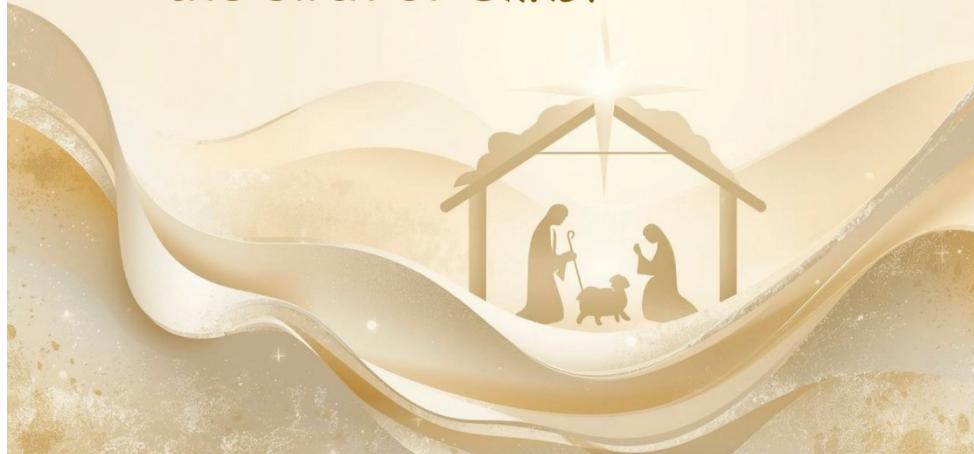




The Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter

Te whare karakia matua o Pita Tapu ki Waikato
stpeter.org.nz

Celebrating the birth of Christ



And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we beheld his glory.

John 1.14

25 December 2025 – Christmas Day

8:00am	Said Eucharist	President Preacher	The Rev'd Wendy Tyrrell The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins
10:00am	Choral Eucharist	President Preacher	The Rev'd Robin Olds The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins

Cathedral Centre Toilet: The toilet at the near end of the cathedral centre can be accessed during the service, while keeping the rest of the centre secure.

Service Sheets: Our service sheets can be accessed at stpeter.org.nz and viewed on your phone to save paper and costs. The “CathedralFree” Wi-Fi can be accessed without a password.

Health & Safety:

In the event of a fire: exits are the entrance and the doors either side of the front of the main body of the church.

In the event of an earthquake: drop to the floor, seek cover, and hold onto something. Only exit when all shaking has stopped.

Services Online: Many of our choral services are on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@WaikatoCathedral (older services are on Facebook). The services are usually available live and are generally under the live tab of our YouTube channel. If you need assistance ask a young person or, failing that, ask Dean Julian.

Weekly Services: The Wednesday services resume on 14 January 2026. The Friday Te Reo Māori services resume on 6 February 2026.

Office hours: The Church office will be closed from 3pm Wednesday 24 December until Monday 12 January 2026.

Thank you: A huge thank you to everyone who has made the Advent and Christmas seasons at the cathedral so special, from working parties and the flower guild through to the choirs and musicians, including bell ringers, and volunteer clergy and to the stalwarts who magically make things happen and who continue to find new ideas and possibilities to make this so amazing. Thank you all. And, thank you for everyone’s generosity towards the Foodbank. Donations welcome throughout the year!

Te Whakawhetai me te Whakamoemiti **Thanksgiving and Praise**

A New Zealand Prayer Book, page 476

Music Copyright CCLI 337942

Mass Setting Missa Carolae - Whitbourn (1963-2024)

Te Minitatanga o te Kupu me ngā īnoi The Ministry of Word and Prayer

The Blessing of the Crib (*which is at the back of the cathedral*)

E te whānau a te Karaiti, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this day your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever.

All: Amen.

Processional Hymn (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels:
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
 O come

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

O come

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest:

O come ...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come

Tr. F Oakeley, W Brooke et al.

Welcome & Greeting - (*please remain standing / e tū tonu tātou*)

Welcome all wonders in one sight!

Eternity shut in a span.

Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth and God in man.
Great little one whose all-embracing birth
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Grace, mercy and peace

from God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

All: and also with you.

Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

Amen. Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation.

Praise and glory to Christ, God's new beginning for humanity
making ritual water gospel wine, cleansing all our worship.

Love and loyalty to Christ, who gives us the gospel.

Praise to Christ who calls us to holiness.

The Introit Carol of the Bells

– *Ukrainian Carol arr. M Leontovych (1877-1921)*

The Lighting of the Christmas Candle

We light our final candle on the advent wreath as we celebrate the true light, which enlightens everyone, coming into the world.

