

Dates to Remember ...	
1 st Dec	Angel Tree gifts to Office
7 th Dec	Angel Tree wrapping day
8 th Dec	Family Service & Shared Lunch
21 st Dec	'Carols on the Lawn' service



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

'Prayer Chain' – Urgent matters for confidential prayer support, can be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Joy McHardy or Val Judd.

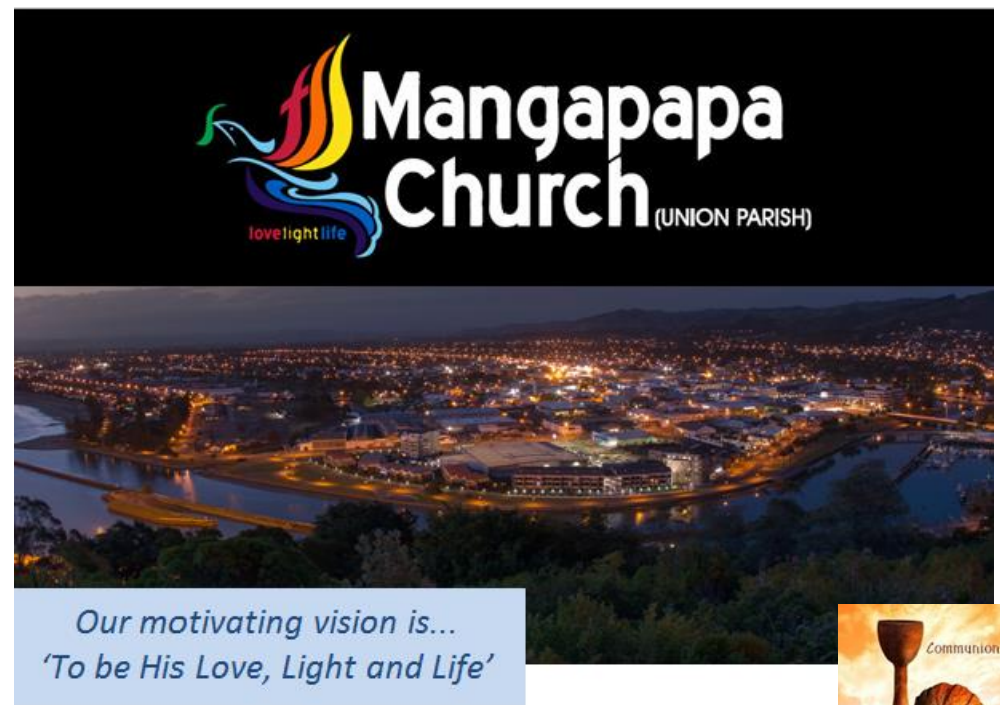
Tuesday 'Prayer For the Nation'-11am–12noon in Church Prayer Room. For more info contact Janet Burgess.

Tuesday Bible Study – Meets at 1.30pm in the Church Prayer Room. For more info contact Maureen Wilson or Judy McLatchie.

Wednesday 'Mens Breakfast'- Meets at 6:45am - 7:50am in the Church House lounge. For more info contact Paul Cosson.

Thursday 'Womens Breakfast'- Meets at 7:00am – 8:30am in the Church House lounge. For more info contact Gretchen Norman or Amanda Lewis.

Friday 'Revival Prayer'– every Friday evening 6:30pm-7:30pm at Joy McHardy's home.



CAP Money Coach Training - April 2020

Do you have a heart for helping people learn? Are you an excellent communicator? Do you have time to serve the Gisborne community by facilitating a couple of CAP money courses each year? Please see Nicola Hawkins for more information.



Youth Group has finished for the year.

See YG Facebook page for more details.



	Today	Next Sunday 8 th December
Greeters	M Raitaukala, M Wilson	J & L Hawksworth
Explorers Crèche	R Theobald	Family Service
Matrix	R Levy	Family Service
Ministry Team	A Clement	J Newman
Cups of Tea	P & D Viljoen, L Hindle	J Dyas & B Corlett, A Alder
Flowers	D Dobbie	A Lewis
AV & Sound	J Russell / P Walker	D Russell / J & A Russell
Counters	D Welch	N Coffey

Sunday 1st December 2019

10am: 'Good News – Isaiah 40'

With Shared Communion

Leading: Paula Levy

Preaching: Frank Darcy

Duty Elder: Andrew Russell

6.30pm Evening Fellowship

Church Leader: Paula Levy **Office** 06 867-9604 **Cell** 021 140-4667
E-mail paula@mup.org.nz

