

MALVERN Parish NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025 | JANUARY 2026

News from the Malvern Anglican and Malvern Co-operating Parishes



*Journeying Together in Faith, to Know,
Love and Serve our Lord Jesus Christ*

AUNTY LYN'S FAREWELL POEM

Beneath the skies of breath-taking clouds appear,
where harrier hawks glide—
Majestic, soaring, tranquil, as all worries slide,
These lush, green pastures tie us to the divine,
Our love for God's handiwork lifts and redeems.
I've wandered these fields with the heart of a shepherd,
Faith and compassion wove our journeys as one.
We've shared smiles and tears, countless stories remembered—
Yet now, the hour to say farewell has come.
Our prayers were gathered gently in loving palms,
Sunday's hymns and whispered hopes shaped my soul.
With laughter of children beside flowing water-ways,
"Are you off to church, Aunty Lyn?" they'd extol.
"Yes, and to fetch the bin!" I'd reply with delight,
Laughter and banter lighting the day bright.
Sunday School memories forever will stay—
Though the seasons will shift and I must move on,
My treasured memories are sewn in this place—
In every warm heart, every welcoming smile,
With grace and with peace, I behold God's face.
So let the hymns rise, let the bells ring clear—
Dear Margaret, our unwavering bell-ringer dear,
Volunteers, your kindness is beyond what can be told,
Trinity Ladies, your hospitality enfolds.
Talented organists, ukulele players too,
Praise and Worship harmonies shining through.
Gifted florists, your love blooms in vases and air,
From gardens and neighbours, your care is everywhere.
Our Anglican Sisters and Brothers—my thanks for your care
Our rural community—united we share!
To Parish Council friends a Team, steadfast and always near,
I am blessed to have known your support so sincere.
For these memories woven, never to part,
This rural MCP church and its faithful flock—
Will live **evermore**, deeply within my heart.



Lyn and Otis

Thank you for allowing me to walk alongside you, for trusting me with your stories, your struggles, and your celebrations. I am grateful for every moment, every lesson, every memory, every encounter.

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may His face shine upon you and give you peace. Farewell, dear friends, until we meet again.
With love and gratitude,

In Shalom
Your Aunty Lyn

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Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome.

And I'm not going to say—where did this year go? (I don't know why I find it so unsettling that the year is hurtling so fast towards Christmas and the summer holidays. I mean, it happens every year!)

Recently I was asked, because I was a church minister and must work on Christmas Day, does that spoil Christmas a bit? I said no, for me, church is Christmas. I enjoy the journey of Advent, the Bible readings, the children's Nativity plays, the singing of Christmas Carols, the candles, being together with others, listening to the Messiah, the expectation of Christmas Day looming and of course, Christmas cake, ham and other Christmas goodies. How wonderful to celebrate the birth of not just a baby (because all babies are awesome!) but one who will become my friend, brother and inspiration.

Let us remember and pray for all who must work on Christmas Day (not just church people) and remember with love in our hearts those who are experiencing a 'raw' Christmas after illness, death of a loved one or any other life-changing experience that may have happened for them this year.

I thought I would share this poem:
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MALVERN ANGLICAN PARISH

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KEEPING CHRISTMAS by Eleanor Farjeon

How will you your Christmas keep?
Feasting, fasting, or asleep?
Will you laugh or will you pray?
Or will you forget the day?

Be it kept with joy or prayer,
Keep of either some to spare;
Whatsoever brings the day,
Do not keep but give away.

(Continued from Page 1)

May you and those you love be blessed with hope,
love, peace and joy as we celebrate the Saviour's
birth and may your summer holidays be safe, fun and
relaxed.

Happy New Year
Arohanui, Alexa

Christmas Countdown

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SERVICE OR TWO

*What's Happening for Christmas in
Malvern Anglican and Co-operating
Parish. (As well as our regular services
there are additional Christmas services).*



Sunday 7 December

9:30 am St. Ambrose, Sheffield. Stir-up Sunday (making of the Christmas Cake)

9:30 am Trinity Church, Darfield. Sunday School Christmas Play—The first animals to worship Baby Jesus.

Thursday 11 December—10 am Holy Communion, Women's Fellowship, Trinity Church, Darfield.
(Please bring unwrapped gifts of toiletries for women at Walshe House.)

Sunday 14 December—7 pm Malvern Ministers Combined Churches Christmas Carols, Baptist Church, Darfield.

Saturday 20 December—10:45 am (Start) Christmas Parade. Leaves from McHugh's Plantation, Horndon Street, Kimberley Road, North Terrace, Darfield Recreation Centre. We have a Nativity Scene float entered.

Sunday 21 December

10 am (**New Time**) Combined Greendale, Sheffield, Springfield Christmas Carol Service at Springfield Community Church.

4 pm Children's Christmas Story, St. Ambrose, Sheffield.

Tuesday 23 December—3 pm Children's Christmas Story, St. Georges, Kirwee.

Wednesday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

5 pm Christmas Church, Arthur's Pass.

10:30 pm Christmas Candlelight service with Holy Communion Trinity, Darfield.

Thursday 25 December (Christmas Day)

8:30 am Greendale Christmas Service (Aunty Lyn).

9:30 am Trinity Church, Darfield.

Sunday 28 December—Aunty Lyn's final service, Trinity, Darfield. Lyn is organising. On the 25 January 2026, MCP will organise and lead the official farewell to Aunty Lyn, with MAP and Community invited to join.

