

Court Ministry report for 2018

A huge vote of thanks goes to those who have helped in this ministry during the year. I am grateful to the Fellowship who have put Court Helpers on the meeting agenda so that we can arrange helpers at the meetings every second month. Shirley Hazell and Rhonda Merchant were welcome additions to the roster year and Bob and Coll are great stand-bys.

The helpers continue to provide a welcome tea, coffee or cold water and biscuit to people waiting at the court hearings. A smile, a kind word and a cup of tea means a lot when people are anxious and upset. The police, solicitors and court officials alike acknowledge the value of our service as a calming presence.

I cannot emphasise too strongly that we are the invisible people who see and hear nothing and say little. We must always remember that we are not there to see what is going on or for conversation and we never repeat anything.

The weather is really the only conversation topic other than "would you like tea or coffee?" It took a long time to build our credibility with both officials and clients and we must maintain it by our attitude and actions.

Although the conditions are not always the most comfortable, it is not an arduous task and numbers are small but it is very much appreciated by all clients. This is a very worthwhile ministry --- "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the

least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matt 25:40)

Claire Reynolds (coordinator)

Inter Church Council Report

In the past year our Church has been very involved in the Inter Church Council and the combined Churches of Gloucester. We participated in Community Carols. We say a big thank you to Claire Reynolds for preaching on a very hot Sunday, at the New Year's Combined Service. We took part in the World Day of Prayer Service, as well as adding to the World Day of Prayer perpetual banner. Thanks to those who organised the Easter Sunrise Service at Kia Ora.

Rev Sheppard, on behalf of our congregation officiated at the 11am Anzac Service. We are grateful for his assistance.

We also organised wreaths for the Anzac and Remembrance Day Services, as well as plants for the Day of Thanksgiving. This year plants were given to the six schools in our district, thanking the teachers and staff for their dedication to the young people of the area.

We participated in the Week of Prayer. Thank You to all who took part. Big thank you to all who helped and took part any of these events.

Thank You to Christine Bolton for attending the meetings when required. Serving this Church in the Inter Church Council.

**Rhonda Merchant and
Anne Williamson.**

GLOUCESTER UNITING CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the congregation

Phone Secretary Kerry Chisholm 6558 4206



The *Messenger*

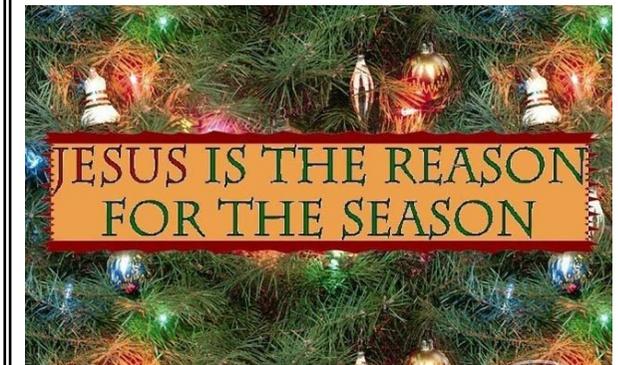
Then I heard the Lord say, "Whom shall I send? Who will be my messenger?" I answered, "I will go, send me!"

Sunday, 23rd December, 2018



**A warm welcome
is extended to
everyone
worshipping
at our Church
today.**

*If this is your first
experience of
worship at the
Uniting Church in
Gloucester we
ask that you allow
us time to greet
you over a cup of
tea or coffee after
worship.*



*You are invited to celebrate with us this Christmas
and New Year period*

- **Sunday, December 23:** 9.30am service led by Hilary Kite.
- **Christmas Day, Tuesday 25th December:** 8.30am service led by Rev Audrey de Witte.
- **Sunday, December 30:** 9.30am service led by the Collett team.
- **Sunday, January 6:** Combined Churches Service, 10am in the Park. There will be no service in the Uniting Church that morning.

Gloucester Uniting Church Mission Statement

*Bringing the gospel and love of Jesus to our
community through word and action*

TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS



Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
 Hebrews 10:5-10 — Ray Creek
 Luke 1:39-45, (46-55) — Shirley Hazell

Duty Elder, Megan de Witte

TODAY, Sunday, 23rd December: 9.30am service led by Hilary Kite.

Tuesday, 25th December: Christmas Day with the 8.30am service led by Rev Audrey de Witte.

Christmas Carols on-line survey

Organisers of this year Christmas Carols have prepared a short on-line survey to gather some background information on the yearly event.

If you want to participate, go to:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/528YHJF

Sunday, 30th December: 9.30am service led by the Collett team.

Sunday, 6th January, 2019: Combined Churches service 10am in the park.

ROSTERS

Today: Elynne Graham and Colleen McKay to count offering.

Next week Sunday 30th December:

Stewards: Elynne Graham and Norma Wilson.

Bible Readings: Claire Reynolds and Helen Parsons..

Power Point: David Collett.

Duty Elder: Jill Carson.

Intercessory Prayer: Christine Bolton.

Bible readers

If you are willing to add your name to the bible reading roster, please let Kerry Chisholm know as soon as possible.

Last Sunday's offering amounted to \$716.70

Offering envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2019 are now available from the box on the table in the foyer

Envelopes for Act for Peace (Christmas Bowl) will also be handed out.

Pastoral Care Report – 2018

Our group of pastoral carers has not met as regularly as we would have hoped this year, due to a number of circumstances. This year has been a sad one as we lost Tom de Witte and Jean Spokes, two loved members of our congregation. I think we have all grown a little closer as a result of shared grief.

We welcomed several new regular worshippers, and are happy to see those who attend when visiting Gloucester. Every member of the congregation is assigned to one of the team of carers. Several past team members are prayer partners. As the only authorised hospital visitor, I visit when able, and also arrange for visits from hospital chaplains when any of our members are in hospital in other places. Again, I rely on you to keep me informed.

Another point of contact is through the slips produced for Easter and Christmas which pastoral carers give to the members of their group and are also distributed to the motels, caravan park and Visitor Information Centre.

Please approach your Carer, myself, or any of the Elders if there is something you need to discuss. Confidentiality is an important principle in Pastoral Care.

Lastly, a big thank you to all pastoral carers, both on the team and in the congregation for their participation in this important part of the church's mission.

Sue Thomas, Pastoral Care Elder

Adult Fellowship Officers:

President: Heather Beesley
 Secretary: Claire Reynolds
 Treasurer: Margaret Cornish



Y.O.Y. Office Bearers:

President: Elaine Murray
 Secretary: Elaine Maslen.
 Treasurer: Colleen McKay.



CHURCH ELDERS

- **Chairperson:** John Williamson
- **Secretary:** Kerry Chisholm
- **Treasurer:** Jenny Shaw
- **Elders:** Sue Thomas
Colin Charles
Collister Reynolds
Bob Tebbet
Jeff Kite
Jillian Carson
Megan de Witte
David Collett

CONGREGATION

- Congregational Chairperson: Sam de Witte
- Congregational Secretary: Shirley Hazell
- Hall Bookings: Helen Parsons