

Sunday Worship

8.00am.	Holy Communion	1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
10.30am.	All Age Worship	1st Sunday
	Mattins	2nd Sunday
	Parish Communion	3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays
4.00pm	Holy Communion	2nd Sunday
6.30pm	Evensong Arley Chapel	3rd Sunday

Week-day and other activities

Holy Communion on 1st Wednesday in month at 10.30am

Celtic Evening prayer 1st Thursday in month 7.00pm in the Lady chapel

Play & Praise 1.30pm 2nd and 4th Thursdays (apart from School holidays)

Vicar:	The Revd. Alec Brown, The Vicarage, Great Budworth Tel: 01606 891324	
Associate Minister:	The Revd Christina Westwell 42, Runcorn Road Barnton	01606 782743
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December 2025



St Mary & All Saints Great Budworth

Serving Arley, Aston-by-Budworth, Comberbach, Crowley, Great Budworth,
Lower Wincham, Marbury, Marston, and Pickmere.

Diary for December

Wed 3rd	10.30am Holy Communion 1.30pm Great Budworth School Christingle Service (please note change of date)
Thurs 4th	7.00pm Advent Compline Service
Fri 5th	6 – 7.00pm Village Voices rehearsal in Church
Sun 7th	10.30am All Age Toy Service
Tues 9th	7.00pm Equali Choir rehearsal in Church
Thurs 11th	1.30pm Play and Praise 7.00pm Advent Compline Service
Fri 12th	6 – 7.00pm Village Voices rehearsal in Church
Sun 14th	10.30am Parish Communion 6.30pm Carol Service, St Mary's Chapel, Arley Hall with refreshments afterwards
Tues 16th	7.00pm Equali Choir Christmas Concert in Church
Wed 17th	8.45am – 12.45pm Cransley School rehearsal in Church 6.00pm Joint Schools Carol Service in Church
Thurs 18th	10.00am Cransley School Carol Service 7.00pm Advent Compline Service
Sun 21st	10.30am Parish Communion 4.00pm Carol Service in Church
Wed 24th	Christmas Eve 4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Thurs 25th	Christmas Day 8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Parish Communion
Sun 28th	10.30am United Parish Communion Service

January, 2026

Sun 4th	10.30am All Age Epiphany Service
Sun 11th	10.30am Plough Service 3.00pm Cheshire Plough Service, Chester Cathedral
Tues 20th – Wed 21st	Bishops' Visitation to Great Budworth Deanery.

Rota for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers & Intercessors December 2025 Year A

1st Sun	<u>7th December. 2nd Sunday of Advent. (Purple)</u> <u>8am HC BCP</u> Isiah 11.1-10 SL3 LL4 Rom 15. 4-13 Matt. 3. 1-12 SL6 LL7 <u>10.30am Toy Service.</u>	
2nd Sun	<u>14th December. 3rd Sunday of Advent. (Purple)</u> <u>10.30am HC CW</u> Isa 35. 1-10 S Gray James 5. 7-10 L Entwistle Matt. 11.2-11 INT M Cross EM S Gray	<u>6.30pm Arley</u> Service of Lessons and Carols
3rd Sun	<u>21st December. 4th Sunday of Advent. (Purple)</u> <u>8am HC BCP 10.30am HC CW</u> Isa 7. 10-16 K Arlitt Romans 1. 1-7 S Evans Matt 1. 18-end INT Officiant EM S Evans	<u>4pm.</u> Service of Lessons and Carols.
	<u>24th December. Christmas Eve. (White)</u> <u>25th December. Christmas Day (White)</u> <u>8am HC. 10.30am HC CW</u> Isa 62. 6-end M Cross Titus 3. 4-7 P Ridgway Luke 2. 8-20 INT Officiant EM S Ollier	<u>4pm Crib and Christingle</u> Service. <u>11.30pm HC CW</u> Isa 52. 7-10 J Martin Heb.1 1-4 M Cross John 1. 1-14 INT Officiant EM M Cross
4th Sun	<u>28th December. 1st Sunday of Christmas (White)</u> <u>10.30am HC CW</u> Isa 63. 7-9 K Arlitt Heb 2. 10-end J Martin Matt 2. 13-end INT M Cross EM S Ollier	

