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AAW Evening Group Margaret McLanachan 453 0131
Organist/Choir Director: Alan Edwards 477 2865
Parish Recorder: Sue Cathro 455 4604

Vestry 2025/2026

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People's Warden: Christine Barnsley 489 2424
Treasurer: Heidi Schwellnus 464 0113
Secretary: Jane Musgrave 027 485 3726
Other Members Alan Firth 464 0272
Ray Stevic 027 935 4090
John Stewart 027 688 9330
Paul Tankard 479 2869

Synod Reps: Alan Firth 464 0272

Dates for Your Diary

December 20th 2-5pm afternoon at the vicarage to celebrate the vicarages 100th
December 21st 10am Carol Service
December 24th 10am Holy Communion in lounge
5pm Crib Service
11pm Carols with mince pies and mulled wine in the lounge
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas
December 25th 9.30am Family Communion followed by light refreshments



THE PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ROSLYN
News December 2025

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Of Storms and Stillness

The American author, John Steinbeck in his travelogue 'Travels with Charlie' - (Charlie, or Charles le chien as he respectfully referred to him, was Steinbeck's French Poodle) – describes the passage of a hurricane just before his trip around America in the early 1960's. The hurricane made landfall exactly where Steinbeck had taken shelter, overlooking his beloved yacht swing wildly in the bay. And then . . . as the centre of the hurricane passed directly overhead, a profound stillness . . . The Eye of the Storm - a place of perfect stillness.

Stillness is Central to all ordering in the Creation, even the order of storms systems. Without it, all is chaotic. As we look ahead to Christmas, certainly for some of us it can seem like an approaching storm – 'so many things to do', 'so much going on' – but to what end? Where is the still point through which something might be brought into being? For many Christmas is encountered as if in a dream. The mantras of the advertisers, the relentless muzak in supermarkets, the tempo carefully curated dependent on the number of shoppers, to move them on in busy times, fill our senses, lulling us into an even deeper unconsciousness than our everyday lives. But not Stillness.

Stillness is not a word we apply to Christmas, indeed it is all but absent in our frenetic 24/7 world . . . which perhaps is why no one has any real sense of where anything is going, or deep purpose . . . sound and fury, as Shakespeare put it, 'signifying nothing'.

It would be tempting to offer some platitudes about making space for stillness in the Centre of Christmas, but that would be to miss the point entirely, something which I think particularly as Christians, we are wont to do. Simply 'making space for stillness', like 'making time for prayer' effects nothing, if it is no more than another thing to do in a fragmented world of unrelated things. All this incoherent 'doing' lacking a sense of 'being'.

Jesus once said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light". Aside from reflecting on whether we are truly wearing the yoke of Christ, or a set of unconscious expectations we have laid upon ourselves – it is all too easy to miss the point.

Sunday Services at St John's

Dec.	7	9.00am 10.00am	Said Communion (1662) Choral Eucharist
Dec	14	9.00am 10.00am	Said Communion (NZPB) Choral Eucharist
Dec	21	9.00am 10.00am	Said Communion (NZPB) Carol Service
Dec	24	5.00pm 11.00pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Carols with mince pies in lounge First Communion of Christmas
	25	9.30am	Family Communion followed by light refreshments
Dec	28	9.00am 10.00am	Said Communion (1662) Choral Eucharist

During the Week at St John's

Wednesdays

10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea in the Lounge

Thursdays

9.15am St John's Church Mini Music makers (during term time)
7.30pm Choir practice

Association of Anglican Women (AAW)

Evening AAW Group - meet again on 10th February 2026
We are to have a Communion service followed by Vicar Eric speaking



Brockville Kindy

Summer Holiday Appeal

At present there is a collection of **spreads & lunch food items; sunscreen** to cover the period when children won't be getting their sunscreen protection and their nutritious lunches from *Kid-sCan* at Kindy.

Julie has suggested that **toothpaste and toothbrushes** would be a good idea as donations as well.

This appeal ends on **Sunday 14th December**. We take the boxes up the Brockville on Monday 15th December. The final Kindergarten day for the children is 18th December.

Christmas Gifts

for the Children at Brockville Kindergarten

If parishioners would like to contribute towards our gifts of picture books or activity books, please leave a donation in the container marked "*Brockville Christmas*" with Margaret at the office during November. Gifts of \$8-\$10 would be greatly appreciated.

THANKS be to God for enabling us to support our neighbours across the valley this year. Please keep them in your prayers over the coming months.

Noelene Evans & Catherine McKergow

INVITATION

to a small Christmas celebration

Julie the head teacher at Brockville Kindergarten has sent an invitation to St John's Roslyn to come and share a "wee Christmas celebration" with the children on **Thursday December 4th at 11:00a.m.**

Julie specially asked if Dr Phil would play his bagpipes for everyone again this year and Phil has kindly agreed.

