



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 10th December 2017

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,

Early in the movie Bruce Almighty, there's a well known and very funny scene. The main character (Bruce) is angry, driving his car and asking God for a sign. He gets even angrier as a variety of signals interrupt him. Each of them is exactly what he's asking God for. They culminate in a road works truck laden with signs saying exactly what he needs to do, pulling out in front of him.

"This Advent God is calling us all to waken out of sleep, to look carefully and honestly at our lives, and to watch for the signs. What signs do you see? For the time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God is upon us."

(Br. Geoffrey Tristram, Society of Saint John the Evangelist)

God has put signs of hope all around us. They're all through history (= "His-Story"). The greatest sign of all was his coming among us in Jesus. Even today he's given us prophets who speak or demonstrate that hope.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life
(Proverbs 13:12)

We often think of prophets as being negative nay-sayers. In fact they are the bringers of Advent hope, the hope that comes from and points to the coming of God and life in all its fullness, among us. Sometimes they have to say it in ways and words we may find less than peaceful.

Advent – it's an advent-ure. We're on one. There are new tracks to be discovered, old ways to leave behind, experiences from the past to inform us of the future. It's the prophets who bring us close to Jesus as we advent-ure closer to him. Jesus is the supreme prophet – and more than a prophet. Much more. There is much more. That's our hope wherein lies peace.

May God bless and speak to your hearts this Advent.

Bob and Libby



Items of Interest

For sale in the office we have packs of 10 small Christmas gift tags at \$2 per pack. Money raised is for the building restoration. These are kindly donated by a member of our Nativity family.

Lunch Hour Christmas Carols will be played in Nativity Church from 12noon – 1pm Monday 18th Dec. and Wednesday 20th Dec. Bring your lunch and enjoy carols as you eat, but leave no scraps. Free entry but a cash donation for the foodbank would be appreciated.



Eileen and Linda's Pupils and Friends

Concert: Monday Dec.11th at 7pm
Door entry gold coin or \$5per family.
Another Nativity fundraising effort. All are very welcome.



Christmas Tree Festival

Nelson Cathedral.
Running until end of January.
Worth checking out!

Renwick Christmas Tree Festival: Bring a tree or get one from Anglican Church

Renwick, decorate it and join the celebration. **Decorate and set up** Monday 11th - Tuesday 12th Dec. **View** Wednesday 13th through to Christmas Eve 11am-9pm daily. Donations collected to support Tearfund. **A Carol Service** amongst the trees Sunday 17th Dec. 7pm. Register phone 5728850 or www.wairauanglican.org.nz/christmas

Carol singing at Wairau Hospital: You are warmly invited to spread some Christmas cheer by joining Hospital Chaplain Rev Chris Donaldson singing Christmas carols throughout the hospital and hospice on **Thursday, 14 December @ 6pm**. Meet in the chapel, then singing through the wards followed by light refreshments in the café. Ability to sing not a requirement – just a happy heart and a big smile. Everyone is welcome – children too!

New Year's Eve Celebration: Mark and Robyn Rolston are keen to host a get

together at their place, 95 Maxwell Road, for supper, reflection, looking back on this year and committing the New Year to God. This will start at 7.30pm on New Year's Eve. It

would be great if people could bring a small plate for supper. Further details contact 5792263.

Nativity Church office will be closed from 19th December 2017 until 24th January 2018. To all the volunteers who generously give their time and talents to keep Nativity humming, thank you and may you be blessed this Advent Season.

Office work: I'm looking for some work experience/part-time work in an office environment. Can do general administration and data entry type duties. If you can help please phone Jess Rudd on 0273525556.

Jan's Joy: Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 2Thessalonians 3:16



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

Welcome to our services today! 10th December 2017

Theme 8am & 10am: Signs of His Coming

Readings 8am & 10am: Hebrews 1:1-4 & Matthew 2:19-23

Sentence: You are the Holy One enthroned on the praises of your people. Our ancestors trusted in you and you delivered them; they put their trust in you and were not disappointed. *Psalms 22:3-5*



Collect: Loving God, **you** send prophets to warn, disturb and revive your people. Help us listen to those who prepare us for your kingdom. Give us courage to remove the chaff from our lives so that we may be ready to meet the Lord. We ask this through him whose coming draws near, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

Christmas month. This week our prayer time is for people who can't "unwrap" Christmas.

- Mon.** Pray for someone you know who is wrapped in the bandages of hurts and disappointments of the past.
- Tues.** Pray for someone who has lost all sense of childhood wonder and the miracle of Christmas. Someone wrapped in unbelief and criticism.
- Wed.** Pray for someone who treats Christmas as an opportunity for a materialistic binge. Pray for those who overspend.
- Thurs.** Pray for those who are wrapped up in empty partying. Pray for work and neighbourhood celebrations.
- Fri.** Pray for someone who is wrapped up in the busyness and preparations of Christmas and has no time to celebrate the miracle of Christmas.
- Sat.** Pray for those who are wrapped up in the celebration of drink and drugs, and who have no time for Jesus.

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.

Tuesday Prayer time 4.30-5.15pm
This is a time to pray for the needs of Nativity and our community.

What's on this week

Mon:	7pm	Eileen's Concert in the church
Wed:	7pm	Choir Practice in the church
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
Fri:	9.30am	Tunes for Tots walk through in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
Sun:	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	4pm	CMS prayer meeting in the lounge



Nativity Christmas Services

Dec. 10th Christmas In the Park 4pm

Dec. 15th Nativity Interactive walkthrough 9-noon

Dec. 17th Family Passport Journey 8 & 10am

Dec. 18th Carols at Nativity 12-1pm

Dec. 20th Carols at Nativity 12-1pm

Dec. 21st 9 lessons and Carols 7pm

Dec. 24th Advent Services 8 & 10am

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service 10.30pm

Dec. 25th Christmas Day 8 & 10am

Books for sale at the office:

Wind on the Withers by Christopher Cookson \$20

William by Beverley Cross \$15

The Best of Both Worlds by Julia Davidson \$25

Fit For A King by Rosemary Francis \$20 book. \$25 Book and CD

Please bring correct money.



Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar
Assistant Priests

Bob Barnes
Susan Howarth
Jonathan Wasley
John Neal

Youth/24/7 Worker
Vicar's P/A

Miriam Taylor
Kevin Gwynne
Rose Newton
Jude Dell

Parish Nurse
Parish Manager
Receptionist
Counselling
Care Cell Coordinators

Raewyn Parkes
Keith Buck
Jan Burrough
Kathy Hammond

Women's Ministry
Chaplain to the Elderly
Vicar's Warden
People's Warden

Miriam Taylor &
Shirley Ramsay
Libby Barnes
Alison Brice
Stephen Sheat
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

Website: 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.