



Church on the Hill

Sunday 26 March 2017



Theme: Blinded by the Light
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Ephesians 5:8 – 14, John 9:26 – 41

Sentence:

I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretence of seeing will be exposed as blind.
- John 9:39

Prayer for the day:

God of healing and sight, we long to see with eyes of faith. Heal all that blinds us, renew our vision, and grant us to see afresh all that you are doing; in the healing presence of your Holy

Spirit and through Jesus Christ our Saviour, 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...



Lenten study and reflection time

A huge thanks to Chris Donaldson, Vicar of Havelock, who has taken us through a lovely time of drawing closer to the Lord over the last three Thursday evenings. We have one more session together. If you haven't been before, you are still welcome to come and join us.

So many people have commented favourably to me about what we have learned and experienced of God.

In Week 1, we learned about different ways of hearing from God. We each chose an item from a bag – kinda like a lucky dip. We couldn't see inside the bag. Then we were invited to sit quietly and see what the Lord would tell us through that item. Many of us shared afterwards what the Lord has said. We discovered how simply and straightforwardly God often speaks. And we experienced afresh God's sense of humour. (Ask Anne Askin or the Palmers for specifics).

Margaret Martin lists the helpful steps we discovered in Hearing God's Voice for Intercession, personal guidance or counsel for others. during our second time with Chris. She also describes what happened in the prayer group she participated in during the session:

1. Praise and thanks to God - *Psalm 100:4*
2. Confess sins to Him and be forgiven - *1John 1:9*
3. Silence the voice of the devil - *James 4:7*
4. Silence your own thoughts - *Habakkuk 2:20*
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you - *John 16:13*
6. Wait in silent expectation - *1Kings 19:12, Acts 2:17, 1Cor.12:7-11*
7. Share with Group what you have received
8. Pray/Act in faith on what God shows you - *1John 5:14*

Our group received pictures of a fairy-tale castle on hill with someone riding past on bicycle, a bridge with deep water running under it, sky and sun,

lighthouse with words 'stand tall and be my beacon', picture of a battered galvanised rubbish tin with lid half off.

We thought the castle is the Church on the Hill from which God our King lives and reigns. We prayed thanks for the privilege of living in a beautiful place with clear skies and much sunshine and acknowledged Gods wonderful creation to us in which we live. Then we prayed for the people whose lives are full of darkness, rubbish from their past, uncertainty, feeling battered and hopeless. We are all called to be a beacon in the lives of those who don't know Jesus, those who bike or walk past the Church on the Hill regularly and are blind to the light of Jesus or the Lighthouse that lights the way to him. We are called to stand tall and be God's beacon here on the hill and reach out and lead these people over the River of Life by the bridge that brings them closer to Jesus and our Heavenly Fathers throne room. Jesus is the bridge whose feet are firmly in place and secure.

Those people who think that there life may be full of rubbish and not worthy of rescuing are not lost to God as the lid is half open and not closed so to allow Jesus to work in their lives, so reach out and be that beacon in the lives of those in our community in need, to show them that by crossing over the bridge there is always a better life and a hope on the other side and all they have to do is walk and follow Jesus' light.

- Margaret Martin

I've been using these steps a bit in my own times with God and finding them very helpful. You might like to try them in your small groups, families, with your prayer partner or alone.

Last night we learned more about spiritual gifts, focusing on the motivational gifts – those that form the foundation for our other gifts and shape the lens through which we view the world. Those gifts are fund in Romans 12:6 - 8

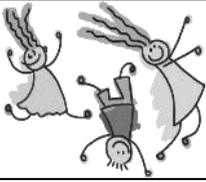
We are looking forward to seeing what God does next week.

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.

Maundy Thursday Passover Meal - It was no accident that Jesus was crucified at Passover time – He deliberately chose a Passover meal to institute Holy Communion. John & Jean Palmer are organising a Passover celebration at 6.00pm on Thursday 13 April which will include a shared meal and an adapted Jewish Passover service. If you would like to learn more about the origins of our Communion service and why Jesus chose Passover then we would be delighted for you to join us at 149 Queen Street, Richmond. Please contact us on 544 4275.



= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 26 March - Craft activities relating to Jesus in the wilderness
Focus on storing up the Word of God in our hearts.
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

Combined Richmond Waimea Churches Cross Walk – 11.00am Good Friday 14 April. Starting Wesley Centre (Methodist Church) walking as cross is carried, stopping on route for bible reading and prayer finishing at Holy Trinity for *A Reflection of the Cross* a time of singing and prayer. All welcome, for those unable to walk join at Holy Trinity at approximately 11.20am.

Preserves - A great big thank you to everyone who has provided fruit, jars and encouragement! We have some delicious Black Boy peach jam, it is like nectar, and some chutneys as well as the usual preserves. We have already made over \$100 in just a month! Keep buying guys!! If you would like some jams specially labelled and packaged to give as presents I am happy to do this, just ask. Many thanks again, Shiona.

Fabrics wanted - Grace Martin is looking for suitable material to sew the bags she makes for the boxes we fill every year. The children put their gifts in these bags. Any fabric suitable for children would be gratefully accepted. Ph 544 2744. Thanks Grace for this wonderful sewing ministry you have!

Lent Study - The Series finishes with Session 4 - *Let's see what God has for us* this Thursday 30 March at 7.00pm

Missions Newsletter - The latest (and last) Newsletter from the Sussexs' is on the Missions Noticeboard.

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

Offering Envelopes - Envelopes for 2017-2018 are at the back of the church. Please collect yours.

AGM Agenda and Reports - Available at back of the Church. Financial Statements available Sunday 2 April

Prayers for the Week

Our World - We pray for all those affected by floods in Peru. We ask that you would comfort all those who have lost loved ones, inspire generosity for all those who have lost their homes, and sustain all the workers helping those in need. Two more weeks of rain are forecast for this country, but Lord we know that you are all powerful, we ask that as for Elijah you would raise your hand and stop the rains, and that the people might know you are the only God.

Our Community - We give thanks for Grace Church and pray that you would give discernment Pastor Peter Somervell and the leadership team. We pray for their community support offered through Pinnacle House and ask for your blessing on all involved. In our community we lift up to you Lord all those who are struggling to find affordable housing, and we thank you Lord for all those involved in supporting the Night Shelter in Nelson. Lord give us eyes to see the need and your wisdom as to how we can help. Inspire our leaders to work together to help those in need.

Mission - This week we pray for Nathan and Rosey and their family. Life is busy for them as they juggle family & work, plan their time with link churches and think about different language learning options! We pray for discernment for them as they try to make well informed decisions. We pray for them as they finish their jobs, and prepare for the future.

Our Diocese - Thank you Lord for the leadership of Mike Hawke and his team. We thank you for the part your cathedral plays in the life of the city and ask that you draw people to you through the Cathedral's various ministries.

Our Church - This week we pray for Going Deeper. We ask Lord that you would bring forward the person you want to lead this ministry. We pray Lord for your healing on Chris, Anne Green, Peter Bean, Ellie, Lisa Arrandale, Sonja and others we know.

This Week...

Monday 27 March

7.00pm Men's Forum (J. Klootwyk)
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 28 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 29 March

10.00am Wednesday Service
10.00am Tea and Talk

Thursday 30 March

12.00pm Weekly Study group (W. Wilkinson, J. Lines)
7.00pm Lenten Study
7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Sunday 2 April

9.00am Holy Communion*
10.45am Holy Communion*
6.00pm 2016 AGM

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Friday 14 April Good Friday

11.00am Cross Walk from Methodist Church,
finishing at Church on the Hill with sung
worship and prayer for the community
2.00pm Choir Service

Sunday 16 April Easter Sunday

10.00am Combined Service

Tuesday 16 May

Alpha Course

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 9 April

Holy Communion

Sunday 23 April

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 2 April - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am	S Gill	10.45am	J Palmer
Reader:	9.00am	A Heslop, V Matthews	10.45am	M Martin
Sidespeople:	9.00am	B Page	10.45am	TBA
Welcomer:	9.00am	J Lines	10.45am	TBA
Tea:		E Erskine, G Thomas		
Chalice:	9.00am	B Payne, E Erskine	10.45am	V McNaughton, H Thomson, E/D Stanger
Flowers:		R Armstrong	Creche:	M Brosnahan

Theme for Next Sunday: Speaking life

Readings for next Sunday: Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45

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 Leader	Antonio Sardella	027 3525598			

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm