



Church on the Hill

Sunday 20 March 2016



Theme: Fickle or faithful?
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Zechariah 9:9 – 11, Luke 19:28 – 40

Sentence:

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow; in heaven and earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. - *Philippians 2:10 – 11*

Prayer for the day:

Lord Jesus Christ, we want to be faithful and follow you. But we know the reality of our hearts and of our walk. Please help us to be steadfast

in our devotion to you and to honour you in all things. Help us to be among those who confess your name and bring you glory. **Amen**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Unity – on the ground

You will see in the newsletter that Bridge Valley is advertising a special family day during Easter . We got the email through the week to ask if we would advertise this event. My first response was “No”. I even emailed our administrator David and said “No”.

My rationale for “No” was that they are competing with us. Some of our church families might go there rather than come to church on Easter Sunday – the day of the year when we should all be celebrating together!

Then I was praying with some of the other ministers in the region on Thursday morning. Someone thanked God for the Bridge Valley initiative and the fact that some people might go – people who would never come to church.

Then the penny dropped. Oh! So they are not competing – they are doing Kingdom work. They will reach some people that we may never reach.

And yes, some of our church folk may go too. And our numbers may not be as healthy as I would like on Easter Sunday.

But ...what really matters? Is my ego so small that I need healthy numbers to look good? Or am I also involved in Kingdom Work – work that can't be quantified by numbers? Now I realise they weren't even advertising for Sunday but for Saturday. How the Lord must chuckle!

And how do we work together in this Kingdom Work? Together as individuals in one church family? Together as individual churches in one Christian family?

Surely part of that is getting to know each other. How do we get to know each other? Perhaps that involves praying together even worshipping

together sometimes.

At Westport some of our team worshipped at Granity and some at Westport. The second service at Westport was fairly Pentecostal in nature. I was delighted to see that some, who may not normally go to such a service, not only attended but entered into the spirit of worship.

Recently I rejoiced at the Church of Christ for the World Day of Prayer. People from different denominations worshipped together. There weren't very many. If you took away the Anglicans it would have been a very small service indeed so I was proud that we had supported this service.

On Pentecost the Baptist church has invited all the churches in our region to join them for worship in the evening. Our Ministers' Association gave a resounding “Yes”. I am well aware that some from our church would prefer to worship together in a more traditional way.

Yet what an opportunity we have to worship God together. What an opportunity to show the other churches that we want to know them and be part of this joint Kingdom Work the Lord is calling us all to.

A Lenten challenge for me (to be lived out now and on Pentecost – the birth of the church), is not just to talk about unity, but to work it out on the ground. I don't want to compete with anyone but to partner with anyone who is keen in the Kingdom Work the Lord is calling us all to.

We have another opportunity to demonstrate our unity on Good Friday. People from others churches come to our Choir-led service. We can join in the joint Cross-Walk service beginning at the Methodist Church at 10.00am. Walking together is another way to demonstrate unity in our combined Kingdom Work.

Uncomfortably yours,

Susan

Passover Meal - Saturday 26 March. Our Holy Communion service has its roots in the events of the Last Supper, when Jesus took bread and wine. The Gospel writers make it very clear that Jesus was celebrating Passover. Consequently, experiencing a Jewish Passover service can shed new light not only on our communion service but also on the links between the old and the new covenants. This is what we will be doing as we go through a Jewish Passover service on Saturday 26th March at the home of John and Jean Palmer, 149 Queen Street, Richmond. We invite anyone to join us for a shared meal at 5.45 pm. Please ring 544 4275 to book a place.

= KIDZ CHURCH CALENDAR =

- Today Sunday 20 March** No Kids Church - Messy Church 4.00pm -6.00pm
- Easter Sunday 27 March** Egg hunt in church and crafts and activities at back of church *but* no official Kids Church (children will stay in with adults).
- Sunday 3 April** Bring your potted herbs to give to someone special (hope you are watering them children?). Harvest Festival - bring any 'harvest' you have to share from your garden or cupboard. Also bring trowel and gardening gloves if you have them.

