

"Let your *gentleness* be known to everyone. *The Lord is near.*"

PHILIPPIANS 4:5

In Haiti, a donkey is a sign of prosperity. With a donkey, a family can plough more ground and carry containers of water or sacks of corn up and down its steep hills. For Aimee (not her real name), her donkey is her friend.

Life in Haiti can be very hard. In the Caribbean, the country is prone to hurricanes and earthquakes. The people have a proud history marked by long periods of poor government. They have learnt to be resilient and find a way to keep going even when they have lost everything. In 2016, Hurricane Matthew lashed the west of Haiti, leaving 1.4 million people in need of relief assistance. Thanks to ACT Alliance Haiti (Action by Churches Together) of which CWS is a member, Aimee's family received tools, seeds and a donkey to carry water from a faraway stream.

There is a donkey in the Christmas story. It has a protective presence in the manger scene and an important role as a people carrier. The donkey connects us to the birth of the baby who would be named the Prince of Peace.

In 2015, world leaders committed us to 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations. Working on this agenda will require a major investment to achieve

goals like ending hunger, taking action on the climate, and significantly stopping violence. The commitment to 'leave no one behind' by 2030 is an important agenda that needs more attention.

The Christian faith was born with a vision that the world can be different. It is a vision that can be found in the life and teaching of Jesus from Galilee. Through his words and actions, we find inspiration to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty and respect the dignity of all. It is work we do together to make known God's love for the whole world.

Your gift to the Christmas Appeal will make this vision real: hungry people will be fed and can grow more food despite climate change, families will have safe water from new rainwater systems, and workers will be able to address violence in the workplace and on the streets. Working together, we can take steps to ensure no one is left behind.

Your gift at Christmas will be a lifeline to people who need hope for the days ahead. Please give generously to the 2018 Christmas Appeal.

Find out more by visiting [www.christmasappeal.org.nz](http://www.christmasappeal.org.nz)



Be the LIFELINE

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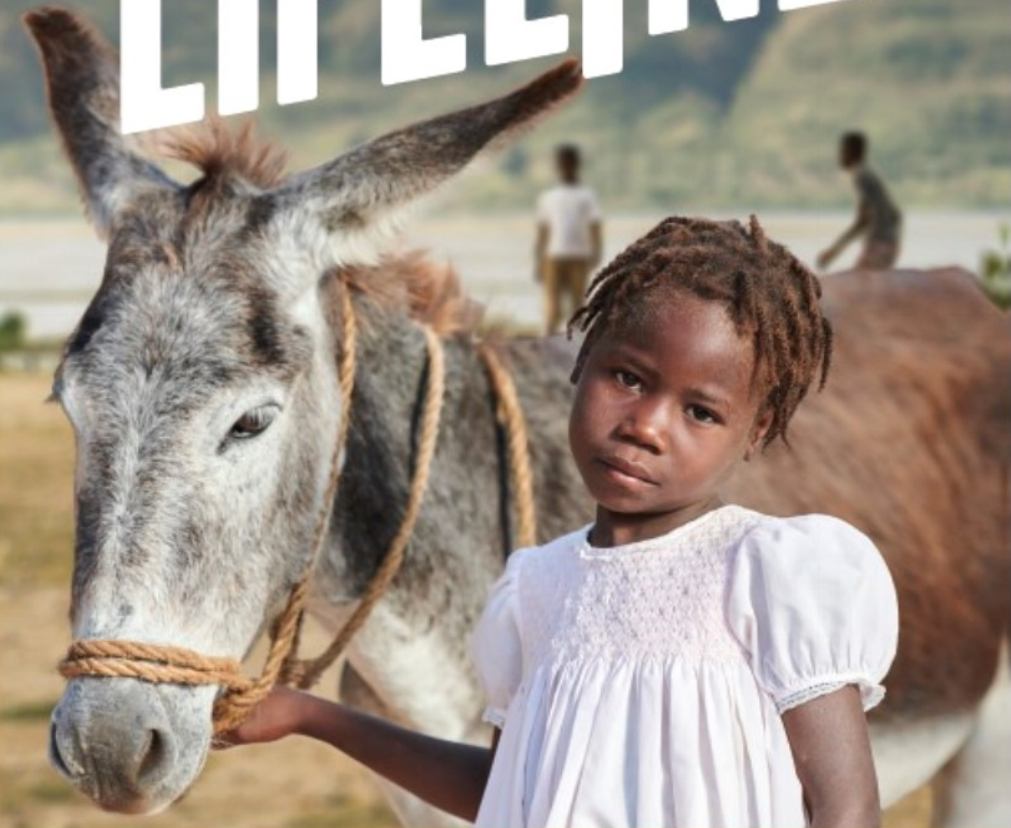
ADVENT THREE  
JOY  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2018



