

Dates to Remember	
TODAY Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Christmas Family Service / BBQ Lunch 8:15pm Carols By Candlelight



**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.

**Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study** – Has finished for the year and will recommence in February 2023.

**Thursday 'Womens Breakfast'** – Finished for the year. Recommencing end of January 2023. For more info contact Amanda Lewis.

**Women's 'Growth Group'** – Finished for the year. Recommencing in February 2023.



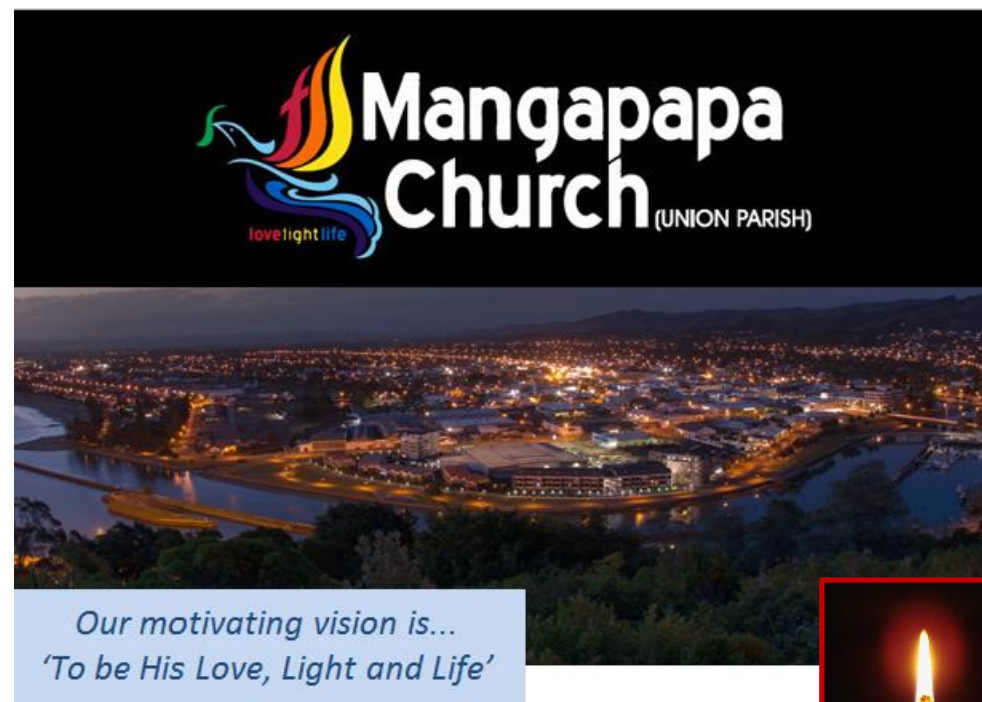
**The Office will be closed** for 2 weeks after Christmas, opening again on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Paul Madsen will running the office that week and Dione will be back on board from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January.



**Foodbank** – The demand on our food bank has increased lately and we are currently low on the following items: canned corn, canned peas, pasta sauce, flour, rice, washing powder, dishwashing liquid. These are items not usually supplied by Gizzy Kai.

**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 25 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Greeters</b>	J & L Hawksworth	J Dyas, L McAra
<b>Explorers Crèche</b>	Parents	Parents
<b>Ministry Team</b>	M Freeman	E Oates
<b>Cups of Tea</b>	A Alder, M Smith	No morning tea
<b>Flowers</b>	G Sharp	G Sharp
<b>AV &amp; Sound</b>	R Nelson / N Dunn	D Russell
<b>Counters</b>	G Stevenson	A Radcliffe



Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

10am: "Christmas Family Service"

Advent Week 4

Leading: Marilyn & Stewart Patrick and Team

Duty Elder: Stewart Patrick



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



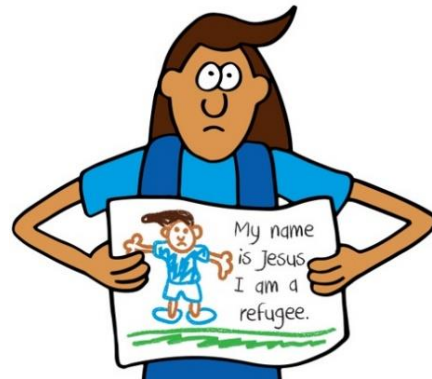
**Elders Team**

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

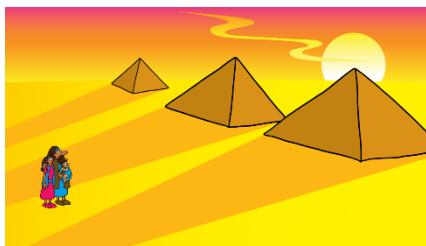
Children stay in during the service.

