



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

Good News Happening in the Cathedral

Kia ora Cathedral Whānau,
This coming week (September 12-14), the Diocese is gathering in Greymouth for our annual Synod. Besides matters of business, this is a chance to come together and reflect on Bishop Steve's charge for the year and years ahead. Each year I provide a report about Cathedral life, and this year Vestry asked me to share it with you so we can all see the good news that is happening in the Cathedral.



Christmas Eve Carols in
Nelson Cathedral

One feature of Cathedral life I have come to realise, is that Cathedral ministry does not slow down, you just shift your focus from one thing to another. Thankfully, we have an awesome team of staff (both paid and unpaid) and volunteers to keep us moving. In recording our parish statistics for the Diocese, we estimated over

14,000 volunteer hours go into our Cathedral activities annually, as well as approximately 30,000 visitors to the Cathedral.

A second distinctive feature of Cathedral life which occurred to me at the Diocesan Leadership Conference is the unique nature of evangelism in the Cathedral. Because of our position in Nelson City and being open every day, Nelson Cathedral is a place that people naturally come and visit; as tourists visiting this iconic building, or as worshippers to pray or to light a candle, or simply as people who need to find a place of peace and quiet. As Simon Martin said to me recently, "every visitor is a new member", and so evangelism for us is about connecting people to God through a variety of ways as they come in.

Good News:

Much of what we do on a daily basis involves people engaging deeply with the Good News of Jesus, and our Sunday services continue to be the "shop-front" of Cathedral ministry. A focal point for us are the celebrations of Christmas and Easter, especially the Christmas Tree Festival which had approximately 15,000 visitors - a truly amazing number of people covering Nelson/Tasman (54%),

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

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the rest of NZ (22%), and Overseas (24%). We also had over 900 people attending our services (Nine Lessons and Carols, Christingle, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) and over 590 views of our Christmas services online. One highlight was the Carols on the Steps with 500-600 people enjoying the unique opportunity to celebrate the joy of Christmas as a community, despite being relocated to the Cathedral due to weather.

Besides our own Christmas activities, the Cathedral also hosted sold-out concerts, which brought in around another 2000 people into the Cathedral.

Vision to Action:

As a Parish, the Cathedral is looking at more intentional ways to see God's Mission in action. In 2023 Rev Emily Holmes led a day-time group of women through ALPHA, following on from the *REFRESH* missional community. Then during Lent 2024 she began an evening ALPHA course for 12 people which covered 6 sessions before Easter and 6 after, with a one-day event to look at the Holy Spirit videos. We also show several of the ALPHA videos on the big TV for visitors to watch.

Along with ALPHA, Rev Nigel Whinney also began a new "home group" which occurs at the Cathedral on Wednesdays from 12-1pm. This has been named an "Emmaus" group after the first disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus. The group focuses on Bible study and discussion and is timed to occur after the mid-week communion service and morning tea. Several come to both, and the Emmaus group has become a regular feature.



Nelson Arts Festival:
Luminary

Reflect God's Love:

Nelson Cathedral continues to grow in its understanding of the needs in our local community in a variety of ways. 2023 saw the Cathedral become a Hapori Box distribution Hub, providing low-cost fruit and vegetables to our local community – a new ministry coordinated by our outreach worker Beryl Shatford-Banks. By mid-way through 2024, the Cathedral distributed its 1000th box, along with supporting the Whakātu Māori Mission through a "donation box" each week.

Resthome ministry has been an important part of Cathedral DNA especially at *The Wood* where a weekly Communion service, room blessings, individual Holy Communion in rooms, and pastoral visiting are all part of this important ministry. This has now expanded to include weekly services at Green Gables in partnership with All Saints and Atawhai parishes which includes distribution of Holy Communion in rooms.

CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) is a monthly "high tea" that the Cathedral puts on for seniors on the second Friday of each month and is a great way to build relationships and develop friendship evangelism. We have seen this ministry grow, especially for our themed events such as "mid-winter Christmas" and it is encouraging to see that half those attending are people from the wider community – often invited by their Cathedral friends.

Nelson Cathedral continues to grow as a place for community engagement as we connect to the events held within our region. For the first time, Nelson Cathedral was part of the Nelson Arts Festival

Nelson Cathedral Hapori Hub Update

Hapori Hub at the Nelson Cathedral would like to welcome our new Supplier - **The Vege Guy Stoke**

We are looking forward to the fabulous new seasonal Hapori Boxes and its Spring selection and then the Summer selection of fresh Fruit & Vegetables, being Supplied to us now by the Vege Guy Stoke to our Hapori Hub Customers.



where we hosted the artwork *Luminary*. We have also connected to the needs of our community with a "Meet the Candidates" event for the General Election and themed Evensong services for Ukraine (1st Anniversary), the 130th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, the Coronation of King Charles III, and participation in community commemorations such as ANZAC Day and Parihaka.

Concerts continue to be a great way for community connection, and this includes two very successful fundraising "Music by Candlelight" concerts of our own, involving a variety of performers showcasing Nelson talent along with our own "stars". These events gave a glimpse of the potential Nelson Cathedral has in its civic role as a performing arts space, highlighted by the 12 concerts booked in for 2024.

Renewal:

As previously mentioned, ALPHA, Emmaus and services have all been ways that people are supported to pursue personal renewal and to grow as disciples, and it is encouraging to see new people join us as parishioners and get involved.

Earthquake strengthening continues to be a focal point for renewal and reflects the importance of a theology of place, a distinctive feature of Cathedral ministry; that Cathedrals are open places that people come to as a place to connect with God. Our vision is to ensure the Cathedral remains as the *Spiritual Heart of the Diocese and City* for the next 100 years. For the last four years Vestry and the Earthquake strengthening sub-committee have been working with a local architect and specialist engineers from Wellington to come up with the strengthening plan to reach 60-66% of the building code. We are now looking at "improvements" which will enhance worship and civic use of the building, along with consultation with the Nelson City Council for local and central government funding. Our aim is to "launch" a public fundraising appeal in 2025.

2025 marks the Centenary celebration of the present Cathedral's marble foundation stone being laid, and as we face the future, I believe we can approach the changes and challenges ahead of us with hope in God's faithfulness as we continue to be *A Place that Matters as the Spiritual Heart of Diocese and City*.

God Bless

Graham

Come And Meet Each Other

An opportunity for
a catch-up chat, sing-along
and afternoon tea.
Bring a friend.

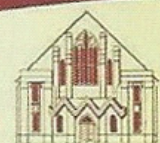
**Friday 20
September
2:00 - 3:30pm**



Contact:
Beryl Shatford-Banks
Outreach Co-ordinator
03 548 1008 beryl@nelsoncathedral.nz

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Marsden House
FUNERAL SERVICES

Welcoming the Godwits



**Friday Sept 20
at 1.30pm**

Cathedral Choir



Exciting times lie ahead for the Cathedral Choir who will represent our Cathedral at the "Cathedral Choirs' Festival" held at St. Paul's Cathedral Wellington, over the 26th and 27th October.

The Itinerary will be as follows: -

Saturday 26th October

Each choir will present a 10-minute bracket of music in the Concert on Saturday evening. There will be a rehearsal in the morning and during the afternoon, all choirs will assemble to rehearse the repertoire for the special services the next day.

Sunday 27th October

Festal Eucharist: Miss Brevis - *Williams*
 Psalm
 Anthem - Faire is the heaven *Harris*
 Festal Evensong: Introit - Hail, gladdening light - *Wood*
 Psalm 150 - *Stanford*
 Responses - *Madden*
 Canticles - St Paul's Service - *Howells*
 Anthem - Hear my words, ye people – *Parry*

It will be a wonderful opportunity for the Choir, as it has been many years since we last attended this Festival.

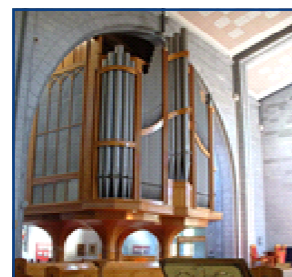


Nigel Weeks QSM ,
Choral Director

Cathedral Organ

In the last three weeks, South Island Organ Company (SIOC) has been working on the Cathedral organ as part of the long-term maintenance plan Stage 1. This includes the following items of work:

- * Re-leathering of the Swell reservoir
- * Re-leathering of the Pedal Subbass chest pneumatic motors
- * Repairing split in Open Wood pipe
- * Replacement of Swell and Choir Expression Shutter Control machines
- * Replacement of Electro-pneumatic Slider Stop-action machines



The "Swell Box" in the organ is a part of the instrument that allows the player to control the volume and timbre of the sound. It typically houses a set of pipes or ranks that can be enclosed within a box with shutters or louvers. These shutters can be opened or closed using a pedal or lever, allowing the organist to gradually increase or decrease the volume of the sound produced. When the shutters are closed, the sound is more muted and softer, while opening them allows more sound to escape, making it louder and brighter. This feature provides dynamic control and allows for more expressive playing.

