



## The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 26th 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 you all, and especially to our visitors.

Today is Mothering Sunday. It's an ancient Christian tradition, very different to the commercial Mother's Day celebrated in May of USA origins and just over a century old. Mothering Sunday was developed in Britain on the 4th Sunday in the season of Lent. As in this year, that makes it close to "Lady Day" the very ancient Feast of the Annunciation on 25 March when the angel announced to Mary that she had been chosen to carry Jesus, 9 months before Christmas Day.

So on this day we celebrate the life and work of the AAW – Association of Anglican Women. It exists to Unite women in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church, and to promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life. AAW is open to all women. Affiliated to the National Council of Women, which gives members a voice in lobbying Government and to work for positive change through the Social Concerns arm. There is an Overseas and Outreach arm of AAW in which funds given by members are used to support women and children everywhere providing relief in natural disasters in NZ and overseas.

All that is ultimately about service, another spiritual discipline in our series on them during these weeks leading up to Easter. Rose is speaking to us about that today. The AAW and other Christian organisations who lead the church in this way are good examples of Christian service. The service to us that was made by Jesus, in securing the means of our eternal salvation is the greatest ever. Whatever else you have done or do in serving, make sure you have received the blessing of Jesus service to you today.

*28 (An angel) came to (Mary) and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ... 38 Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'*  
(Luke 1)

God bless  
Bob and Libby



## Items of Interest

*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.*

**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.

**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.

**Deborah Paton and Kaye Dyer** will be ordained Priest, 7pm, 7<sup>th</sup> April at Renwick. All welcome.

**Secret Sister forms** need to be handed in to the office by Wednesday 29 March.



### Building Report

Please remember the Questionnaire'..  
Date due  
31<sup>st</sup> March



**A big thank you to Mike Newman from Meaters for the generous gift of meat for our Nativity foodbank. It is much appreciated.**

**Thank you Nativity for your awesome contributions also.**



**The first SHE Connects** event for 2017!



Join She Connects for a delicious brunch and hear Natasha's incredible story of how Jesus rescued her from her KGB world. Saturday, 1st April 10am @ The Clubs of Marlborough. \$18.00. per person. Get your girlfriends, sisters, mamas, aunties and waiters together and register for this great event, at She Connects Facebook page.

**Mature** (24 years plus preferred) live in boarder with full drivers licence wanted - free board, lovely queen sized room, free unlimited Wi-Fi, ten-minute walk to town centre, pocket money \$300 cash per week in exchange for 38-40 hours childcare, housework, washing and basic cooking (for the children). Four healthy kids, ages 5 & 7 at primary school across the road from home and 2.5-year-old twins who attend Kindy 20 hours per week. Live with single mum who works fulltime. Move in over the weekend 1-2 April 2017. Extra \$ during school holidays. Please ph Deeanne on 0275066631.



**Important—If you have recently joined** the Nativity Church family please give us your contact details to be added to our parish roll. Phone Jan at reception 5783909 or email [jude@nativity.org.nz](mailto:jude@nativity.org.nz)

**Jan's Joy: I am with you always until the end of the age.**  
*Matthew 28:20*

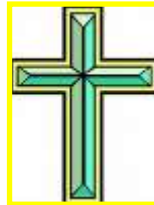


## Welcome to our services today! 26th March 2017

**Theme 8am & 10am:** Spiritual Disciplines: Service (AAW Mothering Sunday)

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Psalm 139:23 - 24 & Luke 10:38-42

**Sentence:** Help us to serve you Lord, with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength.  
*Deuteronomy 6:5*



**Collect:** Almighty and everlasting God, by your Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; Direct us in the particular ministry to which you have called us, we may serve you in holiness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

### WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

This week our prayer focus is on Trees as mentioned in the New Testament.

- Mon.** Jesus lived with Mary and Joseph for 30 years. What would Jesus have learned about trees from Joseph, the carpenter?
- Tues.** Luke 3:9 John the Baptist announces the coming of Jesus the Messiah. "every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down..." Pray today for the preaching of God's Word.
- Wed.** The same theme was picked up by Jesus early in his preaching. Take time today to read Matthew 7:15-20
- Thurs.** Jesus healed a blind man who said "I can see men like trees walking around." At the second touch from Jesus, the blind man could see everything clearly. Pray for a second touch today.
- Fri.** In Matthew 26:36 we read of Jesus agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. "Watch and pray" Jesus said to his disciples. Approach Easter prayerfully.
- Sat.** Jesus is arrested and crucified on roughly hewn branches from a tree. Read prayerfully today 1 Peter 2:21-25.
- Sun.** Revelation 22:1- 5 The Tree of Life mentioned in Genesis is no longer forbidden. It is there for all to take. Fruit all year round. Praise God for the tree of life.

**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>	4.30pm	Prayer for the Parish at 178 High Street
<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	Combined Churches service



## Nativity@7

**March 26:** 5.30pm share meal in the lounge.  
7pm **Ken Hepworth** - Healing the land.

**April 2nd:** 7pm BCMA Combined service in the church. Testimony ex KGB

**All welcome**

*Come Worship With Us.....  
It's a WOW Experience!!!*

## 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"

**At the end of the  
day, I am thankful  
that my blessings  
are bigger than my  
problems.**