Your prayers and offers of help are appreciated. Catherine 022 647 9810



Children's Programme

The toy box and baby change facilities are available anytime at the rear of the Church. Children are welcome to attend one of the following during the 10.30 sermon time:
/ Kids' Church under 5's in the crèche / Kids' Church primary school age in the church hall
/ Younger youth (Yr 7 to Yr 11) in Youth Room in the hall.

Prayers for the Week

God's World: We pray for the suffering in our world, peace for every place enduring war, hope for refugees everywhere, for Christians persecuted around the world, strengthening of their faith in Jesus, courage in the face of fear and torture, and trust in Christ who overcomes all evil. We pray to for the American election process, that commonsense and wisdom will prevail. We continue to pray for the people of Fiji after Cyclone Winston, that aid will be fairly distributed.

Mission Partners: We pray for the Sussex family providing much needed dental care for prisoners in Cambodia, thank you for the work Phil does every Wednesday with a team of ten students filling and extracting teeth around Phnom Penh's main prisons, providing relief from the agony associated with abscesses and suchlike. May they know your support as they struggle with equipment breakdowns and prison guards wielding their power.

Diocese: We remember in our prayers Victory Community Church, for Rev Greg Holmes as he leads this church, we give thanks for Church growth, especially in numbers of children and young families and pray that God would raise up leaders to disciple growing numbers, especially youth.

Local Community: We pray for all churches in our area as they enter into Holy Week, praying especially for the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, that it will be a great witness to the community. Today we especially pray for the Assembly of God Church. Thank you for Ross and Yvonne Ferguson's faithful leadership over many lives. Thank you for their passion for the wider community. We ask that you continue to work through them bringing people freedom and wholeness in Christ.

Our Parish: We thank you for the successful Autumn Fair yesterday, for the money raised and the fellowship enjoyed, for the hard work put in to make it happen. We pray for our upcoming AGM. We continue to pray for our Youth Group and the developing team of Youth Leaders, that they would form a cohesive team and know your leading. We pray for Susan, and ask that you continue to lead and guide her as she ministers to our community.

Those in need within our own church family: Gracious God, we continue to pray for George and Bev, Carole Burke, Ellie, John Barnes, Jane, Laurence, Barbara, Pam, Margaret and others we know. May your grace, mercy and peace also be with the residents and staff of rest homes and hospitals within our parish.

We pray that, together with all our churches, we will continue to be a blessing in our community, just as Christ has blessed us, that we will be known by our love for each other.

This Week...

Monday 21 March

9.00am Church open for Prayer until 2.00pm
10.00am Friends 'n Fun
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 22 March

10.00am Weekly group (M. Silke)
10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

Wednesday 23 March

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B. Page)
10.00am Wednesday Service
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)

Thursday 24 March

12.00pm Weekly Study group (W.Wilkinson, J Lines)
10.00am Friends 'n Fun
7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Friday 25 March Good Friday

10.00am Cross Walk from Methodist Church to
Church on the Hill.
2.00pm Choir Led Service

Sunday 27 March Easter Day

9.00am Morning Worship
10.30am Holy Communion

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Sunday 3 April Harvest Festival

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 13 March

Holy Communion

Sunday 27 March

Morning Prayer

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

Roster for 27 March Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am J Burrough	10.30am F Summerfield
Reader:	9.00am J McConachie, P Jordan	10.30am S Jackett
Sidespeople:	9.00am J Lines	10.30am M Martin
Welcomer:	9.00am S Entwistle	10.30am K Thomson
Tea:	V McNaughton, N Thomas	
Chalice:	9.00am N/A	10.30am N/A
Flowers:	M Reynolds	Crèche: G Thomson

Theme for Next Sunday: New Life

Readings for Next Sunday: Acts 10:34 – 43, Luke 24:1 - 12

Parish Contacts

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 Pastor	Vacant	544 6495	Budget Advice	Anne Askin	544 8901

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
1.00pm - 5.30pm