Please contact one of us or the Parish Office if you would like a ride to this occasion.

At St John's Fair ...

The parents, teachers and children of Brockville Kindergarten thanked St John's for inviting them to have a stall at the St John's Fair 2025. It was so good to be together.



Jesus is not offering a pitstop, a brief 'Quiet Time', or 'time out' with a spiritual veneer. Rather he is the Still Point, at the centre of Truthful and fruitful existence - 'in him all things hold together', and continually present. "Behold I am with you always, even to the end of the age". Present, not in order to occasion pop in on him as time allows, but present that we might continually abide in, and live from that stillness, apart from which all activity even, and most egregiously, church activity is but 'noise and clamour'.

Coherent activity – that which is in tune with God, must draw on the deep wells of God, which are only and always the work of the Holy Spirit of God in and through us as a wellspring bubbling up to eternal life. It is the effortless tuning of our true lives which are the Energy of God in us, Christ in you.

In you . . . The Word has to become flesh. The Logos, the Principle which orders the universe seeks a body in which to dwell. First a young girl consents to be the dwelling place of God, then an infant embodies this Logos, this Word. Christmas looks for a home, not in our thoughts, which are like the leaves descending in clouds from our beech trees as I type – but find secure anchor, in our bodies. This is what the Incarnation points to - the 'point of it all' becomes flesh and dwells in us. 'The Kingdom', Jesus tells us is we have ears to hear, 'is with-in us'.

Coming to faith is not assenting to a set of facts, it is discovering Christ in us, finding your home in God in God's home in you. The still centre of your true Being.

The Temple at the time of Jesus had at its heart a vast open space – the Holy of Holies. Absent from the old temple was the Tabernacle, where the Glory of God rested, and around which Creation knew its place. The Great Peace at the Heart of things. We were all given a body as God's dwelling place.

This Christmas – might we make that discovery for ourselves, discover deep in the heart of our fleshly body is the Still Point. Thus might we know the Peace that passes all understanding, that the world might perhaps once more know itself in Peace, having at last a still point around which its activity becomes fruitful once more.

Wishing you all the Joy which comes from the Peace of Christ this Christmas time and, by God's grace, into the New Year

Kindest

Eric

A Note from the Recorder

Although it is halfway through the financial year, it is never too late to join the regular donation system. All donations are receipted at the end of March and can be used for the rebate. If you are new to the Parish, or if you would like to be a part of the regular donors please let me know. I am happy to answer any questions you might have, and any discussions are confidential.

Direct crediting is the easiest 'way to go'. **I can give you the Parish bank account details and your unique number for my records, so you to set up your own internet banking.** By creating an automatic payment on a date/s that suits you is a very convenient way of making donations to the Parish.

I am able to supply monthly envelopes to those who would like them, just let me know.

I am available in various ways - ring me on my home phone or leave a message. Message or ring me on my mobile phone, or email me.

My contact details are:
Sue Cathro, Parish Recorder.
Phone: 455 4604
Mobile: 022 171 5513
Email: b.s.cathro@gmail.com



Evening AAW

We held our final meeting of the year on Tuesday 11th November. Vicar Eric led us in a communion service and then chaired our AGM. All Officers remain the same.

Eric then blessed items of clothing bought in to be donated to AFC.

Following this we had time to chat to one another.

Our first meeting for 2026 is to be at 7pm on Tuesday 10th February.

This group is open to all ladies of the parish so if you would like to join us we'd love to hear from you.

Margaret McLanachan (Leader)



St John's Church Fair update – 8th November 2025

Hello everyone,

Margaret and I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed their time and resources to make our 2025 Church Fair such a success. As always this event was more than a money making exercise. It was wonderful to see how people responded in so many ways to ensure every task was fulfilled.

I heard that comments were made to the effect that this was one of those good, old fashioned church fairs which was fun for all. We certainly hope it was for you. We know our church has many avenues for the funds raised and we probably all have our 'pet projects' but we are sure Vestry will manage this well.

Once again, many thanks team! Everyone contributed in some way, and you know who you are!

Craig & Margaret McLanachan,
2025 Fair Conveners. =

We would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Margaret and Craig

LESLIE GROVES REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2025

By far the most encouraging aspect of the recent NZ Aged Care Association's annual conference in Christchurch was that of an acceptance by all political parties that urgent action is needed to address the exponential growth of those 65+ whose specific health needs are age related.

Hopefully with cross-party consensus, the recently published report by Parliament's health select committee will result in affirmative and long overdue action.