(c.f. John 1.9)

God our Father, today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.

All: Amen.

**All: Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest. Amen.**

Song of Praise – Korōria ki te Atua | The Gloria (*sung by the choir, please stand / e tū tātou*)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Te Hohou i te Rongo | Forgiveness

(please be seated or kneel / e *noho*, e *tūturi rānei tātou*)

Liturgist:

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

Silence

The presiding priest says

God forgives you. Forgive others; Forgive yourself. Be at peace.

Rejoice and be glad,
for Christ is resurrection, reconciliation for all the human race.

**All We shall all be one in Christ,
one in our life together.**

**Praise to God who has created us,
praise to God who has accepted us,
praise to God who sends us into the world.**

Te Īnoi o te Rā | The Collect

**Son of God,
light that shines in the dark,
child of joy and peace:
help us come to you.
On this holy day, may we be born again in you.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.**

Ngā Karaipiture | The Readings

(please sit for the readings / e noho ki te whakarongo ki ngā pānuitanga)

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (52:7-10)

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
 who announces salvation,
 who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
 together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
 the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
 you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

[Translation – New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised)]

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98 (please stand / e tū tātou)

G.J. ELVEY.

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- 1 Sing to the Lord a ' new ' song:
for the Lord has ' done ' marvelous ' things.
- 2 With your own right hand O Lord, and with your ' holy ' arm:
you have ' gained · for your'self the ' victory.
- 3 You have made ' known your ' victory:
you have displayed your saving ' ·
power · to ' all the ' nations.
- 4 You have remembered your faithfulness,
and your love for the ' house of ' Israel:
and all the ends of the ' earth have ' seen your ' victory.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord ' all the ' earth:
sing and rejoice ' with the ' sound of ' melody.
- 6 Sing to the Lord ' with the ' harp:
with the harp ' and the ' voice of ' song.
- 7 With trumpets ' also · and ' horns:
shout with joy be'fore the ' Lord our ' king.
- 8 Let the sea roar and ' all · that is ' in it:
the world and ' those ' who in'habit it.
- 9 Let the rivers ' clap their ' hands:
and let the hills rejoice to'gether · be'fore the ' Lord.
- 10 For you O Lord are coming to ' judge the ' earth:
with righteousness you will judge the world,
and the ' peoples ' with ' equity.

**Glory to the Father and ' to the ' Son:
and ' to the ' Holy ' Spirit;
as it was in the be'ginning . is ' now:
and shall be for ' ever. ' A- ' men.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (1:1-12)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

‘You are my Son;
today I have begotten you?’

Or again,

‘I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son?’

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

‘Let all God's angels worship him.’

Of the angels he says,

‘He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.’

But of the Son he says,

‘Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’

And,

‘In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end.’

[NRSVA]

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church, **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Anon

Te Rongopai | The Gospel (*we remain standing and turn to face the gospel | Ka tū tonu tātou ki te whakarongo ki te Rongopai*)

The holy Gospel according to John (*I:1-14*)

Praise and glory to God.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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. [NRSVA]

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ, the Word.**

Te Kauwhau | The Sermon

He Tikanga Whakapono | The Affirmation of Faith (please stand / e tū tatou)

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.**

You came to us before we came to you.

**You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.**

You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

Ngā īnoi a te Iwi | The Prayers of the People (please be seated or kneel / e noho, e tūturi rānei tātou)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
giving thanks for God's goodness.

God of grace	God of love	Lord, in your mercy
you hear our prayer.	grant our prayer.	hear our prayer.

The intercessor may end with the following responses or a collect:

Thanksgiving, blessing, and praise be yours, God of the incarnation,
because you care for us and for our prayer. May our love for you and our
likeness to you be strengthened every time we pray. **Amen.**

Te Minitatanga o te Hākarameta

The Ministry of the Sacrament

Te Maungārongo | The Peace (please stand / e tū tatou)

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace

All: **who breaks down the walls that divide.**

The peace of God be always with you.

All: **Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.**

Liturgist: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn *During the singing of this hymn a collection will be taken.*

— 1 —

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

— 2 —

Still through the cloven skies they
come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hov'ring wing;
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.

— 3 —

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise of mortal strife,
and hear the angels sing!

— 4 —

For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876) alt.

Te Whakatikatika i te Ohaoha | Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

Te Whakawhetai Nui | The Great Thanksgiving (please stand, sit or kneel as you are most comfortable throughout the following prayer / *mō tēnei inoi katoa, e noho, e tū, tūturi rānei i runga anō i tāu e pāi nei*)

The Lord is here.

[ANPB, Alternative D, p. A11]

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe,
to give you thanks through Jesus Christ.

