



## The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 4th March 2018

Our Mission is ...

To draw people to faith in Christ

To grow people in their commitment to Christ

To reach out beyond ourselves with the love of Christ

Dear Nativity family and friends,

This year Easter Day is 1 April. That's commonly known as April Fools Day. As a lead up to that mighty celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, most of our March themes are based around Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> words to the church at Corinth. In chapter 4, verse 10 he writes "*We are fools for Christ's sake.*"

Society tells us "for Christ's sake don't be a fool." The Bible however encourages what is foolishness in the world's values. At the same time, it's true to the higher values of our creator, redeemer and giver of life. Some 40 years ago we both went to a seminar in St Paul's Cathedral in Wellington. The speaker said something that stands in our memory all these years later. He said: "The church has been so *sub-normal* for so long, that if it were to be *normal* to it's high calling, it would be thought *abnormal*." Followers of Jesus have for so long conformed to the norms of society, but we are called to something greater.

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."* (Romans 12:2)

Even in these times when society's values are changing so quickly, we tend to be like the frog in the kettle, unwittingly coming to the boil. It's not easy, especially in the face of going against what so many around us are saying. But do the right thing, we must. So please pray for our Bishop and Synod Reps at the special one-day Synod next Sat 10 March, as it discerns the will of our God – what is good and acceptable and perfect, in "Motion 29".

May you be empowered by the power of God's Holy Spirit to resurrection life this Lent season. May you live the life you were created for. May we the church display the love and righteousness of God to our world.

Grace and truth to you and through you, in all things.

Bob and Libby



## Items of Interest

**Canvas tonight 5.30pm in the hall.**

**Prayer Vigil**—pray for our church and synod as they consider Motion 29– 2-4pm today in Barnies. Everyone is welcome to join in for part or all of this two hour vigil.



**Susan Howarth** is being commissioned as Vicar of Havelock at St Peters Anglican Church Havelock at 5pm today. Share meal to follow. All welcome.

**Nativity AAW meeting** on Wednesday 7th March at 7.30pm in the Lounge. Devotions. Sales table. Subs now due, please. Supper surprise. New members welcome.

**End of Life Choice Bill.** The submission deadline to the Justice Select Committee has been extended to March 6, so please continue to encourage people to make submissions.

**Nativity AGM** is on 19th March, 7.30pm in the church. All are welcome to attend. Nomination forms for Peoples Warden and Vestry Members are at the office. Last day for nominations is 12th March.

**She Hopes** event on March 17, 10am-3pm at Elim Christian Centre with Juliagrace and Ps Amy de Vetter. Ladies come along to this and bring your friends. Both Julia and Amy have walked the difficult road of mental illness and are passionate about sharing what they've learned along the way to freedom. Cost is \$25. Registrations by 14 March please as it is a catered event. Registration link: [https://bcma.infoodle.com/form\\_process?g=afceb88d-7e5d-4a02-a700688061f0128b](https://bcma.infoodle.com/form_process?g=afceb88d-7e5d-4a02-a700688061f0128b)

**Order of St Luke:** A healing seminar is to be held in Blenheim as Wesley Centre on Wednesday 21st March from 10am-3pm. This meeting will be conducted by Rev. Frank Rigg. Copies of his recent book "Wholeness Unlimited" will be available at \$10 each. This covers a lifetime being involved in the healing ministry. All are welcome. Blenheim Contact: John Bush 03 577 5664 or [johnbush.area5@gmail.com](mailto:johnbush.area5@gmail.com)

**Can You Help?** I have a package of stamps, sorted and trimmed, ready for the Anglican Missions Board. If anyone will be in Wellington in the next few weeks and able to take them to the office at 32 Mulgrave St. Thorndon, will they contact me please? My usual courier - Pam Neal - does not expect to be going again before August.  
*Margaret Jarman*



**Wairau Plains Parishes Picnic:** Combined picnic for the Anglican Parishes to be held Sunday 11th March at Pollard Park from 12.30pm. BYO lunch and enjoy fellowship with one another. There will be a weather check on the day and parishes will be notified of any changes.

**Taylor River Walk** – You are welcome to join this group when you are able. We walk for up to 45 mins on Thursdays starting at 8.30am from the carpark by the Henry Street footbridge off Nelson Street. Contact Pam Neal 5777442 or Fay Johnstone 5783763 or just turn up.