Presently some 17% of New Zealanders are 65 or older.

Projections are that by 2030 the percentage will have reached 20% and by 2040 a quarter of us - some 1.3 million will be aged 65 or over

As Mike Houlahan outlined in his ODT "**Southern Say**" column on Saturday 22 November, it is estimated that the numbers presenting with aged related neurological conditions (Dementia and Alzheimer's) will by 2050 have doubled from the present 70,000 to some 160,000.

Given that a recent report has predicted that there will be a shortfall of 12,000 beds in the aged care sector by 2032 there is more than an urgent need to provide this accommodation! Most especially for those needing Hospital and Psychogeriatric beds.

The committees report clearly outlines an urgent need for a funding model that provides financial incentives such as those, of capital grants, partnerships, depreciation incentives, pay equity of nursing and care staff with those employed in Public Hospitals. As well as the ability of aged care providers, of the size of Leslie Groves, to have an "in house "qualified assessor" who is authorised carry out the mandatory task of determining what level of cognitive impairment/care is evident and hence the level of funding that a person requires to meet their particular needs.

While this progress is encouraging the challenge for the reappointed Board of the Leslie Groves Society and its members from St. Johns Roslyn is whereto now for us?

2026 promises to be a year for some major decisions

Brian Tegg—Chairman



A Tea Party for 'Our Oldest Parishioner'!

Much to my surprise, I've recently become the second longest serving Vicar at St John's. However it would take something more than exceptional, for me to overtake the record holder, Revd Fitchett who occupied this post for twice as long as I have, and fitted in being the bishop for a while in his spare time!

It was during his time that the parish decided that the subsidence of old drainage,— still very visible in places — combined with the general dilapidation of the original Vicarage called for a new Vicarage to be built!

On Christmas Day 1925, the Fitchett family enjoyed lunch in the old Vicarage, partly demolished to make way for the new, and then dinner in their new home.

The Vicarage is 100 years old at Christmas!

To celebrate this august occasion,

Sarah and I would like to invite the parish to afternoon tea a few days earlier.

So please come along and celebrate the longevity of the old lady,
on Saturday December 20th, between 2 and 5pm.

Cake cutting at about 3pm

From the Registers

Rest in Peace:

18th November 2025 Anne Marie Parsons



Wardens Report

Advent is a time of anticipation, reflection, and preparation for the celebration of Jesus's birth and his promised return. It encourages us to be hopeful in our waiting, courageous in our peace-making, resilient in our joy and to love and care for our neighbours.

Our grateful thanks to you all for your contributions, hard work and being there to ensure we had a wonderful fair. Special thanks to Margaret and Craig for their organising. Vestry are considering the tithe as well as the possibility of repairing the fabric of the benches and seats in the hall using some of the proceeds.

At our recent Vestry meeting we heard of the ongoing issues with the Fire Alarm System and the plan in place to rectify the problems.

We are pleased the carpet stretching in the lounge and office went well which has eliminated the trip hazard.

For quite some time we have been considering the need for painting a significant part of the building, which would require using some of our reserves. At the recent meeting we had a robust discussion about the need to be good stewards of our finances as well as our buildings, honour those who have worshipped at St John's in the past and to hold the vision for those who will worship here and use the buildings in the future. Vestry will reconvene shortly to decide on a plan.

Although it was agreed at our meeting to underwrite gifts to Brockville children up to \$300, appeals have been made for donations to cover a book for each child (around \$8-10) as well as a food/sunscreen etc to support the families during the holidays. It is an invitation to show our love and care for our neighbours.

Eric reported that plans are underway for Christmas and Lent. To celebrate the centenary of the Vicarage, an afternoon tea on Saturday December 20th is to be held. More details to follow.

Vestry prayerfully acknowledged Verna's decision to step down from Synod, Vestry, and ministry duties. Look for a piece elsewhere in the magazine outlining her special contributions to St John's.

As you journey through Advent, may you know God's presence with you, to light your path and bring you love, peace and joy.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

Phil White, Vicar's Warden gp.white.family@kinect.co.nz 03 4676120
Christine Barnsley, People's Warden- christine@barnsley.co.nz 03 4892424

Advent and Christmas at St John's

Sunday December 21st – 9am Said Communion

10am Carol Service

Wednesday December 24th – 10am Holy Communion in church lounge,

5pm Crib Service,

11pm Carols with mince pies and mulled wine in the Church Lounge

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30am Family Communion (Followed by light refreshments)

Sunday December 28th – 9am Said Communion, 10am Communion with Carols

Sunday January 4th – 9am Said Communion, 10am Holy Communion

Wednesday January 7th – 10am Holy Communion