



The Church of the Nativity
Sunday 13th 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

In my Scripture Union Bible reading notes this (Wednesday) morning, I read the well-known quote of Benjamin Franklin who observed, *In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.* The late Mr Franklin is right, but only up to a point, for I would want to add a further life certainty – *change!*

Of course change is all around us and our lives now are very different from those we lived just a few years ago, and it can be very unsettling, to say nothing of tiring to deal with so many radical changes to the way we live and do business. As individuals, we have to adapt to change lest life becomes more and more difficult for us, and as a parish the same applies as we try to cope with the current change of leadership, with the more general changing societal pressures which don't encourage the Christian life very much, let alone church attendance, and with the increasing indifference to the claims of Jesus Christ upon our lives. Often there are times when even the strongest among us begin feeling that it is all just too much!

But wait, there's more, for a fourth certainty is our unchanging, living and loving God. He created our world and placed us in it, He has redeemed us through His Son Jesus Christ and He promises to be with us every step of our way through this life. The Bible tells us that *...with the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day...* (2 Peter 3:8) and, elsewhere, *Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.* (Hebrews 13:8)

With this wonderful foundation under our feet to give us stability, we can see all the change going on around us not so much as yet another hill to climb, but as a challenge and an adventure with God to live for Him, to worship Him and to serve Him in our flaky society.

This is not whistling through a thunderstorm, this is holding onto God's hand through all the *changes and chances of this mortal life* (Book of Common Prayer) and knowing that, despite all, we are safe, entirely safe with Him.

Yours in love.

John

PS: Scripture Union Bible reading notes? Contact Roz Mundy. 5702111

Items of Interest

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. Details to follow in a flyer next week.

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.

Parishioners please grab a cuppa following the 10am service on 20th January and join with others in the lounge to brainstorm creative fundraising ideas for Nativity.

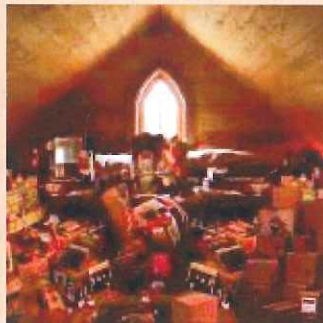
What's On This Week?

Wed: 7pm Choir Practice in the church
Thurs: 10am Eucharist in Barnies
Fri: 1pm LINK in the lounge
Sun: 8am Traditional Eucharist Service
10am Family Service
5.30pm Starts on 3rd February

Granny's Attic—A Nativity Fundraiser

We will be holding a sale of items on Saturday 26th January, 8am to 11am in the hall.

Please have a look in your attic, cupboards, garage, in fact anywhere and donate any unwanted goods that are worth more than \$5 each. Please drop your items into Nativity Office. Thank you for your support



Welcome to our services

Theme: The Baptism of Our Lord

Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7 & Luke 3:15 - 22

Sentence: My people, I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you.' *Isaiah 41:8,9*

Collect: God, ever present; closer than breath; disclosed in prayer: let us know your presence; strengthen us to serve you; guide us in your service; 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.**