You said, 'Let there be light'; there was light.

Your light shines on in our darkness.

For you the earth has brought forth life in all its forms.

You have created us to hear your Word,
to do your will and to be fulfilled in your love.

You sent your Son to be for us
the way we need to follow and the truth we need to know.

For Christ is born in Bethlehem, God revealed in human form;
the baby in a manger, the refugee on the Egypt road.

You send your Holy Spirit
to strengthen and to guide, to warn and to revive your Church.
Therefore, with all your witnesses who surround us on every side,
countless as heaven's stars, we praise you for our creation
and our calling, with loving and with joyful hearts we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son;
On that night before he died he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks.
He gave it to them and said:
Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you, shed for all,
to forgive sin; do this to remember me.

Therefore with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us.

God of the past and present, we your people remember your Son.
We thank you for his cross and rising again,
we take courage from his ascension;
we look for his coming in glory and in him we give ourselves to you.

We celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit,
that we who receive Christ's body may indeed be the body of Christ,
and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite.
Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.

For you, the heavenly one, make all things new;
you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first,
to whom we bring our songs of ever lasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
Here and everywhere,
Now and forever. Amen.**

Te Hākari Tapu | The Communion

The Lord's Prayer (*You may wish to pray the Lord's Prayer in your own language. The Choir will sing.*)

As Christ teaches us we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today
our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from
the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Kua ākona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki,
ka īnoi tātou
E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.
Hōmai ki a mātou āianei
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.
Murua ū mātou hara,
Me mātou hoki e muru nei
i ū te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga,
te kaha, me te korōria,
Āke ake ake. Āmine.

Breaking of the Bread

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.

Christ is the bread of life.

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

Christ is risen from the dead.

Te Reme a te Atua | Agnus Dei (*sung by the choir*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us your peace.

Te Pōwhiri | The Invitation

Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

The minister says the following to each person.

The bread of life, broken for you.

Te taro o te ora, i whatiā nei mōu.

The cup of blessing, poured out for you.

Te kapu o te ora, i whakahekeā nei mōu.

The communicant may respond each time

Amen / Āmine.

All are welcome to receive communion. If communion is not your tradition, we invite you to come forward for a blessing, simply put an arm across your chest and a blessing will be given.

Please come forward and kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive the bread and wine or a blessing. Please ask if you need a gluten free wafer.

In the Anglican tradition, we use the common cup, with wine of a high alcohol content, in a silver vessel, to minimise infection risks. If you do not wish to receive the wine, communion is fully valid in one kind, either bread or wine, or you may wish to simply lift the cup, to show reverence and receive spiritually.

Please note, the practice of intinction is not permitted.

If you would like to light a candle for someone you love, or to give thanks to God, please feel free to do so at the back of the cathedral.

Anthem Wexford Carol - *Trad. Arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Ngā īnoi mō muri i te Hapa | Prayer After Communion

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

Te Manaakitanga | Blessing (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

All: Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

All: Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All: Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life,
be upon you and remain with you, with those whom you love,
and with those whom you struggle to love, this night and always.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn

— 1 —

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King.*

— 2 —

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time, behold him come
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King.*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Te Haerenga Atu | The Dismissal of the Community

Liturgist: Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

All: Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

*The service concludes with the organ voluntary,
for which you are warmly invited to remain.*