Sidespersons Rota – December 2025

1st Sunday 7th December Advent 2

8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	<u>Pat Hart</u>
10.30am	All Age Worship – Toy Service	Anne O'May <u>Rebecca Brierley</u>

2nd Sunday 14th December Advent 3 – Gaudete Sunday

10.30am	Parish Communion	Geoff Taylor <u>Hazel Taylor</u>
6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols Arley	xxxxxxxxxx

3rd Sunday 21st December Advent 4

8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Robert Steele <u>Marian Steele</u>
10.30am	Parish Communion	Anne O'May <u>Rob Cross</u>
4.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols GB	Richard Smith Margaret Cross

Christmas Eve 24th December

4.00pm	Crib & Christingle	Margaret Cross <u>Maggie Earl</u>
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Rob Cross

Christmas Day 25th December

8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	<u>Pat Hart</u>
10.30am	Parish Communion Common Worship	Robert Cross Margaret Cross

4th Sunday 28th December Christmas 1

10.30am	Parish Communion	Anne O'May <u>Maggie Earl</u>
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January 2026

1st Sunday 4th January CHRISTMAS 2 – The EPIPHANY

8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Robert Steele <u>Marian Steele</u>
10.30am	All Age Worship for Epiphany	Anne O'May Rebecca Brierley

Dear friends,

As we enter the season of Advent and look toward Christmas, we are once again invited to pause, breathe, and behold the wonder of God's love among us. The Christmas story—so familiar, yet always fresh—reminds us that God is, indeed, a God of surprises.

No one in Bethlehem expected the Messiah to arrive in the quiet darkness of night, born not in a palace but in a stable. No one expected the angel's message to come to Mary, a young woman from an ordinary town. No one expected shepherds—people on the very edges of society—to be the first to hear the good news. And no one expected that God's great rescue plan for the world would begin with a newborn child, wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger.

At Christmas we are reminded that God delights in working in unexpected places and through unexpected people. The God who chose a humble stable continues to step into the ordinary corners of our lives: the kitchen table, the quiet moments, the places where we feel overlooked, weary, or unsure. And often, God's gifts arrive not with grand fanfare but in gentle, surprising ways—through a word of kindness, an act of generosity, a moment of peace amid turmoil, or a renewed sense of hope just when we need it most.

For some, however, Christmas can feel heavy rather than joyful. We may be carrying grief, loneliness, anxiety, or memories that make this season difficult. If this is where you find yourself, know that you are not alone. The good news of Christmas is that Christ comes precisely into the places that feel dark or fragile. The God who surprised the world with hope in a manger still draws near to us with compassion, understanding, and light that no darkness can overcome. My prayer is that you may sense God's gentle presence with you this Christmas, bringing comfort, strength, and the promise that brighter days will come.

Continued over

This year, as we journey through Advent and celebrate the birth of Christ, may we keep our hearts open to the surprising ways God may be at work in us and around us. Perhaps we might encounter Christ in someone we did not expect. Perhaps we might experience grace in a situation we thought could not change. Perhaps God may grow new hope in a place we thought was barren.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a peaceful Christmas.

Love Christina

Why not pop into church over the Christmas period. There are crib sets to look at, books to read and activities to take away. Come in to light a candle or just to be.

From the Registers

Baptism – welcome to Alfie Lambert and Sylvie Whitlow who were baptized on 16th and 30th November respectively.

Archbishop Designate, Sarah Mullally, sets out her hopes for the Church.

Shortly after the announcement of her nomination as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Sarah Mullally delivered an address at Canterbury Cathedral, reflecting on her calling, the challenges facing the Church, and her hopes for its future.

Rooted in her early vocation as a nurse and shaped by her ministry in London, she spoke of “washing feet” as a guiding image of Christian service, and of finding hope in the quiet faithfulness of churches, chaplaincies, and communities across the Anglican Communion.

She addressed the Church’s responsibility in safeguarding, the need to confront power dynamics, and the importance of standing against hatred and antisemitism.

