



# The Church of the Nativity

Sunday 4th February 2018

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,

Early in each new year there is usually a sense of excitement. Sometimes it's tinged with apprehension. By the time you read this Libby and I will have celebrated the marriage of our oldest son William, to Kathryn, in Nelson. It's been an adventure for them as for us, with both the hope and the work, keeping things on track – and an eye on the weather!

As the church we're on an adventure too, and our leader, Jesus, equips us to finish the journey, and grow like him on the way. This adventure follows Jesus into eternity. We're just at the beginning. Sometimes it has implications that stretch way beyond our town, such as "Motion 29" for General Synod in May. That has some hard aspects to it. (More on that soon).

As part of the local church in Marlborough, in this part called Nativity, 2018 has some new ways for us to walk. Like William and Kathryn's wedding, we've been aware of some things for quite a while. Other things on this year's adventure are more recent and other things will just pop up as we go.

Developing our buildings so they match the journey ahead is not new. Neither is developing our children youth and family ministries and the ways we worship to help them. However, some of the details in that bring surprises. One is our evening worship. Late last year we started planning

1st - how that service could support our young families, so they can grow in faith together here and at home; and

2nd - how it could bring our youth into the mainstream of the church at worship so when they finish youth group, church isn't a foreign land.

After as much discussion with those involved as possible during January, our evening worship will begin at the new time of 5.30pm tonight.

*To everyone who conquers and continues to do my works to the end,  
I will give authority over the nations." (Revelations 2:26)*

God bless you as we journey together

Bob and Libby



## Items of Interest

**Canvas:** 5.30pm Sundays! Our evening service is kicking off this evening in the hall. A colourful, interactive, all age service—you are invited to come and check it out. contact [rose@nativity.org.nz](mailto:rose@nativity.org.nz)

**Freezer Meals Required:** We would really appreciate donations of meals for our freezer please. We currently have a small family in need of our support with meals for a couple of weeks, so if you can help out, please drop your meals to the office during office hours. Thank you so much.



### **Harvest Festival Service**

25th February, 10am. You are invited to bring along tinned or spare produce which will be shared between the Community food bank and Nativity food bank. This is a time to

give thanks to God for the abundance with which we are blessed.

**I would really like a companion** to help me set up communion for the 1st Sunday of each month. I spend a lot of time on my own as I live alone and the cleaning job I do, is on my own as well. It would be great if it was someone who wanted to go for a coffee afterwards as well. It takes me up to 1.5 to 2 hours to do it. If you would like to help me let me know. Gail Pickett ph. 5777274

**We warmly invite** you to attend a meeting with guest speakers from Mission Aviation Fellowship. The meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 22nd February in Nativity lounge. Godfrey and Glenn Sim from Hagen, PNG will speak about their work supporting MAF. Supper to follow.

**After 60 years** of service to the Flower Guild Elaine Hadfield has retired and we thank her for her dedicated service to this ministry. Also Raewyn Parkes after 12 years has had to forfeit duties due to other work within the parish so we thank her as well.



Well done good and faithful servants, may God bless you both.

**We will be saying farewell to Susan Howarth** at the end of February as she leaves to become Vicar of the Havelock Parish. If you would like to make a monetary donation towards a gift from the parish, please do so at Nativity Reception.

**AAW Meeting,** Wed 7th February at 7.30pm in Nativity lounge. Devotions. Reports. DVD Ben Carson. Fellowship. Sales table. Supper. Subs now due.

**Moving in the Miraculous Seminar with Carl Butler.** Saturday 17th Feb 2018 at Harvest Life Church, 22 Nelson Street, Blenheim, 9am to 2pm. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided. \$25 per person. Seniors, beneficiaries and students - \$20 each, married couples \$40 Pay at the door please - eftpos available. Register at [info@harvestlife.co.nz](mailto:info@harvestlife.co.nz) - by Thursday 15th Feb please so notes can be prepared.

**Prayer Chain:** Bob Barnes (5783909) and Raewyn Parkes (5783909) are our Prayer Chain Coordinators. Please phone them with any requests you have for the

**Jan's Jingle:** *I could sing of your love forever.*

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

## Welcome to our services today! 4th February 2018

**Theme 8am & 10am:** Bearing Fruit

**Readings 8am & 10am:** Jeremiah 17:5-8 & Matthew 12:33-37

**Sentence:** You Lord will surely comfort your people. You will make their deserts like Eden, their wastelands like a garden. Joy and gladness will be found among them, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. *Isaiah 51:3 (adapted)*



**Collect:** Merciful God, in Christ you make all things new; transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer who reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### Weekly Prayer Focus:

Over the next five weeks we are going to look at an **A – Z** approach to prayer. May our Lord bless us as together we learn more about prayer.

**Mon. A ... *some advice.*** If you wait until you feel like praying, you may never get around to it. It is God who is prompting you as you read this page.

**Tue. B... *the prayer of blessing.*** Imagine God's blessing as a shaft of light, the light from His face, and that we put one another into that light and pray 'The Lord bless you.'

**Wed. C... *Confession.*** Jesus wants to fill the river-bed of your life and move the sin. (the logs and debris) that is there. Take God at His promise...He forgives.

**Thurs. D... *Doubts. Difficulties. Distractions.*** An Italian proverb says 'The bursting of the petals say flowers are coming. 'When your heart bursts with pain, grief and doubts remember it comes to let the flower out.'

**Fri. E... *Expecting God to answer.*** To have faith is too sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.' Think of the day ahead and talk over the details of the day with the Lord.

**Sat. F... *Fasting.*** Jesus did not say 'If you fast' He said, 'When you fast.' In a small way give a fast to the Lord today (perhaps go without a coffee!) and make that a prayer time.

**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.

**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
<b>Wed:</b>	7pm	Choir Practice in the choir vestry
	7.30pm	AAW meeting in the lounge
<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>	9.30am	Coffee Connections at Saveur
<b>Sun:</b>	8am	Traditional Eucharist Service
	10am	All Age Worship Service
	5.30pm	Canvas in the hall



**Ash Wednesday service in the church 14th February 7pm.**

**Meetings to discuss Motion 29** will be on Monday 12th and 19th February at 7.30pm in the lounge and also on Saturday 24th February 9am - 10.30am.



### 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.