



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 24th September 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

Relationships are at the very core of living, even when we give the nod to some of those old English sayings like *"Nowt so queer as folks"*.

Right from the very beginning people were made for relationship, because we were made in the image of our creator. God is Trinity – one in three and three in one – a perfect relationship of love. Our relationships were set up from then to be God honouring. If a relationship is to be described as "God honouring" it will also be honouring the people in the relationship.

Sadly, our relationships are not always as well maintained as they should be. That's why we recently ran The Marriage Course. It's why we encourage you to be involved in Care Cells and other small groups. It's why we look out for opportunities to do things that develop relationships between people. Even our worship is part of developing the way we relate to God and to each other. In the end it also lets us learn to relate well to ourselves – and that's not as strange a need as it may sound at first!

Things happen in society that are not God honouring and because we are in the world, we pick up some of those attitudes. And that puts us at odds with society and its values. We will be criticised for that. We will be called judgemental and worse. But we must remember to march to the beat of a different drum. We have a different master.

*"We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you."
(2 Corinthians 5:20 - The Message)*

Always ask - is the dog wagging the tail or the tail wagging the dog? Who or what is shaping you and your relationships – and how???

May the love of Jesus be yours.

Bob and Libby



Items of Interest

Spiritual Kai with Kate:

Creative ideas and tools to help you enjoy and dig deeper into God's Living Word. Renwick Anglican, Renwick Anglican, Wednesday 27th Sept. 7pm-9pm.

Offertory Envelopes: Almost time to get those envelopes out again. If you need more for the next six months, please let Jan at the office know. Ph. 5783909 or email jan@nativity.org.nz

There is a wheelchair behind the old pulpit that the data projector sits on should it ever be required during a service.

Age Concern Office, Senior's Dance – this year the theme is 50s and 60s. held on Sunday 1 October, from 4pm til 7pm. tickets are \$10, and includes dinner, dessert, tea and coffee. Tickets are available from the Age Concern office, Clubs of Marlborough, Ken Ham Music Works and Grey Power.

Organ Concert: today, 2pm at Nativity Church. Door Sales:

\$10 per person.

Invite your family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours to join you for a relaxing afternoon out and enjoy the talents of local organists.

Stay for a cuppa & cookie, after the show. Gold coin donation appreciated.

This is a Blenheim Anglican Parish Fund Raising Activity.



Please remember to use the prayer card to pray for the Church Building Project. If you do not have a card pick up one from the back of the church.

Local House of Prayer Training

When: 9.30am - 3.00pm Saturday 14th October

Where: Holy Trinity Anglican Church 27 Dorset Street, Richmond, Nelson
Lunch: Bring your own (Tea and coffee provided) Morning and afternoon tea provided.

Cost: \$5 donation to cover printing and morning and afternoon teas.

See notice board by hall for more information.



Operation Christmas box Appeal: It's that time of year to start collecting boxes and filling them for children less fortunate than ours. Boxes will be available at the back of the church today. There will be a list of things suitable/not suitable with the boxes. They will be due back 20th October or can be delivered to St Mary's office in Maxwell Road. We did well last year Nativity, keep up the good work.

Jan's Joy: As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12



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

Welcome to our services today! 24th September 2017

Theme 8am & 10am: God Honouring Relationships

Readings: 8am & 10am: 2 Corinthians 5:11-15 & 2 Timothy 1:8-14

Sentence: I shall live through you O Lord and my children shall serve you; to a people as yet unborn they shall make known the saving deeds you have done.
Psalm 22:30,31

Collect: Give us, we pray you, gentle God, a mind forgetful of past injury, a will to seek the good of others and a heart of love. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

On the opening page of Bob Gass "Best of the Word for Today" is a thought provoking message. I attach it for you (slightly shorter version) a good basis for prayer this week.

Mon. An anonymous author made this striking comparison "Socrates taught for 40 years. Plato for 20, Aristotle for 40 and Jesus for only three. Yet the influence of Christ's three-year ministry, infinitely transcends the impact of all great philosophers.

Tues. Jesus painted no pictures, yet some of the finest paintings of Raphael, Michelangelo, and de Vinci received their inspirations from him.

Wed. Jesus wrote no poetry, but Dante, Milton and scores of the world greatest poets were inspired by him.

Thurs. He composed no music, still Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, Bach and Mendelssohn reached their highest perfection of melody in his praise.

Fri. Every sphere of human greatness has been enriched by this humble carpenter from Nazareth.

Sat. Only Jesus can break the enslaving chains of sin and Satan. He alone can speak peace to the human heart, strengthen the weak and give life to those who are spiritually dead.

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

Tues:	4.30pm	Prayer for the Parish at 178 High Street.
Wed:	7pm	Choir Practice in the church
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
Fri:	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
Sun:	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	7pm	Nativity@7 in the hall



Come
Worship
With Us



Nativity@7pm:

Tonight 7pm in the hall

"Reflections on being Naturally Supernatural."

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

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

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.