



Church on the Hill

Sunday 12 March 2017



Theme: Believing and Belonging
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Jean Palmer
Readings: Romans 4:1 - 5, 13 - 17, John 3:1 - 17

Sentence:

Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.
- John 3:6

Prayer for the day:

Holy God, your Spirit blows freely where you will.
Blow once more through us your chosen people.
Enliven us with your power,
and move us with your strength.
That we might be born again into your eternal

kingdom.
All this we ask through Jesus Christ
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Life is hard – random thoughts on pain

At Convergence, in one of his addresses, Bishop Justin began with the premise that life is hard. It was never designed to be a party, he said.

He felt that young people particularly needed to know this; they are fed a diet of 'you can be whatever you want' and 'everyone is entitled to be happy'. Then when they find these things are not true, there is nothing left.

Well in this season of Lent, I want to echo Bishop Justin's sentiments. Life is hard for each one of us in lots of different ways. It is very easy for church to be a place where we place a smile on our dial and pretend everything is okay. But it isn't okay – quite a bit of the time at least.

So how do we genuinely support each other? What do we say when we don't have the words? How do we even know what is going on in each other's lives?

What does a genuine church family look like? How do we care for each other in ways that are visible and tangible? How does the wider community perceive our care for one another? "By this will everyone know that you are my disciples; if you have love one for another." (Jesus is quoted as saying that in John 13:35)

Jesus also said, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) The trouble is that when we are heavy-laden, sometimes we don't feel Jesus' rest. Sometimes we are too weary to even come to the Lord. That's when we need someone else to approach God on our behalf, to reassure us that he hears and is with us even, perhaps especially, when it doesn't feel like it. We need Jesus with skin-on when life is really hard.

One group who are brilliant at caring for each other are the AAW (Anglican Association of Women). (We have two groups in our church in case you didn't know. They meet each month – one in the afternoon and one in the evening.

These groups are brilliant at letting Yvonne or I know if someone could use a visit. This is such a

help because we can't help if we don't know. They care for each other really well.

Some of the home groups are also brilliant at caring for their members and this too is awesome.)

I wonder about how we care for those who are not in supportive groups though.

We can't help each other if we don't know what is going on and often we don't know. Some of us are more private than others – I get that.

And yet I wonder sometimes how Biblical privacy is. Just saying. I don't have an answer.

Obviously we can't tell everyone everything. And yet is covering stuff over honest or helpful? Is it Biblical?

"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbour, for we are members one of another" writes Paul in Ephesians 4:25.

When we are in pain, sharing it can not only lighten our load, it can also bless someone else. It can give them an opportunity to minister to us. Transparency can show others it's okay to be in pain. It's part of the normal stuff of life. Seeing someone else suffer can help others be honest about their own stuff. Bringing some hidden pain into the light can lance the wound and help us to comfort each other.

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NLT

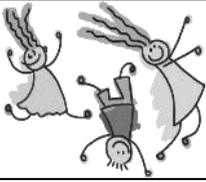
"Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Life is hard quite a bit of the time. During this season of Lent, we are reminded of Jesus' sufferings. We walk with him towards the cross. Is he inviting us to walk with someone else in that same direction?

Learning together in love,

Susan

Church open for Prayer - Join in on Monday from 9.00am to 2.00pm to pray for your personal needs, our parish, our community and the world. Coffee and prayer. All welcome. Feel free to come and go.



= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 12 March - Jesus in the wilderness - what will we say when we are tempted?

The toy box and baby change facilities are available anytime at the rear of the Church. Prayers and offers of help are appreciated. Catherine 022 647 9810

Building Fundraiser - Honey 500gms \$7.00 // 1kg \$13.00 // 2kgs \$25.00 See Anne Askin Ph. 542 3284

Autumn Fair - Our Autumn Fair is on Saturday 25 March from 11.00am to 1.00pm. Could you help by putting up posters around town to advertise this? There are 8 and if you are interested could you talk to Shiona. Also we need someone to run the sausage sizzle, would you be able to? Please contact Jan South Ph. 544 8413 or Shiona Frengley Ph. 544 4155 if you can help.

Word and Worship Service - At the Cathedral 7.00pm tonight, Sunday, 12 March. Steve Apirana will be singing and leading worship. Steve was a street kid in Christchurch in the 1970s who was marvellously converted. He is a great singer who speaks well and has produced a number of Christian CDs.

