



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

The Cathedral at the heart of the City

Kia ora Cathedral Whānau, Welcome to our first Cathedral News of 2025. We have had a wonderful Christmas season that has seen so many join us for services and events, with over 1,200 attending our services (Nine Lessons and Carols, Christingle, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) along with over 900 online views of our Christmas services. Carols on the Steps drew a huge crowd as the community enjoyed gathering for this iconic event (approximately 6000).

The Christmas Tree festival was also a huge success, running for 44 days and involving 53 trees from Nelson community groups and businesses. During the Festival, we received over 12,000 votes for “your favourite tree” and had visitors from Nelson/Tasman (58%), the rest of NZ (21%), and Overseas (21%). We also cannot

forget the 12 free lunch-time concerts that ran before Christmas with 960 people attending.

Although we can celebrate our Christmas-New Year season, the beginning of 2025 will be forever remembered for the tragic death of Snr Sgt Lyn Fleming on New Year’s morning.

As I commented in our bulletin, I am so very proud of our Cathedral whānau as we have supported the Nelson community during this sad time.

The Cathedral responded by lowering our flag to half-mast and setting up of condolence books in the Cathedral, an initiative begun by Rev Steve. Six books have been filled at the Cathedral, and recently, Rev Steve and I had the opportunity to deliver these to District Commander Tracey Thompson.

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

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Dean Graham and Rev Steve delivered the Condolence Books for Snr Sgt Lyn Fleming to District Commander Tracey Thompson



The Cathedral at the heart of the city - Continued from page 1

The Cathedral also hosted the livestream of the funeral service which 220 people attended. This was a moving time for the Nelson Public to gather in honour of Lyn's life and service in our community, and the Police have also commented how much they appreciated the Cathedral's support during this time.

As we look ahead into 2025 there is much to look forward to, especially in August when we celebrate the Centenary of the Foundation Stone for our marble Cathedral. Alongside this we continue to move forward with our earthquake strengthening plans "to ensure the Cathedral remains as the Spiritual Heart of the Diocese and City for the next 100 years." I would like to update you on three developments that will progress this work significantly.

First is the establishment of the *Cathedral Strengthening Interim Governance Group (CS-IGG)*. After a conversation with the Diocesan Standing Committee, it was agreed by Vestry that the governance of the project moving forward needed representation from the Cathedral, Diocese and Diocesan Trust Board. The CS-IGG is composed of the Cathedral Strengthening Subcommittee (David Lucas, Joc Smith, Graham Allan, Lance Jennings and myself), along with Diocesan reps Michael Levy and Graeme Mitchell (Diocesan Manager), and a rep from the Trust Board. The CS-IGG will be working towards a final report to Standing Committee outlining the full scope of the project – Strengthening plus Improvements - and possibilities for funding including the Diocesan contribution.

The second area of progress is the appointment of a Project Manager who will guide the resource consent process and further the technical aspects of the strengthening project.

We are also working in partnership with the Mayor to explore ideas around a visitor center/hospitality space, which it is hoped will provide an exciting opportunity for external funding.

These are significant developments as the strengthening project gains momentum. Alongside all this we need to still make progress on our own Cathedral fundraising, so we can show we have played our part before the fundraising goes wider – including central and local government. If you would like to contribute now or in the future, please let myself or the Wardens know as this will aid in our planning as we move forward.

As you can see 2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year and above all, may we hold this year in prayer because nothing will succeed without God's guidance in all we do.

God Bless

Graham

Christmas at the Cathedral



Our 23rd December Kids' Christingle Service was well attended by excited children and their parents and grandparents.

The Cathedral's popular Nine Lessons & Carols Service drew crowds to listen to nine readings and beautiful Cathedral Choir singing.

CathedralKids

Gayle McVay



It all starts again on **Sunday 9th February**. Please put this in your diary.

I'll be looking out for the children's faces and hope to see some new ones as we start 2025. 😊
During this term as we journey towards Easter, we will be following the Gospel of Luke, to understand more about who Jesus is.

I'd like your help with two things please:

More helpers

The more people we have on the kids helper roster the easier it is and the more date flexibility we have. Please see me or the Dean if you are interested.

More children

We have a big Cathedral teaching room and can comfortably fit in plenty more little faces.

