

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Morrinsville

Website: stmatthewsmorrinsville.org.nz

Vicar Val Writes...

Last Sunday evening the Community came together to celebrate the new Christmas Tree – isn't it a beauty and quite a feature in front of our Church. The Fashion show seemed to have been enjoyed by all – and made \$1410. Thank you so much Models – you were great.

Diane Miers has decided to retire from teaching Bible-in-Schools (now called Launch pad) after 35 years!!! That is an amazing length of service – thank you so much Diane. For the last few years you have been the only one from our church picking up this important ministry.

Our church year begins with Advent one – this year it is December 1st. This will also be the first time we have Messy Church here. Messy because we think about God in all aspects of life.

Messy Church offers a counter-cultural transformation of life through the clearly identifiable values: celebration, hospitality, creativity, all-age and Christ-centred This one will have a focus on Christmas with options for some to dress up, others to make crafts, play games, read, and a sit down meal provided for all. All are welcome – an indication that you can come would be helpful for catering but not essential.

Don't miss out – NEXT SUNDAY December 1st 5 – 7.30pm MESSY CHURCH

December 8th at our 10am service there will be three families being baptized – a lovely celebration.

December 14th – the churches are entering a combined float into the Christmas Parade – we need families to come and be part of the nativity scene Hopefully our donkey will be ready for the great walk!!!

December 15th 2pm is a music Concert in our church – lead by the Te Aroha Community Choir – called Ding Dong – maybe afterwards people would like to stay and have a picnic on the lawn around the tree????

From the feedback we have received it seems like the 11pm Christmas Eve service is the most popular - we will put the details of the Christmas services in a later newsletter.

November 24th, 2024

Christ The King

Readings: 2 Samuel 23:1–7

Psalm 132:1–12, (13–18)

John 18:33–37

Sentence: Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' *John 18:37B*

Collect: Come, O come Emmanuel, you are the way, the truth and the life; Come, living Saviour come to your world which waits for you. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR SUNDAY.

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Question: How do you feel when political leaders claim to be sent by God or instructed by God?

Prayer: Sovereign God, may our leaders use their power for good.

Psalm 132:1–12, (13–18)

Question: What images best describe God's location and presence for you?

Prayer: Dear God, stir in us the longing for your love, and the courage to turn to that love.

John 18:33–37

Question: What does “kingdom of God” and the reign of Christ mean to you?

Prayer: May the way I live each day help to transform the earth, O God, so that your kingdom may come.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

PRAY FOR...

- We especially pray for the people and communities in Least Developed Countries who are most affected by climate change and whose resilience is tested daily.
- for wisdom for the leaders as they seek to navigate peace in Ukraine after 1000 days of fighting.
- People who are starving and freezing and without any basics for life, stuck in war torn areas of the world
- for those who aren't well, especially Anne, Fran, Geoff Robert and others we may know.
- for all families mourning the death especially the family of Jyoti Riches or anniversary of a loved one.

GIVE THANKS

- For the Fashion Show on Friday evening, the organizers and the models and the caterers
- For the lighting of the Christmas Tree on Sunday Night, the coming together of the wider community and the chance to sing carols outside as it got dark – in the beautiful sunny evening.
- For the willing offers of help for Messy Church.
- For the families preparing for baptism
- For the orderly and respectful way the Hikoi gathered in Wellington this week – and the sense of purpose and unity that was experienced.

1st December 2024. 8.30am and 10am - Wednesday 10am

Advent 1

Advent 1 Messy Church 5pm

Readings – Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

1st Dec	Sides person Anne M	Welcomer Melanie	Data Shantal	MOW Henare	Bible Reader Diane & Anne M	Prayers Colin	Chalice Neville	Morning Tea Margie & Sue H
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