



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 26 August 2018



**Theme:** Maintain hope  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Susan Gill  
**Readings:** 1 Corinthians 15:1 - 10, Matthew 25:34 - 40

**Sentence:**

By the grace of God we are what we are and his grace to us is not without effect.

*- Adapted from 1 Corinthians 15:10*

**Prayer for the day:**

Almighty God,  
If we are honest with you and with ourselves, we often feel unworthy of your love. We know that Jesus died for us. But we can't really grasp the depth of passion he has, not just for all of humanity for but us; for me! We think we are small and low and weak. Yet your grace enlarges us, makes us stand tall and gives us strength beyond our wildest imaginings.

In you there is always hope; hope that we are part

of creating something good and lovely and powerful. Together with you, we are doing that in this community, in the lives of others and even within our very own selves.

As we minister in this way, you remind us that whatever we do for one of the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters, we do for him. Empower us, Holy Spirit, to trust in the love of our Father, the humility and grace of our brother Jesus, and in your strength. **Amen**

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

# Reflections...



## Goodbye



<http://9buz.com/media/charlie-brown-goodbye-always-makes-my-throat-hurt>

This 'Goodbye' to everyone at Richmond Parish certainly makes my throat hurt and my eyes water. Yet my heart is full of joy as I recall some of the amazing things we have been through together. Here are a few:

- Big life events like baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals
- Fun times with fairs, quiz nights, lunches, picnics and dinners
- Challenges like John leaving and the delays of the new hall
- Farewells to staff members like Nicci, Micah, Ingrid, Antonio, Kay, Owen, Catherine who have moved on or changed roles – I'm grateful that some of them continue to worship with and minister among us and for the current staff team of Carol, Yvonne, David and Josh
- Welcome to new members – too many to list – who have grown us and contributed so richly to our parish life
- Coping with challenging finances – this year we've exceeded budgeted income so far Praise God. I'm sure the Finance Team would want me to say but ...there are a lot of expenses coming up ;)
- Enjoying the stability of our older and very committed members – I love you all
- Appreciating our clergy – Owen K, Jim P, Barry, Franz, Peter, Owen H and of course we've been part of the ordination and ministry process for Jean

- Encouraging change such as Messy Church, more combined services, Taize and now evening praise services, a new way of doing our 10:30 service
- Trying to keep up with technology with a new website (about to be renewed once more) and sound systems etc
- Reaching out into the community – established Lunch on the Hill, Tea and talk, chaplaincy at Richmond School, opened the church for prayer, published the Lantern page in the local newspaper and continued with Friends n Fun and individual ministry far to varied to cover here
- Endeavouring to cope with Health and Safety – good luck with that!
- Supporting and welcoming missionaries and the Tongan church who worship at Church on the Hill
- Taken risks and things didn't always work out as we hoped – the Budget service, Freshperspectives, the Lantern building – but we learned along the way
- Participated in some edgy sermon series – Life is Hard, the Psalms, A culture of honour, Hahi Karaitiana (Christ's Church) and lots of lectionary based sermons.
- Adopted a new vision statement – 'Following Jesus; building community' shapes who we are and builds our resolve to be a welcoming inclusive church even, perhaps especially, in the face of Diocesan and national church challenges.
- There are so many more things I could've listed but that's enough to give a flavour. Through it all we've been together in worship, friendship and outreach.
- I want to say a huge 'thank you' to you all. You've been so supportive and encouraging even when you haven't agreed with me or each other. You've loved and welcomed and reached out. In case I miss anyone out, the only name I will mention is my husband Kevin. He has been my strength and reminded me often (though I have seldom listened – sorry babe) of priorities and the need to care for myself. He's welcomed others and told jokes. He's made a great job of supporting me and I couldn't have ministered in this parish for ten and a half years without him.

I think the intro from my 2014 AGM report still applies:

Very recently I thought I heard God speaking to me. He was saying "Come to me." At the time it seemed he meant I was to go to the chair in, my study, where I often pray and read his Word. When I got to my chair though, I could still "hear" God's voice saying "Come to me". I turned around and looked out the window and realised God was not speaking to me at all. He was speaking to the people out in the community; the ones I can see from my window. The ones he has placed us right in the middle of. This call for people to come to him is, I believe, the mandate we are to focus on

as a Parish. This is why he has placed us where we are.

