

**Church Office Hours Over Christmas & New Year Holidays:**

The church office will be closed for 2 weeks from Tuesday 1 January 2019, and reopen on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 from 9am -12noon.

**'Prayer Chain'** – Urgent matters for, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays). confidential prayer support, can be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Joy McHardy or Val Judd.



**FOODBANK**... Thank you for your faithful giving to this ministry. Our foodbank is reasonably well stocked, however we would greatly appreciate help with the following items: **sugar, breakfast spreads, 2 min noodles and canned spaghetti or fish.**

**Church Directory** - We are in the process of updating our church directory. If you have any details to update, or you are new to the church and would like to be included in this booklet, please see Marilyn after the service.

**Rental Accommodation Wanted** - Matui knows of a Fijian family who are looking for a rental property. If you know of any vacant houses for rent, please see Matui after church or contact him on 022 699-2164.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**



	Today	Next Sunday 30 December
<b>Greeters</b>	J Phin, H Hockey	L Frampton, D Whibley
<b>Explorers crèche</b>	R Theobald	volunteer
<b>Ministry Team</b>	J McHardy	A Clement
<b>Cups of Tea</b>	M Patrick, <b>2 volunteers</b>	A Alder, L Hindle, <b>volunteer</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	E Oates	D Dobbie
<b>AV &amp; Sound</b>	<b>AV volunteer</b> , P Walker	R Nelson, S Patrick
<b>Counters</b>	A McLean	D Welch

**Mangapapa Church** (UNION PARISH)

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

**Sunday 23 December 2018**

**10am: "The Power of Blessing"**

**Leading: Paula Levy Preaching: Andrew Russell**

**Duty Elder: Paula Levy**

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

**Church Office** 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**

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

*Children – Holiday DVD for you is on during the message time*

**Paula writes...** Only two more sleeps... and... "He's here!" ....and I'm not meaning Santa!

The waiting's over, the anticipation, the expectancy and maybe the moments of doubt. Whatever you think of all the Christmas goings on, I hope through it all you have had a little time to reflect on the significance of God coming into the world, in human form. And the certainty we have now that He did come, that He will come again.

That fact that He did come means so much. Immanuel – God with us. This person Jesus Christ was both fully God and fully man – who entered our world in such a humble and surprising way. It is one of the problems many other religions have with Christianity – because how can this be?

It's hard to get our ahead around– but what it means amongst so many other things, is the answer to what has been called the greatest disease of the west – loneliness and despair. Not only that, it is the answer to the brokenness of our world; it is the answer to war and hatred, it is God's plan of rescue and redemption and making all things new.

And... it demonstrates for us in a real way that not only God made us, God cares about us, God is above us, and God hears our prayers – but God is with us.

He is here!

No it doesn't mean everything is fixed (yet). No it doesn't mean there aren't unfulfilled dreams and promises. No, it doesn't mean sickness, death, or tragedy isn't a part of our lives – but we know he walks with us, and is bringing into being something amazing.

So take courage – don't lose heart. God goes with you, and wants to work in and through you to bring the same hope to others.

On some practical levels – Sunday services will be continuing through January and we look forward to meeting together each Sunday morning for those who are around. In this newsletter is an outline of who is preaching, leading and responsible for other areas over the next few weeks. We will be closing the office until the 14<sup>th</sup> January except for essentials. I will be taking a couple of weeks leave from Boxing Day onward, but will be back in the office from the 14 January 2019. In an emergency, please contact one of the Elders or myself, or one of the Prayer team members. We are also on track to have a new Administrator in place in the New Year.

If you are available, see you Christmas Eve to help with our Carols on the Lawn – and Christmas morning at 9:30 to Celebrate Jesus Birthday.

May you experience the reality of God with you this Christmas,  
Paula

There is nothing the nearness of Jesus cannot overcome.

SUNDAY	Leader	Preacher	Duty Elder
30 Dec '18	Neil Smoker	'To Be Advised'	Llew Paul
06 Jan '19	Sal Clement	Frank Darcy	Rodney Judd
13 Jan '19	Andrew Russell	Dione Russell	Andrew Russell

**NB:** This will be the last newsletter for 2018. The **first newsletter** in the **new year** will be on **Sunday 20 January 2019**

**Andrew's message this morning... 'The Power of Blessing'**



**You're invited to...**

**TOMORROW NIGHT!! @ 8:15pm**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS on Church Lawn!!**



'Carols By  
Candlelight'

Christmas Eve  
Monday 24 December



On the Mangapapa Church Lawn  
71 Atkinson Street

Please add your name to the clipboard list on the auditorium table, to be part of Set-Up team, Kitchen team, Host & Welcomers or to be of help in Other ways.

**CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE!!**  
**Sunday 25 December @ 9:30am**