Cafe Connection - Our next gathering at the Wooden Spoon Cafe is Thursday 16 March at 10:30am. This is always a good gathering, we buy our own tea/coffee and a little treat and enjoy each other's company, hope to see you there! Yvonne

Prayers for the Week

God's World - Loving Father, Almighty God, we thank you for the beauty of your creation, but as Paul said it groans. Today we pray for the more than 23 million people facing starvation and dehydration in Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan and northern Nigeria, please send them relief and rain. Move us to respond as we are able, knowing that every little gift counts. Lord we ask for wisdom for all leaders globally that they would act to prevent further global warming and for wisdom for ourselves, lead us Lord to make changes to reduce our carbon footprint.

Our Community - We ask for your guidance to the leadership team at Richmond New Life Church. We pray that you would bless the ministry of Jono and Vanessa Martin and Steve and Kathy King. In our community we give you thanks for all those who volunteer in a multitude of different ways and those who quietly care for neighbours and family and whanau, bless and support them Lord.

Mission - This week we pray for Murray and Fèy Cotter. We give praise for a great holiday and time spent with their children and grandchildren. We ask for your blessing on them as they travel round New Zealand to all their speaking engagements and for them as they travel and work separately till mid April when they will be together again in Albania. We pray that you would bless their time with us, especially the BBQ on March 18.

Our Diocese - We give thanks for Sam Anderson's leadership of Blenheim South parish and pray that the Lord would sustain his wife, Paula in the final three weeks of her pregnancy. We give thanks for the arrival of new staff members Hamish and Steph Toose ministering to Youth, Young Adults, Mums and Families, and Tineke Reidie as Office Administrator. We give thanks for the starting up of the young adults and the young mums' bible studies. We pray that all three of their congregations would continue to grow in our love and knowledge of the Lord, and in numbers.

Our Parish - We give you thanks for the vision you gave to Carol Sardella over 17 years ago and for her commitment to your calling to this work, Friends 'n Fun. We thank you for all those who support this work and for the Mums and children you bring. Help us to minister to them and show them your love in action.

Our Parish - Lord we thank you for the opportunity to serve you through Lunch on the Hill, whether it be by coming and talking with others, bringing others or another way. We pray that you would guide us as we seek to build your kingdom and particularly Lord we ask that you would bring the people you want to the Alpha course. We ask that you bless this and inspire all those involved. We pray Lord for your healing on Anne Green, Peter Bean, Ellie, Lisa Arrandale, Sonja and others we know.

This Week...

Monday 13 March

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 14 March

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)
10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B. Page)
10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)

Wednesday 15 March

10.00am Wednesday Service
10.00am Tea and Talk

Thursday 16 March

10.30am Café Connection
12.00pm Weekly Study group (WWilkinson, J Lines)
7.00pm Lenten Study
7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Saturday 18 March

6.00pm Missions BBQ

Sunday 19 March

9.00am Morning Worship*
10.45am Holy Communion*

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Sunday 2 April

6.00pm 2016 AGM

*For more information about services or groups
contact the office Ph. 544 8844.*

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 26 March

Morning Prayer

Sunday 9 April

Holy Communion

If you wish to give financial support to Holy Trinity Church, our bank account number is: 03 0751 0146369 001 Westpac Richmond

Roster for 19 March - Thank you for serving us all!

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|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Leader: | 9.00am | J McConachie | 10.45am | J Palmer |
| Reader: | 9.00am | A Burrough, K South | 10.45am | M Did-Dell |
| Sidespeople: | 9.00am | J Burrough | 10.45am | J Green |
| Welcomer: | 9.00am | A Burrough | 10.45am | N Pritchard |
| Tea: | | J South, K South | | |
| Chalice: | 9.00am | N/A | 10.45am | M Ross, N Pritchard, E/D Stanger |
| Flowers: | | N/A | Creche: | TBA |

Theme for Next Sunday: Hope and Hard Work

Readings for Next Sunday: Romans 5:1 – 11, John 4:27 - 42

Parish Contacts

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|-------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Vicar | Susan Gill | 544 8827 | Children's Ministry | Catherine Barak | 022 6479810 |
| Priest Assistant | Jean Palmer | 544 4275 | Friends 'n Fun | Carol Sardella | 544 9237 |
| Senior's Ministry | Yvonne Smyth | 544 8844 | Parish Administrator | David Cowdrey | 544 8844 |
| Youth Leader | Antonio Sardella | 027 3525598 | | | |

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
10.00am - 5.30pm
Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm