



A Place that Matters as the Spiritual Heart of Diocese and City

A Time for Celebration

Kia ora Cathedral Whānau,
The last third of every year is always a time in the life of the Cathedral when events begin to happen, as we come out of winter and head into Spring and Summer.

Over the past month we have held a number of special services with Sea Sunday (including Trafalgar Day) and the commemoration of Armistice Day. I also attended the commemoration of Parihaka day at ANZAC Park. We have also had one wedding – with three more to go over the coming months, and a baptism coming up on November 16 for a new couple in our parish who are both being baptised – Samantha and Nathan Stroud.



It is wonderful to see the busyness and life of the Cathedral.

We also had a special visitor at Nelson Cathedral last week, with English comedian Bill Bailey and his tour manager Neil Adams coming for a visit. Bill is also a very accomplished musician and really enjoyed playing the organ and ringing the bells. After playing the organ, he commented, "What a lovely instrument this is, absolutely beautiful". In particular, he loved our stained-glass windows, which is an interest he has in terms of the artistry, history, and technical skill.

Our gaze is now firmly looking ahead to Christmas with a variety of concerts, the Christmas Tree Festival, and Advent services all before the Christmas celebration itself. This year we have over 70 trees in the Christmas Tree Festival, so the festival is shaping up to be something very special.

It all kicks off with the Switch-On Service on Wednesday November 26 at 6pm.

A big part of the festival is having "welcomers" at the front table to greet and hand out voting forms. If you can spend any time to volunteer, please sign up on the timetable sheets sitting on the Cathedral bookstand.

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The Very Revd Dr Graham O'Brien
Dean of Nelson Cathedral

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As this year moves on, Vestry is beginning to think about 2026. This year we had a focus on *"Celebrating the life of the Cathedral"* centred around our centenary celebrations. In 2026 we are focusing on *"Growing the life of the Cathedral"*. With this in mind, it is timely that the parish has an update on our earthquake strengthening progress since the interim governance group now has all the documentation ready to submit a resource consent application to the Nelson City Council. There will be opportunity for an information update after the 9am and 10am services on Sunday November 30.

I do hope that you can come and join in the celebrations as we give expression to the coming of our Lord. And as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, let us remain prayerful for our world which remains far from peaceful, and all those who are suffering as a consequence.

God Bless

Graham



NBS NELSON CITY BRASS AND THE NELSON CATHEDRAL CHOIR

A CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS

Nelson Cathedral
 7:00pm Saturday 6th December
 2:00pm Sunday 7th December
 BOOK AT NCMA

Logos: NBS, Nelson City Brass, Your Cathedral Nelson, Community, Nelson Pine, Nelson City Council, Te Kauhāhara o Whakaiti.



Celebration of the Sea Service
which was held on 19 October and featured sea cadets, navy and merchant navy, past and present.

P I T T & M O O R E L A W Y E R S

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Emmaus Study Group

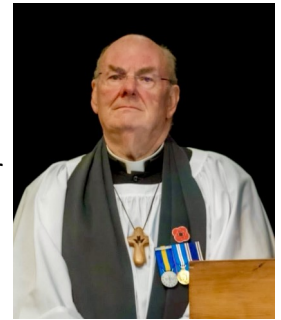
Wednesdays at 12.00 until 1.00pm
In the Choir Room

The Emmaus Study Group
 is now studying
 the Gospel of Mark
 The format will be the reading of the Biblical text,
 a short exegesis followed by discussion.

All are welcome

Precentor's Page

Revd Steve Jordan



Both rightly and unsurprisingly there is much talk about Cathedral earthquake strengthening; it is of vital importance if we are to continue to worship God in our much-loved and iconic building. But fundamentally, the building is only a vehicle for our journey, facilitating us to express and share our faith; if we distill the concept, our 'core business' is actually faith strengthening as opposed to earthquake strengthening.

It is tempting to use simple measures of success or failure in this essential task....an obvious (if simplistic) one is footfall! The more people that attend, the more opportunity we have to shape their faith. However, surely even more important than this is how deeply we take those people on their faith journeys.....how far can we stretch and develop them (and ourselves) in bringing about God's Kingdom here on earth? It's harder to measure but it's what we might label a sophisticated outCOME rather than a simplistic outPUT.

Our strap line 'A place that matters' is much more than a mere slogan and it needs to underpin our activities constantly. The more relevant the Cathedral becomes to people, the more opportunities there are for strengthening the building blocks of both faith and edifice. The ashlar of our faith are arguably more cardinal to the edifice than those of Takaka Marble.

Use as a concert venue helps to bring people through the door. Special services enable us to share our faith with others who might not normally attend. In particular, events like the pet blessing service and that which celebrates our relationship with the sea (on a date proximate to Trafalgar Day) bring congregants from other churches and indeed the relatively unchurched into our sacred halls. Many of these visitors travel significant distances to enjoy the special space the Cathedral affords. Shortly we will once more celebrate our Christmas Tree Festival, Sally Astridge's idea, which will Indubitably bring thousands through our doors, and provide the opportunity to evince a warm welcome to people in our iconic space.