**Jan's Joy: *I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.***  
*Isaiah 46:4*

**If you would like to know about the many vibrant Care-cells that make up Nativity please phone 5783909**

## Welcome to our services today! 4th March 2018

**Theme 8am & 10am:** Motion 29

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Genesis 2:20b-24 & John 8:1-11

**Sentence:** We are fools for the sake of Christ, ... When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly.

*1 Corinthians 4:10,13*



**Collect:** Hear us, Jesus Christ, when we ask for help to recognise temptation, for honesty to face it, for strength to resist it and the humility to give God the glory. **Amen**

### Weekly Prayer Focus:

We have nearly finished the alphabet for our prayer focus prompts.

**Mon. X... xtras.** How blessed we are with all the extras that help us to grow in our understanding of prayer... books, videos, workshops, sermons, speakers, friends, ...and there is always much more to learn and experience.

**Tues. Teaching YOUR children to pray.** One way of helping children to pray is to use their hands, holding each finger on one hand with the other. The thumb – pray for the people closest to you.  
Next finger – pointing finger – pray for those who point the way.  
Tallest finger – pray for important people,  
Weakest finger – for the sick, handicapped etc.  
Little finger – pray for yourself.

**Wed. Z...zzzzzzzzzz.** Brother Lawrence has said: “Those who have the wind of the Holy Spirit go forward even in sleep.” As you go to sleep, quietly relax in God’s presence. Hand over to Him the hurts, frustrations, joys, achievements, problems of the day. In the morning when you wake, greet the Lord and welcome into the new day.

**The rest of the week...** Now that I have come to the end of the alphabet, I think of the many aspects left out.... should A have been Adoration and not Advice. perhaps B should have been the blood of Jesus and not Blessing. C could have been the Cross – not Confession.  
It has been a growing experience to use the Alphabet as our Prayer Focus.

**Prayer Ministry:** We have people willing to meet with you outside of church service times. If you are in need of more in-depth prayer ministry, speak to any of the clergy, Jane Sheat (5789004) or Sheryll Gwynne (5776507) Prayer Facilitators and they can arrange this for you.

**Prayer Chain:** Bob Barnes (5783909) and Raewyn Parkes (5783909) are our Prayer Chain Coordinators. Please phone them with any requests you have for the prayer chain.

## What's on this week

<b>Tues:</b>	2pm	Afternoon care cell in the lounge
	4pm	Prayer for Easter at 25 Burleigh Road
<b>Wed:</b>	7.30pm	Evening AAW in the lounge
<b>Thurs:</b>	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	7pm	Choir Practice in the choir vestry
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
<b>Sat:</b>	9.30pm	Coffee Connections at Saviour
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	5.30pm	Canvas in the hall



### Tuesday Prayer time 4.pm-5.pm

We invite you to join us to reflect on the meaning of Easter for three Tuesdays 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. 6th, 13th, and 20th March at Grace Petrie's home 25 Burleigh Rd.

This focus has been prompted by the weekly prayer group – we are feeling the need to change our emphasis – and we would welcome you to join with us.



### Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar	Bob Barnes
Assistant Priests	Jonathan Wasley
	John Neal
	Miriam Taylor
Youth/24/7 Worker	Rose Newton
Vicar's P/A	Jude Dell
Parish Nurse	Raewyn Parkes
Parish Manager	Keith Buck
Receptionist	Jan Burrough
Counselling	Kathy Hammond
Care Cell Coordinators	Miriam Taylor & Shirley Ramsay
Women's Ministry	Libby Barnes
Chaplain to the Elderly	Alison Brice
Vicar's Warden	Stephen Sheat
People's Warden	Jennifer Bennett-Burrows

### To Contact Us

**Nativity Anglican Church Office & Centre**  
**Office Hours:**

**Monday - Thursday** 9am - 4pm

**Friday** - 9am - 12noon

**Address:** 76 Alfred St,  
Blenheim 7201

**Phone:** 5783909

**Email:** [info@nativity.org.nz](mailto:info@nativity.org.nz)

**Website:** [www.nativity.org.nz](http://www.nativity.org.nz)

**Facebook:** "Nativity Church Blenheim"

### Staff Days Off/On

Susan, Rose and Jonathan:  
Mondays off.

Bob, Jude and Jan: Fridays off.

Keith is here Monday to Wednesday mornings only.