

# Cherry Parker's December 2019 Newsletter

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This picture certainly has the feel of a New Zealand Christmas.

Warm sand, summer holidays and Christmas lunch at a nearby beach.

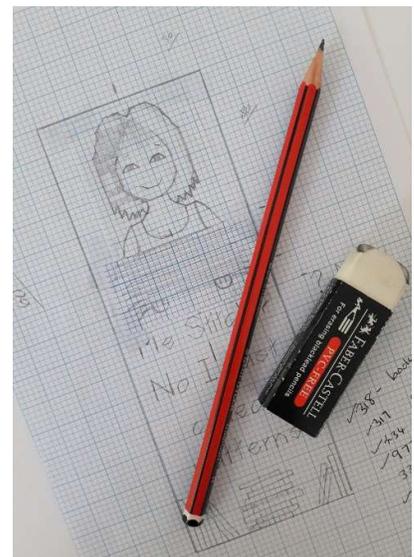
Most of the Christmas stitching will have been well under way and hopefully some may even be finished!

Fingers crossed that you enjoyed the December Doodling. Included in this newsletter is January Doodling as we have a break from the newsletter at the beginning of the year, returning at the beginning of February.

The monthly doodles have lots of options for you to use when you play with adapting your own cross stitch. No need to rush off and purchase a computer cross stitch program although there are some very reasonably priced ones on the market at present.

Begin with 2mm graph paper and a pencil. It is all I ever use. The computer only comes into play when I have the design firmly set on paper. Old school maybe, but we are all happier with whatever we first learnt on. Many designers only design on their computer, print the design and never stitch it.

I enjoy both drawing and stitching so I am never going to produce patterns that way.



I am having a lot of fun with the hand dyed threads and I hope the doodles have given you the push to begin using these fabulous additions to the cross stitch world.

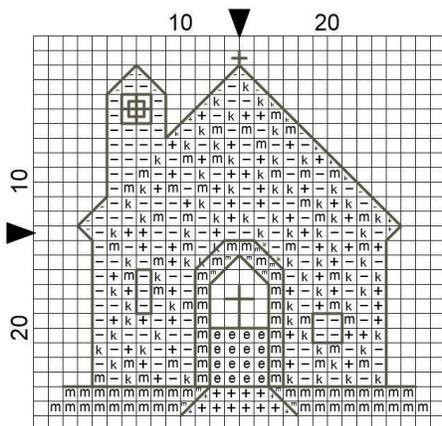
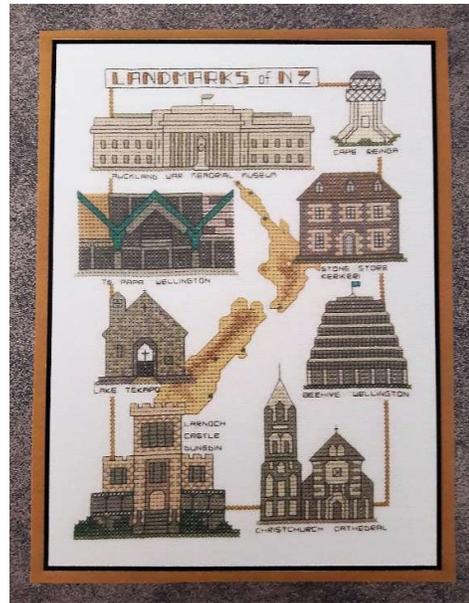
As described in the November newsletter, play with the solid colours that make up your hand dyed skein. Most designs need a balance of solid colour along with the variegated thread.

A design stitched entirely in hand-dyed cotton can sometimes look a bit much, although some of the more subtle ranges work well. It is all a matter of try it and see.

It is also worth working on a fairly plain background of cream or antique white. A coloured background as well as a multi coloured thread, sometimes is overwhelming and the colours can all become lost.

I have now put the **Landmarks of New Zealand** into my Etsy shop at [www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerDesigns](http://www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerDesigns) and have included the little church as this month's free pattern.

On the shores of Lake Tekapo, sits the tiny Church of the Good Shephard. It was built as a memorial to the pioneers of the Mackenzie region and sees thousands of visitors throughout each year, who stop to photograph the scenic landscape. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1935 the foundation stone was laid by the Duke of Gloucester. The builders were instructed that the site was to always be left undisturbed including the surrounding bushes.



m	451	Shell Grey
bs	535	Ash Grey
k	640	Beige Grey
e	645	Beaver Grey
-	647	Beaver Grey - med
+	3045	Yellow Beige

The design is cross stitched with two strands of thread over two strands of fabric and back stitched with one strand of 535.



I have been experimenting with stitching on half one fabric and half another – Why not?

The two designs are now in my shop at [www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerDesigns](http://www.etsy.com/nz/shop/CherryParkerDesigns)

Some of you will remember a year ago, I was asked to submit a design to Just Cross Stitch magazine – Christmas Ornament Issue.

The two little pillow ornaments have appeared in the 2019 issue.

It is great to stitch a tiny Christmas tree ornament each year when children are little.

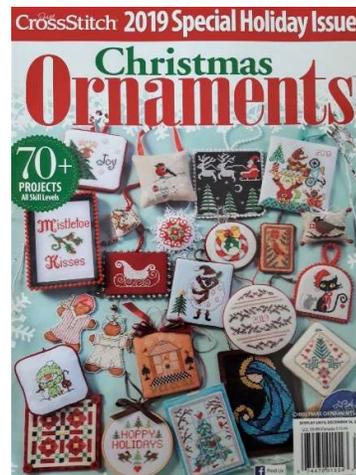
As they grow you have to smile as these keepsakes come out year after year, a bit worse for wear each time, and you hear -

“ Ohhhh.... Remember this!!”

