

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

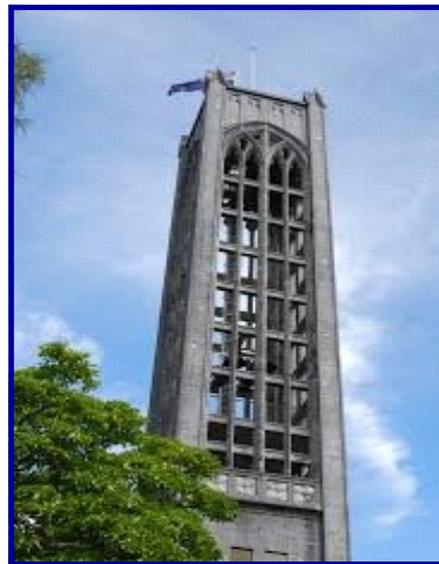
## Growing Life in the Cathedral

Kia ora Cathedral Whānau,  
We now hit 2026 after a very successful Christmas Season, *Christmas Tree Festival* and now the *Adam Music Festival*. As always, the Cathedral continues to be the spiritual and cultural heart of our Diocese and region.

In 2025 a major part of our year was focused around “Celebrating life in the Cathedral” as we commemorated 100 years of our marble Cathedral. At the end of 2025, Vestry considered the mission statement for this year, and the theme “**Growing Life in the Cathedral**” fitted what lies before us, in terms of numerical growth, spiritual growth and of course Cathedral strengthening and enhancement.

As we grow numerically and spiritually as a Cathedral family, there are two aspects that stand out.

The first is the season of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb 18) and our Lenten studies looking at “Handling the Bible”. Lent is a great opportunity to be intentional about our spiritual growth and discipline, so can I encourage you to join in this opportunity for spiritual growth.



The second area is staffing. In order to grow the ministry of our Cathedral we do need to build more capacity in terms of staffing. We will talk more about this at the AGM (Sunday March 22), but the two areas we need to focus on are another ordained clergy person (focused on discipleship) and event management (including building management and health and safety). We do rely on a great team of part-time staff and volunteers, and one paid clergy person (your Dean), so as we grow, we need to consider how we grow the team.

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

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[www.nelsoncathedral.nz](http://www.nelsoncathedral.nz)

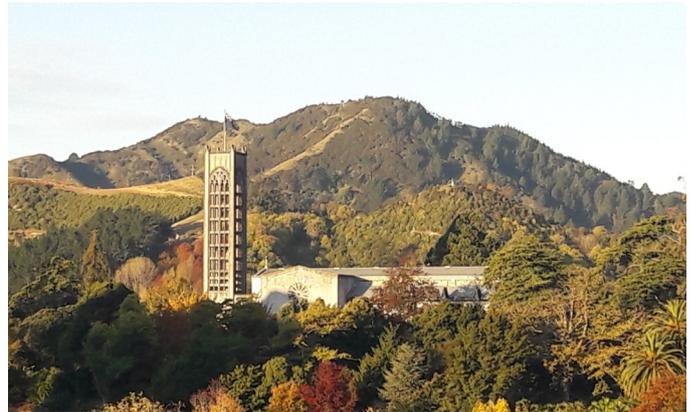


## ***Growing Life in the Cathedral*** ***- Continued from page 1***

As we look forward, it is important that we begin this conversation around our needs and then secondly, consider the funding. There are a couple of important points to note:

1. As numerical growth happens it is important to connect new people together so that relationships are built and provide opportunities for people to grow in their faith. The challenge we have in my view is that we have a big “front door” for people to enter and join, but also a growing “back door” through which people can leave if they do not connect with others.
2. There is always a gap between need and affordability. When churches grow, the need for more staffing always proceeds affordability (a general rule is 1 FTE Clergy to 100 people). We have already experienced this with our music, where our desire to improve our music through staffing was an act of faith. Now those costs are part of our normal budget... and our music is wonderful.
3. We also have an earthquake strengthening and enhancement project before us..

