



NELSON TASMAN
METHODIST PARISH

SEPTEMBER 2025

What an absolute privilege it was to be part of blessing a new Kāinga Ora housing development just across the road from our church! Four ministers from Stoke – Deb Cullen, Linda Grant, and I included – blessed 26 homes last Thursday, July 24th, at 9am.

It was a chilly morning, typical for this time of year, but we felt a real buzz waiting at the entrance to the complex. As we moved from house to house for the blessings, Deb, Linda, and I shared our thoughts. You can just imagine the feeling of stepping into a brand-new home after a long wait for a place to call your own. Each whānau moving in will have their own story about that journey, and I can tell you, it likely hasn't been an easy one.

We felt such a positive spirit as we entered each home. I'm sure the new residents will be thinking, "My voice has finally been heard!" or "This is a life I never imagined," or even, "This was the dream for my whānau. I can now get on with my life without constantly worrying about where to find a place for my family." This is truly the beginning of a new journey for them. These were the very prayers we offered as we blessed each home. Some of these new residents might need extra support from their whānau and the community as they settle into their new lives.

You know what? I'm so incredibly proud of our church. You've heard this many times on Sunday, but I need to say it again. We were able to offer a lovely welcome pack to the new residents, and Kāinga Ora were absolutely stoked with that. Your generosity and prayers mean we're actively connecting with our community. And it doesn't stop there.

Our parish has bravely stepped up to support Deb Cullen in her role as a support service person for those most in need in our community. Our local MP, Rachel Boyack, even said to me at the blessing, "Martin, I heard your church started a new service for the community – it's the right time." It's just brilliant to know that the work our church is doing is truly valued in our community. We don't yet know exactly what these new ministries will look like with Deb on board, but I can tell you, our church is engaging with our community in the best possible way.

Martin

Rev. Martin Sungchel OH



Our second special service for West Coasters is on Sunday 12 October at 10am. The Theme is **Celebrating the West Coast** and the guest preacher is Rev Lynn Heine. Lynn is a Coaster by birth and Minister of Greymouth Uniting Parish (Methodist , Presbyterian, Church of Christ) and takes quarterly communion services for Reefton and Westport Methodists.

This will be the second such service our parish has hosted, the inaugural one was in April 2024. Such services were held in Christchurch for about 20 years and hosted by a number of churches. However after their 2023 service their organising committee decided they no longer wished to continue and I was contacted as a West Coaster (born in Westport) to try and get them running in Nelson. Christchurch passed on a number of their resources and with the help of a small local committee we did that.

Morning tea is provided after the service. If you wish to attend or want further details contact Paul 027 523 1179 or Shona McLean 021 0785597.

Paul Tregurtha

KĀINGA ORA OPENING

On Monday and Tuesday last week I had the privilege of being part of a group from church (including Paul, Don, Cynthia and Pam) with the Kāinga Ora officials for the signing of leases and handing over keys for the new tenants. It was a very welcoming occasion.



My part was the giving of the warehouse bags, full of useful items, and the beautiful pictures from Nayland College.

The new tenants were delighted with our gifts. They showed that as a congregation we cared about them. For me it was a wonderful spiritual moment of pure joy just to see their happiness and joy at having a home and receiving unexpected gifts from us.

Barbara Nichols



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY 27 August 2025

- For the first time every member of the council was able to attend!
- The meeting agreed to support the Interfaith Council evening gathering for World Peace week on 18th October 2025 contributing two hymns.
- The contract signing of the Kāinga Ora housing in our lounge went well. The residents really appreciated their parcels, pictures and refreshments. Comments were that it was a magical event, well worth doing, a welcoming thing to do. The Community Support team were commended for their work. We were pleased that people have started coming to Debra at the Support Service.
- The AGM was discussed hoping for some new blood on the Council.
- The design of the new church signboard was approved. The finance committee to seek quotes for V arranged boards.



- A comment was made that the number of disabled parking spaces in our car park are inadequate. Cars transporting people with walking difficulties often could not park in the car park. It was passed to the Finance and Property committee for investigation of different solutions.

Barbara Watson

PUZZLING... CAN YOU?



1) Find the pomegranate in our parish centre?
(hint: you can look through it!)

2) Solve the Dingbat!

Dianthus
IN
Caryophyllus



If you've ever chatted with Jean Moore after the service, you'll know her warm spirit and twinkly smile. Jean's life has been filled with kindness, adventure, and good friends—stretching from the seaside of Whitley Bay, Northumberland, all the way to the Caribbean, and finally here to Nelson. It was in Northumberland that Jean found her church home. While friends headed to the local Anglican church, Jean was drawn to the Methodist church—initially because she wanted a “sunny smiles” book, but then because she felt truly welcome there. She also met her husband, a Methodist Minister, while Jean was a nurse working in Occupational Health.

Jean's skills and her husband's ministry took her on a remarkable adventure: she spent 8 years helping with dietary checks and the holistic health of children in children's homes in the Caribbean. Her days were busy and meaningful, and she feels the children taught her as much as she helped them. Life there was full of sunshine, laughter, and even a few surprises—like the time she discovered a scorpion nest at the base of her paw paw tree!

Being a minister's wife also meant moving around and experiencing different churches—each with its own personality.

Here at Nelson Tasman Methodist Parish, Jean is grateful for the kindness and friendship she's found. “It has a warm welcome and people who care about each other,” she says, “and I feel truly at home.” She loves seeing how the church supports the wider community, and her hope is that this good work continues for many years to come.



Jean recognises that faith is personal, and it's perfectly fine if we don't all agree—what's important is that we listen to each other with respect. She believes the church belongs not just inside its walls, but out in the world, making a difference where it can.

Although she's not able to be as active in church life as she once was, Jean keeps herself entertained with her many hobbies include reading and some gardening. She enjoys her daily exercise and always has a crossword puzzle on hand to keep her mind sharp.

For Jean, friendships are treasures. Herself, late husband Bob plus Jim and Marge, have known each other for 20yrs+ and the companionship of last ten of companionship have been especially joyful. She's also grateful for Max and Margaret Hornblow: thanks to their hospitality, Jean found her way to Nelson after a chance meeting while selling her cottage in North England.

Jean prays our faith community remains a place where everyone feels welcome and supported and hearing her story, it's easy to see how much friendship and faith can truly mean.



NELSON TASMAN METHODIST PARISH

Christ Focused & Community Centred

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