



# The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 15th October 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 visitors to Nativity. We're glad you found your way to be with us.



It's not always that easy finding where you want to go. When we first started driving, before going on a road journey we used to go to the AA office, show our membership card and get a road map. There's still a bag of them under the driver's seat! Then some 15 years ago we'd go online and print a set of instructions off the internet. They weren't

always accurate! A little later we got a GPS unit and now Google maps talks to us on our phones telling us where to go. Other than in post earthquake Christchurch we have found that to be the most reliable, even overseas.

People have always needed maps – be they stars, or moss on the shady side of a tree. In the journey of life itself, we need a map to guide us through the twists and turnings of the years. The most reliable map for this will never be Google-Anything, nor any guide made by humans, no matter the wisdom accumulated by them. The most reliable map to life, is by the author of life. It's the Bible.

The Bible is not the sort of guide a blueprint or rulebook is, nor is it a set of instructions of "if this then that." It's far more mature. It's organic. It's at once intuitive and counter-intuitive. It's totally human, but totally divine. It's a word in season. It's a love letter from the Father of all things calling to his lost children, and a warning bell to us.



It can be studied, but it's much better meditated on, soaked in. Then, you can hear the guide, the Holy Spirit of the living God whisper into your spirit. Don't rush into the journey. Make time to dwell in the map of the route of life.

Bob and Libby

## Items of Interest

**CMS meeting** today in the lounge 4pm.  
All welcome.

### **Celebration! Next Sunday ...**

There will be a display and after both morning services, a special morning tea. It's all to celebrate 125 years since the founding of the New Zealand Church Missionary Society. It started in this Diocese and the very 1st NZCMS missionary was a young woman from Nativity. Find out more next week.

### **Operation Christmas Box Appeal:**

Boxes available - church foyer. Return by 20th October or deliver to St Mary's office in Maxwell Road. Thank you Nativity for your generosity.

**Nativity foodbank** needs tinned fruit, pasta sauces, coffee, sugar and bread. Please no more tinned tomatoes for a while. We are out of cooked meals in our church freezer. If you can help please drop them into the office labelled and dated.

Thank you to those who have bought some in, they have already been given out and much appreciated..



**Memorial Service:** We will be holding our annual Memorial Service Wednesday 1st November at 7pm. We will remember those who have died over the past year. If you have had a family member or friend who has died and the funeral was not held at Nativity please phone the office with their name and we will add them to our list.

**Do you need a house sitter** from 25<sup>th</sup> December until 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018? If so contact Francie on 5785617.

**A Hindu World Prayer Guide** is available in the back of the church or in the office. Cost is \$6.50 and it is an informative 15 day prayer guide covering the period of Diwali.

**Bible Society Christmas Cards:** See notice on Missions Board. As postage is \$3.50 per order Margaret Jarman will collect orders and payment (\$8.00) per pack until Sunday 29th October then send a bulk order. Cards should arrive early in November for you to collect. Place orders in an envelope with money and give to Margaret or drop into the office.

**Bishopdale Theological College** presents "Handling the Bible" with Kate Dugdale. At Nativity Hall. Wednesday October 18th and 25th. Time: 7-9pm. All are welcome to attend.

**HEARTHELP Blenheim:** Wednesday 18th October, 10.am at Nativity lounge. Guest Speaker: Ron Perano, a well known Marlborough Historian. All those interested in hearing Ron are welcome to join us. Small donation to help cost of the venue and morning tea. Any questions contact: Lyall 578 4331



**Don't forget to order your offertory envelopes if you need some for the next six months.**  
**Ph. 5783909**

**Jan's Joy:** *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**



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

# Welcome to our services today! 15th October 2017

**Theme 8am & 10am:** The Word of God

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Psalm 1 & Matthew 4:1-11

**Sentence:** The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
*Isaiah 40:8*



**Collect:** God of love, your Son teaches us the heart of the law. Open our minds, souls and hearts to discern what you ask of us. Empower us to love you with our whole being, to love our neighbour as ourselves and thus fulfil your law. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your faithfulness. In a changing world, it is encouraging to know that you are changeless...

**Mon.** In a fickle society,  
it is reassuring to believe that you can be trusted.

**Tues.** In a crumbling community,  
it is comforting to remember that you are always near.

**Wed.** In a despairing age,  
it is exciting to recall that you give hope for the future.

**Thurs.** In my sin-scarred life,  
it is liberating to understand that, through Jesus, you have dealt once and for all with my sin, and made me clean – totally.

**Fri.** In my human weakness,  
it is stimulating to know that I am God's workmanship and that I can do all good things through Christ who died for me, and now dwells within me by his spirit.

**Sat.** For all this, I thank you Lord, for you are truly faithful

**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.
	7pm	Alastair's Care Cell in the lounge
<b>Wed:</b>	7pm	Choir Practice in the church
	7pm	Vestry in the lounge
	7pm	BTC in the hall
<b>Thurs:</b>	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	5.30pm	Prayer Vigil in Barnies
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	7pm	Nativity@7 in the hall



## Nativity@7pm: Tonight 7pm in the hall All welcome



**Garden Seats:** If anyone has an unused garden seat that they want to find a new home for, or would be willing to repair old ones, or make up kit set ones if supplied, we'd love to hear from you. Ph. 5783909

**Garden Marlborough Fete** Sunday 12th November, Nativity Car Park fund raising. Approx. 6am to 2pm. We need helpers please, to work a roster system. If you can spare an hour to help it would be very much appreciated. Contact: Pauline 578 7351 or Elaine 578 4331 as soon as possible.

## Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar	Bob Barnes
Assistant Priests	Susan Howarth
	Jonathan Wasley
	John Neal
	Miriam Taylor
	Kevin Gwynne
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.