There are many possibilities for growth and development that you could explore. In the midst of challenges I encourage you to hold to who God has called you to be in this place. So far you've done a marvelous job of that. I look forward to hearing of your continued journey with Jesus in your faith and outreach exploits!

So much love,

*Susan*



**WARNING** Burn Hazard

Under seat heaters are on during services. Please do not touch - *they are hot!*

## Prayers for the Week

Lord God, this is a special day for us as we say farewell to Susan. We thank you for the years she has spent with us, for the loving oversight she has given us and for the insights and skills she has shared with us. We pray that the culture she has encouraged here will continue and grow and we pray that you will continue to lead and guide her into the future you have prepared for her. We pray too that you will guide and support those in this parish who are tasked with finding a new vicar and who hold responsibility for the welfare of the parish in the meantime. We thank you too, for inspiring those who provide lunch for the community at Lunch on the Hill. May those who organise and provide the meals and those who attend be blessed by the interaction they experience.

We thank you for all your faith filled people who devote time and knowledge to the building of your kingdom of justice and love, and we ask for your protection and care. Particularly we pray for the N & R and family. May they know your love surrounding, protecting, and equipping them. We pray, too, for the aid agencies working around the world to relieve the victims of famine, war and natural disasters.

In this country, we pray for all those involved in the justice system, that wise decisions may be made in our bid to reduce the prison population, and we thank you for those who support and care for prisoners both in jail and when they are released. We ask too for help with gang violence, that the root causes may be addressed.

In this diocese we pray for the parishioners and staff of St Christopher's Church, Blenheim South, and in this community, we pray for the New Life Church. Please equip each one with the resources and knowledge they need.

We pray too for those known to us, for Margaret Silke, for Debbie and Dave, Murray and Bev and for those known only to you who are struggling with ill health or infirmity. May each one know of your love and care for them. We pray for comfort for the family of Peter Bell as they grieve their loss. We thank you for your provision of care for the elderly in this area and we ask your blessing on both residents and the staff who care for them.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus, our saviour, friend and guide. **Amen**

## This Week...

### Monday 27 August

9.00am Church open for Prayer  
9.30am Friends 'n Fun  
1.00pm Weekly group (K Peterson)  
7.00pm Men's Forum (J Klootwyk)

### Tuesday 28 August

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)  
10.00am Fortnightly Bible Study Group (E Erskine)  
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frenghley)

### Wednesday 29 August

10.00am Wednesday Service

### Thursday 30 August

9.30am Friends 'n Fun  
12.00pm Weekly Study group (W Wilkinson, J Lines)  
7.30pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)  
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

### Saturday 1 September

7.00pm Spring Variety Show

### Sunday 2 September

9.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Praise on the Hill  
7.00pm Taizé Service

## Coming up...

### Wednesday 12 September

12.00pm *Ticking the Boxes* - Fashion Show at Wakefield Church.

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

**St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am**

**Sunday 26 August** Combined @ Holy Trinity  
**Sunday 9 September** 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 2 September - Thank you for serving us all!

<b>Leader:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	J South	<b>10.30am</b>	S Jackson & Youth Band
<b>Reader:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	A Heslop, B Lash	<b>10.30am</b>	L Summerfield, M Tilley
<b>Sidesperson</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	B Page	<b>10.30am</b>	B Cheyne
<b>Welcomer:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	G Thomas	<b>10.30am</b>	K Cheyne
<b>Chalice:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	A Burrough, E Erskine	<b>10.30am</b>	N/A
<b>Tea:</b>	M Gibson, S Stephens			
<b>Flowers:</b>	R Armstrong			<b>Crèche</b> M Brosnahan

**Theme for Next Sunday:** TBA  
**Readings for Next Sunday:** Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

## Parish Contacts

Vicar	Susan Gill	544 8827	People's Warden	Dave Pritchard	544 5314
Priest Assistant	Jean Palmer	544 4275	Vicar's Warden	Karl Summerfield	03 970 2438
Senior's Ministry	Yvonne Smyth	542 3957	Friends 'n Fun	Carol Sardella	544 9237
Youth Leader	Joshua Allan-Johns	027 711 6800	Administrator	David Cowdrey	027 499 8684

## Holy Trinity Church

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### Website

www.holytrinityrichmond.org.nz

## Office Hours

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