It remains the duty of all of us to be ambassadors for the Cathedral and for all it might mean to us.

It necessarily follows that we must not sit on our laurels. We must continue to strive to promote the Cathedral's position as a place that matters.

Blessings,

Steve



Rachel Boyack and members of the Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts after a successful and well attended Celebration of the Seas, which we mark annually on a Sunday proximate to Trafalgar Day.



The Dean and Mark Nicholls look on as parishioner Ruby Hodge prepares to cut her birthday cake after Midweek Holy Communion. Ruby explained that she wanted to celebrate her ninety-second birthday with her friends at Christ Church Cathedral; her 'cathedral family'.

Paul Chan
Cathedral Organist



The Significance of Music in Advent

Towards the end of November, the Church is going to enter a new liturgical year, starting with the season of Advent. The music of Advent holds deep spiritual, theological, and emotional significance in the life of the Church. It is not just a prelude to Christmas; rather, it is a season of expectant waiting, hope, and preparation for the coming of Christ - both His birth in Bethlehem and His promised return. Church music during Advent helps shape this mood and meaning in powerful ways.

1. Expressing Hope and Expectation

Advent music captures the longing for redemption that defines the season. Hymns like “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” or “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” give voice to humanity’s yearning for God’s presence in a broken world.

These songs remind us that we live in an “already/not yet” tension — Christ has come, but we still await His final coming.

The tone is reflective, often in minor keys, to evoke a sense of anticipation rather than celebration.

2. Preparing Hearts for Christ’s Coming

Music in Advent serves as a spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord, Advent hymns prepare the heart for the mystery of the Incarnation.

Singing these hymns reminds the faithful to repent, to make space for Christ, and to cultivate hope, peace, joy, and love — the four themes of Advent.

3. Maintaining the Liturgical Rhythm

Advent music preserves the distinct character of the liturgical year.

In many traditions, Christmas carols are deliberately withheld until Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

This separation helps us experience the journey — moving from darkness and longing (Advent) to light and fulfillment (Christmas).

The music helps the congregation live the story, rather than rush to its end.

4. Teaching and Remembering Theology

Advent hymns are rich in biblical imagery and prophecy. They teach Scripture through song:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” draws from Isaiah’s prophecies.

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” reflects the promise of Christ’s return.

Through repetition and melody, these truths take root in the hearts of Christians across generations.

5. Connecting the Church Across Time and Space

Advent hymns and choral works connect the modern church with centuries of Christian worship.

When a congregation sings “Saviour of the Nations, Come,” they participate in a tradition stretching back to the 4th century.

This continuity reminds believers that waiting for Christ is a shared human and spiritual experience.



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Marsden House
FUNERAL SERVICES

The Heart of the City at Christmas 2025

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Open every day till 18 January
Late night Fridays 5, 12 & 19 Dec

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Weekdays 1-1:30pm
Mon 1 Dec – Fri 19 Dec



YOUR CATHEDRAL NELSON

Wednesday 26 November

6pm Christmas Tree Festival
Light Up Service

Sunday 30 November

8am Holy Communion
10am Choral Communion
5:30pm Advent Carol Service

Saturday 6 December

*7pm 'This is Christmas' Concert with
Cathedral Choir & Nelson City Brass

Sunday 7 December

8am Holy Communion
10am Choral Communion
*2pm 'This is Christmas' Concert with
Cathedral Choir & Nelson City Brass
5:30pm Evening Prayer With Hymns

Sunday 14 December

8am Holy Communion
10am Choral Communion
5:30pm Evensong

Sunday 21 December

8am Holy Communion
10am Choral Communion
7pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

* Ticketed event

Tuesday 23 December

5:30pm Kid's Christingle Service

Christmas Eve 24 December

8:45pm Carols on the Steps
10:15pm Choir sings Carols from Gallery
11:00pm Christmas Eve Communion

Christmas Day 25 December

8am Holy Communion
10am Choral Communion

Sunday 28 December

8am Holy Communion
10am Family Communion

Sunday 4 January

8am Holy Communion
10am Family Communion

Sunday 11 January

8am Holy Communion
10am Family Communion
5:30pm Evening Prayer with Hymns

Sunday 18 January

8am Holy Communion
10am Family Communion &
Christmas Tree
Switch-off Service
5:30pm Evening Prayer with Hymns



David Lucas

Warden's Wardrobe



Jocelyn Smith

Finally, it's Spring. We made it through another Winter, but most of the church's spring-like associations are with Easter. Our counterparts in the north are just packing away their harvest festival decorations.

For us, Spring foreshadows a very busy lead-up to Christmas. Here in the Cathedral, the Christmas Tree Festival Committee are hard at work preparing for the launch of the Festival at the very special Light-Up service at 6pm on 26th November. It's a very sweet service, not too long – an ideal service to bring a friend who isn't so sure about Christianity. It's very child-friendly and is followed by some light refreshments and an opportunity to be first to see the trees.