One of the key funding questions we have is “how can we best use our Cathedral assets to help us achieve our goals”? The obvious asset to consider is the Nile St carpark land (opp NCMA) which the Nelson Diocesan Trust Board owns on behalf of the parish. This was the former Cathedral parish hall site.



Currently we receive some rental income from this site and the tenant pays the rates. However, due to rising costs, we get half the amount we used to, and if the tenant stops the lease, the parish would be liable for close to \$20,000 in rates. So how can we better utilise or refocus this asset, but not “sell off the family silver”. Again, this conversation is not tied to earthquake strengthening but could help us, along with generating a trust-fund that produced regular income for ongoing ministry.

There is an idea being explored, that this land could be developed into high quality townhouses, with the possibility of generating several million dollars once the houses are sold. A portion of the fund (say the current commercial land value) could then be put into trust to produce regular income (for example \$1.5mill @ 4.5% produces over \$65,000 of yearly income), and the remaining could be utilised for ministry and/or strengthening. Any such decision requires Parish (AGM), Standing Committee and Diocesan Trust Board approval, so there will be robust checks and balances to ensure good decisions are made.

More will be said about this at the AGM, but it is worth beginning the conversation to see how we support and grow the ministry of our Cathedral.

God Bless

*Graham*



It has been a busy start to 2026 for the Events Team with a memorial, funeral, wedding and two concerts during January and February, including a highlight of the Adam International Chamber Music Festival (pictured).

Photo Melissa Banks

## Lenten Studies: Handling the Bible

**Wednesdays**

**February 25-March 25**

**(cake included)**

**7-8.30pm**

We will look at topics such as:  
How we got the Christian Bible  
Which Bible is Best  
The Bible in Context  
Meaning and Significance  
Communicating the Bible

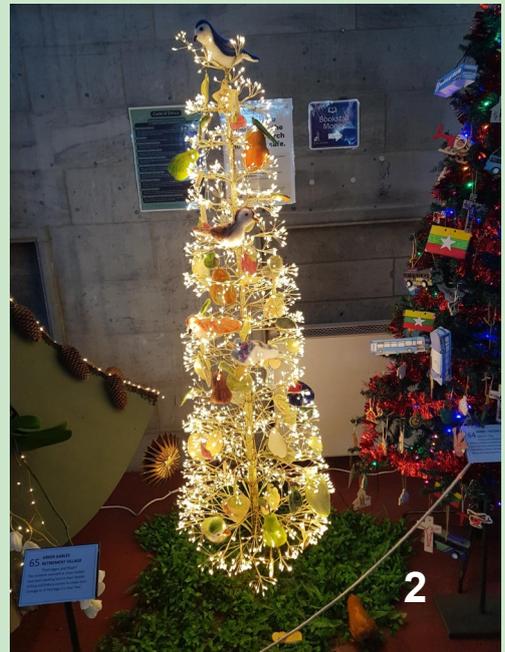
# Christmas Tree Festival



1

NELSON CATHEDRAL  
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL  
VOTING RESULTS FOR 2025-6

FIRST	WOODLANDS RETIREMENT VILLAGE
SECOND	GREEN GABLES RETIREMENT VILLAGE
THIRD	ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY NELSON-TASMAN
FOURTH	CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU NELSON-TASMAN INC
FIFTH	NOOD NELSON



2

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**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**



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**18 February**

**Imposition of Ashes at 11am Service at Cathedral**

**Ecumenical Imposition of Ashes Service**

**Hosted by St Mary's on Manuka St, 6pm**

**PIT & MOORE**  
**LAWYERS**

For innovative legal advice on  
a full range of legal services phone

**Nelson - 03 548 8349**  
**Richmond - 03 543 9090**

**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**



David Lucas

## Warden's Wardrobe



Jocelyn Smith

Who can believe that it's already February? I hear so many of you saying it to each other! This year feels like it's going doubly fast, as Easter is very early. Ash Wednesday is February 18<sup>th</sup> and we barrel straight into Lent with Ash Wednesday services at 11am or at St Mary's church in Manuka St at 6pm.

