



Church on the Hill

Sunday 21 May 2017



Theme: Explaining the Unknown
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Jean Palmer
Readings: Acts 17:22 - 31, John 14:15 - 21

Sentence:

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.
- John 14:16

Prayer for the day:

God who speaks in silence; help us wait in quietness. When you seem absent, grant us the faith that knows you are there, bringing to fulfilment all you have begun. Help us understand that doubt and faith are not

opposites even while we appreciate your mystery, 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...



Being Church

How are we doing as a church?

It's a question I've been pondering for a while (probably continuously if I'm honest). Each person would probably answer differently. I said last week people belong for different reasons:

- Some come just for 'God and me' time.
- Some come to connect with others.
- Some come for the music and
- Some come for the sermon/teaching time.

I'm sure there are a lots of other reasons including that we are urged to meet together in Scripture.

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. - *Hebrews 10:2-25*

Recently I've been reading some stuff from the 'nakedpastor'. David Hayward is disillusioned with church to put it mildly! He was a pastor but left a couple of churches; eventually leaving for good. And his cynicism shows! However I have determined not only to read stuff that I agree with. And this ex-pastor has some very valid points.

He suggests that the church is too focused on building its own powerbase and not focused enough on fostering the goodness that is already in people. He says we push people into trying harder so they always feel guilty. He says we follow systems rather than Jesus. These are all uncomfortable sayings.

David Hayward, like all good cartoonists, overstates things in order to make his point.

Here are a couple of my favourite cartoons.



We want to thank you for joining our church. Here's a complimentary copy of our unspoken rules and expectations. If you know what's good for you, I'd have them read by next Sunday.



©nakedpastor

Lest you get worried about me, I am not disillusioned with church. I see our faults and I sometimes get frustrated, especially with myself. But I do believe church is an essential component of our faith. Ideally church helps us to grow in our Jesus following, to think things through for ourselves and to welcome diversity. Most important of all; church ought to be helping us to encounter the Living God.

How do we help each other do that? How do we celebrate or commiserate with each other for the week gone past and anticipate the week ahead? How do we genuinely listen to those who disagree with us and learn to love and respect each other?

Someone said church members are strange bed-fellows. It's absolutely true. For many of us, the only thing we have in common with each other is our Jesus following. Some of us would prefer to avoid others of us if we could.

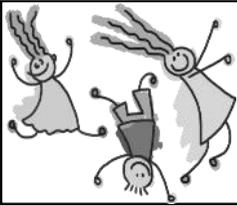
Yet we are called to be the Body of Christ.

...our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. - *Romans 5:4 - 5*

Hmmmm ... *belonging* - Now what does that look like?

Learning together in love,

Susan



= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 21 May

TBA

Next Sunday 28 May

St Johns

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

Alpha Update - Alpha got off to a good start last Tues with the first session *Who Is Jesus?* and some good discussion to follow. It is not too late to join us for the next session on Tuesday 6 June. The topic is *Why Did Jesus Die?* Please remember to keep the Alpha Course participants in your prayers.

Lunch on the Hill - Yvonne would love to hear from anyone who can cook for Lunch on the Hill. When our regular cooks are away or sick it is sometimes hard to find a replacement. Even if you can only help occasionally it would be good if I could have you to call upon. I would like to thank our regular cooks who have a real passion for this ministry and all who help in other ways in this ministry. It would not happen apart from the dedication of these people.

Lemons Wanted - Freda Middlemiss needs your spare lemons for her lemon honey! Ph: 544 9931

Prayers for the Week

Our World - Heavenly Father, daily we hear of new injustices being inflicted around the world. The human cost of territorial and religious disputes bewilders us: refugees in increasing numbers with terrible memories of families torn apart and hopes shattered as they cope with the risks of unreliable and dangerous sea transport, and often unethical agents. We also think of the victims of terrorism, hostage-taking and famine; the inevitable results of unrestrained, aggressive nations. Please bestow your protection and guidance on all those searching for a more stable life. May our prayers and deep concern eventually triumph over the evil that so many have to endure at present.

Our Community - We are grateful that we may follow the Christian path in the comforting embrace of friendships. Help us to reach out to neighbours so that we all can avoid the sadness of social isolation. We hope that the Alpha programme begun this week will attract welcome newcomers to our Christian family. We pray for those in our community suffering from the effects of random alcohol or drugs use, and seek your loving care for those sick in body or spirit. We give thanks that there have been so many advances in medical knowledge for effective treatment of illnesses that previously were beyond recovery.

Diocese - We pray this week for the Anglican community in Picton and the bridges they are building to local families. We give thanks for engagement with newcomers to that district, for a strengthened financial position and for the way the new vestry has settled into leadership and planning for the year.

Church - We extend goodwill and encouragement to the Presbyterian fellowship that is going through challenging times in the Nelson area. Services for three previous church assemblies are now concentrated at Stoke, as is pastoral care. We pray, Lord, that you will assist and continue to guide the church members and their minister, Jon Parkes, during this demanding period.

Mission - We are grateful to have had the first-hand presentations by Nathan and Rosey Hughes last Sunday as they prepare to leave home in Nelson with their two children for missionary engagement in India. They thank God that many things that need to be organised are coming together. We pray that their story and commitment will inspire others towards mission service and social justice.

Parish - We thank the office volunteers who perform such a valuable service for our church in support of the vestry, Susan and Parish Administrator David. Together they are a formidable team that ensures effective organisation. We remember Jean Lines, Chris, Lisa Arrandale, Sonja, Gwen Thomas, the extended Tosswill family as they mourn the loss of Margaret, and others we know in hospitals and rest homes. May they be strengthened in spirit by assurance that the greatest power in Heaven or Earth is constantly with them.

This Week...

Monday 22 May

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 23 May

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)

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

7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)

Wednesday 24 May

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

1.30pm Afternoon AAW

Thursday 25 May

12.00pm Weekly Study group (W. Wilkinson, J. Lines)

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

7.30pm Evening AAW

Sunday 28 May

9.00am Holy Communion*

10.45am Praise on the Hill*

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Sunday 11 June

9.00am Breakfast

10.00am Trinity Sunday Combined Service

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 28 May

Morning Prayer

Sunday 11 June

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 28 May - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am	J South	10.45am	Youth Band
Reader:	9.00am	S Frengley, P Jordan	10.45am	J Sardella
Sidespeople:	9.00am	J Lines	10.45am	M Martin
Welcomer:	9.00am	S Entwistle	10.45am	TBA
Tea:		V McNaughton, D Martin		
Chalice:	9.00am	S Frengley, P Jordan	10.45am	N/A
Flowers:		R Armstrong	Crèche:	G Thomson

Theme for Next Sunday: Power and Glory

Readings for next Sunday: Isaiah 55:1, 6-13, Luke 10:1-9

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