

Church on the Hill

Sunday 11 September 2016



Theme: Creator God; order from chaos
Vicar: Revd. Susan Gill
Preacher: Micah Did-Dell
Readings: Genesis 1:1– 4, Psalm 104, Revelation 21:1 - 8

Sentence:
You built foundations for the earth, and it will never be shaken. - *Psalm 104:5*

Prayer for the day:

God our Father, you created the world; bringing order and rhythm. You sent your Son to live among us, made of the same stuff, breathing the same air, marvelling at sunrise and sunset just as we do. Holy Spirit help us to participate in the life around and within us as your life, as you living in us and we living in you and in each

other. God of love and life, restore us to your peace. Renew us through your power. Teach us to love all that you have created and to care for the earth as your gift and our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Churchless Aotearoa?

In a couple of weeks time, Yvonne and her husband Ian, John and Jean Palmer and I will attend the clergy conference at Lake Rotoiti. One of the key note speakers is Kevin Ward. Kevin is Senior Lecturer at the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership and has previously lectured at Laidlaw College where I did my degree.

Kevin's research interests are in religion and church in contemporary society and in congregational studies. Recently he wrote a short article for *Our Story Aotearoa* – a short booklet put out by NZCMS (Church Missionary Society).

So often when we read about the church in New Zealand we come away very depressed. After reading Kevin's article I actually felt quite optimistic. To be sure he began by quoting falling church attendance figures. However he correctly notes that just because people said they had 'no religion' didn't mean they don't have an interest in spiritual things. Nor does it mean that our society is becoming more secular.

Rather we are becoming more diverse in our spirituality. Kevin points out that heaps of people

believe without belonging to the institutional church. Some participate occasionally in church life eg Christmas or Easter.

We do need to be concerned though because the longer people stay away from the Christian community, the more likely they are to stray from Christian orthodoxy. Today I see many people of all ages belonging to several churches. Personally I have no problem with this as long as the persons concerned are not simply creaming the best from all the churches without committing anything in return. If that is the case then people run the serious risk of not having a *turangawaewae*. When something goes wrong, that means they have no-one on whom they can call; so safe community to back them up.

Kevin does not see the future as being churchless. He sees major challenges for us as we learn to operate from the fringe rather than the centre of society. His final challenge is very real for us in the Richmond Parish:

Let us pray that God might lead us into new ways of shaping community that sustain faith and incarnate the gospel for the next 200 years.

To that I say "Amen Kevin".

Learning together in love,

Susan

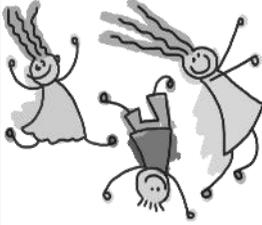
Church open for Prayer - Join in on Monday from 9.00am to 2.00pm to pray for your personal needs, our parish, our community and the world. Pop in for hot soup and prayer. All welcome. Feel free to come and go.

Senior's tea and talk - 10.00am -11.30ameach Wednesday morning in the Richmond Seniors rooms, adjacent to the Age Concern Offices, Oxford Street. The cost is \$3.00 to cover morning tea. Please come and invite any senior neighbours you may have. It would be great to have many of our people there as we start this exciting new venture! For more information or to offer help please see Shiona or Yvonne.

Cafe Connection - Our next monthly gathering will be at The Wooden Spoon Cafe, 10.30am Thursday 15 September. All very welcome to join us for a happy time of socialising, coffee, and food! You will find us at the big reserved table in the middle. Hope to see you there! Yvonne

Spring Fair - We are going to hold our Spring Fair on Saturday 15 October. Many thanks to all those who gave feedback. The outcome is that we will separate the garage sale and fair and in September will just run a Fair from 10.00am to 2.00pm. It will include all our usual stalls, and have a strong family / all age focus. If you have any ideas about what we can do to draw in families, including grandparents and grandchildren, please talk with me! The proceeds will go to Missions. Shiona [Frengley 544 4155](mailto:frengles@vodafone.co.nz) or frengles@vodafone.co.nz

Tea and Talk - Richmond Seniors Hall, 62 Oxford St, Richmond. 10.00am-11.00am Wednesday 14 September. Come along and hear Brian Clifford speak on *The Voyage of the Golden Lotus*. All welcome. \$3 for scones, tea or coffee. Yvonne Smyth - Elder Care Team Leader



= KIDZ CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 11 September - Filling boxes for Samaritans purse Christmas project. Overview of New Testament. Video and activities.

