, 21st December.** We hope many of you will be part of the Carol Singing travelling around the Mangapapa area.

Jules Riding Concert – 7pm Saturday 2nd December at Assembly Of God Church in Grey Street. Koha entry. For more information, see the poster at the back on our Noticeboard.



Journey To Bethlehem Movie – We apologise for the uncertainty around the showing of this movie. We are now delighted to let you know that we have booked a special MUP screening for early evening at the **Odeon Theatre on Monday 11th December.** Tickets will cost \$10 each and will be available for sale from Wednesday, **only from the Church Office.** There will be no door sales and seats are limited. You can see the preview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFXcEWaIXBI>



'SACKS' FOR KIDS SACKRACES – See Marilyn if you can help.

Christmas Carolling in the Church Neighbourhood - 8pm on Thursday 21 December. If you are interested in being part of this - singing or playing Keyboard or guitar - please put your name down on the sheet on the Church Noticeboard on the Sound Desk.