There's work to be done and offers of help will be welcome. We always like to be generous in offering hospitality, so we make sure there is baking to go with tea and coffee on all of the set-up days. Once the Festival opens, we like to have welcomers at the door. Welcoming is an interesting and rewarding activity. Visitors often have no idea there is a Christmas Tree Festival in progress and are generally charmed with what they find inside.

If you think you can help with baking, please talk to Janet Smith 027 563 8205 or Nicky Calder.

If you think you can help with Welcoming,

you'll find a sign-up sheet on the bookstall inside the Cathedral or contact Sandi Spink 021 259 5963.



Jocelyn Smith

People's Warden



**Nelson Association of
Anglican Women
Meeting & Speaker
Becky Sussex**

2.00pm

Thursday 13th November,

All Saints Church Foyer
Becky will speak about her time
in PNG and about working for
the
church, followed by a cuppa.

A small plate for afternoon tea
is welcome.

Contacts :

Noeline 0275476483,
Kathy 5488654 or 0273337633;
Judith 0273 198 511

CATHEDRAL WALKING GROUP



What are you doing
on Tuesday morning?

- See your city from a new angle
- Find your wellbeing and new friends
- Enjoy yummy morning tea
- Meet here in car park

9am Tuesday | Judith 027 319 8511

THE CRAFT GROUP

**meets on Thursdays at 1.30pm
for creativity,
a natter and afternoon tea.
All welcome to recycle Christmas
Cards
for the Memory trees or your own
project.**

Do you have some unfinished projects?
Bring them along.

For more information contact
Judith Fitchett
on 027 319 8511
or just join us in the Quiet Room

CathedralKids

Gayle McVay



I'm sure you have noticed that new little faces are appearing each Sunday at the 10.00am service which is absolutely thrilling.

Nelson does have a partially transient population, particularly families. However, even a few visits to **CathedralKids** will introduce the children to basic biblical truths e.g. understanding the meaning of The Lord's Prayer (the only prayer Jesus gave his disciples) and Psalm 23. Written by David (who killed Goliath - the children relish this gory detail) and who later became a hugely influential and mighty King **because of his trust in God**.

This action packed story was David's reward for trusting God and the children really get this point.

I would like to encourage you wherever possible to suggest to families or those you meet to bring their children to the 10.00am service. The kids love the changing variety of biblical teaching, doing craftwork on the Sunday lectionary theme, music and if we have time, some great fun games (both inside and outside) reinforcing what they have just learnt.

Also, please take time to look at the **Children's Activity Board** on the wall behind where the tea and coffee is served on Sunday to enjoy their current work. It is changed regularly.

Finally, we have printed some 'Kids Flyers' which I would like to again distribute around central Nelson on community boards, within cafes and schools. I did this at the same time last year and it is probably time to remind and refresh what the Cathedral offers children. If anyone wants to help me with this, please let me know.

Best wishes

Gayle McVay

Leaving a Bequest

If you are considering a Bequest to the Cathedral in your Will, the link below takes you to the wording for your gift so that your donation is correctly directed to the Cathedral.

<https://www.nelsoncathedral.nz/copy-of-volunteering>

Remember also to obtain independent legal advice.



Nelson Cathedral Christian Meditation Group Silence, Stillness, Simplicity

In our frantic world, is this something that you are seeking?
Our small and friendly Christian Meditation group meets each **Tuesday in the Chapel**, to meditate together.

Meeting Time: 5pm-6pm

Come and join us and learn more about this ancient spiritual practice.

It's easy to learn!

'Making time in our busy lives to open our hearts to the silent presence of God'.

Contact **Mary Kroch 027 372 1173** or **Erin Beatson 027 680 6355**

ALL WELCOME

Come & have fun!

During term time our 10am Sunday service offers the biblically themed **CATHEDRALkids**

Based on the Anglican Bible Reading Cycle we learn about the world around us and how God wants us to behave

Activities and discussion relate to the theme of the Sunday Service

Age 5ish & up

The Flower Guild would like to invite more people to join them. You do not need to be a florist, just to like flowers. If you are interested, please contact the Cathedral Office.

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Cathedral News

welcomes contributions from parishioners and readers. If you have a contribution or perhaps an idea for an article please contact the Editor (russell77@xtra.co.nz) or the Dean (grahamob@nelsoncathedral.nz).

CATHEDRAL SERVICES

Wednesday • Holy Communion 11am

**Worship at Nelson Cathedral is varied and frequent with
4 different services on Sunday**

8.00 am

Holy Communion

10.00 am

Choral Eucharist & Children's Church

(Robed Choir and Livestreamed)

12.30 pm

Whakatu Māori Mission Service

5.30 pm

Evensong (Robed Choir and Livestreamed)



NELSON CATHEDRAL INVITES YOU & YOUR FRIENDS TO

Cameo at the Cathedral

An opportunity for a chat and afternoon tea

**FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
FROM
2.00- 3.30PM**

**CONTACT:
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
BERYL SHATFORD-BANKS
03 548 1008**



 **livestream**

**The Cathedral 10am service and the 5.30pm service are available
for live viewing**

The services (and some other events) are recorded so are available to be viewed at any time,
not only during the actual time when the service is in session.

<https://www.youtube.com/@NelsonCathedral/streams>