Next Week Sunday 18 September - New Testament Part 2

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

Prayers for the Week

God's World – Creator God, we thank you for the beauty and terror of your world. Thank you that we finally seem to be getting the message that we also have a part in sustaining this wonderful earth and the creatures who live here. Thank you that Pandas are no longer endangered but don't let us get complacent. Rather help us to do our bit by consuming less and caring more.

We ask you to raise up just leaders in governments, businesses and local bodies. Please enable greater transparency in the political and economic systems under which we all live. Strengthen those who are persecuted because they have taken a stand for righteousness. Provide the courage they need along with protection from harm and intimidation for them and their families. Bring your justice, mercy and peace to all people especially those in war-torn countries such as South Sudan, Iraq, Somalia. Please provide for the needs of those in famine-ravaged places such as Africa, Timor Leste and Yemen. Holy Spirit, please help us to co-operate with your work across this world.

Mission Partners – We thank you Heavenly Father for the missional work Féy and Murray Cotter do in Albania. We ask that you help the six people who were baptised to grow stronger in their faith and eager to spread your Good News to their friends and neighbours. We also pray for a growing maturity to be formed in those who participate in the discipleship groups over summer

Diocese – In our Diocese Hills Community Church occupies a unique place. Be with John Sherlock as he leads the Mapua-based congregation from various denominational backgrounds. Please give them a sense of unity and communal vision as they further your Gospel in the local community and further afield. We continue to uphold David Hollingsworth and his family.

Community – Thank you Lord, for the growth in Hope Community Church. Please continue to place in their people and leaders a growing love and enjoyment for you that translates into love for others. Thank you for Lunch on the Hill and for our partnership with Aged Concern in the Tea and Talk morning teas. Thank you for the TDC grants announced for community groups; may the money help build cohesiveness in our region. We also pray for the social agencies who work so hard; asking that they have the resources needed to work with those who will benefit most. We pray for all who are raising children giving thanks for parents and especially remembering single parents, grandparents and foster carers.

Our Parish – Thank you for our churches of Holy Trinity and St. Alban's. We meet together as your family, bound together with the chord woven from your love that binds all of creation together. We worship together, work together and have fun together. Thank you for the upcoming Barn Dance. We pray for Susan as she leads this Church and for the Vestry who provide governance. Thank you also for the talks on Christianity and Islam. May all who have attended take away your truth and grace and have a greater understanding of both faiths.

Special people in our church family – Heavenly Father, we ask that you bring healing, comfort and strength to Debbie, Carole Burke, Ellie, John Barnes, Laurie D'Eganneh, Sonja, Pam Butler, Val Jordan, Ingrid Blackbeard and others known to us. We pray also for the residents and staff in rest homes and hospitals in this Parish, that they know your peace and love.

Help us Lord, to see as you see: and to change what is now into what ought to be. **Amen**

This Week...

Monday 12 September

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 13 September

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)

10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

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

Wednesday 14 September

10.00am Senior's Tea & Talk (Age Concern)

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

10.00am Wednesday Service

Thursday 15 September

10.30am Café Connection

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

7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Saturday 17 September

5.30pm Barn Dance

Sunday 11 September

9.00am Morning Worship

10.30am Holy Communion

Coming up...

Tuesday 20 September

11.30am Lunch on the Hill

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 11 September

Holy Communion

Sunday 25 September

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 18 September *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader: 9.00am J Palmer

10.30am J Palmer

Reader: 9.00am A Burrough, K South

10.30am M Did-Dell

Sidespeople: 9.00am J Burrough

10.30am J Green

Welcomer: 9.00am A Burrough

10.30am N Pritchard

Tea: J & K South

Chalice: 9.00am N/A

10.30am M Ross, N Pritchard E/D Stanger

Flowers: R Armstrong

Creche: TBA

Theme for Next Sunday: King of kings?

Readings for Next Sunday: Psalm 47, Colossians 1:15 – 20

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