Re-leathering the swell reservoir of an organ is an important maintenance task to ensure the proper functioning of the instrument. The Swell reservoir is a key component that helps regulate the air pressure needed to operate the swell box. To re-leather the reservoir, you typically need to disassemble the relevant parts. This includes removing the reservoir from the organ and carefully taking apart any components that are covered with leather. Once the new leather is in place, the reservoir is reassembled and reinstalled into the organ. After reassembly, it's crucial to test the organ to ensure that the swell box is functioning correctly and that the new leather is providing a proper seal.

Expression shutter control machines in organs are mechanisms that manage the movement of the shutters within the swell box, allowing for dynamic control over the volume and tonal qualities of the organ's sound. These machines are crucial for achieving expressive playing and are typically operated by the organist through foot pedals. Regular checks, lubrication, and calibration are essential to ensure that the control mechanisms are functioning properly.

The above work is much needed to keep the organ in a stable condition and to prevent it from further deterioration. If not attended today, the costs to rectify it will only go higher and higher over the years. With heartfelt gratitude to our late Director of Music, Roger Williams, we are glad that the first stage is now successfully completed.



Paul Chan
Cathedral Organist

Cathedral Kids

Gayle McVay



Helpers for Cathedral Kids ! *Most important.*

We are needing some more helpers for Cathedral Kids (during 10am service). If we have more people helping you will go on a roster every 6-8 weeks.

Please let Gayle or Dean Graham know if you can help, but be aware there will be some required safety training (a Diocesan requirement) for those who do not have children in the group.

CathedralKids Handouts

You may also notice over the next few weeks, a small CathedralKids 'hand-out' appearing on various noticeboards around the central Nelson area. This colourful and cleverly designed hand-out encourages children's attendance at the Cathedral and we hope they bring their parents and other members of their family with them.

CathedralKids tab on our website

You may enjoy checking out the CathedralKids tab on the website - especially watching the Cathedral go up like a rocket. We think children may find this image fun.

CathedralKids Quizz in the Cathedral

There is a little Kids Quizz stand for visitors and children upon entering through the right hand doors of the Cathedral.

It may be fun for you to pick this up and see if you can complete the quizz.

□ Answers are on the Cathedral website - access is also through the QR code.

Best wishes

Gayle McVay

Come & have fun!

CATHEDRAL Kids

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

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

Emmaus Study Group

Wednesdays
at 12.00 until 1.00pm
In the Choir Room

The Emmaus study is now studying the Letter to the Hebrews

The format will be the reading of the Biblical text, a short exegesis followed by discussion.

All are welcome

Cathedral Little Library



Please donate to our Book Nook!
Recycle your pre-loved books to share with others.
Christian or non-Christian books are all welcome.

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

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David Lucas

Warden's Wardrobe



Jocelyn Smith

Busy, busy. So many of us are rushing here, rushing there.

Perhaps you mainly come to the Cathedral on a Sunday. If you do come during the week, you are probably like many of us, who charge through the Cathedral to complete the task we've come to perform – flower arranging, candle cleaning, Wednesday service or study group, Meditation Group and so on.

We are vaguely aware of visitors milling about in the building, reading the prayer boards and plaques as they move around. Some visitors stop at the candle corner to light a candle or write a prayer. On Saturdays we unpin the prayers and add them to the basket to be offered up with the collection on Sunday.

A couple of weeks ago I spotted the following message:

To All Who Looked Out For Me

Thank you. Thank you all.

I was a lost, broken man when I came here 8 years ago. You helped me find my way again.

I am off on another new adventure now, but I will hold you all deep in my heart.

Until we meet again.

We cannot know how meaningful our exchanges with visitors can be. Our beautiful building, sitting at the top of the Church Steps in the heart of the city, attracts visitors from all over the world. They come for various purposes, and we are always hopeful that their visit to "our place" will be meaningful. Well done, whoever it was who welcomed that person 8 years ago.