Please mention our Kids Church to anyone you meet who might love to have their children learn about Christianity. Plus it's big fun.

Finally, we have coming up on Saturday, 1st March a **Kids Ministry Training Day**.

Fresh ideas, fresh activities and better ways to introduce the Bible to young children.

I am excited to attend this training day and looking forward to bringing into the Cathedral some fun activities which will benefit the kids and have a wonderful impact on helping them as they navigate their lives. All for God's sake.

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

Carols On The Steps

The annual Nelson Cathedral "Carols On The Steps" was held at the Church Steps on Christmas Eve. Huge crowds attended, with estimates of around 6-7,000 people filling the surrounding roads and the grass slopes of Piki Mai.

The evening featured Cathedral Dean Graham O'Brien with other singers accompanied by Nigel Weeks, Cathedral Choir Director, conducting the NBS Nelson City Brass Band.

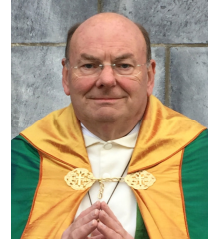
"It was a wonderful night of community carol singing on a lovely balmy evening in central Nelson," said Cathedral Dean Graham O'Brien. "Last year it was raining and we held the event inside the Cathedral, which was really special, but it was good to see a large crowd returning for this year's carols outside in the warm summer weather. All the carols reflected the meaning of Christmas, being the birth of Jesus Christ."



Thanks Christopher Jonas

Emergency Services

Revd Steve Jordan



The tragic killing of Lyn Fleming brings into focus the risks that our emergency services take, day in, day out, in our name: often unnoticed and sometimes taken for granted. Occasionally they are even resented for carrying out their duties, catching us driving badly or blocking roads while dealing with crash victims.

But it's not just Senior Sergeant Fleming, her injured colleague Senior Sergeant Adam Ramsey, or even the police service. Last year, two firefighters lost their lives in a landslide while trying to protect the public during Cyclone Gabrielle: Dr Dave Van Zwanenberg and Craig Stevens.

Daily, our emergency workers, (some of whom are unpaid volunteers) leave home, not knowing what their duties will bring. Daily, loved ones wave goodbye to them, with the heavy snake of fear in their bellies, not knowing what might happen to them. It's not just when they are assaulted (or worse) it's that they do a dangerous job. For example, I remember a policeman and a paramedic being killed and others suffering life threatening injuries when attending to a road traffic collision: a lorry driver who'd fallen asleep at the wheel ploughed into them and the collision scene. In 1981 in the UK, the entire crew of seven were killed when the Penlee Lifeboat foundered in huge seas trying to rescue the crew of a stranded coaster. Indeed, there are hundreds of examples of emergency workers being killed or seriously injured in the course of their duties. Think of the New York emergency workers killed responding to the terrorist action at the World Trade Centre!

I encourage you, in your prayers, to hold before God those who take daily risks in our name to protect us. We remember not only those who made the supreme sacrifice, but those who go on serving, week after week, year after year because of their almost insatiable desire to help others.

Blessings,

Steve



A Book of Condolence for Senior Sergeant Lyn Fleming was set up at the Cathedral. Six books have been filled at the Cathedral, and have been delivered to District Commander Tracey Thompson. Nelson MP, Rachel Boyack and Mayor Nick Smith were among those who signed.

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**Nelson Cathedral
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Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm
in the Chapel

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ALL WELCOME

Music for Epiphany

Paul Chan
Cathedral Organist



"Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam" (Christ Our Lord Came to the Jordan) is a beautiful chorale, written by Martin Luther and later set to music by composers like Pachelbel and Bach. This hymn directly relates to the Baptism of Jesus, making it an ideal piece for Epiphany reflections.

The text of **"Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam"** reflects on the profound significance of Christ's baptism in the Jordan River. It speaks about how Jesus, although sinless, chose to be baptised to fulfill righteousness and to be revealed as the Son of God. The hymn highlights the humility of Christ and the symbolic meaning of the baptism: the beginning of His public ministry and the revelation of His divine identity.

*"Christ our Lord came to the Jordan
To be baptised by John;
The Father's voice from heaven thundered,
'This is my Son, I am well pleased.'"*

The text and music together create a serene, meditative atmosphere that captures the solemn yet joyous nature of this divine moment.