I'm not one for New Year Resolutions (still suffering from Christmas overindulgences at that time of the year), but I do try to make personal changes each year during Lent. Giving up chocolate is not my forte, so latterly my attempts to humble myself before God take the form of promises to do better, be better or change some detrimental negative behaviour. I generally fail around lunchtime of the first day, but I still think it's important to have gone through the process of identifying what needs changing. If we fail, it's okay to try again. It's what we do Sunday by Sunday, when we confess, are assured that we have been forgiven and start again with a fresh slate and a new resolve.

During Lent, we'll be holding our Cathedral Council AGM (March 22<sup>nd</sup>). As usual we'll elect People's Warden and Cathedral Representatives. This year we also need to elect two Synod Representatives. They hold the office for 3 years.

Then we burst out of Lent and into Easter on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

After that it's only 264 days until Christmas. The Christmas Tree Festival Committee will be having the second meeting of the year about then.

It's a very busy Cathedral!

*Jocelyn Smith*

**People's Warden**

### 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://](https://www.nelsoncathedral.nz/copy-of-volunteering)

[www.nelsoncathedral.nz/copy-of-volunteering](https://www.nelsoncathedral.nz/copy-of-volunteering)

Remember also to obtain independent legal advice.

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



Welcome 2026 and welcome kids to the Cathedral. ♥

This term and for most of the year not only will the children learn 'off by heart' and its meaning - the Lord's Prayer but also the 10 Commandments.

**The Lord's Prayer**, as you will know, is the only prayer that Jesus taught the disciples. **The 10 commandments** were given by God to Moses and are the rules for our lives. With these two certainties under their belt, (so to speak), the children are armed with standards that God expects for their lives.

## Helpers wanted for the children - Sunday 10.00am service:

It would be fantastic if I could have more volunteer helpers at the Sunday 10.00am services please.

Two adults are required, by law, to be present with groups of children and therefore it is imperative I have a helper with me every Sunday in order to run *Cathedralkids*.

The children are wonderful to teach and their young and open hearts are a treasure to experience. They also tell me how much they enjoy Sunday School, which is amazingly rewarding.

Please consider if you could help me.

I hope you will find it is varied, fun and biblically informative.

Also, the more helpers I have, the less you are rotated on the roster.

Please let me or Dean Graham or Jocelyn know if you could help. I'd be most grateful.

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**

**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.



### Nelson Association of Anglican Women

Our February visit will take the form of a visit to the beautiful **Gardens of the World**

Friends and family are welcome too.  
<https://www.gardensoftheworld.co.nz/>

**Thursday 12th February  
2 pm**

**At Gardens of the World**

Corner of Patons Road and Clover Road East, Hope.

A small plate for afternoon tea would be appreciated.  
 We will have the use of the gazebo for tea.

If anyone needs a ride please contact us.  
 Also those who can offer a ride please contact us.

**We will meet in the car park at Gardens of the World.**

Contacts: Noeline 0275476483, Kathy 5488654 or  
 0273337633;  
 Janet 027 563 8205

## DIRECTORY

### Dean:

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7040

Email: [office@nelsoncathedral.nz](mailto:office@nelsoncathedral.nz)

Website: [www.nelsoncathedral.nz](http://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](mailto:russell77@xtra.co.nz)) or the Dean ([grahamob@nelsoncathedral.nz](mailto: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 (Resumes Feb)
5.30 pm	Evensong (Robed Choir and Livestreamed)

### Come And Meet Each Other



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

**Friday 13 February**  
**2:00 - 3:30pm**



YOUR  
CATHEDRAL  
NELSON

*the Heart of the City*

### Contact:

**Cathedral Office**

03 548 1008

[office@nelsoncathedral.nz](mailto:office@nelsoncathedral.nz)

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

 **livestream**

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>