



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 18th 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

At last! At last it's nearly Christmas. At last the family are nearly here (or nearly gone!) At last this baby is born.

Those words can come with a real sense of fulfilment. Maybe it's an exam passed, a race won, or a painful time being over and you got through it.

We can say it with that sense of fulfilment of a good many things here at Nativity. Among them this year are the fulfilment of the hopes we've had for a young clergy family, as the Wasley family came here, Sue's ordination as Priest, and now the appointment of a Youth Coordinator. Rose Newton moves here from Nelson with her husband Jeremy in the new year and starts with us on 16 January.

Each of those are markers that set up for a lot of new things we've hoped for. We are believing and praying for the fulfilment of the potential they each offer. In fulfilment of the call of God on us, we reach out to those who do not know the faith we do, and to the youth and young families of our town and district.

We could name many other hopes fulfilled as 2016 draws to a close with the celebration of the greatest fulfilment of them all – God being born among us in Jesus. Let's make sure we are always thankful to our heavenly Father for each and every blessing.

To those who will be heading away before the Christmass celebration next weekend, travel safely, take the greetings of Nativity to wherever you celebrate Jesus nativity, and fulfil the calling he has on your life.

Advent blessings everyone.

Bob and Libby



Items of Interest

Thank you to Eileen Guard and her pupils. Their concert raised \$152.70 for Nativity fundraising.



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.

"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.

Homework? If you are travelling during summer, please keep eyes/ears open for churches to visit that have had earthquake damage, or must be strengthened because of low NBS% values. eg in Christchurch: Transitional Cathedral; Knox Presbyterian. It's helpful to compare ways other churches are meeting these challenges.



There are some A4 sheets of Nativity floor plan at the back of the church if you wish to take one away and have a prayer about what can be done to make the building fit the ministry here at Nativity.

Students looking for a place to flat in Christchurch next year Peverel Falts could be the place for you. See notice board for more information or email peverelflats@gmail.com

LINK has finished for the 2016 year, but will restart 1pm, 13th January 2017 A big thank you to those who came to set up and run this event for all to enjoy.

Tunes for Tots has finished for the year and will restart 3rd February 2017. Thank you to the ladies who ran Tunes for Tots for our church and community mums and dads to bring their children to play.

Thursday 10am services will finish for 2016 on 22nd December, starting again on 12th January 2017. Thank you to all who have helped with these services.

Thank you to David James for again providing our church Christmas tree. Go and check out his Vickerman Street nursery.

Jan's Joy! *This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10*



Welcome to our services today! 18th December 2016

Theme 8am & 10am: Fulfilment

Readings 8am & 10am: Luke 1:39-45 & Luke 1:46-55

Sentence: You heavens above rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up.
Isaiah 45:8



Collect: God faithful and true, make us eager with expectation, as we look for the fulfilment of your promise in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS The busy Christmas Season is upon us - take some time to be quiet and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

- Mon.** "Now there were shepherds." Luke 2: 8 Have you ever wondered why the angel first talked to shepherds, a job very low on the social ladder. Pray today for people who may be considered as social outcasts.
- Tues.** "Now there were shepherds." The greatest news in history was given to those who had no reputations to protect. Pray for a simple and child-like faith. Pray for our children and youth.
- Wed.** Outside Bethlehem there is a church reputed to mark Jesus' birthplace. To enter the cave, you must kneel; the door is too low to get in standing up. To experience God, we must get down on our knees.
- Thurs.** The shepherds once they had seen Jesus "they in turn went out and told it to the world." Luke 2:17. Pray that we will all be enthusiastic to go out and share the good news.
- Fri.** "All who heard it were amazed....." Luke 2:18 God's grace still amazes people. Pray that the Christian Media will have great impact over Christmas.
- Sat.** "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19. The challenge to us is to get off the Christmas Merry-go-round and take time to ponder and treasure the meaning of Christmas.

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
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

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
ley

Parish Nurse
Counselling
mond
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 Was-

John Neal
Miriam Taylor
Kevin Gwynne
Raewyn Parkes
Kathy Ham-

Miriam Taylor &
Shirley Ramsay
Libby Barnes
Alison Brice
Stephen Sheat
Pauline Tisch
Jane Sheat &

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"

*For unto us a Son is
born unto us a Son
is given*