



# The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 19th March 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 friends

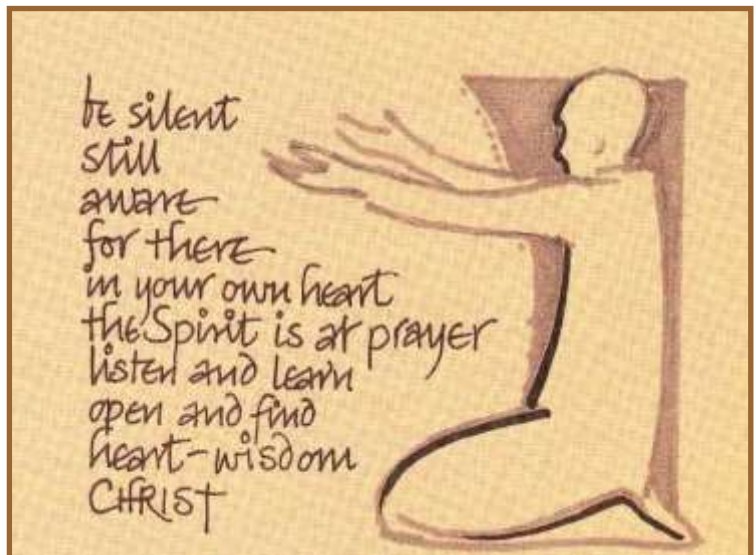
Welcome to our visitors today, and those who are new to Nativity. Welcome to our Harvest Festival, in which we thank God for all he gives us.

As we get closer to Easter, in our Sunday themes, we've been looking at the tools God gives us for the difficult times in our lives. They're times the 23rd Psalm calls "the valley of the shadow of death". The tools are called Spiritual Disciplines. They are both celebrations to enjoy as well as skills to be worked on. Today we're going to develop the discipline of Silence.

In our services this morning we'll begin with celebration of the 2017 harvest, then to being thankfully quiet with periods of silence. We move from Harvest thanksgiving and offering, to the fruit of silence. Your challenge is to practice it at home.

God bless

Bob and Libby



## Items of Interest

**Wairau Plains parishes** have a combined picnic today from 12.30pm at Pollard Park. All welcome.

**CMS** prayer meeting today 4pm-5pm in Barnies. All welcome.

*If you need more offertory envelopes for the next six months please contact the office 5783909 or [jan@nativity.org.nz](mailto:jan@nativity.org.nz), by Monday 27th March.*

**Urgent: Twilight Autumn Ramble Wednesday 22nd March**, \$15 per person, cost includes three garden visits + coffee & dessert. Join us for coffee/tea & dessert, garden art and music. Last day for tickets 20<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30pm. Office closes 4pm sharp.

**Lenten Retreat:** Friday 24th March 10am - 3pm. "My Cup Overfloweth" at Wairau Hospital Chapel: Director Rev. Kevin Gwynne. Registrations not necessary. Enquiries Ph. 021 2697954 Cost: \$10 BYO Lunch - or from Cafe. Please bring: Bible, pen, notebook.

**Murray Cotter**, who with Féy, has been working in Albania, will be speaking after a shared meal at Neals, 118 Budge Street on Saturday 25 March at 5.30pm. All welcome.

**If you would like** to donate regularly to Anglican Missions please ask at the office or me, for monthly envelopes. May to October envelope sets will be out next month. Margaret Jarman.

**Taylor River Walk:** Thursdays at 8.30 am for about 45 minutes, meeting at the carpark by the Henry Street footbridge off Nelson Street. All welcome. Contact Pam Neal 5777442 or Fay Johnstone 5783763.

**There is a working bee** proposed for Sat. 1 April around Nativity. Details later.

**The St Andrew's Family Trust** – Helping local children in need. Are children your passion? Would you like the opportunity to help local children by contributing to basic requirements their families can't afford, such as school uniforms and firewood for winter? The St Andrew's Family Trust has a long association with the Diocese of Nelson and is committed to providing support for vulnerable children and their families in "the top of the South". As well as funding projects, the Trust provides individual grants to help children with basics such as those mentioned. Can you help? Donations are welcome and can be made to 06-0705-0012140-00, reference 'Donation 812-52-9'. All donations will go directly to children in need. Please provide the Anglican Centre with details if you would like a receipt.

