



The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 2nd April 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 and visitors,

Welcome to Nativity. Through this season of Lent, which leads up to Easter, we've been considering some of the spiritual disciplines that help us when we walk through those "valley(s) of the shadow of death" that Psalm 23 refers to.

Obedience is the focus for this week. However, obedience is one of those "ought" words. It often sticks in the craw when we hear it used. Perhaps it makes us think of "naughty" – maybe our own naughtiness or that of our own or other people's kids! Perhaps we think of restrictive religious or other systems, that choke off real life.

The best obedience is the way Jesus taught it. *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments ... I am giving you these commandments so you may love one another"* (John 15:14 & 17)

Sounds like a good deal to us – we all win! That sort of obedience is life giving.

One of the things Jesus commands us to do is "go out" and share God's love in word and deed. In the past Nativity has had teams go to Melanesia and other places, in obedience to Jesus. While it's not quite that exotic, today five of our men (Graeme, Caleb, Hamish, Dave and Tom) are going to Havelock. There they'll lead the worship and preach, while some Havelock leaders go to Queenstown to serve down there, this weekend.

Only he who believes is obedient and only he who is obedient believes.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer (German theologian, writer and martyr, 1906 - 1945)

May God bless you as you learn to hear Jesus word and Holy Spirit, then obey.

Bob and Libby



Items of Interest

The Nativity Church Fun, Fund Raising & Fellowship Team wish to thank the garden hosts, kitchen volunteers, Nativity staff, musician, all those who helped tidy up after coffee & dessert, and all who supported the Twilight Autumn Ramble. We had a very successful night, with lots of positive feedback. Everything, worked out very well – a cool night with just a slight delay in serving dessert and after expenses deducted we have \$630 profit in the bank. Our grateful thanks for your continued support.

AAW meeting Wednesday 5th April at 7.30pm in lounge. Devotions, reports, business, sales table. Guest speaker Beverley Cross with William Bear at 8.00pm. All interested people are invited to attend. Supper to follow.

Deborah Paton and Kaye Dyer will be ordained Priest, 7pm, 7th April at Renwick. All welcome.

Vestry Notes:

- * Parish Nominators were reappointed from last year: Nicci Leitch, Shirley Ramsay, Stephen Sheat, and Rod Tyney.
- * Jenni Bowers was appointed as our Hospital Chaplaincy Rep.
- * Vestry duties and ways of operating were discussed.
- * Portfolios were set out and many were filled.
- * The developing Strategic Plans were reviewed.
- * Ken Rooney was thanked for refurbishing the monument.
- * A letter was sent to St Barnabas in Christchurch congratulating them on getting back into their church after the earthquake restoration.



Ladies, Coffee Connections at Raupo, 9.30am, the second Saturday in the month is a time to connect with other women in the parish, for a coffee, food and fellowship. Bring a friend and connect with us.

BCMA are looking for men who could play any of the following characters in the Combined Easter church service on Good Friday. If you can help please contact Bob Barnes or Deane Goldsack, The Salvation Army Blenheim. 5780862.

Characters:

Thomas	Soldier
Peter	Barabbas
John	Judas

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 on the notice board by the hall.

Pit Stop for Men. Saturday 20th May 2017, 8.30am -4pm. At the Elim Centre, Burleigh Road. A Men of Marlborough Men's Event in conjunction with Promise Keepers.



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

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. **Please register at the office asap.**

*Jan's Joy: Be truly glad.
There is wonderful joy ahead.
1 Peter 1:16*



Welcome to our services today! 2nd April 2017

Theme 8am & 10am: Obedience

Readings 8am & 10am: 1 Samuel 15:22-25 & Luke 4:1-14

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

Collects: 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; in glad obedience, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**



WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS: Have you ever really considered the significance of the thorns that were woven into such a shameful symbol and placed on Jesus head?

- Mon.** Thorns represent the result of sin. In the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, He said "I will... curse... the ground... it will produce thorns." Think about this today
- Tues.** Later God told Israel that unless they purged the land of enemies "They will be like... thorns in your side." What enemies need to be purged from your life?
- Wed.** Solomon said "Evil lives are like paths covered with thorns. Proverbs 22:5 Pray about this verse today for yourself and your family.
- Thurs.** Talking about untrustworthy leaders, Jesus said "You will know these people by what they do. Grapes don't come from thorn bushes."
- Fri.** Max Lucado writes "The crown of thorns Jesus wore represents all our sins. As we are caught in the brambles of anger, shame, guilt, bitterness, forgiveness etc. Jesus who knew no sin, became an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
- Sat.** Think about the words from the hymn "See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown.

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

Tues:	2pm 4.30pm	Afternoon Care Cell in the lounge Prayer for the Parish at 178 High Street
Wed:	7.30pm	Evening AAW in the lounge
Thurs:	10am 11am	Eucharist in Barnies followed by morning tea
Fri:	9.30am 1pm	Tunes for Tots in the hall LINK in the lounge
Sat:	9.30am	Coffee Connections at Raupo
Sun:	8am 10am 7pm	Traditional Eucharist Service All Age Worship Service Combined Churches service



Nativity@7

April 2nd: 7pm Combined service in the church. Testimony ex KGB couple.
April 9th: 7pm Barry Struthers speaking on Prayer. Communion to follow.

All welcome



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

Website: www.nativity.org.nz

Facebook: "Nativity Church Blenheim"

Staff Days Off/On

Susan & Jonathan: Mondays off.

Bob, Rose, Jude & Jan: Fridays off.

Keith is here Monday to Wednesday mornings only.