



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 25th February 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,

Welcome to our annual Harvest Thanksgiving.

We are so blessed. We've said it before, but may we never forget it – we are indeed so very blessed and of all people on this planet, in any time in history, New Zealand Christians have cause and duty to be most thankful. In ancient times Harvest Festivals were held so people could bring the first and the best of their labours. Jesus died and rose to life at a Jewish Harvest Festival called Passover. The best, given for all people, and for our best.



Today we offer the fruit of our lives.

It's appropriate that this day we also thank God for the fruit of the ministry of Sue and Graeme Howarth and bless them on their way to minister as leaders of Havelock Parish. It's sad to see them go, but they're not going to be that far away.

For nine years they have seen and caused many changes.

There has been much good fruit at their hands – including that which most will never see. For that and the harvest they have cultivated for later years, we also give thanks - and are invited to pick up the challenge to keep this vineyard producing the highest quality fruit for the Lord of the harvest.

'While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.' Genesis 8:22

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." Psalm 24:1

Bob and Libby

Items of Interest

Canvas tonight 5.30pm in the hall.

Harvest Festival Picnic Lunch

today at 12noon in the church grounds. Includes activities/games for families. Please bring finger food suitable for a main meal to share. We will be saying farewell to Susan Howarth today also as she leaves to go to Havelock Parish. Susan's commissioning as Vicar of Havelock Sunday 4th March at 5pm in St Peters Church Havelock. All are welcome to attend.

Nativity AGM is on 19th March, 7.30pm in the church. All are welcome to attend. Nomination forms for Peoples Warden and Vestry Members are at the office. Last day for nominations is 12th March.

She Hopes event on March 17, 10am-3pm at Elim Christian Centre with Juliagrace and Ps Amy de Vetter. Ladies come along to this and bring your friends. Both Julia and Amy have walked the difficult road of mental illness and are passionate about sharing what they've learned along the way to freedom. Cost is \$25. Registrations by 14 March please as it is a catered event. Registration link: https://bcma.infoodle.com/form_process?g=afceb88d-7e5d-4a02-a700688061f0128b

Taylor River Walk – You are welcome to join this group when you are able. We walk for up to 45 mins on Thursdays starting at 8.30am from the carpark by the Henry Street footbridge off Nelson Street. Contact Pam Neal 5777442 or Fay Johnstone 5783763 or just turn up



Nativity Church Office will be closed from 12noon to 2pm Wednesday 28th February. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

World Day of Prayer. Friday 2nd March St Christopher's, Redwoodtown. 10am Morning tea. Ecumenical Service 10. 30am. Offerings to go to Christian World Services. Come and learn about The Republic of Suriname in the north-eastern part of South America. All welcome.

Thank you people of Nativity for your generous donations to the Nativity food bank. At present we have an over load of tinned tomatoes and cheese, so please hang fire on them for a short while until supplies get lower. We have no meat, so please if you can get specials of saveloys, sausages and mince it would be appreciated. Any other meat as well.



The Anglican Missions Board is launching an Emergency Appeal in support of the Anglican Church in Tonga and its work in assisting with the response to Tropical Cyclone Gita. AMB website for more information <http://www.angmissions.org.nz/> and Taonga story: http://anglicantaonga.org.nz/news/tikanga_pasifika/gita

Jan's Joy: *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance. Ephesians 1:18*

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

Welcome to our services today! 25th February 2018

Theme 8am & 10am: The Supremacy of Christ

Readings 8am & 10am: 1 Colossians 2:1-9 & Psalm 139:1-18

Sentence: Rend your hearts and not your garments; turn back to the Lord your God: who is gracious and compassionate, long-suffering and abounding in love.
Joel 2:13

Collect: Almighty God, give your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only true God; through Jesus Christ our Saviour who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**



Weekly Prayer Focus:

Continuing our Prayer Focus using the Alphabet.

- Mon. S... *Spiritual warfare.*** When you feel you are under attack from Satan (e.g. in thoughts to your mind, attitudes or events happening in your life) turn to Ephesians 6 and claim God's protection.
- Tues. T... *thanksgiving.*** Thanksgiving is an attitude that grows. Thank God for all his blessings. Thanksgiving is a trigger that prepares us for the miracle working power of God in our lives.
- Wed. U... *Using time twice over.*** Here's a challenge for today! How many times during the day can you pray while you are doing something else. (having a shower, standing in a queue, driving a car etc.)
- Thurs. V... *Be Thou my Vision.*** Vision is "the faculty of seeing.. sight." We need to pray that God will open our eyes that we will see people, situations and needs with the eyes of Jesus.
- Fri. W... *Worship.*** Worship is meeting the living God and having our lives changed by His presence. We cannot experience true worship if the coals of our spiritual life are cool. God's word, prayer, fellowship, service, obedience, the presence of the Holy Spirit – all keep the fire glowing.
- Sat. W... *worship cont.*** Read 2 Samuel Ch. 6. David took off his outer cloak so that he could dance before the Lord. Some of the "outer cloaks" that we have to discard may be pride, tradition, fear, hang-ups. What "cloak" holds you back from worshipping freely? Pray about this today.

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.

What's on this week

Tues:	4pm	Prayer for Easter at 25 Burleigh Road
Thurs:	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
	7pm	Choir Practice in the choir vestry
Fri:	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
Sun:	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	2pm	Prayer Vigil in Barnies
	5.30pm	Canvas in the hall



Tuesday Prayer time 4.pm-5.pm

We invite you to join us to reflect on the meaning of Easter for four Tuesdays 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. 27th Feb and 6th, 13th, and 20th March at Grace Petrie's home 25 Burleigh Rd.

This focus has been prompted by the weekly prayer group – we are feeling the need to change our emphasis – and we would welcome you to join with us.



Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar	Bob Barnes
Assistant Priests	Jonathan Wasley John Neal Miriam Taylor
Youth/24/7 Worker	Rose Newton
Vicar's P/A	Jude Dell
Parish Nurse	Raewyn Parkes
Parish Manager	Keith Buck
Receptionist	Jan Burrough
Counselling	Kathy Hammond
Care Cell Coordinators	Miriam Taylor & Shirley Ramsay
Women's Ministry	Libby Barnes
Chaplain to the Elderly	Alison Brice
Vicar's Warden	Stephen Sheat
People's Warden	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.