



Church on the Hill

Sunday 24 April 2016



Theme: Rules or relationship?
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Galatians 2:15 – 21, John 10:1 - 10

Sentence:

I have been crucified with Christ: and I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. And the real life I now have within this body is a result of my trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. - Galatians 2:20

Prayer for the day:

Thank you, heavenly Father, for sending Jesus to be our Saviour, our Friend, our Shepherd. Through him you have adopted us as your own children. Forgive us for the times we try to earn your love; for the times we forget that nothing depends on us. Holy Spirit, show us how to be

free from too many rules and to relax into the abundant life you have promised for all of your people. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, the One who loved us and gave himself for us.

Amen.

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Living breathing community

Some time back we preached a series on Community. We talked about the church as community and focused on several characteristics of community life – honesty, encouragement, oneness etc. If I were doing that series now there are a lot more aspects I would include.

Many people today don't live near family and feel socially isolated. They need a sense of community – a group of people to whom they feel connected. We all need to matter to others don't we?

As a church community how would you rate us on a scale of 1 – 10? We have some strengths and we have some weaknesses. You probably know much more about this than I do.

Lately I've been thinking about how we can be stronger community. In Jean's sermon last week she mentioned how our different gifting's also bring strengths and weaknesses. Jean pointed out how those gifts shape the way we view other people's strengths and weaknesses too. I found that very helpful.

I suspect our gifts influence who we are naturally drawn to and who irritates us and therefore we avoid. Paul's descriptions of the

body and all of its members working together is a great reminder aren't they?

I'd like to see us functioning more fully as a body. There are lots of baby steps we can take towards this. Hopefully our current preaching series 'Culture of Honour' will help. Early this term I plan to facilitate a short course based around the Holy Spirit. It will most likely be an evening group that runs for 3 or 4 weeks. Later in the term we will again offer a short course on Spiritual Gifts. We may even offer this during the Sunday services so that you can just stay on or come earlier than you would normally.

We will also be celebrating Trinity Sunday together as a parish. This is our Bishop's annual visit to us and falls on 22 May. We'll have breakfast together at 9.00am before the service at 10.00am. Sometimes when we have a combined service it is viewed as an opportunity to miss church altogether. I understand the reasons for this but I don't think they stand up to scrutiny. Please do take this opportunity to fellowship with others and to celebrate that we are one body made up of several different congregations.

What ways can you suggest for us to be more welcoming and more integrated as a church community?

In Christ's love,

Susan

Afternoon AAW group. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 27 April at 2.00pm in the Lounge. Ngaire Birch will be our guest speaker. Her talk is entitled "Working in the Outback of Australia. Afternoon tea to follow. There will be a Sales Table and a collection box for the Food Bank. Any new members are most welcome to attend. Enquiries to Jean McConachie 544 6921.

Brightwater Vicarage Blessing - Let's go and enjoy some fellowship with our neighbouring Parish – Brightwater today after our services we are invited to join them for a shared lunch at St Paul's hall from 11:45am onwards followed by Bishop Richard conducting a blessing of the new Vicarage.

Evening AAW Meeting - 7.30pm Thursday 28 April in the church hall lounge. The speaker is Diane Ramsay who will tell us about the Abbeyfield concept. All are welcome and there will be a sales table. Many of us attended the AGM in Blenheim and the Area day in Brightwater. Both events were a chance to meet our NZ President and friends from around the Diocese.

The Lantern



Together
we can
*make it
happen!*

Building Fundraiser
Honey is now available

500gms \$7.00
1kg \$13.00 // 2kgs \$25.00

See Anne Askin
or Ph. 542 3284



Prayers for the Week

The Queen: As we rejoice in Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday and give thanks for her faithful service, it is good to ponder her words "Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves – from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive."

God's World: Lord God we ask for help for all those affected by the recent earthquakes in Ecuador and Japan. We remember today the women and girls who have been freed from ISHS or Boko Haram. Although they are free they still carry the emotional scars and trauma of their time in captivity, Lord Jesus help them to recover their lives, especially those who have lost husbands and those who are now pregnant as a result of being raped. Send help to them and to those still in captivity – uphold their faith in You and may they know Your compassion and protection.

Mission Partners: We pray for the Murray and Féy Cotter in Albania, that You will encourage and grow the small discipling groups that have been established in their church. We also pray that You will richly bless the weekly children's programme as it seeks to minister to children from non-Christian families.

Diocese: We pray today for the parish of Stoke with Phil and Greta Greenwood and the parish leadership. We thank God for the new opportunities to reach Senior's through the ministry of our Seniors Outreach Coordinator, Kathy King. We thank God for the new families that have joined the parish. We ask that You will draw a youth leader to the parish. We also remember Bishop Richard and Hilary following Bishop Richard's operation, give them Your peace, Your strength and Your healing. May the new vicarage at Brightwater be a place of blessing and refreshment.

Local Community: We pray today for Richmond New Life Church, with Jono and Vanessa Martin and Steve and Kathy King. Encourage the church as it seeks to proclaim the gospel and build disciples among all ages.

Our Parish: We pray that You will call one or more leaders for the junior youth on Sunday mornings, that this group of intermediate and early college aged youngsters may be wisely disciplined. We pray for Susan, and ask that You will continue to guide and empower her to lead this church here at Holy Trinity. We thank You for the encouraging numbers at Lunch on the Hill last Tuesday and pray Your abundant blessing on this ministry.

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, Pam, Sonja and Jean (Alice's sister) and others we know. May your grace, mercy and peace be with them at this time and also with the residents and staff of rest homes and hospitals within our parish.

This Week...

Monday 25 April

9.00am Church open for Prayer
10.00am Friends 'n Fun
7.00pm Men (J Klootwyk)
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 26 April

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

Wednesday 27 April

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B. Page)
10.00am Wednesday Service

Thursday 28 April

12.00pm Weekly Study group (WWilkinson, J Lines)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Sunday 1 May

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Praise on the Hill

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Sunday 22 May Trinity Sunday

9.00am Breakfast
10.00am Combined Service with Bishop Richard

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 10 April

Holy Communion

Sunday 24 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 1 May *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader:	9.00am J Burrough	10.30am A Sardella
Reader:	9.00am A Heslop, V Matthews	10.30am TBC
Sidespeople:	9.00am B Page	10.30am T Mangelsdorf
Welcomer:	9.00am G Thomas	10.30am TBC
Tea:	S Stephens, M Gibson	
Chalice:	9.00am A Burrough, E Erskine	10.30am S Stephens, C Ward
Flowers:	A Heslop	Crèche: N/A

Theme for Next Sunday: Children of Light

Readings for Next Sunday: 2 Samuel 11:2 – 11, Ephesians 5:10 - 14

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