



The Church of the Nativity
Sunday 27th January 2019
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 friends and family

The holidays were good. The weather finally settled down. Family came and went, and in between – and since - we started decluttering. It's amazing how much stuff we accumulated after just 7 years – and that's with no kids living at home. We used to blame them.

There's a time and season to do that clearing up. Clearing up before you clear off is always a good thing, even if you wish you'd done it ages ago. Bob joked that it was judgement for us having so much stuff. There's some truth to that. It's another "1st world problem" and the so called 1st world does have justice and creation issues we're accountable for. This year Nativity is doing some serious sorting out. As the world around us is changing, so too the church needs to adjust. It's a perennial matter that's at least decades old. One conference speaker in 1993 observed "the world has moved, but the church keeps sending the mail to the old address."

The most important thing you can do please, is keep praying. Pray for Vestry, John Neal and Richard Dyer with the future new look staffing from volunteers to the election of a new Bishop. Pray for discernment about what "stuff" is needed and not needed for the journey ahead – property and systems. As we've started looking for a house to buy and a job for Bob to pay for it, we've struggled to throw out things. Why was it a struggle? Because those things represented what shaped us to where we are now. But they have done their duty. They've served their purpose. We've moving into new areas of ministry and service.

Let everything be up for grabs in order that Nativity can draw people to faith in Christ, grow people in their commitment to Christ, and reach out with the love of Christ, in ways that operate for the future.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
"a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted ... a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away"..... God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him."

(Ecclesiastes 3)

God bless you in this enterprise
Bob and Libby



Items of Interest

A gift to say thank you to Bob & Libby

We welcome monetary donations for a gift to farewell Bob & Libby. Please either put your gift in an envelope marked Bob & Libby and put in the offertory bag or drop your donation into the office from 14th January. We are also putting together a book for you to write your sentiments or just to add your name, this will be in the office from 14th January or ask the welcomers on Sunday.

Farewell Bob & Libby

You are invited to a shared finger-food lunch on Sunday 3rd February, 1pm-3pm, to be held at the home of Alistair & Gaelyn Elliott, **42 Old Renwick Rd.**

Please note the address number it was incorrect on the front of the flyer last wee.

Lunch meeting with Dawn

Daunauda: Saturday 2 February at 11.30, Nativity lounge, followed by a shared lunch. Dawn has spent a year in Vanuatu, teaching English to theological students and she will also update us on the people who have had to flee from the volcanic eruption on Umbae. All welcome.

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

Tunes for Tots offering a Bible study for interested parents. Please contact Jeanette 5791045.

Granny's Attic Fundraiser

Thank you so much to those who donated items for this fundraiser, can't thank you enough for your generosity. Also a big thank you to Bev Kingston and her team for organising this event. Organising something like this takes a lot of time and energy, we are truly appreciative.

What's On This Week?

Wed: 4pm Prophetic Intercessory Prayer in Barnies
7pm Choir practice

Thurs: 10am Eucharist in Barnies

Fri: 1pm LINK in the lounge

Sat: 11.30am CMS lunch meeting in the lounge

Sun: 8am Traditional Eucharist Service
10am Family Service
Noon Picnic lunch 42 Old Renwick Rd

5.30pm CANVAS in the hall

Choir practice begins again on Wednesday 30th January at 7pm.

CANVAS restarts on 3rd February at 5.30pm

Theme: One Body, Many Parts

Readings: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 & Luke 4:14-22

Sentence: The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. *Luke 4:18,19*

Collect: Faithful and compassionate God, Jesus was not received in his home town and still we fail to recognise you: grant us hearts and minds receptive to your word; and give us the love and will to serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

NATIVITY ANGLICAN CHURCH HOLY COMMUNION GUIDANCE

1. As we always state at the Holy Communion, this is the Lord's Table and all who love Him are welcome to come forward and receive the bread (or a GF Wafer) and either the wine or fruit juice to remember His broken body and shed blood.
That invitation still stands.
2. However, both the Vestry and the children's programme leaders have asked that some guidelines be given, especially regarding children.
3. In the old days, only those who had been confirmed, usually in their teen years, were eligible to receive Holy Communion, while all others were welcome to come forward to receive a blessing, usually signalling this simply by clasping their hands in front of them or crossing their arms across their chests. That invitation also still stands for people of all ages.
4. Nowadays, children are also coming forward to receive the Communion and, insofar as most of them are quite able to have a basic understanding of Christ's sacrifice we invite them to continue. In the case of quite young children, we ask their parents to make a judgement call. If they have explained to their youngsters what the symbolism of this service is so that they have a basic understanding, then they are invited to hold out their hands like the rest of us and to receive a wafer and take a cup of fruit juice. But for the young children, could we invite them to come forward but simply to clasp their hands or cross their arms over their chests so that they can receive a blessing.
5. We emphasise that it is up to each family to make the call.

So, draw near and receive...

Mission Report for January 2019

Pam Neal is the 'Missions Coordinator' for Nativity. We are grateful to her for taking on this role.

The Hughes family are now part time working in the workshop while also learning the language and juggling family life. They have recently spent time in Thailand to attend to visa requirements but also taking the opportunity to enjoy a bit of R & R.

The Tuckers are in New Zealand in January. Hopefully some of you had the opportunity to catch up with Wayne at Nativity on 20th January. Their intention while at home is mainly to catch up with family.

Corins – No fresh news from the Corins this month.

Zane and Karen Elliott are presently in Oxford doing study and preparation for their future work with NZCMS. Their children have started school at a Christian School. They ask for your prayers for them as they adjust to communal living and the climate.

Notes from Vestry Meeting held 16th January 2019

Quotes are being obtained to repair the Narthex (Foyer) roof and refurbish the walls and carpets.

Preparation is underway for the AGM on 18th March. Documentation will be available shortly.

A farewell Parish picnic is being planned on 3rd February for Bob and Libby. Check out the flyer.

Fundraising initiatives are being developed to raise money for Nativity, the re-development of the church and the centre. A voluntary position of 'Fundraising Coordinator' has been established.

Vestry has given some focus to various administration functions brought about by the change of staff, and now with the new year, on maintenance, needed but deferred from 2018.

The building re-development project is being re-visited and details of progress will be provided as they come to hand.

Vestry is developing a 'Mission/Business/Financial Management Plan' to set goals and direction for Nativity. Information will be provided as things unfold.

Nativity Kids (Sunday school) will run as normal with the school term except for the first Sundays in February, March and April when the Intergenerational Worship (parallel) service will be running.

If anyone is willing to be involved with helping at Sunday School or especially First Steps (pre-schoolers), please talk to John Neal.

