

MCC Christmas Appeal starts today.

Open Home Foundation

Christian World Service Tearfund

Collect your Christmas Appeal envelope, indicate your preference with a tick.

Share with those who are in real need.

To receive a gifting receipt for IRD, write your name on the appeal envelope.

Greetings to our Visitors...

It is lovely to see you here today. If you are looking for a church to join, have a chat with us. Thanks for blessing us with your presence. Please meet with us after the Service for a morning cuppa and chat (follow the crowd). Do come again.

Toilet facilities are located on the right-hand side of the corridor. Baby change facility is in the Ladies unit.

TODAY - Christmas Carol Hymn-a-long

Church on Vogel. 2nd Dec. 4.30-5.30.
followed by finger-food tea.

Tuesday 4th Dec. Emmaus

end of year party 7-9pm at the All Saints Community Centre, Church St, P.N. RSVP
anna@emmaus.net.nz for catering purposes.

For contact over the Christmas break:

| | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| Joanne W | 355 3124 | Steward |
| Anne J | 355 3128 | Steward |
| Lynley Boyd | 3584418 | Secretary |
| Anne Bennett | 355 2818 | Moderator |

Open Home Foundation (OHF) A Child and Family Support Service

Operates throughout NZ. Donations given in Palmerston North are used locally.

OHF is a Christian child and family support service providing quality, child-centred, family focused, support services and foster care in NZ.

OMF is made up of Christians from a wide variety of churches. The organisation has Jesus as its focal point. A strong prayer network sustains all its work.

Christian World Service (CWS) Be The Lifeline

Throughout the last year your donations have been a lifeline to people who have fled their homes because of war. They have helped farmers recover livelihoods lost in disasters and helped communities stand up against violence. Christian World Service works in 22 countries with local partners who are with the people who need the most help.

Please join the lifeline by supporting the Christmas Appeal so no one is left behind. Donate through MCC Christmas Appeal Envelopes. With your help refugees will have medical care and education, farmers have new seeds and better irrigation, and communities can be made safe.

**Be the Lifeline to people who need
food, water and dignity.**

The Tearfund Christmas Appeal 'Room at the Inn' -Syrian refugees.

Tearfund: a Christian aid and development organisation which works in partnership with indigenous church bodies overseas. Christ-centred, child-focused, Church-based. Under the stars in the Middle East, a mother and father carry their son as they flee to a new land to escape persecution.

It sounds so much like the Christmas story. But this family is making the journey right now, desperately trying to survive by fleeing Syria. And there are millions more just like them.

Mary and Joseph once fled to Egypt as refugees; they would have been looking for someone to help them.

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us: "Truly I tell you, whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me"

Tearfund represents the compassion of Jesus. The key activities are child sponsorship, Microenterprise, community development projects and disaster relief.

Donations to Tearfund help Fight injustice, Anti-trafficking and Exploitation, Child Sponsorship, Disasters and Peace Building, Enterprise and Empowerment.

The logo for Tearfund features a stylized green and yellow icon above the word "Tearfund" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

Sunday Dec 9th –Food Bank.

Preferred donations: Tinned fish / meat, tinned fruit and vegetables, eggs, bacon, meat, cheese, rice and pasta, wheetbix, cornflakes, ricebubbles, porridge, muesli, and baked beans. Also empty egg cartons. We will deliver your donation to Methodist Social Services Food Bank.



PRAYER... If you have a personal prayer need and would appreciate someone praying for you after the

service, please indicate this to a service leader or someone with whom you feel comfortable. Our Prayer room (off the Green room) is set aside for this purpose.

Pastoral Care phone Anne Bennett, Ph.355- 2818

Communion is to be celebrated 9th

December. All who honour Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour are welcome to partake in the bread and the cup. We offer wine in the chalice and grape juice in the cups (indicated by bringing the bulletin with you) or a blessing if that is preferable (hands at your side). If you need gluten-free bread, please let Lynley (Ph.358-4418) know.

Thank you Lorraine for taking on the Communion duties.



Because of Bethlehem -

by Max Lucado

God knows what it is like to be a human. When I talk to him about deadlines or long lines or tough times, he

understands. He's been there. He's been here. Because of Bethlehem, I have a friend in heaven. Because of Bethlehem, I have a Saviour in heaven.

Christmas begins what Easter celebrates. The child in the cradle became the King on the cross. And because he did, there are no marks on my record. Just grace. His offer has no fine print. He didn't tell me, "Clean up before you come in."

He offered, "Come in and I'll clean you up." It's not my grip on him that matters but his grip on me... and his grip is sure.

Because of Bethlehem, I have a Saviour in heaven.

God is always near us. Always for us. Always in us. We may forget him, but God will never forget us.

We are forever on his mind and in his plans. He called himself "'Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')" (Matt. 1:23). Not just "God made us." Not just "God thinks of us." Not just "God above us." But God with us.

God where we are: at the office, in the kitchen, on the plane. He breathed our air and walked this earth. God . . . with . . . us!



Anglican – Methodist
– Presbyterian
Corner Milson Line &
Purdie Place, P. N.
*Growing a Community
for Christ
Welcoming in...
Building up...
Sending out.*

HOPE –2nd December

Dorothy Bryant and George Dempster

PEACE –9th Dec Communion

Anne Schnell and Anne Bennett

JOY –16th December

Children's service led by Anne Jackson,
followed by a Christmas morning tea.

LOVE –23rd December

Led by members of our Church Council.
Last service for the year.

Our Church Council wish you all

**BLESSED CHRISTMAS
and a
JOYUS NEW YEAR**

Enjoy meeting with other fellowships on
Christmas Day 25th - 30th Dec. & 6th Jan.
Return here on 13th Jan. (Communion)