Let's all go forward with vigilance and awareness that we might be the person who connects with the next needy visitor.

PS. Particular apologies to the two groups who were in the Cathedral back on July 15th and had to be ushered out when I ran our mandatory 6 monthly fire evacuation drill.

We do try ...

Jocelyn Smith

YOUR CATHEDRAL NELSON

PET BLESSING SERVICE 2024

All are welcome to our special 2024 morning service for pets and their owners.

Every pet will be prayed over and blessed during the service.

10am | Sunday 29 September 2024

YOUR DOG-FRIENDLY CATHEDRAL

Nelson Cathedral Christian Meditation Group



Tuesdays 4:30 to 5:30 pm
in the Chapel

Summer hours from October 5:30-6:30

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

Mary Kroch 027 372 1173 Erin Beatson 027 680 6355

ALL WELCOME



Baptism

Over the past two months, four adults have been going through baptism preparation classes. The first to be baptised were Rosie McCoy who opted for full emersion and Nigel Weeks who wanted to use the Font. I asked both, "What does baptism mean for you and how do you see baptism shaping your life", and this is what they said:



Rosie: For me, baptism is a way to celebrate and commemorate my faith, to take the next step for my relationship with Jesus and allow God to be the main focus for my life and my future, and to surrender myself and my life to Him.

Nigel: I want to publicly declare my confession of my faith in, and commitment to Jesus Christ. It strengthens my commitment to the community of Christian believers and a true follower of Christ. Baptism will create for me a sense of purpose in which I can positively contribute more to the community and strengthen my beliefs and values of the Church amongst my peers

In the Cathedral we so often experience the baptism of infants where parents make promises on the child's behalf, but for adults, baptism is an important and public step in their faith journey, both as an individual commitment to following Jesus, and as a member of the Church – the family of God. Also, during the service we all had the chance to support those being baptised and to renew our own baptismal promises.

Two weeks after the services I asked Rosie and Nigel to reflect on what difference baptism has made for them:

Rosie: It's been a great decision for me which has made me feel closer to God and also feel part of the Christian community. I have felt a lot more peaceful and clear on myself and my direction.

Nigel: I wish to thank Dean Graham O'Brien and the Cathedral for the opportunity to be baptized. It was a special and humbling experience that will be with me forever. The warmth from the choir and congregation was heartfelt and when Graham poured water from the font over my head, I instantly saw this great light, and beauty, and happiness all around. I now knew that I was fully devoted to the Lord.

It is exciting to see God at work in people's lives and to see their commitment to the church grow, as Nigel continues his work with the choir and Rosie helps Gayle with the Cathedral Kid's programme.

Graham



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DIRECTORY

Dean:

The Very Reverend Dr. Graham O'Brien
Ph 021 060 1774
grahamob@nelsoncathedral.nz

People's Warden & Building Manager:

Jocelyn Smith
Ph 027 548 7774
joc.smith@xtra.co.nz

Dean's Warden:

David Lucas
Ph 021 398 415
davidlucas88@gmail.com

Honorary Priest:

The Revd Steve Jordan
Ph 021 294 6105
stevej@nelsoncathedral.nz

Pastoral Care and Discipleship:

The Revd Nigel Whinney
021 118 9985

Children's Programme:

Gayle McVay
kids@nelsoncathedral.nz

Events:

Mark Nicholls
events@nelsoncathedral.nz

Choral Director:

Nigel Weeks
Ph 021 797 006
nigel@nelsoncathedral.nz

Cathedral Organist:

Paul Chan
Ph 021 399 938
paul@nelsoncathedral.nz

Outreach Coordinator & Hapori Boxes:

Beryl Shatford-Banks
Ph 022 0437980
beryl@nelsoncathedral.nz
hapori@nelsoncathedral.nz

Cathedral Office:

First floor of tower.
Hours: Mon to Fri 9.30am-12.30pm
Phone 548 1008 or fax 548 3264
Postal address: P.O. Box 657, Nelson
7040

Email: office@nelsoncathedral.nz

Website: www.nelsoncathedral.nz

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)



Entries open now!

STAR OR ANGEL?

Display your group or business to thousands of visitors with a decorated tree



Christmas Tree Festival
28 Nov 2024 - 12 Jan 2025

christmas@nelsoncathedral.nz

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>