MALVERN PARISH NOTICES WHAT'S ON ...



Malvern Parish Newsletter If you have photos, notices or information that maybe useful for future Malvern Parish Newsletter publications please contact Ruth Jennings at Spotta Design or email—ruth@spottadesign.co.nz



Golden Oldies—Picnic on January 18 12:30 pm. Greendale Domain.

Cuppa & Fellowship—At St Andrews of the Glen Glentunnel. Friday once a month for coffee, chat, company, and connection-all welcome! February 28 2026, 10 am

Combined Churches Christmas Communion—as we start looking towards Christmas let's take some time out to remember 'the reason for the season' as we share communion together at Trinity at 10 am on Thursday 11 December. The offering will go to Walshe House—a women's drop-in centre in Christchurch. Or bring an unwrapped gift (toiletries always welcome) for the women there. All welcome.

Darfield Home Group—Enquiries Maureen Frew 021 106 6590: Restart February 2026.

Combined Churches Women's Fellowship—Restart February 2026.

Café Hope—meets at the St Ambrose Hall (behind the Anglican Church in Sheffield) at 10 am on the 2nd Sunday of every month. All welcome!

Wednesday Morning Prayer—9 am in the Quiet room at Trinity Church.

Operation Cover-up—Starts back again March/April next year.

A Light Party was held at Messy Church as an alternative to Halloween. The families met at St. Ambrose in Sheffield, and it was busy, loud and fun! The night included eating pizza, craft, games-throw the gumboot, three-legged races, egg and spoon-singing and hearing the story about Jesus being the light of the world.



The Kirwee Garden Tour, at Show weekend, included visiting St. George's Church, Kirwee which was decorated for Christmas. Sally, Adrienne and Alexa decked the church out with flowers, candles, quilts and decorations.



IN MEMORIAM

Please hold in prayer the families and friends of:

Thomas Abbott—18 October 25

Reverend Hugh Paterson—19 October 25

Allan Richard Hooper—4 November 25

Dean Jonathan Frew (Reg)—11 November 25

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed ever rest in peace. Amen.

SERVICE SCHEDULE 7 DECEMBER — 18 FEBRUARY

Key: Anglican Services | **MCP Services** | **Combined Churches Services**

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER: 2nd Sunday of Advent	
9:30am	St Ambrose and St Peter's at St Ambrose Sheffield . Stir-up Sunday.
5:00pm	St George's Kirwee .
9:30am	Trinity Darfield . Sunday School Christmas Play - All Welcome. Feel free to dress up for the Nativity Scene.
THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER:	
10:00am	Trinity Darfield . Women's Christmas Communion.
SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER: 3rd Sunday of Advent	
9:30am	Trinity Darfield .
2:00pm	St Matthew's Courtenay . Carol service followed by afternoon tea.
7:00pm	Baptist Church Darfield . Combined Churches Christmas Carols.
10:00am	Café Hope at St Ambrose Sheffield . Sunday School Room.
SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER: 4th Sunday of Advent	
9:30am	Trinity Darfield .
4:00pm	St Ambrose Sheffield . Children's Christmas story.
10:00am	St Peters Community Church Springfield . Christmas Carols Service. NOTE NEW TIME
TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER:	
3:00pm	St George's Kirwee . Children's Christmas story.
WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER: Christmas Eve	
5:00pm	Arthur's Pass Chapel Arthur's Pass .
10:30pm	Trinity Darfield . Christmas Candle Light Communion.
THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER: Christmas Day	
9:30am	Trinity Darfield .
8:30am	Greendale Church Greendale . All Welcome.
SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER: Christmas 1	
9:30am	St Matthew's and St George's at St Matthew's Courtenay .
9:30am	Trinity Darfield . Aunty Lyn's Final Led Service.
SUNDAY 4 JANUARY 2026: Epiphany	
9:30am	St Peter's and St Ambrose at St Peter's Springfield .
9:30am	Trinity Darfield . Rev. Dr Tom Innes Led Service.
SUNDAY 11 JANUARY: Epiphany 1	
9:30am	Trinity Darfield .
10:00am	Café Hope at St Ambrose Sheffield . Sunday School Room.
SUNDAY 18 JANUARY: Epiphany 2	
9:30am	Trinity Darfield . Please note, there are NO Greendale or Sheffield Services this month.
SUNDAY 25 JANUARY: Epiphany 3	
9:30am	Trinity Darfield . Combined churches farewell service for Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga. (Aunty Lyn).
SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY: Epiphany 4	
9:30am	St Ambrose Sheffield .
5:00pm	St George's Kirwee .
9:30am	Trinity Darfield . Family Church.
SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY: Ordinary Time 5	
9:30am	Trinity Darfield . Sunday School.
10:00am	Café Hope at St Ambrose Sheffield . Sunday School Room.
SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY: Ordinary Time 6	
9:30am	Trinity Darfield . Sunday School.
9:30am	Greendale Church Greendale .
WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY: Ash Wednesday	
10:00am	St Ambrose Sheffield .
7:00pm	Trinity Darfield .



Arthur's Pass Chapel



Greendale Church



St Ambrose Sheffield



St Andrew's Glentunnel



St George's Kirwee



St Matthew's Courtenay



St Peter's Springfield



Trinity Darfield

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14