WHAKATŪ  
PRESBYTERIAN



Be the LIFELINE



DONATE TODAY [christmasappeal.org.nz](http://christmasappeal.org.nz)

*We welcome you most warmly to our church.*

### ADVENT THREE

Until last year, Joyce ran a tiny stall at a local market. She would buy a bucket each of sorghum and peanuts to sell one cup at a time. Once she sold one bucket, she would buy another. The small profit she made for a day's labour kept her three children healthy. Her husband and father were killed in 2015 when their homes were attacked; part of South Sudan's bitter war. For her Maridi Service Agency has been a lifeline. She attended a small business course last year and received money to invest. Her business has grown and she has food stored to use later when prices are higher. It is enough to pay school fees, medical expenses and live comfortably.



***Be the Lifeline to families in need of food.  
Support the 2018 Christmas Appeal.***

### What's On

**Tuesdays 8.30 am: LAST PRAYER TIME FOR 2018:** 'The House' lounge, Champion Road.

**Saturday 22 Dec 9.30 am: "CHRISTMAS CHORISTERS"** Church, Songer St.

**Sunday 13 January 2019 4pm: THE GATHERING.** Picnic at Rabbit Island.

**Fri-Sun 15/17 February 2019: PRESBYTERY GATHERING AT GREYMOUTH.** This event is open to everyone. You might like to earmark these dates in your diary now. Presbytery Gatherings are always interesting and 'renewing' for the mind, body and soul. Further details including info about accommodation will be available in the New Year. Meanwhile, enquiries to Jon Parkes or Sage Harris.

**Fri-Sun 22-24 Feb: CHURCH CAMP, BETHANY PARK.**

**TODAY'S READINGS** Luke 3:7-18 and Isaiah 12:2-6 The Message

### General Notices

**Wanted: New Convenor for Birthdays and Celebrations.** With Wendy Tolland moving to the North Island shortly we need someone who will look after the Birthday and Celebration list. This is a job you can do from home. Is it something you could do to help our church family? If so, please let Elaine Henry know.

**Wanted: Baker needed for one cake only** for Celebration Cake Roster. Please ph Kim 547 5290.

**Christmas Treats for Grandparents.** Donations will be collected by Paula at the church office tomorrow Monday 17th Dec for distribution. Please drop into the office by Monday morning. Many thanks for your generosity.

**Goodie Bags for evening service Dec 23rd at The House.** Thank you to those who are preparing sweet treats for the goodie bags. Please bring contributions along to the church office by the **morning of Dec 21st at the latest.**

**Carol Singing to Shut-Ins.** Thank you to the choir for helping make Christmas special to the 'Shut-in's'. Donations to the church have been made in appreciation by very appreciative recipients.

**Minutes of Congregational meeting** are now on the notice board and in the folder in the Administration Officer's office.

**Bible Society Christmas Cards**—on sale in church foyer. \$7.99/12 cards.

**Christmas Tree Festival** at Cathedral till late January. 43 beautiful trees to view. Look out for our church tree based on the Christmas Carol "We Three Kings".

**Legacy.** Whakatu Presbyterian is very grateful to have received \$5,000 from Peter Milne's estate. Peter was once Treasurer for St David's.

### SERVICES COMING UP

Sun	23 Dec	9.45 am	Carol Service with our choir.
Sun	23 Dec	7 .00pm	Carols on Lawn at 34 Champion Rd.
Sun	25 Dec	9.00 am	Christmas Day Service—45 minutes.
Sun	30 Dec	9.45 am	Combined Service, Whakatu host Methodists.