



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 12th August 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,

The last few days have seen the Anglican Parishes of the Nelson Diocese (Top o' the South) having its annual meeting. We call it a "Synod". Parish clergy (Jonathan and Bob) and Synod Reps (Jocelyn Wilkes, Keith Buck and Hamish Harper) all attended. Heather Wadsworth as a Rep for AAW (Association of Anglican Women) was also with us.

Meetings can come across as boring and worse, but there is an importance that means they're needed. God knew he needed to meet his fallen humanity. So he became one of us, to meet us in the person of Jesus. We carry the name of that meeting – "Nativity".

Even the name "Synod" carries some importance we can learn from. It's based on an ancient Latin word, for a church meeting, but which included a sense of conjunction, lining things up. At our meeting of Synod we meet, joining together, trying to line things up. How well we did is another question. But in Jesus, God did exactly that with us. He met us on our ground. It's for us to recognise that, then line up our lives to follow him. So too as a parish we're called to line ourselves up with God's ways.

On our life journey we're all to line ourselves up with God's standards, to go through the narrow gate of God's full life. We show what sort of stuff we're made of by what grows in our life - like fruit on trees. As we join with the love of God we find strength and peace even in the storms of life. There we find healing. There we find wholeness.

It's an adventure. At times it's easy. At other times it's a scramble! But it's good - and the outcome is superb!

We can never remain the same. It's a fact of life that we have to keep adjusting our life course to line up with where God's Holy Spirit is leading. That's true for us as individuals and as a Parish. (Have you heard or seen the plan for the future of Nativity? Check out Bob's sermons from the last 4 weeks on our website – and feel free to chat it over with him.)

Will you join us?

Jesus told his disciples,

*'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)*

God bless

Bob and Libby

Items of Interest

An invitation – to learn and share in the Awesome Power of Blessing.
Four weeks – at Grace Petrie's home
25 Burleigh Rd,
Tuesdays – 14th, 21st, 28th,
1.30p.m. – 3 p.m.
Phone 578 7860 if further info required.

We are preparing to print an updated Prayer Directory. It would be appreciated if newcomers who would like to be included and if there are changes of address or phone numbers to let Jan at the office know.

I am preparing the October, November, December rosters at present. If you know you are going to be away for any dates please let Jan at the office know within the next week.

The Prayer Request box in the foyer of the church is to write any prayer requests on the paper provided and pop it into the box. We will collect them and they will be prayed through every Tuesday.

Have you registered for the quiz night on Friday 31st August at St Christopher's Church Hall. Make up a team of six or make up one on the night.

Prayer in the church daily
(Monday to Thursday 8.45-9AM)
Praying for Nativity and our community.

7.15pm registration for 7.30pm start.
Entry is \$10 per person.
This is a fundraiser for Marlborough Anglican Care Emergency Fund.
Register before 29th August at Nativity Ph. 5783909 or St Christopher's ph.5780139

If you have any spare council rubbish bags you can donate to the church, they would be much appreciated.

Sunday Sing
Celebrating Timeless Hymns
and Gospel Songs
Sunday 19th August,
2pm Nativity Church.
Blenheim Churches, Salvation Army Band. Gold coin donation for The Bible Society.

Public Meeting
Earthquake information update.
Wednesday 29th August
Door open 5.30; first speaker 6.30pm
ASB Theatre Blenheim.
Gold coin donation to Red Cross.

Missing Book: Last year I loaned someone from Nativity a book entitled "Walls of my Heart" by Dr Bruce Thompson. Unfortunately, it has not been returned to me. If you have it, please contact me on Ph 5776507 for its return. Thank you.
Sheryll Gwynne

Jan's Joy: Those who sow
in tears shall reap in joy.
Psalm 126



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

Welcome to our services today! 12th August 2018

Theme 8am & 10am: Synod Address

Readings 8am & 10am: Matthew 7:13-28 & 8:1-3

Sentence: Proclaim God's glory to the nations, God's marvellous deeds to all the peoples. For the Lord is great and highly to be praised.
Psalm 96:3,4



Collect: Eternal God, you promise eternal life to all those who believe, grant us grace in believing, that we might share that with the lost, and be raised up with you on the last days. Keep us faithful to the end. Through Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Weekly Prayer Focus

This week our Prayer Focus is on some verses in Scripture on **HOPE**. Claim these promises today.

- Mon.** ***The nature of HOPE.*** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1.
- Tues.** ***Upon whom do we place our hope?*** "And now Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you." Psalm 39:7
- Wed.** ***Jesus is our Hope.*** "May the God of Hope, fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13
- Thurs.** ***The outcome of hope.*** "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12
- Fri.** ***We have to testify about our hope.*** "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope you have. But do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15
- Sat.** ***The advantages of hope.*** "Why are you downcast O my soul? Why so disturbed? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God." Psalm 42:11

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) Prayer Facilitator, or ring the office 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: 19th Week in ordinary time

Wed:	7pm	Boys group in Barnies
	7pm	Vestry Meeting in the lounge
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	11am	Pastoral Care meeting in the lounge
	7pm	Choir Practice
Fri:	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
Sun:	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	2pm	Sunday Sing in the church
	4pm	CMS prayer meeting in Barnies
	5.30pm	Canvas in the hall



Alpha Marriage Course

The course is 7 weeks. Starting 14th August.

Running Tuesday evenings 7-9:30pm.

At Marlborough Vintners Hotel, Rapaura Road.

\$200 per couple for the whole course.

Limited places - contact Jonathan to confirm a space.

Part deposit confirms place on the course.



If you would like to financially support people attending The Marriage Course who would have difficulty paying, please make your donation to the following Nativity account:

Bank account: 06 0705 0429077 00

Code: 185-06

Reference: marriage

Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar
Assistant Priests

Bob Barnes
Jonathan Wasley
John Neal
Miriam Taylor
Rose Newton
Jude Dell
Raewyn Parkes
Jan Burrough
Kathy Hammond

Youth/24/7 Worker
Vicar's P/A
Parish Nurse
Receptionist
Counselling
Care Cell Coordinators
Women's Ministry
Chaplain to the Elderly
Vicar's Warden
People's Warden

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"

Nativity Bank account: ANZ 060705 0429077 00

Staff Days Off/On

Rose and Jonathan: Mondays off.

Bob, Jude and Jan: Fridays off.