



# The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 22nd July 2018

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,

Gladys Aylward led 100 Chinese orphans on a long mountainous trek out of the path of the invading Japanese Army in 1938. When repatriated back to Britain for WW2 she was feted by British nobility. It is said the Archbishop of Canterbury commented "You must have had many things to worry you". "Yes" she replied "but most of them never happened."

How often we worry, needlessly. As we walk with God through life, discovering his presence and purpose, there is another way to deal with the perceived threats. In their course "Experiencing God" (2007) Henry and Richard Blackaby provide and develop the diagram at left.



God is always at work, whether or not we realise it. He pursues a real, personal and loving relationship with us and invites us to join him in his work. He speaks through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church revealing his purposes and ways.

God's invitation for us to work with him always leads to a "crises of belief" that requires us to take action with faith. It means we need to make adjustments to our lives in order to join God in what he's doing.

The main result is that we come to know God (better) by obeying and experiencing him, and he accomplishes his work ... through us! Everyone wins.

*"Jesus said ... 'Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing'."* (John 5:19)

The blessings of God's courage and peace be upon you as we take up our destiny as Gods sons and daughters.

Bob and Libby

## Items of Interest

**Senior Citizens Concert:** Thursday 9th August at the Wesley Centre, 2-3pm. Come along and enjoy an afternoon of jazz music, tea and biscuits, performed by the best youth musicians the South Island has to offer.

**Reverend Sam Anderson**, Vicar of St Christopher's is hosting an open information meeting about a motion to be presented at our Diocesan Synod in August, that the Nelson Diocese withdraw from the Province of New Zealand .

Wednesday: 25th July  
7:30pm - 9pm

### Alpha Marriage Course

The course is 7 weeks.

Running Tuesday evenings 7-9:30pm.

At Marlborough Vintners Hotel,  
Rapaura Road.

\$200 per couple for the whole course.

Limited places - contact Jonathan to confirm a space.

Part deposit confirms place on the course.

Please talk to Jonathan if \$ is a barrier.

Details on the website:  
[www.nativity.org.nz](http://www.nativity.org.nz)



**Life Beyond the Grave:** Come and hear Ian McCormack , Friday 3rd August at The Foundry, John Street. Bring friends to hear Ian relate his story over supper. No Cost.

Sunday 5th August 10am and 6pm at Harvestlife, 22 Nelson Street. See notice on board for more information.

Prayer in the church daily  
(Monday to Thursday 8.45  
-9AM) Praying for Nativity  
and our community.

The word 'Jesus' is written in a large, elegant, cursive script font, appearing to be made of a metallic or stone-like material.



August 3- 4 is going to be a time that determines men's destinies when they meet at LEGACY Christchurch. What does it look like to be a Christian man today? When you or your family look back in 10 or 20 years time and what you represented, what will they remember about you? Promise keepers is about bringing men out of isolation, and gathering together at these Events as part of that. Joining together encourages us to grow in our own faith and live it out. We are empowered to give others strength in their faith. See Bob or the office for information

The Prayer Request box in the foyer of the church is to write any prayer requests on the paper provided and pop it into the box. We will collect them and they will be prayed through every Tuesday.

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

# Welcome to our services today! 22nd July 2018

Theme 8am & 10am: Vision

Readings 8am & 10am: Numbers 3:12-19 & John 6:48-51

Sentence: Jesus said to Mary, 'Go to my friends and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' *John 20:17*



Collect: Jesus our guide, like Mary Magdalen, we journey in faith to resurrection, through failure, through success, through whatever lies ahead; for you are the way, the truth and the life; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Weekly Prayer Focus

Are you going through a spiritual dry spell? You are not unique. It happened to Elijah a prophet who had spectacular victories – and then found himself struggling as a failure. Read 1 Kings 18:41-44

- Mon. When Elijah recognised his problems and failures – especially the drought – he bowed to the ground and prayed. Whatever failure you are facing today – take it to the Lord in prayer.
- Tues. Elijah had to ignore all the 'no rain reports' and start believing God's promises. Pray about an area of discouragement in your life.
- Wed. Elijah sent his servant seven times to look towards the sea for rain clouds. Finally, the servant said, 'there is a very small cloud rising out of the sea.' Elijah believed in God's promise for rain. Keep praying and believing.
- Thurs. Every success story begins with something small. The servant who kept telling Elijah nothing was happening, finally saw the tiny cloud- it had great potential. God loves to use insignificant things. – think of the boys' lunch feeding thousands.
- Fri. Don't be influenced by those who do not share your vision. Elijah's servant kept saying 'nothing is happening. Elijah knew better – he kept praying.
- Sat. Your problems are an opportunity for God to show Himself on your behalf. His strength is made perfect in your weakness. Start believing in the small cloud of God's victory.

**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) Prayer Facilitator, or ring the office 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.

## What's on this week: 16th Week in ordinary time

<b>Wed:</b>	7pm	Boys group in Barnies
<b>Thurs:</b>	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	7pm	Choir Practice
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
<b>Sat:</b>	6.30pm	Red Alert Dinner in the hall
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	5.30pm	Canvas in the hall



### Jan's Joy:

*Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Whatever happens be thankful. This is how God wants you to live in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

## Red Alert

**Winter Dinner July  
28th ,6.30pm  
Nativity Hall**

Pot luck, BYO drinks

**Red theme:** be sure  
to wear something

**Red**



**Winter Half Day Retreat :**  
In Barnies  
Saturday,  
4th August  
9am-12noon.  
Book at the office 5783909



## Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar  
Assistant Priests

Bob Barnes  
Jonathan Wasley  
John Neal  
Miriam Taylor  
Rose Newton  
Jude Dell  
Raewyn Parkes  
Jan Burrough  
Kathy Hammond

Youth/24/7 Worker  
Vicar's P/A  
Parish Nurse  
Receptionist  
Counselling  
Care Cell Coordinators  
Women's Ministry  
Chaplain to the Elderly  
Vicar's Warden  
People's Warden

Libby Barnes  
Alison Brice  
Stephen Sheat  
Jennifer Bennett-Burrows

**Nativity Bank account: ANZ 060705 0429077 00**

## 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

**Rose and Jonathan: Mondays off.**  
**Bob, Jude and Jan: Fridays off.**