



# The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 26th November 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,

Welcome to “Stir-up Sunday”

That’s an old nickname for the Sunday before the pre-Christmas season of Advent. Today is that Sunday before Advent. The nickname comes partly from an old prayer that was always used at this time of year. It reads (in modern English)

*“Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people  
that, richly bearing the fruit of good works,  
they may by you be richly rewarded;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord”*

We all need a bit of a stir-up from time to time, or like a Christmas cake being put together, the mixture won’t have the necessary taste or stickability. And if anyone is going to dish-out the stirring up, much better it be God than anyone else! At least we can trust God to be fair. Many in society treat this season as a warm up to Christmas. It might as well be Krissmiss for what inclusion of the Christ Child or his mass (=mission) is acknowledged.

These weeks of Advent, remind us Jesus will return again. So, let’s seek God for how he wants us to make his hope and purposes for his world known. Then as the Christ’s mass approaches his hope and purposes can be truly celebrated and represented, through us, to his lost world.

*“Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you **when he is revealed***  
*(1 Peter 1:13)*

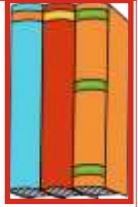
God bless you richly (– and try using that stir-up prayer daily, at least til Christmas).

Bob and Libby

## Items of Interest

**For sale** in the office we have packs of 10 small Christmas gift tags at \$2 per pack. Money raised is for the building restoration. These are kindly donated by a member of our Nativity family.

**Books for sale at the office:**  
Wind on the Withers by Christopher Cookson \$20  
William by Beverley Cross \$15



**Other books by parishioners but not at the office:**

The Best of Both Worlds by Julia Davidson  
Fit For A King by Rosemary Francis  
\$20 book. \$25 Book and CD  
This is a lovely Christmas gift for children

**Christmas Gifts for Missions:**

**Mission Aviation Fellowship:** Jerry Can Christmas appeal cards are available from the back of the church.

**CWS Christmas Appeal:** So people have food, water and justice. For gift ideas see pamphlet on board by hall also in pews in the church.

**The Leprosy Mission:** Really good gift idea catalogue to cure, care for and restore those affected by leprosy on the board by hall.

**Anglican Missions :** Any money donated goes towards the Parish Target for the year but also funds various people groups and projects. Notice on board by hall.

**CBA-Christian Broadcasting**

**Association:** Donate to tell the greatest story ever told... The birth of Jesus on Radio Live. Notice on board by hall.

*Jan's Joy: May the Lord  
make your love overflow  
for each other and for  
everyone else.  
1Thessalonians 3:12*



**A service of Choral Evensong** will be held this evening at 5pm. All are welcome to attend.

**24/7 Event at MGC:** Rose and Sarah are hosting a tea party for the junior classes at MGC. Do you have a picnic rug or two you can lend them for the day please?



**Secret Sisters Reveal** Saturday 2nd December at 1pm at Nativity Centre. Be sure to get your envelope with all the details in it, from Libby. Any questions contact Libby on 027 469 8104 or libby@nativity.org.nz

**Up Coming Nativity Christmas Event**



**Help Needed:** Would you be able to do make some gingerbread men for an event being held at Nativity on 15th & 17th December? Please contact Robyn Petrie 5791925

**Volunteer Position:** Are you able to set up communion one Saturday per month? We need someone/group/care cell who will. Training will be given. Contact the office or one of the clergy.



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

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

**Theme 8am & 10am:** Signs of His Coming

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Isaiah 25:1-9 & 1 Peter 1:3-12

**Sentence:** But as for me. I keep watch for the Lord; I wait in hope for God my Saviour; my God will hear me. *Micah 7:7 (adapted)*



**Collect:** Keep us hopeful, Holy Spirit, knowing that Christ will come again. Keep your church alert, ready to hear when you are calling, and when you challenge us. **Amen.**

### WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

Hebrews 6:1 says "Therefore let us...go on to maturity." Bob Gass suggests we read carefully and prayerfully the following words about maturity.

**Mon.** Maturity is the ability to control your anger and settle your differences without violence or resentment.

**Tues.** Maturity is patience. It's the willingness to pass up immediate pleasure for long term gain. It's the capacity to face unpleasantness and frustration without complaining or collapsing.

**Wed.** Maturity is humility. It's being big enough to say, "I was wrong." and when you're right, never needing to say, "I told you so."

**Thurs.** Maturity is the ability to make a decision and follow through on it, instead of exploring endless possibilities and doing nothing about any of them.

**Fri.** Maturity means dependability, keeping your word and coming through in a crisis.

**Sat.** Maturity is the art of being at peace with what you can't change, having the courage to change what you can, and having the wisdom to know the difference.

**Pray today that we will all "go on to maturity."**

**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

<b>Tues:</b>	4.30pm	Prayer for the Parish at 178 High Street.
	7pm	Alastair's Care Cell in the lounge
<b>Wed:</b>	7pm	Choir Practice in the church
<b>Thurs:</b>	10am	Eucharist in Barnies
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
<b>Sat:</b>	1pm	Secret Sisters Reveal
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	7pm	Nativity@7 in the hall



*O Worship the King all glorious above*



**Nativity@7pm in the hall**

**Final service for the year 2017**

**Speaker: Susan Howarth**

**All welcome**

***Come worship with us!***

## 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](mailto:info@nativity.org.nz)

**Website:** [www.nativity.org.nz](http://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.