She said she would seek to be “a shepherd who enables everyone’s ministry and vocation to flourish,” and expressed her desire to nurture confidence in the Gospel. “Held fast by the Lord’s hand,” she concluded, “please pray for me as I will pray for you.”

Your feedback and snippets you send are important, if there are any comments on the parish magazine or if you would like anything particular in the issue then please let me know.

The views of our contributors are, of course, entirely their own, and do not necessarily represent those of the P.C.C., the Editor, members of the congregation or parishioners in general.

*Articles for January 2026 edition send to Rob Cross:
robcross43@gmail.com by **12th December** please*

We are available by phone or email if you want to talk to us. We can offer a chat or prayer or both. If you have Facebook, have a look at the church page, @greatbudworthchurch where Christina posts prayers and reflections

We keep you all in our prayers. Stay well.

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All phone calls etc. will be treated with confidence, but may need to be shared with somebody else on the team.

If you don't wish this to happen, please let the person you speak to know at the time of first contact.

Sunday 7th December

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION

10.30AM ALL AGE WORSHIP –

TOY SERVICE



Please bring along new toys, gifts,
Unwrapped, for 0 – 16 years.
Wrapping paper welcome.

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11,
Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar.
22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6,
Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19,
Exist. 20, Save.

Rules for Visiting a Cathedral

Please remember
to leave your anxieties
in the rack provided:
light a candle.

Listen to the organ
even if it isn't playing.
Make room for something
unexpected to speak.

Find a seat and sit
for a while. The people
who came before
are here beside you.

If you are very quiet
you might even hear angels
playing their instruments
up there on the ceiling.

Let your eyes walk
through a glass garden -
all of these colours
are born from one light.

Taste the silence.
Many varieties are available –
take a sip of each one.
Take it with you when you go.

Andrew Rudd

Andrew Rudd is a poet and was a poet in residence at Manchester Cathedral and he wrote this incredible poem

Why does Christmas begin at midnight with Holy Communion?

The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the hour of His birth.

Certainly in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its “domestic convenience” in 1947: “for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time.” (So things don’t change, then!)



As we look forward to Christmas and the new year, we would like to thank everyone for their support throughout 2025.

To Alec and Christina for their Ministry and all that encompasses. To Geoff Buchan, for covering services where needed.

There are some amazing people out there, doing all kinds of jobs, to keep the church running, functioning, and keeping it structurally sound, whether by hands on work, and/ or by your regular giving and fundraising. We give thanks for all those married in this church of St. Mary and All Saints or whose marriage was blessed here or at St. Mary’s Chapel, Arley, for all who came for baptism. We also remember those who have passed from this world into the next, and give thanks for lives well lived.

St. Mary And All Saints means such a lot to so many people; you only have to read the visitors book and so many people appreciate being able to leave prayers on the prayer tree and board, and being able to light a candle for a loved one.

As we come together in worship and to share fellowship in the name of our Lord, we wish you all a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Any advert you happen to catch will convince you of this truth; western capitalism depends on **you** buying stuff, needed or not. It tells us: “You will never feel complete, be complete, unless you have this product. And then let me draw your attention to *this*, a ‘**must have**’” ...

But the fantasy world which supports this compulsion to ‘**must have**’ is that the earth has infinite resources, and we can go on forever fulfilling the fantasy of *all* our wants being satisfied from Amazon or Temu or wherever. We’re unwilling to face the fact of the earth’s finite resources, either for ourselves or our grandchildren. It is only God who has infinite resources.

As Christians we’re supposed to be alive to this lie, that the gewgaws of this world can fulfil us. But many of us still get sucked into the myth of *stuff* as being the be-all and end-all of life.

Thank God, then, for the irritant of our faith in this materially obsessed world. It reminds us that *in Christ ‘I have enough’*. Let me just slow down and take that in again. *In Christ I have enough*. From Genesis to Revelation the message is ‘God will provide, and *I will have enough*’.

I often pray the words of St Teresa of Avila as a reminder, as a brake on my own unfettered wants. It’s more needed than ever at Christmas, when God disturbs all our complacencies by breaking into this world in human form, and proving to us in the life of Jesus that God is enough. If we’re counter-cultural enough to call ourselves Christian, maybe it’s a prayer we all take to heart, to mind, to soul.

