



## The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 3rd December 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,

It's Advent! A season of anticipation. A time to be focussed on preparation. A season four weeks long, ending with Christmas.

People regard it as "The" event with treats, carols, and busy-ness, then most forget that stuff and collapse in a heap of self indulgence.

We however have something better for this season. Far better.

Our anticipation is for beyond the end of the four weeks. The preparation is not frenzied, but peaceful exploration, that is best worked out with times of prayerful stillness, and self examination. Christmas is the climax – and it lasts 12 days, right through to 6 January.

It's all about the coming of Jesus – 1stly about when he came, born as a tiny helpless human baby. 2ndly about when he will come again. That may be at the end of our earthly life, or at the end of time. Both are important. The 1<sup>st</sup> leads us to the 2<sup>nd</sup> which we need to be prepared for.

There are signs to help us. One is HOPE. When we light the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent candle today, we'll be naming the totally sure HOPE that God gives us, as a focus for us this week. It's a hope that will not let us down. It carries a certainty about who we are and whose we are. It assures us we will see Jesus face to face, knowing him as we are known by him.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"  
(Romans 15:13)*

Advent blessings to you as you anticipate and seek that marvellous hope.

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.



### Up Coming Nativity Christmas Event Help Needed:

Would you be able to do make some gingerbread men for an event being held at Nativity 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.

**AAW Christmas meeting** at Nativity, 7.30pm Wednesday 8th December. Please bring an item for the foodbank. Entertainment, carols, coffee and dessert. Members are invited to attend St. Christophers Christmas meeting 1,30pm at Redwoodtown Thursday 7th December.

### Eileen and Linda's Pupils and Friends

**Concert:** Monday Dec.11th at 7pm  
Come and hear some of Marlborough's young talented singers and pianists. Door entry gold coin or \$5. Another Nativity fundraising effort. All are very welcome.



**Jan's Joy:** *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*



## Nativity Christmas Services

Dec. 10th Christmas In the Park 4pm

Dec. 15th Nativity Interactive walkthrough 9-noon

Dec. 17th Family Passport Journey 8 & 10am

Dec. 21st 9 lessons and Carols 7pm

Dec. 24th Advent Services 8 & 10am

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service 10.30pm

Dec. 25th Christmas Day 8 & 10am

## Rejoice and be Glad!



### Events at the Cathedral in Nelson:

Christmas Tree Festival  
Running until end of January.

Advent Carol Service  
7pm Sunday 3rd December

Christmas Service on Remembrance  
Sunday 10th December 10am  
Service to remember loved ones who are No longer with us.

**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.

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

## Welcome to our services today! 3rd December 2017

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

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Revelation 21:5-6 & Job 15:9-15

**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:** Almighty God, you give us this season to make ourselves ready for the coming of your Son. In this time of waiting and hoping, assist us to order our lives so that we may be ready to welcome Jesus in the flesh. We ask this through him whose coming draws near, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

In the Word for today, Bob Gass shares the following insight. It has the heading "The Pulpit Search Committee" with the Bible Reference of 1 Samuel 16:7 "The Lord sees not as man sees." The Pulpit Search Committee brought the following report to the congregation. "After interviewing each of the candidates only one was found to have the qualities we need. Here are the names along with our comments."

**Mon.** *Noah.* A failure as a preacher: 120 years' experience, but no converts.  
*Moses.* Stutters and loses his temper.

**Tues.** *Abraham.* Got into trouble with the authorities and lied his way out.  
*David.* Would make a good minister of music, if he had better morals.

**Wed.** *Solomon.* A walking encyclopaedia of wisdom, but doesn't practice what he preaches.  
*Elijah.* Prone to depression, folds under pressure.

**Thurs.** *Hosea.* Divorced and remarried to a prostitute.  
*Jeremiah.* Too emotional and negative, a real alarmist.

**Fri.** *Amos.* A farmer, better suited to picking figs and raising cattle.  
*John.* Says he's a Baptist, but lacks tact. Dresses like a hippie.

**Sat.** *Peter.* Bad-tempered, denied Christ publicly.  
*Paul.* Not good media material, too long winded.

**Sun.** *Timothy.* Has potential, but much too young.  
*Jesus.* Offended church members with his preaching. Upset the Pulpit Search Committee with his pointed questions.  
*Judas.* Practical, co-operative, good with money, cares for the poor, well dressed.  
We all agree – he's the man to fill our pulpit!

**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>	2pm	Afternoon Care Cell in the lounge
	7pm	Alastair's Care Cell in the lounge
<b>Wed:</b>	7pm	Choir Practice in the church
	7.30pm	Evening AAW in the lounge
<b>Thurs:</b>	10am	Eucharist in Barnies followed by morning tea in Barnies
	11am	
<b>Fri:</b>	9.30am	Tunes for Tots in the hall
	1pm	LINK in the lounge
<b>Sat:</b>	9.30am	Coffee Connections at Saveur
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service



### 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

## Our Staff and Parish Leaders

Vicar	Bob Barnes
Assistant Priests	Susan Howarth
	Jonathan Wasley
	John Neal
	Miriam Taylor
	Kevin Gwynne
Youth/24/7 Worker	Rose Newton
Vicar's P/A	Jude Dell
Parish Nurse	Raewyn Parkes
Parish Manager	Keith Buck
Receptionist	Jan Burrough
Counselling	Kathy Hammond
Care Cell Coordinators	Miriam Taylor & Shirley Ramsay
	Libby Barnes
Women's Ministry	Alison Brice
Chaplain to the Elderly	Stephen Sheat
Vicar's Warden	Jennifer Bennett-Burrows
People's Warden	

## 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.