



## The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 27th November 2016

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

Life is amazing. I guess it's something to do with the fact that life itself carries the image of its creator – as we do. God is amazing.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”  
(Isaiah 55:8-9)

We saw some of how amazing God is last Sunday. Great beyond our imagination just by virtue of being beyond our imagination in every way, God has always been not merely interested in his wayward earthbound humanity, but became one of us. Born, living, dying and rising to life again in Jesus, he is coming again. Amazing! It's something to anticipate.

This weekend it's five years since the two of us came to have a “look” at Nativity. As we left we had such anticipation about what life might be in this faith community.

Though the commercial world seems to make us believe that we're in the middle of Christmas, this is actually the season of Advent. It's a time to anticipate. Anticipate Christmas. But more important it's a time to anticipate meeting Jesus – at our death, or at his return. It's a time to check our preparation for that meeting. It's not unlike being prepared for an earthquake or other emergency.

In our worship today we'll light the 1st Advent candle. It's called Anticipation. There are many ways we can anticipate that hope, but the end result is we steadily become more ready to meet this amazing God than we were before.

Grace and peace be with you all

Bob and Libby



## Items of Interest

**Connections:** You are welcome to bring some finger food and share a time of fellowship, food and gospel story in the lounge tonight at 5.30pm

**Nativity @ 7pm:** All welcome to join us for a cuppa and worship in the hall.

**Combined Anglican Churches Picnic:-** today, 12.30pm. Pollard Park play area. Bring your own picnic lunch, games to play and get to know your neighbours in Christ. All welcome. If wet it will be cancelled.

**Children's Ministry at Nativity:** For those involved in leading children's ministry we are having a catch up to discuss reshaping groups for next year. We meet on Sunday 27th November 11.30am in the lounge before Combined Churches Picnic at Pollard Park. Anyone keen to be involved next year is also welcome to join in. *Susan Howarth.*

**Susan Howarth's** ordination is Wednesday 30th November, 7pm at Nelson Cathedral. All welcome.

**A Parish luncheon** will be held to celebrate Susan's ordination after the 10am service Sunday 4th December. Please bring some food to share. All welcome.

**Diary now:** Convergence Family Camp 17-19 February 2017. Registration forms at the office or at the back of the church

**Concert:** Pupils of Eileen Guard and Linda Holdaway will present their annual end of year Christmas concert in the Church of The Nativity at 7pm on December 12th. Gold coin donation for church funding. All welcome.

**Summer Playground 2017 Camp:** 3rd to the 8th of January registrations are now open for those going into year 9 in 2017 right up to the age of 21

**Marlborough Singers** are presenting Handel's Messiah at the Wesley Centre, 3rd December at 7.30pm and 4th Dec. at 4pm. Soloists are Olivia Sheat and Robert Tucker. Accompanist Jonathan Burkhan.

**It is with sadness** that we note that Canon Ron Taylor has died. Ron's photo hangs in the walkway between the church and centre from when he was Vicar here. Ron's funeral was at the cathedral in Hamilton Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

**Bishopdale Theological College Graduation Ceremony** Friday 9th December 2016 at 7pm, followed by supper. Christ Church Cathedral Nelson. All are welcome. Queries to Kate Dugdale ph548 8785 or office@bishopdale.ac.nz

**You can be part** of the Anglican Communion's Global Advent Calendar. Log in to [adventword.org](http://adventword.org) It's an innovative way to engage in the season of Advent with people all over the world. You can respond to the daily meditation emailed to you with images and prayers that speak to your heart. Your images and prayers will appear in the Advent Calendar with others from around the world. Join us as we anticipate the coming of Christ, the fulfillment of our deepest longings.

**The Camerata String Orchestra** will be performing a fundraising concert for the Cancer Society today at St Andrew's Church, 4pm. They will showcase Marlborough's local young talent and have a programme full of beautiful classics as well as a few Christmas Carols to bring us into the festive season. Tickets \$10 for adults and free for children at the door .

**Jan's Joy!** *Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.*  
*Psalm 125:1*



# Welcome to our services today! 27th November 2016

**Theme 8am & 10am:** Anticipation

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Isaiah 2:1-5 & Matthew 24:36-44

**Sentence:** To you Lord I lift up my soul; my God I have put my trust in you; you are God my Saviour; for you have I waited all the day long.

*Psalm 25:1,4*



**Collect:** You are the way, the truth and the life; you are the true vine and the bread of life. Come, living Saviour, come to your world which waits for you. **Amen**

## WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS

Continue praying this week for effective earthquake recovery. Refer to last week's bulletin for other needs.

- Mon.** Pray for safety and strength for truck drivers, road workers, railway staff, police and traffic staff.
- Tues.** Pray for our radio and TV coverage. All media coverage, news reporters and photographers, for safety and sensitivity.
- Wed.** Pray for all who have experienced damage and destruction of home, property, and work environment. Pray for farmers with stock concerns and all isolated by damage to roads and bridges.
- Thurs.** Pray for children and parents living in fear. Pray for school teachers, counsellors, medical staff.
- Fri.** Pray for hospitals, for disabled, for those living on their own, pray for students facing exams.
- Sat.** As the days and nights continue, pray that the after-shocks will cease. Pray that looting will cease and that property stolen will be returned to owners.

**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, Kevin or Sheryll Gwynne (5776507) Prayer Facilitators and they can arrange this for you.

**Prayer Chain:** Anne Dillon 5782363 & Fay Johnstone 5783763 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
	7pm	Choir in the church
<b>Fri:</b>	1pm	LINK in the lounge
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	12 noon	Parish celebration lunch
	5.30pm	Connections in the hall
	7pm	Nativity@7 in the hall



**Nativity you are awesome! You gave \$1922.70 to the Earthquake Relief collection last Sunday. Thank you.**

**Part of being a family is celebrating the birth of Jesus together.  
We would love it if you joined us at any of our Christmas Services**

**15th December at 7pm**

A service of Nine Lessons & Carols  
will celebrate the historical events leading to the birth of Jesus



**Christmas Eve**  
10.30pm Carols  
11pm Midnight Communion

**Christmas Day**  
8am Traditional Christmas Service  
10am Family Christmas Celebration



## Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar  
Vicar's P/A  
Parish Manager  
Receptionist  
Families/Youth Pastor  
Assistant Priests

Parish Nurse  
Counselling  
Care Cell Coordinators

Women's Ministry  
Chaplain to the Elderly  
Vicar's Warden  
People's Warden  
Prayer Facilitators

Bob Barnes  
Jude Dell  
Keith Buck  
Jan Burrough  
Susan Howarth  
Jonathan Wasley  
John Neal  
Miriam Taylor  
Kevin Gwynne  
Raewyn Parkes  
Kathy Hammond  
Miriam Taylor &  
Shirley Ramsay  
Libby Barnes  
Alison Brice  
Stephen Sheat  
Pauline Tisch  
Kevin & 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

**Fax:** 5780138

**Email:** [info@nativity.org.nz](mailto:info@nativity.org.nz)

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

**Facebook:** Find us on "Church of the Nativity"

*He's  
Risen!*