



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 20th November 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

Life is fragile. People are fickle. When things have been running relatively smoothly for a while we get complacent – even if we've been talking about the last disaster. Then something happens to shake us out of our self-assuredness. Something like a rude comment, the death of a dream, or a 7.8 earthquake just after midnight. In some ways that's what's happened this week. We've been talking about strengthening our buildings, with the memory of the 2013 quakes in our consciousness. But when Monday morning happened and with each aftershock, we naturally went on full alert.

Staff visited and rang as many of our more vulnerable parishioners and their teams as they could after checking family and neighbours. Stephen Sheat has made two inspections of Nativity this week, and had a 2nd opinion from an engineer in Christchurch. The building seems as safe as it was before. If you have any needs – even for prayer – please contact us.

It's our southern family and friends, and fellow Christians in the Awatere and Kaikoura parishes who are in trouble. The three most immediate needs are money, water and bread. So, this Sunday there will be a retiring offertory. That money will be paid into an account held by the Awatere parish and distributed by them.

So, praise God for adrenaline and aftershocks. They keep us prepared for danger, and release in a controlled way the tension in the earth's crust. Praise God for the way they remind us that he will come again, and that we're never to fall into a Godless complacency. Praise God for the love that can bind humanity, and especially his Church in an outpouring of love for those who are suffering even when we are.

"We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ² for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints."

(2 Corinthians 8:1-4)

Grace and peace be with you all

Bob and Libby

Items of Interest

Seniors Christmas Luncheon: Thank you to Pauline, Raewyn and team for another spot on luncheon. It was enjoyed by all.

Connections: You are welcome to bring some finger food and share a time of fellowship, food and gospel story in the lounge tonight at 5.30pm

Nativity @ 7pm: All welcome to join us for a cuppa and worship in the hall.

For families in need or crisis we try to have a few readymade meals in the foodbank deep freeze. Our supply has almost run out. If you are able to help by cooking an extra portion or family meal and can drop it at the office to freeze it would be much appreciated. We will provide some containers if needed.

We would like to gather a few Christmas goodies ie. Christmas cakes/puddings, chickens, frozen vegies and other such extras to have in the food bank at Nativity to put into food parcels given out before and during the festive season.

The Twilight Garden Tour was a huge success. The results are great proof that the organization of such an event is well worth it. With car park funds, ticket sales and sales tables a profit of \$2000 will boost the fund-raising account. Special thanks to the Harrison's, Struthers and Leitch's who kindly allowed us to view their beautiful gardens, they were presented with a thank you gift on the night. Whether it was helping with the carpark, donating sugar/fruit, making marmalade/pickles/jam, selling tickets or helping on the night the Nativity Fun, Fund Raising & Fellowship Team, Roger, Pauline, Garth, Francie, Lyall & Elaine wish to convey a massive thank you to all who contributed in some manner. All produce that was left over has been donated to the Community Food bank.

Combined Anglican Churches Picnic:- November 27th, 12.30pm. Pollard Park play area. Come and meet with the folk from Spring Creek, Renwick, Picton, and St. Christopher's for fun and fellowship. Bring your own picnic lunch, games to play and get to know your neighbours in Christ. Parents are responsible at the event for the children they bring. If wet the event will be cancelled. The clergy will notify you at the morning services. All welcome.

Marlborough for Fun: Senior Citizens Variety Concert, Tuesday November 22nd, Wesley Centre at 2pm. For more information ph. 577 8935

Children's Ministry at Nativity: For those involved in leading children's ministry we are having a catch up to discuss reshaping groups for next year. We meet on Sunday 27th November 11.30am in the lounge before Combined Churches Picnic at Pollard Park. Anyone keen to be involved next year is also welcome to join in. *Susan Howarth.*

Throwing it out? Give us a shout. Unwanted furniture and household items in good condition can be donated to The Blue Door, 46 Seymour St. Telephone: 5794353

Susan Howarth's ordination is Wednesday 30th November, 7pm at Nelson Cathedral.

Diary now: Convergence Family Camp 17-19 February 2017. Registration forms at the office or at the back of the church

Jan's Joy! *Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:24*



Welcome to our services today! 20th November 2016

Theme 8am & 10am: God is Guiding Us

Readings 8am & 10am: Psalm 23

Sentence: Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua 24:15



Collect: Lord lead us into your plans, your desires, your paths. Make us a holy people, set aside to enter into the purpose and vision that you have

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS

Our Prayer Focus this week (and next week) is prompted by the earthquakes. Pray for the "peace that passes all understanding" and protection over every aspect of the clean-up.

Mon. Focus today on the towns and rural areas: Kaikoura, Ward, Seddon, Blenheim, Picton, Christchurch, Wellington.

Tues. The most urgent need is water, toilets, sewerage, power, food, phone services. Pray that these needs are met quickly.

Wed. Pray for the evacuation of tourists and visitors in Kaikoura, the sick and needy.

Thurs. Pray for safety for the helicopter pilots and crews, military and ships. Pray for all who have been evacuated for a return to normality for their lives

Fri. Pray for all decision makers, government representatives, councils, community leaders.

Sat. Give thanks for community response: maraes, churches, welfare groups, Red Cross, and neighbours coming together. Family support. Thank God that He hears and answers our prayers

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

Tues:	4.30pm	Prayer for the Parish at 178 High Street
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	7pm	Choir in the church
Fri:	1pm	LINK in the lounge
Sun:	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	12.30pm	Combined Churches Picnic at Pollard Park
	5.30pm	Connections in the hall
	7pm	Nativity@7 in the hall



Youth Ministry in Marlborough - Two new positions beginning 2017

1. A full time role incorporating Nativity Youth Co-ordinator (25 hours/wk) and 24-7 Youth Team Leader (15 hours/wk) for the local colleges. The successful applicant will be able to show relevant experience in youth work and have the ability to work in both church and school environments.
2. 24-7 Youth Worker (10hrs/wk). The successful applicant will be able to relate well to youth and have a desire to engage with young people and staff in a school environment. Applicant will already be connected to a Marlborough church or be willing to become involved with one.

For information about either of these positions please contact:

24-7youth@nativity.org.nz or Jonathan Wasley at Nativity Anglican Church (03 578-3909)

Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar
Vicar's P/A
Parish Manager
Receptionist
Families/Youth Pastor
Assistant Priests

Parish Nurse
Counselling
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 Wasley
John Neal
Miriam Taylor
Kevin Gwynne
Raewyn Parkes
Kathy Hammond
Miriam Taylor & Shirley Ramsay
Libby Barnes
Alison Brice
Stephen Sheat
Pauline Tisch
Kevin & Sheryll Gwynne

To Contact Us

Nativity Anglican Church Office & Centre
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am - 4pm
Friday - 9am - 12noon

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Website: www.nativity.org.nz

Facebook: Find us on "Church of the Nativity"