Church Office 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

Andrew Russell: 027 815-1635 Rodney Judd 06 863-2400 Llew Paul: 022 052 8297

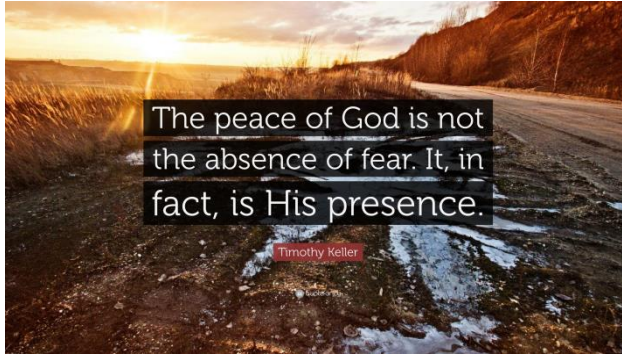
'Explorers' creche is operating and available for 1-4 years.
 'Kidzspace' Primary age children go out at message time.
 'Matrix' Intermediates are to go out during message time.

Paula writes...

Last week we looked at the challenge of Waiting – one of the themes of Advent. And we were reminded that whatever our prayer, or situation, or worry: He is faithful, He does see and hear, and we are not forgotten. And we prayed for strength even when it is hard – to persevere and trust.

This week I have been reflecting on the promise of Peace. Much about the Christmas story wasn't peaceful. Unexpected pregnancy, nowhere to give birth, a power hungry King intent on murder. Yet Jesus' birth was foretold and proclaimed as a radical act of peace making.

Isaiah looked ahead saying:
"For unto us a Child is born,
unto us a Son is given; and
the government will be upon
His shoulder. And His name
will be called Wonderful,
Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace. Of the increase of His
government and peace there
will be no end"
(Isaiah 9:6–7)



Here's something I read about how Joseph demonstrated this remarkable peace:

In one sense, Joseph would have been experiencing anything but peace. His fiancée was pregnant, his village probably thought he was an idiot, and he had to travel to Bethlehem to register for the census. His life was a mess, and he couldn't control it.

But in reading the Christmas story, we don't even see a hint of stress from Joseph. It was certainly there, but that's not what stuck out about this man. None of the biblical authors record anything negative about Joseph. Instead, he is portrayed as a righteous man, a fitting husband and father for the Messiah.

There is peace in Joseph's life — even though his world was spinning out of control. Joseph's story in Matthew 1 gives us a glimpse into the peace of God, even in the midst of chaos, because Joseph did things God's way.

Rather than panic, Joseph showed compassion toward Mary. He prayed and asked for God's help in his decisions and he was obedient to God despite how crazy it all seemed.

I wonder in what ways you need to experience God's peace this Christmas season – trusting God in the chaotic things, and yet showing compassion; seeking God in prayer and responding in obedience.

May God give you courage you as you do.

Blessings, Paula

Frank Darcy is sharing the 'Good News' with us this morning.

Their Feelings (Isaiah Ch. 40)

- Have they been abandoned forever?
- Is their punishment to be permanent?
- Have the gods of Babylon proved too strong?

Isaiah's new message is for people whose whole world has been shattered.

God Answers:

- They are still God's people. The covenant made at Sinai still stands. God hasn't abandoned them.
- They have been forgiven. The penalty for their sins has been paid in full. The punishment is not permanent.
- God will not leave them where they are, He will bring them home (3-5), and he is powerful, but gentle (11).

The first eleven verses of Isaiah Chapter 40 are just the beginning of God's "good news" to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah continues to describe for them a wonderful future.

The next few chapters continue this theme and give us a wonderful portrayal of the coming "Servant" (i.e. Jesus 42:1-9).

Angel Tree Christmas 2019 – Wrapping Day:

9am Saturday December 7th in Kidzspace Room (followed by the delivery of the gifts later that day). Feel free to join us on Wrapping Day to be part of blessing these local children and whānau. Raewyn and team.



Family Service & shared lunch – Sunday 8th December

We have a family service coming up next Sunday, 8th December, which will be followed by a shared lunch. Please bring something to contribute to the lunch.

Put Christ back in Christmas – Many will have noticed how nativity scenes have been progressively removed from many public places throughout NZ. The Hope Project Christmas is about a single idea: **Let's return nativity scenes to Christmas!** Visit the Hope Project's website alltogether.co.nz/christmas/ for free ideas and resources. More info available from Sound Desk Noticeboard.



'Carols on the Lawn' – We will be holding our Carols on the Lawn evening this year on **Saturday, 21st December**, and we are looking for volunteers to help out with this evening. If you are willing to help, please write your name on the list provided on the back table.



This week two people completed their paperwork collection, allowing their budgets to be prepared. Hallelujah! Currently I'm putting together Christmas gifts for our 6 active clients. If you would like to contribute towards this, please contact me during school hours on the CAP phone 020 4072 5386. Nicola.