A request has arrived for next year’s edition.

The thinking cap goes on again and the needle promptly threaded, as once again the sample must be in the USA by mid-January 2020 for the Christmas Ornament issue which goes on sale in Oct 2020!

I could have been ultra-organised and had a design prepared early but it didn’t happen. I really need someone to invent an extra month. Perhaps then the year wouldn’t rush by so quickly.



## JANUARY DOODLE

Threads in the Doodling designs are DMC unless otherwise stated but the idea is to use up the cottons in your stash ....

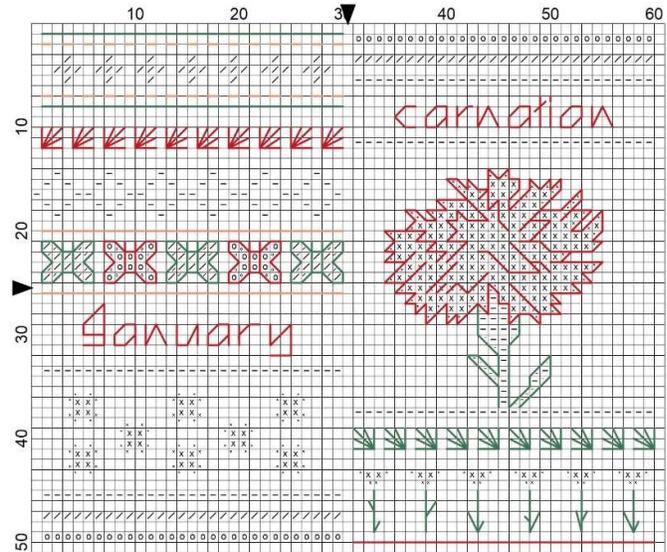
Or maybe it is a good excuse to buy just a few more!

This doodling strip started way back in June, so if you want to go back and look at the free archived patterns in the website just click on 'newsletters' or go straight from the Doodling picture on my homepage at [www.cherryparker.co.nz](http://www.cherryparker.co.nz)



	DMC	Anchor	
bs	501	878	
/	783	306	
bs	817	13	
o	922	1003	
x	704	Lemonlime	Cottage Garden threads
-	1204	Murray Pine	Cottage Garden threads

Cross stitch with two strands of thread over two of fabric unless otherwise stated. The colours are a guide only. Use what you have in your stash. BS the carnation with one strand of red 817, stems with one strand of 501. One strand for bs the butterflies and the fan stitches. Use the graph as your guide for bs colours. Use two strands for the remaining bs.



Cross stitchers don't always just sit and cross little stitches. Every now and again you need a change. Hopefully in the next few weeks I will have quilted a wall hanging requested earlier in the year by my oldest granddaughter. A concerted effort needs to be made on my part to complete it so she can have it on display come December.

I am also having a play with some collage. My parents were tailors and both grandmothers crocheted, knitted and sewed.

The collage is taking on a sewing theme – maybe. I think a bit of time in January when all is quiet, needs to be dedicated to organising this new venture. That is the plan but it is shaping up to be a busy year so time will tell. It is nice to have a plan, but it needs to have a flexible element to it.

In the meantime, thoughts need to be dragged away from quilting and collage and Christmas food needs to be concentrated on.

This Christmas cake recipe is one that I make each year. It is the easiest one I know and is all made on top of the stove with no creaming butter and sugar. My kind of recipe!

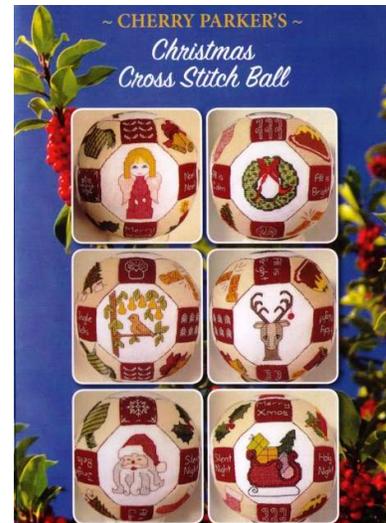
3 cups mixed fruit  
2 cups self-raising flour  
¼ cup chopped walnuts  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1 tsp mixed spice  
1 tsp ground cloves  
120gm(4ozs) butter  
¾ cup brown sugar  
¾ cup milk  
1 small tin crushed pineapple with juice  
2 eggs  
Pinch salt

In a large saucepan put the fruit, including pineapple, nuts, butter, sugar and milk. Allow to heat gently until the butter melts. Remove from the heat and cool.  
Add the beaten eggs.  
Sift in the dry ingredients and fold into the mixture.  
Bake in a 20cm (8”) tin at 150° (300°F) for two hours. Test in the centre to make sure it is cooked. Turn onto a cake rack to cool.



I have made this cake now each year for several decades and each time someone hears that it is made on top of the stove with no fuss, they always want the recipe. It even found its way into my Christmas Ball book along with other favourite Christmas recipes.

Christmas is full of memories, as well as hopes for what is to come. This year will be in someone's memory in a few years' time. Make it special, enjoy the season no matter how you celebrate and most of all have fun stitching what you really want to stitch.



Cherry

[www.cherryparker.co.nz](http://www.cherryparker.co.nz)



Request a pattern, ask a question or unsubscribe at [cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz)