



Church on the Hill

Sunday 20 September 2015



Theme: Shame and Death
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Susan Gill
Readings: Deuteronomy 21:22-23, Mark 15:37-47

Sentence:

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. - John 3:17

Prayer for the day:

Father, sometimes we feel so unworthy. Sometimes we don't feel your love. Yet, even in the depth of self-pity or despair, you are with us. You know how worthless we feel. But your love perseveres with us. You sent your Son, to pay the price

for our shame – washing us whiter than snow. Jesus has given us eternal and abundant life. Spirit, help us to hear our Father's words of love and to walk confidently into the future, through our Saviour Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Family Disagreements and God's Provision

Last week we looked at the wider picture in our Anglican family. Today I want to look more at our local family. Some may not realise we have two sister churches in our parish – St Albans' and Holy Trinity (or Church on the Hill as the locals know us).

It would be fair to say that the relationship between our two churches has not always been rosy. Some years back, due to falling attendance and the heavy input from Holy Trinity, the Vestry at the time decided to close St Albans. It was a sensitive issue approached with the best will in the world but St Albans folk were understandably very hurt.

St Alban's folk didn't want it to close and asked for permission to see if they could run things without Holy Trinity ministry – while still being under the oversight of the Vicar. The answer was 'yes' and St Albans people have done a sterling job of running the church. Since then we have moved closer together again. John Barnes organises service leaders and priests; some from Holy Trinity regularly help out again now. A small committee from St Albans looks after the property, pastoral care and their spiritual journey. Laurie D'Eganneh sits on Vestry and reports regularly to them.

It seems to me that the Christian family often unwittingly hurts its members. There is much that we disagree on. Some people are hurt that

Vestry won't borrow money to immediately advance the Lantern building. I am sorry for that hurt and disappointment.

We do all have a choice though. My choice is to hold on to the vision that God has given us for the new building and to have faith in him for provision. There is always the danger of thinking we can do things instead of looking to God our provider.

Jesus chided his disciples for trying to cast our demons in their own strength in Matthew 17. He went on to tell them where their faith should be using the example of a mustard seed. That seed was one of the smallest known examples that Jesus could use as an illustration during that time. And Jesus was not teaching that they needed more faith, but rather where they should place their faith. The disciples had some faith or they would not have tried to cast the demon out in the first place. But their faith was in themselves, they asked, "Why could we not cast it out?"

They failed to recognize that even with the authority that Jesus had given them to cast out demons, that it was actually Jesus doing the work. We too need to recognise that, while we will do our best and work to raise funds for the building, it is the Lord who needs to provide. In our disappointment, in our hope, in faith – let's look to God to move miraculously. I've seen Holy Trinity and St Alban's move closer together again. I'm expecting the Lord to move in our relationships and in our finances too!

Learning together in love,

Susan

AAW Evening Group - Meet on Thursday 24 September. Any time after 6.00pm for an early start to help with the packing of the Christmas Shoe boxes. Many hands make light work!! Our usual meeting will follow at 7.30pm Do you have you a special memento that brings back special memories? Bring it along and share the story with us. Sales table. All welcome. Contact Anne Webb Ph. 544 7992

Garage Sale - We will be having our Spring garage sale on 31 October, and we need somewhere to store donated items. If you could store about 3 cu m. of items till then could you phone Shiona on 544 4155. We also get donations throughout the year, if you are able to offer some space in a shed or garage to store items between garage sales we would love to hear from you. - *Shiona Fregley and Jan South.*

Welcome - We welcome back Dawn Martin into our midst. Dawn belonged to our church for many years a while back. Dawn loves to fish, paint and generally keep active. Please add her contact details into your Parish Directory: Dawn and Gary Martin, 74 Covent Drive, Ph.547 3434, dawngary@kinect.co.nz

 <p>The Lantern</p>	<p>Together we can make it happen!</p>	<p>Building Fundraiser Honey is now available 500gms \$7.00 1kg \$13.00 // 2kgs \$25.00 See Anne Askin or Ph. 542 3284</p>	
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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: Lord we continue to pray for the refugee crisis for we don't know what else to do. The Psalms tell us that you "stand beside the poor and hungry to save them from their enemies." Jesus came that we might "have life and that life abundantly." Let all nations be used by you to bring justice and peace; to expand your kingdom here on earth.

Mission Partners: We pray for Allan and Christine back in Asia. Thank you for their time in the UK; for all they learnt at the various conferences and for the helpful relationships they established. We continue to pray for those dealing with the after-effects of the explosion in Tianjin. Bring physical and emotional healing and equip the medical staff so they can help the best way. Give the politicians wisdom so they can prevent something like this happening again.

Diocese: Thank you Lord for Synod and for the support and encouragement we receive from our Bishop and his team. Thank you for your presence with the team at Hills Community Church in Mapua. Thank you also for the Sherlock's safe arrival back from Kenya. Please give John and his team wisdom as he seeks to implement some of his learnings in the parish.

Local Community: We thank you Lord that the Presbyterian Church has come to a decision as to where the amalgamated churches should worship in the short term. Be with those who grieve the decline of their own churches and help them to work together for your glory under Jon Parkes' leadership.

Our Parish: We ask you to be with those who are disappointed that we may not build as soon as we would like. We ask you to help us trust you and pray with faith for your intervention and supernatural provision so we can fulfil the vision you have given us. We pray for Messy Church today and for Friends n Fun in the final week of this term.

Those in need within our own church family: We ask your loving presence to be made known to: George and Bev, Carole Burke, Noel, Lisa, Fiona, Ellie, Freda, Linda and Bill, John, others we know and for the residents and staff of rest homes and hospitals within our parish. We also pray for those in our Wednesday congregation as they cope with loss and with increasing frailness. You know what they need better than we do, so we place them in your strong hands.

This Week...

Monday 21 September

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 22 September

10.00am Weekly group (M. Silke)

10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

Wednesday 23 September

7.30am Prayer

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

10.00am Wednesday Service

2.00pm AAW Afternoon Group (J. McConachie)

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

Thursday 24 September

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

6.00pm AAW Shoebox pack/Meeting (A Webb)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Sunday 27 September

9.00am Holy Communion*

10.30am Praise on the Hill*

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Thursday 15 October

6.30pm Help, you're losing us Workshop

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 13 September Holy Communion

Sunday 27 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 27 September *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader: 9.00am J Burrough

10.30am Susan Gill

Sidespeople: 9.00am J Lines

10.30am M Martin

Welcomer: 9.00am S Entwistle

10.30am K Thomson,
G Mangelsdorf

Tea: N Thomas, V McNaughton

Chalice: 9.00am S Frengley, S Paine

10.30am N/A

Flowers: N Thomas

Brass: E Moore

Readings for Next Sunday: Psalm 16:7-11, 1 Peter 3:18-22

Theme for Next Sunday: "Descended into Hell"

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