If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and get a R.A.T. Test.

**Andrew McDonough, from Australia,** is the creator of the brilliant 'Lost Sheep' stories that we use from time to time here at MUP. Today it is, 'Jesus was a Refugee'. Andrew says... 'Jesus was a Refugee' is based on that unsettling bit of the Christmas story in Matthew 2:1-23. This never makes it into the end of year nativity play. Fair enough. Who wants to traumatise the kids with Bad King Herod, the atrocities in Bethlehem and a dull ending where the family drifts off to Nazareth. Compare that to the five star, family friendly version where the bad guy's an inn keeper, the crisis a travel accommodation mix up, and it all ends



with a magnificent shepherd dancing, angel singing, expensive gifting, new born baby finale. So, why tell the escape to Egypt story to children? Simply because it is a Jesus story and it mirrors the story of 70 million people including 25 million children around the world who have been forced from their homes. Over the last 27 years I have worked with hundreds of refugees. This



story is for Hoa who arrived in Australia as a disabled orphan, then returned to Vietnam to found a community run entirely by people with disabilities. It's for David Jock, who as a child was separated from his parents, walked from Sudan to Ethiopia, and now mentors young people from all cultures. It's for my children, who snuggled up to mums who had lost babies and played with kids who didn't share their language. And this story is for your children. May they know safety from danger and grow up to treat any refugee they meet as if they were Jesus.

**Stewart writes...** School is out for summer and we commence 'Christmas Week 2022' today with the **Christmas Family Service, followed by a Church BBQ & Pot Luck Lunch.** We do hope the weather improves a bit for it, and for the 'Carols by Candlelight' event on Friday evening. This year both **Christmas Day and New Years Day fall on a Sunday,** which is great. It makes organisation a bit easier and personally, I wish it could be that way every year!



One thing I want to mention, is that over the past few weeks we have had a 'homeless' man sleeping in his blue car on the MUP Church property at night, sometimes in the carpark and sometimes on the side lawn. Paul and myself have spoken with him and sought to understand his situation, and began seeking ways we may help him. However, as we investigated further, we discovered (from HOB pastors), he has a long history of refusing help, creating messes, and is quite happy with this lifestyle, despite what he may say to the contrary. We are taking

measures to move him on. A neighbour of the church is concerned with his behaviours too along the boundary.



**We are taking a break from 'Livestreaming' our Services over the holidays.** Stats are showing the need for this service is not great over summer, but if we find there is demand for it, we will start it up again. Do let Stewart know if this decision detrimentally affects you?

**'Carols by Candlelight' - Community event, this Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, commencing 8:15pm.** Our signs are up and flyers have been printed. If you would like to deliver flyers to letterboxes in our Mangapapa area, please take some but let Dione at the office know what streets you are doing. **DO NOT** deliver into 'No Circulars' letterboxes. Our planning for this event has determined that it will take place **outside on our Church Deck and Lawn,** so if the weather is not right and it rains, it will be cancelled. We just feel with rising Covid infections again in the community, and with the attendance we usually get to this, we will keep it in the outdoor setting. **Helpers will be needed for lighting candles and serving ice cream. If you can help, please let Stewart know.**



**For Prayer this Week:**

- 1) **Pray for the witness of the 'Carols By Candlelight' event and for all those helping / participating.**
- 2) **Pray for the 'homeless man' (name withheld), that he will see his way of living is not 'The Way'.**

**TEAR FUND Christmas Gift** – We are still receiving donations for Tear Fund and the Hunger Crisis in Africa. If you would like to donate you can either do it through their website or you can put your donation in an envelope labelled 'Tear Fund – Africa' and pop it in the Offering Box. There are plain envelopes available on the foyer table for you to use. We will be passing these donations on to Tear Fund next week, and including \$100 from the 'Community Mission Garage Sale' (TOSS) fundraising.



**Mary Namboowa** – Just a reminder that MUP sponsors a child monthly through World Vision. Mary lives with her grandfather in Ngogwe, in Uganda. There is some information about Mary on the wall beside the counter where we serve morning tea, and also a box where you can pop in any donations you would like to make towards her monthly sponsorship.

