



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 11th December 2016

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 friends

Last week – and for some weeks since 14 November – we've been asking if you are prepared.

It was in fact the very same question people were asked by a cousin of Jesus. He was a man who slept and lived rough. The authorities weren't overly fond of him either, but he had a heart so totally true to God. We know him as John the Baptist – or John the Baptiser.

How do we see people? And how do they see us?

Appearances are one thing. God sees the true heart of us all. Yet it's said that the reason most New Zealanders don't become followers of Jesus is that they don't know anyone who is. Maybe they just don't know that we are. So there's a bit of a paradox for us. Dressing up just to look good is not right, but we do need to reflect Jesus in our words and actions. Neither are we to judge others. Just because they have tats or look and speak differently to us, doesn't mean they don't know and serve our Lord. Do we see them as blood bought sons and daughters of the living God?

Early in 2017 we'll have a Youth Coordinator (more on that next Sunday!). Hopefully that will eventually mean we'll see more youth, who will not always have all the graces we think we had when we were that age. There will be other folk on our path in life, who differ from us. Folk who will be hard for us to gel with. It'll be about as hard for them to gel with us at times too! But do we see them as people who God loved so much that he was born and died for them?

It's not our differences, but what we have in common and what we stand for that really counts. And what we have in common, is Jesus who loves us. We are to proclaim **that** in our community, just as John did, to prepare the way for Jesus.

"We have a gospel to proclaim". Let's live it and breath it this Christmas so we can proclaim it this coming year and to our lives end!

Advent blessings everyone

Bob and Libby



Items of Interest

Concert: Pupils of Eileen Guard and Linda Holdaway will present their annual end of year Christmas concert in the Church of The Nativity at 7pm on Monday December 12th. Gold coin donation for church funding. All welcome.

You can be part of the Anglican Communion's Global Advent Calendar. Log in to adventword.org. It's an innovative way to engage in the season of Advent with people all over the world. You can respond to the daily meditation emailed to you with images and prayers that speak to your heart. Your images and prayers will appear in the Advent Calendar with others from around the world. Join us as we anticipate the coming of Christ, the fulfilment of our deepest longings.

Diary now: Convergence Family Camp 17-19 February 2017. Registration forms at the office or at the back of the church

Mission Aviation Fellowship is holding its Jerry-Can appeal again this Christmas to raise funds to keep its aircraft flying around the world. Each can is \$30.00. The process is very simple - you send the card to your intended recipient and use the tear-off portion of the letter to send the funds to MAF. Further details from John Neal at 021 162 4061



Summer Playground 2017 Camp: 3rd to the 8th of January registrations are now open for those going into year 9 in 2017 right up to the age of 21.

Donations of Christmas goods, jams and pickles to the Nativity foodbank would be appreciated to put into the food parcels we give out over the Christmas season. Thank you to all who bought the frozen veges.



A Service of Nine Lessons and



Carols is to be held at 7pm on Thursday 15th December. All welcome to this service of worship. Many thanks from Hilary, on behalf of the Choir.

"Some Ministry Opportunities for you to think about for the new year."

Volunteers needed!

- **Operators for sound desk, and data projection.**
- **Communion set up 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. (Urgent)**
- **Communion servers, and readers at the 8am services.**

Training will be given for all volunteer jobs.

See Jan at the office.

Operation Christmas Child set a target of 8000 Christmas shoe boxes for the South Island. We actually managed 8187! That's 8187 children in impoverished countries who will receive a shoe box from someone in NZ. Thanks to those who contributed.

Mike Hawke, the new Dean to Christ Church Cathedral in Nelson is being inducted today. Greetings were sent from Nativity.



Christmas in the Park, 5pm, tonight at Pollard Park. Come and enjoy an evening of carols and song

Jan's Joy! *Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Psalm 33:1*



Welcome to our services today! 11th December 2016

Theme 8am & 10am: Proclamation

Readings 8am & 10am: John 1:15-18 & Isaiah 40:25-31

Sentence: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*



Collect: God for whom we wait and watch, you sent John the Baptist to prepare for the coming of your Son; give us courage to speak the truth even to the point of suffering. **Amen**

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS

Have you heard of the rubber band principle? "Straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize."

- Mon.** All rubber bands work on the same principle – they must be stretched to be effective. The Bible tells us to stretch out our hands towards God. Pray for our leadership team.
- Tues.** Anybody who has ever achieved anything of note has been stretched to their limit. We have been promised that through the power of God's indwelling Spirit we can make a difference.
- Wed.** Stretching makes you vulnerable. Pray for our children and families. Especially as families are stretched financially and emotionally over Christmas.
- Thurs.** When a rubber band is taut, it is much easier to break. Several rubber bands together are stronger. Pray for effective team work in Nativity. Pray for the Diocese.
- Fri.** Jesus told the man to stretch out his hand and when he did so it was restored and made whole. Pray for our Parish Nurse, Counsellors, Office staff.
- Sat.** Pray for the aged and disabled that they will experience the rubber band principle.

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

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, Kevin or Sheryll Gwynne (5776507) Prayer Facilitators and they can arrange this for you.

Prayer Chain: Anne Dillon 5782363 & Fay Johnstone 5783763 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

Thurs: 10am Eucharist in Barnies
7pm Nine lessons and Carols in the church
Fri: 1pm LINK in the lounge
Sun: 8am Traditional Eucharist Service
10am All Age Worship Service



The Nativity Church Office will be closed from Wednesday 21st December till Monday 9th January 2017.

Jan & Jude would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to help in any way this year.

Nativity people you rock, you are always so generous of time and effort. Thank you. May you have a happy Christmas and an even happier New Year.

Christmas Services at Nativity

15th December at 7pm

A service of Nine Lessons & Carols
will celebrate the historical events leading to the birth of Jesus



Christmas Eve

10.30pm Carols
11pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

8am Traditional Christmas Service
10am Family Christmas Celebration



Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar
Vicar's P/A
Parish Manager
Receptionist
Families/Youth Pastor
Assistant Priests

Parish Nurse
Counselling
Care Cell Coordinators

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

Bob Barnes
Jude Dell
Keith Buck
Jan Burrough
Susan Howarth
Jonathan Wasley
John Neal
Miriam Taylor
Kevin Gwynne
Raewyn Parkes
Kathy Hammond
Miriam Taylor &
Shirley Ramsay
Libby Barnes
Alison Brice
Stephen Sheat
Pauline Tisch
Kevin & Sheryll Gwynne

To Contact Us

Nativity Anglican Church Office & Centre
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am - 4pm
Friday - 9am - 12noon

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Phone: 5783909

Fax: 5780138

Email: info@nativity.org.nz

Website: www.nativity.org.nz

Facebook: Find us on "Church of the Nativity"

*The word became flesh
and made his dwelling
among us*