Let nothing disturb you, nothing affright you; All things must pass, God never changes. Patience achieves all things. Those who have God lack nothing- God alone suffices. (Teresa of Avila)

This Christmas, do you have enough?

At the opening of Bach's Cantata No, 82 a solo bass voice begins to sing the aria 'Ich habe genug' - (I have enough) - a paraphrase of Simeon's Song 'Now Lord, lettest thou thy servant depart in peace... for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.'

Simeon - the bass voice - realises that he is complete, he has enough, now he has beheld the infant Jesus, even though our salvation has yet to be completed in the adult Christ. Bach's paraphrase, slow and meditative, takes, as it were, the words out of Simeon's mouth into the witness of the singer, reminding all who listen that this is a timeless truth: in Christ I have enough.

The rest of the cantata - another four movements covering a total of about 25 minutes - takes up the theme of longing to being united fully with Christ. That is enough, that is completion.

Enough. Complete. These words probably rarely fall from our lips as an experienced truth, either in relation to what we have, what we want, and importantly, who we are. And yet we've assented to this concept of the all-sufficiency of God in countless hymns that we've sung Sunday by Sunday since, well.... forever. Christ 'my all in all'.

At best it remains an aspiration, for we live at a time when the whole weight of our culture is to divert our baptism promises, our reliance on God into reliance on *stuff*, gewgaws in infinite variety.

No more so than at Christmas, when we are urged to splurge, and then splurge some more. 'Is this present good enough for our Jo? Maybe I should buy him something else as well.... And do you think a turkey *and* beef will be enough? Maybe another two dozen pigs in blankets?'

I'm not trying to be a kill-joy here. Our best times are around food, with friends, and Christmas is the one time of the year that we make an effort to be with friends and family. But the whole of so-called western civilisation is posited on the fact that *we have to have more*, and it reaches its anxious climax at Christmas.

A (short) Christmas message from the Vicar

Christmas is coming.....and don't we know it!

Someone asked me recently if I got fed up with the very early (pre-Advent!) start to Christmas in terms of music, decorations, advertisements and so on.....and I suppose I do get a little frustrated with it all, but I'm usually so busy and pre-occupied with all sorts of preparations for both Advent and Christmas that it rather passes me by! There is just so much to look forward to and prepare for over the coming weeks leading up to Christmas Day, and I give thanks every year that we are able to spend this time with all sorts of people as we come together in the many and varied seasonal celebrations. The greatest gift of Christmas is, of course, "the heavenly babe in the manger", but the other, and very real, gift of Christmas is being with family, friends, fellow villagers, carol singers and the strangers that we bump into, sit alongside or meet along the way – and the importance of that gift cannot be overstated. We are all so very fortunate to be able to enjoy Christmas in peace and harmony, notwithstanding everything going on in the world around us. So let us rejoice as we give thanks once again for the birth of the Christ Child, and on behalf of the Ministry Team and all at St Mary and All Saints' Church may I wish everyone a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas, and all the best for 2026!

Happy Christmas!

The Revd Alec Brown.

Did the Old Testament expect Jesus to come?

Yes indeed! The Old Testament contains many prophecies about a coming Messiah which were fulfilled by Jesus. Here are just some examples:

He would be born of a virgin.

Isaiah foresaw: 'Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)

He would be born in Bethlehem.

Micah wrote: 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins

are from of old, from ancient times.' (Micah 5:2)

His lineage would be of the line of David.

