



Church on the Hill

Sunday 23 August 2015



Theme: The Boss
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: John 14:6–14, Matthew 21:33-42

Sentence:
You are the Messiah; the son of the living God. - *Matthew 16:16*

Prayer for the day:

Jesus Christ, beloved of the Father, Lord of all, you see our hearts. You know who we are and what we long for. Our desires don't always match up with yours. Come and take ownership of your property; of we who belong to you. We are your

people. Give us courage to follow where you lead, especially when it is to places of discomfort and challenge. Help us not only to acknowledge you as Lord with our words but also with our actions.
Amen.

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



The Horror of Doubt

Last Sunday Susan asked us to discuss what the basis for our faith is. Later in the sermon she asked us if any of us had discussed doubt.

Doubt has become somewhat trendy to talk about in churches now. There have been countless books written with the express purpose of answering the questions many people struggle with. Yet many of them ignore the most powerful aspect of doubt: the horrifying loneliness of it.

When we talk about biblical characters who doubt we often point to Thomas or the man who cried out "I believe; help my unbelief". Both of these men had their doubts assuaged by physical evidence. Yet we rarely look at the example of Christ on the cross. The symbolic statement of crucifixion was that the victim was exiled from their community. And on the cross Jesus cries out "Eloi Eloi lama sabachthani? - My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Jesus dies alone with an unanswered question.

I often like to explain doubt as like being at a crossroads with four possible directions. The first is to stay in state of permanent doubt, not wanting to move backwards or forwards. The second is to accept your unanswered questions

and become comfortable with them. The third is to find new evidence to bolster the original explanation for your question. The fourth is to move towards a different explanation that may lead you away from your peer group.

And one of the loneliest parts of discerning which road to go down is the feeling that you are doing it all alone while everyone else around you seems so certain of their faith. Of course this is treating doubt like it is something that can be neatly wrapped up in a box. The truth is that doubt is a lot more complicated when it involves the emotions of grief or anger. How do you assuage the doubts of the mother who has lost her daughter or the person who looks on in bewilderment at the injustice in the world? Perhaps Randall Hardman was right when he said that the point of the Eden story is that trying to understand evil just brings more pain.

The philosopher Peter Rollins has suggested that the truth of faith is illustrated not in providing reasons for suffering but in the healing it can bring when the gaze of the one who cares meets the gaze of the one who suffers. And I think that sometimes the best thing we can do for one who doubts is to let them know that they do not doubt alone.

Micah

Afternoon AAW group. The ladies from the Evening AAW Group will entertain us and serve afternoon tea at our next meeting in the Hall on Wednesday 26 August at 2.00pm. There will be a display of goods, Christmas cards, calendars and many more items from Save the Children Shop in Nelson available for purchase. No Sales Table so all money spent can go towards Save the Children funds. Any ladies are most welcome to attend. Enquiries: Jean McConachie 544 6921.

An Evening of Entertainment & Vision - 7.30pm Friday 4 September. All Saints. Come along to hear about BTC and the Foundation and how you can be part of our vision. Featuring "Songs from the Shows" by Bishop Richard, Hilary Ellena and others. Wine and Nibbles. BTC Friends' are free, bring a friend for \$10 a ticket. RSVP to: office@bishopdale.ac.nz Ph. 548 8785 extn. 5

Need a bicycle? We have two to give away. One is a child's bike suitable for a 10 – 12 year old. The other is a woman's bike which would suit someone of shorter stature. Please contact John Green for more information. Ph. 544 7540

Operation Christmas Child - Shoe Box Appeal - Its time to begin to think about filling boxes again - lots of suitable bargains in the shops. As previously, our main 'box filling' will be in

conjunction with the AAW Evening meeting on Thursday 24 September. You can find leaflets telling you what to include in the rack at the back of the Church. Thank you. Brenda Page.

AAW Evening Group - Meeting will be held on Thursday 27 August. Our annual BYO tea and film evening with an earlier 6.00pm start. Contributions to the Hospice will be collected at this meeting. For more information phone Anne 544 7992.

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



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 and younger youth (Yr 7 to Yr 11) in Youth Room in the hall.



Prayers for the Week

God's World: We ask that You comfort those deeply troubled refugees, caught up in unbearable circumstances, who risk their lives across dangerous seas in desperate search for a new life. Calm their fears and show them Your true path to salvation. We think of families challenged by mental health problems. Replace their doubts and confusion with enlightenment and peace that only You can provide.

Mission Partners: In light of the dreadful explosions and resulting chemical contamination in Tianjin, we think of Allan and Christine who know something of that place. Although they are currently on sabbatical in Britain, they have been closely involved with medical staff now coping with injuries among patients in the nearest general hospital.

Diocese: We offer thanks for a successful re-launch of Messy church in the Cobden-Runanga Parish, offering another path to connect with that West Coast community. We ask Your blessing for the many citizens adversely affected by economic downturn in the region, and for Your direction of how the church ministers to them.

Local Church: We are pleased that the Church of Christ in Richmond has been effective recently in reaching out to its neighbours in the community, and its congregation has been encouraged by several baptisms.

Our Church: We thank you for the recent Messy Church under Tom and Lorna Gower's leadership, for the new people who came and the strong sense of your presence. Please guide us as we consider the best time of day and week to hold these services in the future. We thank you also for Carol Sardella and her passion for Friends n Fun. Help her and the volunteers as they seek to show your love to the families involved. Please provide others from our church family who can build relationships of trust and love with the participants.

Those in need within our own church family: We ask your blessings for George and Bev, Daphne, Carole Burke, Noel, Lisa, Fiona, Ellie, Freda, Linda, Bill Margaret and others known to us, and those receiving care in rest homes and hospitals within our parish.

This Week...

Monday 24 August

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 25 August

10.00am Weekly group (M. Silke)

10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

Wednesday 26 August

7.30am Prayer

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (N. Thomas)

10.00am Wednesday Service

2.00pm Combined AAW Afternoon Tea

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

Thursday 27 August

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

7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Sunday 30 August

9.00am Holy Communion*

10.30am Praise on the Hill*

*Morning Tea between services in the Hall

Coming up...

Thursday 15 October

Help, you're losing us

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 9 August Holy Communion

Sunday 23 August 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 30 August *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader: 9.00am J McConachie

10.30am S Gill

Sidespeople: 9.00am E Erskine

10.30am J Green

Welcomer: 9.00am S Entwistle

10.30am M Ross

Tea: F & J Murbach

Chalice: 9.00am B Payne, K Mitchell

10.30am N/A

Flowers: A Heslop

Brass: M Gibson

Readings for Next Sunday: Psalm 10:12-18, Luke 16:19-21

Theme for Next Sunday: Serving Others

Parish Contacts

Vicar	Susan Gill	544 8827	Children's Ministry	TBC
Priest Assistant	Jean Palmer	544 4275	Friends 'n Fun	Carol Sardella 544 9237
Senior's Ministry	Kay Peterson	544 8844	Parish Administrator	David Cowdrey 544 8844
Youth Pastor	Micah Did-dell	544 6495	Budget Advice	Anne Askin 544 8901

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Office Hours

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