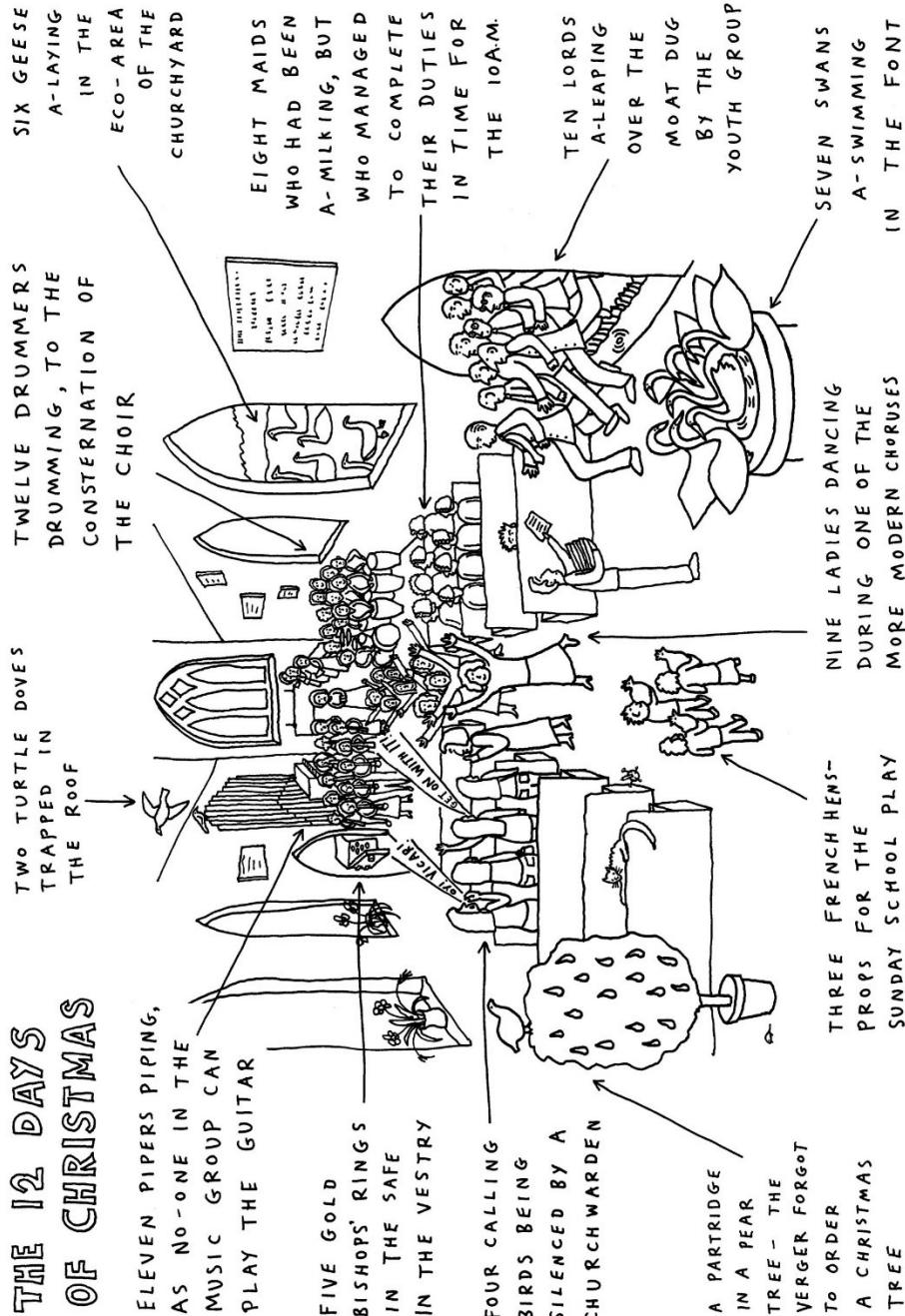
*The voluntary is part of our communal act of worship, and applause is not felt
to be appropriate.*

*If you wish to leave following the recession of clergy and choir,
please do so quietly so that the voluntary may be fully appreciated.*

Voluntary: Prelude on *In dulci jubilo* BWV 729 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)



THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



Cantata Vespers - Third Saturday of the month
Next Vespers: 21 February 2026 at 5.00pm

Choral Evensong - Fourth Sunday of the month
Next Evensong: 22 February 2026 at 6.00pm

Cathedral Ministry Team and Contacts

Dean: The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins (Day off- Friday)
deanjulian@stpeter.org.nz | 020 4124 6555

Assistant priest: Father Ben Ong (Mon & Thurs)
ben@stpeter.org.nz | 022 627 3217

Volunteer Ministry Team

Assistant priest: The Rev'd Robin Olds
pastoralcare@stpeter.org.nz | 027 441 9292

Assistant priest: The Rev'd Wendy Tyrrell | bells@stpeter.org.nz

People's warden: Kay Neilson
peopleswarden@stpeter.org.nz | 021 1522 999

Dean's warden: Dianne Cameron
deanswarden@stpeter.org.nz | 021 588 399

Verger: Plex John | verger@stpeter.org.nz | 022 312 9523

Pastoral Care Team

Julian Perkins, Robin Olds, Vivianne Flintoff, Heather Powell, Plex John

If you would like pastoral support, or know someone who would and have their permission, please let the pastoral care team know:

pastoralcare@stpeter.org.nz
or Robin (027 441 9292) or ring Julian (020 4124 6555)

Giving - Bank Details: 02-0316-0268898-000

The Cathedral Church of St Peter

The ministry of the cathedral is paid for by our church members. If you can be a part of this it greatly helps the life of the church.

Cathedral Office

Monday-Friday: 9am-3pm | (07) 839 4683 | admin@stpeter.org.nz

Cathedral Shop

Monday-Friday: 10am-2pm; Sunday: 11am-12pm | (07) 839 683