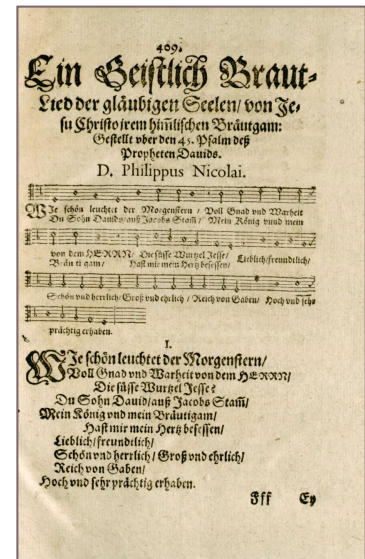
Pachelbel's organ prelude on this chorale is often used for liturgical settings. The hymn's melody is steady and flowing, and Pachelbel's setting emphasises its solemnity and significance.

Bach's version, *BWV684*, presents the melody in the soprano voice, while the lower voices provide harmonisation and counterpoint. The music effectively reflects the solemn and sacred nature of the subject, with a sense of movement and reverence as it explores the theme of Christ's baptism.

"Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern" (How lovely shines the morning star) is another Lutheran hymn that is often used during the season, inspiring musical settings through centuries, notably Bach's chorale cantata *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*, *BWV 1*. It is also the basis for his chorale prelude *BWV 652*, which is often praised for its beautiful, serene character, with Bach's trademark counterpoint weaving throughout. The flowing nature of the composition is intended to evoke a sense of warmth and reverence for the "Morning Star" (a title for Christ), as well as a sense of peaceful assurance in His light.

*"How lovely shines the Morning Star,
With its bright and radiant beam!
O Jesus, you noble King of glory, You Son from the Father's womb,
You are the true Morning Star. You shine more beautifully than all the stars."*

During the Epiphany season, the church reflects on the manifestations of Christ's divinity, and His baptism is a key moment of revelation. The heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, and the voice of God declared Jesus as His beloved Son. This hymn directly connects to that event, focusing on Christ's obedience to the Father and the revelation of His mission. Meanwhile, the image of the "Morning Star" is particularly powerful in Christian theology, symbolising Christ's coming into the world as a beacon of hope and salvation.



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Cathedral Support



Jocelyn Smith

Looking back on what was a successful Christmas period for the Cathedral, ending with a very meaningful contribution to acknowledging Snr Sgt Lyn Fleming, it is encouraging to see the Cathedral being an integral part of and an influence in our local community.

However, we are now heading into a period when many people will raise the question, **“Why should the community give money to the Cathedral earthquake renovations?”**

Dean Graham has already outlined the stats for Christmas - 1,200 attending the services, 6,000 at *Carols on The Steps* and over 12,000 visiting the *Christmas Tree Festival*, not to mention online viewers and sold out crowds to the Christmas concerts.

Throughout all this, the Cathedral has provided an inner-city sanctuary for all to sit, pray, light a candle or seek solace, that is available all day, every day. The Cathedral attracts many people to the City as it stands as one of the most popular tourist attractions and, because of its unique location, the 12,000 plus visitors attracted to town for our Christmas Tree Festival can walk off to eat and shop in the City.

Acoustically, the Cathedral is the best choral concert venue in the City and is attracting more and more concerts and performing arts events. The Cathedral holds many civic services and events, weddings, funerals and around 15 concerts each year by community groups and societies and the demand for concerts is growing all the time. This is good for the City as we will definitely not be getting a new performing arts venue built in the near or medium term. However, the Cathedral could fill this gap even better with some modifications during the earthquake work to improve its facility into an excellent community performing arts venue. These can be designed so as not to affect its Cathedral church roles or historic features.

So, to answer the question, the Cathedral is a great living community asset now and can be improved to be even better at serving our City. It has proven itself to be able to continually meet the needs of our wider community in both difficult times and joyous times.

“Why should other parish churches give money to the Cathedral earthquake renovations?”

To some degree, this was answered by the *Carols On The Steps* event on Christmas Eve - what other church in the region can attract 6,000 people on its inner-city doorstep to sing about Jesus' birth?

