

Dates to Remember ...	
Today 21 st Dec	Family Service & Shared Lunch '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. **Last meeting for 2019 will be on 18th Dec and will restart in Feb 2020.** For more info contact Paul Cosson.

Thursday 'Womens Breakfast'- Meets at 7:00am – 8:30am in the Church House lounge. **Last meeting for 2019 will be on 18th Dec.** For more info contact Gretchen Norman or Amanda Lewis.

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

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.



Youth Group has finished for the year.

See YG Facebook page for more details.



	Today	Next Sunday 15 th December
Greeters	J & L Hawksworth	J Phin, L McAra
Explorers Crèche	Family Service	N Hawkins
Matrix	Family Service	School Holidays
Ministry Team	J Newman	E Oates
Cups of Tea	J Dyas & B Corlett, A Alder	A & D McLean, P Oram
Flowers	A Lewis	A Lewis
AV & Sound	D Russell / J & A Russell	R Nelson / P Cosson
Counters	N Coffey	N Coffey



Sunday 8th December 2019

10am: 'Family Service - Is He Hidden From You?'

Jeremiah 29:13

Leading: Debora Dobbie

Duty Elder: Rodney Judd

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...

Welcome to the second Sunday in Advent and a Family Service where all ages can participate. Please stay and join us for lunch afterwards.

Isaiah 40:3-5 says this: "A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert.'" Mark used these words again of John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus. So how do we prepare to "welcome" Jesus as we re-tell His story this Christmas season. This week of advent the focus is preparation. Here is one reflection I read:

"So what is the message as we prepare for the faith-deepening experience of the Birth of Jesus? The message is the same as John preached to the Jews: "Prepare by seeking forgiveness." What gets in the way of our appreciating God's gift of Jesus as Saviour can be that we have let idols clutter our lives as the Jews of old did. Does our abundance, our need for recognition, and our longing for security become ends and not means? Have they become the little idols we worship? So John invites us to transformation of heart by acknowledging and confessing our sins so we can be attentive to the true "reason for the season." Is there anything you need to put right to help you celebrate well Jesus coming into our world this year?"

Just two weeks till our 'Carols on the Lawn'. Please see Nicola for a team to join, take some invitations to give to friends and be praying for this event. We would love to see our lawn packed with all ages of people singing and hearing the story told again. Please pray and get involved. ☺

Elders: Earlier this year our leadership decided on a way of developing and growing new Elders. So, we have decided to appoint two Associate Elders. They will join our Eldership team for one year, participating in all different aspects of Eldership. After one year we will together discern whether to proceed with putting the person's name to the congregation to formally become an Elder. Our two new Associate Elders are Al Clements and Anna Alder. We welcome them to the team. Here is a little introduction from each of them:

Al says: *For those who don't know me, my name is Alan Clement, married to Sal for 33 years. We have 3 children, I have been coming to Mangapapa for 15 years, and I've been in the kingdom for 23 years. I am looking forward to serving and learning.*

Anna says: *I gave my heart to the Lord in Mangapapa Union Parish at the end of 1987. Life since then has certainly been an adventure and the Lord has been true to His Word and faithful. After 30 years farming I have now moved to town. My three children have all moved back to Gisborne and have families of their own now. I have 5 Grandchildren. Praise the Lord!*

RAK: After 21 years!!!! – our Random Acts of Kindness ministry made their last deliveries on Friday. This team has baked and delivered literally thousands of pikelets, muffins and scones, and made genuine connections with hundreds of people who find it difficult to get out often. We thank God for their incredible faithfulness and the amazing blessing they have been. What an inspiration.

Blessings, Paula



Shared Lunch – after the service TODAY

Please stay and join us for a shared lunch after the service today.

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.



Foodbank – Thank you for your faithful giving. We currently need: tuna/salmon, weetbix, long life milk, pasta sauce, tins of fruit, tins of peas or corn, spreads ... jams, peanut butter, marmite.



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.



'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.



The Mangapapa Gisborne CAP Debt Help Centre will be closed from December 16th until February 2020. Essential client work will continue and clients will be supported by their CAP Support Friends. Christmas can be difficult time for people living in poverty, so please pray they experience God's peace, love and joy. Nicola.