Jeremiah prophesied: "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Saviour.' (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

He would bring healing

Isaiah looks forward to: 'Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.' (Isaiah 35:5-6) And the Psalms add that He will be the one who 'forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.' (Psalm 103:3)

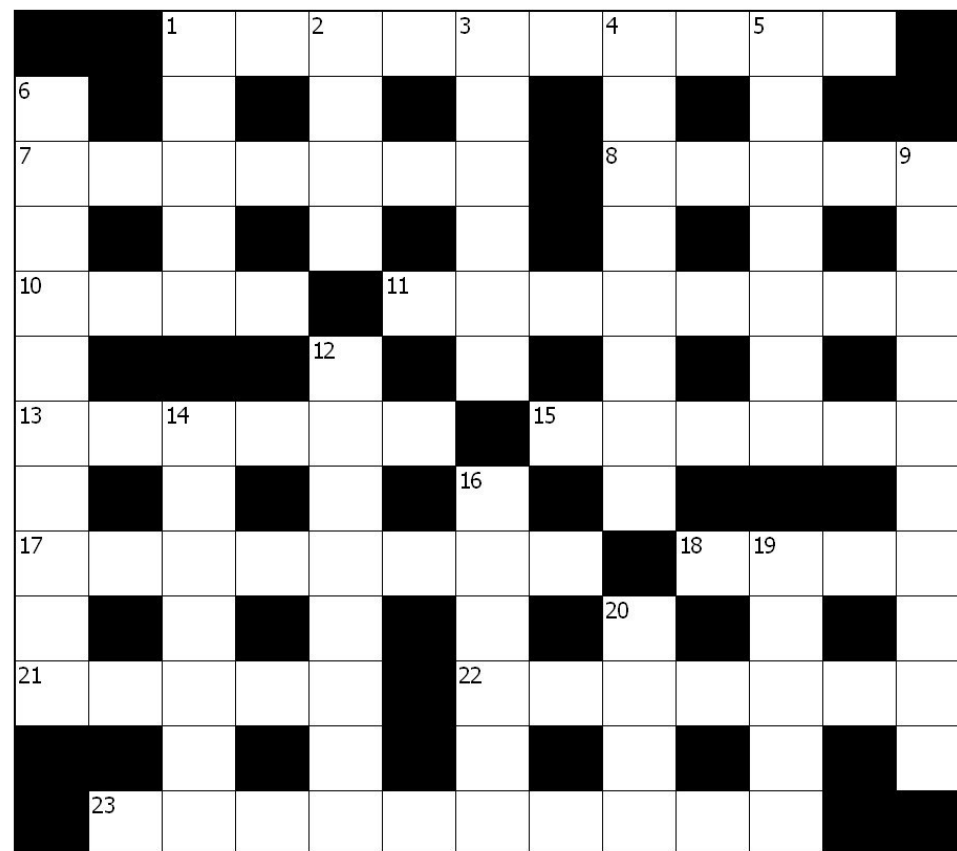
He would be betrayed

The Psalms prophesy: 'Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.' (Psalm 41:9)

Zechariah even prophesies the price of that betrayal: 'So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.' (Zechariah 11:12)

He would be crucified

Psalm 22 foresees the horror of His crucifixion: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?... All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him,



6 Offer your bodies as living , holy and pleasing to God

(Romans 12:1) (10)

9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)

12 One who accepts government by God (8)

14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1)
(7)

16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)

19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)

20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people
from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)

since he delights in him.”... I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death...Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

And Isaiah explains this suffering: ‘Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.’ (Isaiah 53: 4-5)

He would rise from the dead

Malachi declares: ‘But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays.’

And the Psalms put it this way: ‘Therefore my heart is glad ... because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. ... You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.’ (Psalm 16: 8-11)

Finally, in Acts, Peter uses the Old Testament to explain Jesus to the crowd at Pentecost:

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

“Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that He was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did His body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.... Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” (Acts 2: 29 – 36)

Kia Ora New Zealand

Lake Tekapo and the Church of The Good Shepherd, South Island
From inside this Church the stained glass image of Christ appears to walk on the lake
(Not the sea or green but beautiful)



Lake Ohau South Island



Kia hora te marino

Kia whakapapa pounamu te Moana

Hei huarahi ma tatou I te rangi nei

Aroha atu, aroha mai,

Tatou I a tatou katoa

Hui – e – taiki e

May peace be widespread

May the sea be like greenstone

A pathway for us all this day

Let us show respect for each other

For one another

Bind us all together

A Māori blessing given to us by our travel guide, Angela, on our last day with her and our fellow travellers in Christchurch.

Rob and Margaret Cross 31st October 2025