



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 17th 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,

There's a lot happening! Last week we announced the appointment of the Reverend Sue Howarth as Vicar of Havelock. Today our services will be even more different than they normally are (!)

This time of year is renown for being frantic anyway! There is an antidote, and some are choosing to apply it. It's called Choice.

There are some things we cannot choose, however there are many things we can. Our attitude is the first choice. Priorities are another. They both settle on focus.

*"... O my soul, why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my
God."
(Psalm 43:5)*

Where do you choose to put your focus?



To help us put our hope on God the centre of both our services today will be as a journey. There are some stations of Christmas for us to stop, look, listen and probably use our other senses. Then prayerfully reflect.

Carry that into your week and your journey into Christmas. It will be a much happier and more peaceful one for that.

May peace and joy that comes from the love of God be yours this Advent season.

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.

Work wanted: general office support, babysitting, dog walking etc. References available. Please Phone Jess 0273525556



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

A Carol Service amongst the trees Sunday 17th Dec. 7pm. Renwick Anglican Church. All welcome

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.

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.



A big thank you to all who have contributed to decorating the tree and church for the Christmas services and also to Jonathan and team who have set up for the Christmas Walk through. Awesome work people. Thank you.

Watch this space - New Initiative: Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Festival Family Picnic Lunch 25th February 2018 Make a note in your 2018 diary now.



Convergence Family Camp 16-18 February 2018. Don't forget to get your registrations in for this great family



opportunity to fellowship with families from around the diocese. See Jonathan if you have questions and /or want registration information.

Jan's Joy: *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7*



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

Welcome to our services today! 17th December 2017

Theme 8am & 10am: Signs of His Coming

Readings 8am & 10am: None

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 of the unexpected, your ways are not our ways. Open our ears to the prophets you send, help us to hear the good news from unforeseen messengers. Empower us to join the healing work of the one 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:

As Christmas comes round year by year, we are tempted to say "We have heard all this so many times, before.... forgive us Lord, and remind us of the difference between knowing about it, knowing it, and letting it speak to us again and again.

Mon. Help us Lord, to see ourselves and our own attitudes lived out by people in the Christmas story.

Tues. We think about the inn-keeper, who couldn't find room for you in the inn.

Wed. We remember Herod: hostile, jealous, and hating, because he was afraid of what your coming might do to him.

Thurs. The shepherds: who were scorned by others as unskilled labourers, but the heard the music of your coming even while they worked.

Fri. The wise men from the east, who journeyed far to find you.

Sat. Teach us again, Eternal God, that those who really seek will find, and may we never rest content until we have been found by you.

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:	Noon	Lunchtime Christmas Carols in the church
Wed:	Noon	Lunchtime Christmas Carols in the church
	7pm	Choir Practice in the church
	7pm	Vestry meeting in the lounge
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	7pm	9 Lessons and Carol Service in the church
Fri:	1pm	LINK finishes today in the lounge
Sun:	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	10.30pm	Christmas Eve Service



We love because He first loved us.

Nativity Christmas Services

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



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

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.