



# The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 10th September 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

Welcome to our Spring Flower Festival! Something about Spring time hits many people fair and square in the emotions one way or another. Even the ancient writer of The Song of Solomon felt it. He wrote:

*"My beloved speaks and says to me:*

*'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.'* (Chapter 2:10-13)

It's a message of the love that originates in our God, and extends to every person on this planet. Not everyone is prepared to humble themselves to receive it, but it's there. Many share it without knowing – even the most ardent atheist showing love is sharing love that comes from God.

That love is seen most supremely in Jesus, God in human form, in his sacrifice at his birth, then at his death and resurrection. Everything we do is driven because of these two major events.

It's all able to be read in the Bible. Sadly, many Christians don't spend time meditating on what God says to us in the pages of the Bible. Do you? In the coming weeks, with Bishopdale Theological College (BTC) we will be offering ways for people to find their way into the Bible. A warm welcome to Kate Dugdale of BTC as our preacher today who will tell us more of this.

Do let this be a special Spring season for you in all aspects of your living. Accept the invitation of Jesus who calls to us as his beloved, to travel life more closely with him, and to enjoy the fruit of that new life.



Be blessed and bless others. One way you can do that is to take some of the flowers to someone you know who needs a boost. Then the blessing you give will come back to you.

Bob and Libby

## Items of Interest



**It is our Spring Flower Festival** today. If you wish to take some flowers to parishioners you visit in rest homes or are housebound, please do so.

### **Last week before the Clothes Swap !!**

Gather up your unwanted women's clothes and accessories (good condition only please) ready for - Saturday 16th September. As per last year all proceeds will go to Women's Refuge. **Drop clothing, shoes, and accessories at Nativity Church Office 11-14 Sept. 9am-4pm.**

**Most exciting news ladies!** Tag a friend and the two of you will be in to win a style makeover on the day of our event by the lovely Jackie Halliday from Dress Code. Start tagging!

[www.facebook.com/dresscodeblenheim/](http://www.facebook.com/dresscodeblenheim/)

**NZ CMS AGM:** 3pm, 17<sup>th</sup> September - afternoon tea, followed by speaker, John Bush on his pilgrimage to Celtic sites and footsteps of St Francis in Italy. This will be followed by the AGM.

**Can't find what you thought you saw in last weeks pew sheet?** Look at the website for lots of information about the parish. Ministries and services offered to and by the parish, pew sheets, sermons, giving options and other news.

### **Spiritual Kai with Kate**

#### **Something different for the care cell!**

Creative ideas and tools to help you enjoy and dig deeper into God's Living Word. Renwick Anglican, Wednesday 20th Sept. and

Renwick Anglican, Wednesday 27th Sept. 7pm-9pm.

**Organ Concert:** 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm at Nativity Church. Door Sales: \$10 per person. Celebrate Daylight Saving.



Invite your family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours to join you for a relaxing afternoon out and enjoy the talents of local organists. Stay for a cuppa & cookie, after the show. Gold coin donation appreciated. This is a Blenheim Anglican Parish Fund Raising Activity.

### **Order of St. Luke Christian Healing Service:**

today at 2pm Wesley Centre. Everyone Welcome! Guest Speakers: Christina and Nanai Naseri from the La Vai Ola Retreat House, 7 Teal Valley Rd, Hira, Nelson. Ph. 03 5452409

**Today at 4pm** a screening of the movie The Shack will be at Blenheim Top Town Cinema. This is a fundraising event in support of "A Girl Called Hope". Tickets \$16 pp. at the cinema.

### **St John's Anglican Church Westport**

invite you to join with them at the NBS Theatre, Palmerston Street, Westport for their Third Annual Holy Spirit Conference 15-17 Sept. with Peter Steicke, former Senior Pastor of Lutheran Mega-Church, Good Shepherd, Para Vista, Adelaide. Cost \$25 per person. Email: [bulleranglican@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bulleranglican@xtra.co.nz) for more information

*Jan's Joy: Praise the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendour and majesty. Psalm 104:1*



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 September 2017

**Theme 8am & 10am:** How God Treats Us

**Readings: 8am & 10am:** John 3:16-17 & 1 John 4:9-19

**Sentence:** You, O Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. *Isaiah 64:8*

**Collect:** Loving God, in Jesus you gather us into your family; confidently we call you Father; may your Spirit bring us to share the glorious liberty of your children. **Amen**



**WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:** Have you heard about the butterfly effect? In physics, it describes how tiny changes in initial conditions (such as a flap of a butterfly wings) can affect weather thousands of kilometres away.

**Mon.** "Do not despise small beginnings for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin". (Zechariah 4:10)  
Think of a small beginning you can pray about today.

**Tues.** You may feel insignificant at times – as fragile as a butterfly – just flapping your wings.

**Wed.** Your faith, your words, your deeds, your prayers, your example, your kindnesses, your persistence can release the power of God in any situation. Think about that.

**Thurs.** God loves to use things that we consider to be insignificant – like Moses' rod that parted the red sea.

**Fri.** David's slingshot brought down a giant. a boy's lunch fed a multitude. Your flappy wings can bring change for all eternity.

**Sat.** It's not about the size of the seed you sow, but about the God who can make it grow. It's not about the prayer you pray, but about the greatness of the one who answers prayer.

*(excerpts Word for today November 1st 2012)*

**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

<b>Tues:</b>	4.30pm	Prayer for the Parish at 178 High Street.
	7.30pm	Peter Steicke meeting in the hall
<b>Wed:</b>	7pm	Choir Practice in the church
<b>Thurs:</b>	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
<b>Sat:</b>	2pm	She Connects clothes swap in the hall
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	3pm	CMS AGM in the lounge
	7pm	Nativity@7 in the hall



## Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar  
Assistant Priests

Youth/24/7 Worker  
Vicar's P/A  
Parish Nurse  
Parish Manager  
Receptionist  
Counselling  
Care Cell Coordinators

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

Bob Barnes  
Susan Howarth  
Jonathan Wasley  
John Neal  
Miriam Taylor  
Kevin Gwynne  
Rose Newton  
Jude Dell  
Raewyn Parkes  
Keith Buck  
Jan Burrough  
Kathy Hammond  
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](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.