This is what a Cathedral is for, this is what a Cathedral does. To be a beacon, to stand up and to stand out as a symbol of Christianity, right in the centre of town. And it does this for all other churches in the region.

“Why should the congregation give money to the Cathedral earthquake renovations?” For all of the above reasons.

The community will rightfully expect ‘the church’ to pay for a large part of the earthquake renovations and your vestry and the Diocese are investigating ways of raising those funds from assets held. However, the campaign will still need giving from the congregation through legacy (wills), one-off donations or regular ongoing giving - thankfully, this has already begun.

We are in the fortunate position of regularly experiencing the benefits of the Cathedral in our lives - a parish church with extras. Not just a historic building but also a church congregation based on God-given mutual love and respect for each other, which visitors are able to sense and comment on when they walk around.

More than that, we are in the privileged situation of determining the future of our Cathedral and helping towards setting it up for the next 100 years for future congregations.

David Lucas
Dean's Warden



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

Cathedral Little Library



The Book Nook

Please donate to our Book Nook!
Recycle your pre-loved books to share with others.
Christian or non-Christian books are all welcome.

Hapori Hub Nelson Cathedral Update 2025

Due to a lack of sustainable government funding, the Hapori Fruit & Veg programme will be closing, and as a result, the Cathedral will stop being a Hapori Hub. This programme began in late 2021 and was established by Jo Ann Firestone and Anton Drazevic from the Nelson Environment Centre.

Here at the Cathedral, Beryl Shatford-Banks coordinated our role as a Hapori Hub and since joining, we have distributed 1214 Hapori boxes along with donation boxes to the Whakatū Anglican Māori Mission.

To continue supporting the community with access to fresh produce Karl at “The Veggie Guy” in Stoke will be offering a **\$15.00** produce box that can be ordered from their website (see link below)

<https://theveggieguy.co.nz/collections/fruit-and-veggie-boxes>

and available for collection from their Stoke shop during opening hours on Thursdays.

As an added benefit, Karl is kindly offering a 10% discount on all orders placed before 22 January. This is a great ongoing option and we hope it will continue to meet the needs of your Hapori community.


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.

Will resume late February/early March

For more information contact Judith Fitchett on 027 319 8511 or just join us in the Quiet Room




Men's Breakfast

There is a Men's Breakfast here at 9 am on Saturday the 29th of March, Brigadier Sean Trengrove will be the speaker.




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.



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View the games and pre-order link here:
<https://www.commerce.org.nz/games/>

Emmaus Study Group

Wednesdays at 12.00 until 1.00pm
In the Choir Room

The Emmaus study is now studying John's Gospel

The format will be the reading of the Biblical text, a short exegesis followed by discussion.

All are welcome

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People's Warden & Building Manager:

Jocelyn Smith
Ph 027 548 7774
joc.smith@xtra.co.nz

Dean's Warden:

David Lucas
Ph 021 398 415
davidlucas88@gmail.com

Honorary Priest:

The Revd Steve Jordan
Ph 021 294 6105
stevej@nelsoncathedral.nz

Pastoral Care and Discipleship:

The Revd Nigel Whinney
021 118 9985

Children's Programme:

Gayle McVay
kids@nelsoncathedral.nz

Events:

Mark Nicholls
events@nelsoncathedral.nz

Choral Director:

Nigel Weeks
Ph 021 797 006
nigel@nelsoncathedral.nz

Cathedral Organist:

Paul Chan
Ph 021 399 938
paul@nelsoncathedral.nz

Outreach Coordinator & Hapori Boxes:

Beryl Shatford-Banks
Ph 022 0437980
beryl@nelsoncathedral.nz
hapori@nelsoncathedral.nz

Cathedral Office:

First floor of tower.
Hours: Mon to Fri 9.30am-12.30pm
Phone 548 1008 or fax 548 3264
Postal address: P.O. Box 657, Nelson
7040

Email: office@nelsoncathedral.nz

Website: 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) or the Dean (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
5.30 pm	Evensong (Robed Choir and Livestreamed)



NELSON CATHEDRAL INVITES YOU & YOUR FRIENDS TOO

Cameo at the Cathedral

An opportunity for a chat, sing-along and
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FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY
FROM 2.00- 3.30PM

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 livestream

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

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>