**Coming Up:** 12th & 13th May, Firebird New Zeal Conference: "Healing the wounded soul." Here at Nativity. This is for men and women. Experience God's healing power in your life. More information to come.

**Street Intensive:** Street clean up Sat. 8 April in Lucas St., 9am to midday. This a way we and other churches are able to bless our local community, with the District Council and Police.



**Our children's ministry team** need as many shoeboxes as possible by 24th March. If you can help please leave them at the office .

**Jan's Joy: You will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:12-13**



## Welcome to our services today! 19th March 2017



**Theme 8am & 10am:** Spiritual Disciplines: Silence

**Readings 8am & 10am:** 1 Kings 19:1-13 & Romans 8:18-25

**Sentence:** As we draw near, we do so to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, enable us to be still and recognise your voice Lord.

*(Ecclesiastes 5:1 & Psalm 46:10 modified)*

**Collect:** Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked, draw us beyond our doubts, that in silence we may fully meet you as you are; may we be renewed by you and hear your voice afresh once again. **Amen**

**WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:** If trees could talk.....

- Mon.** Trees are first mentioned in Genesis 1:11 -12 – the third day of creation. Take time today to thank God for trees.
- Tues.** Trees are next mentioned in Genesis 3:1 - 8 with the temptation in the Garden of Eden and God offering the tree of life. Pray for people you know facing temptation today.
- Wed.** Genesis 6. The Ark was built of Gopher wood. Roughly 450 feet long. A lot of wood required it would be a big challenge. Pray that Nativity will be open to big challenges from God.
- Thurs.** Exodus 15:22-27 Three days after Moses had led the people through the Red Sea they were grumbling and complaining and Moses cast a tree into bitter water and the water became sweet. Pray against grumbling and complaining today.
- Fri.** Leviticus 19:23-25 we read about trees being a provision for the future. Pray for someone you know who is burdened for the future.
- Sat.** Psalms have a lot of quotes about trees. Psalm 1: 3 “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in season.” Pray that Nativity will be known by its fruits.
- ... More about trees from the New Testament next week....

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, Jane Sheat (5789004) Sheryll Gwynne (5776507) Prayer Facilitators and they can arrange this for you.

**Prayer Chain:** Bob Barnes (5783909) Jane Sheat (5789004) & 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>  | 2pm    | Afternoon Care cell in the lounge        |
|               | 4.30pm | Prayer for the Parish at 178 High Street |
| <b>Wed:</b>   | 5.30pm | Garden Tour                              |
| <b>Thurs:</b> | 10am   | Eucharist 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@7

### March 19:

Tom Campbell - Coca cola evangelism versus the real McCoy.

### March 26:

5.30pm share meal in the lounge.

7pm **Ken Hepworth** - Healing the land.

All welcome



**There** is a working bee proposed for Sat. 1 April around Nativity. Details later.

**Street Intensive:** Street clean up Sat. 8 April in Lucas St., 9am to midday. This a way we and other churches are able to bless our local community, with the District Council and Police.

## Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar  
Assistant Priests

Youth/24/7 Worker  
Vicar's P/A  
Parish Nurse  
Parish Manager  
Receptionist  
Counselling  
Care Cell Coordinators

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

Bob Barnes  
Susan Howarth  
Jonathan Wasley  
John Neal  
Miriam Taylor  
Kevin Gwynne  
Rose Newton  
Jude Dell  
Raewyn Parkes  
Keith Buck  
Jan Burrough  
Kathy Hammond  
Miriam Taylor &  
Shirley Ramsay  
Libby Barnes  
Alison Brice  
Stephen Sheat  
Jennifer Bennett-Burrows  
Jane Sheat &  
Sheryll Gwynne

## 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"

