



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 12 November 2017



**Theme:** Too little time? Kia Kaha  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Karl Summerfield  
**Readings:** Exodus 18:13-27, Matthew 11:28-30

**Sentence:**

Jesus said "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**Prayer for the day:**

We thank you Holy Father, that Jesus understands each of us better than we understand ourselves, and that his heart – gentle and humble, reaches out to us in our busyness. We quiet our hearts to listen to Jesus' invitation to lay all our heavy burdens at his feet, and so find rest. We accept your invitation Gracious Jesus. We come to you, asking you to take our burdens one by one, and becoming more aware of our need to

find rest. As your Spirit enables, may our hearts become like yours, gentle and humble. God we thank you for the gentleness and humility we do notice in ourselves. We ask for more, as we pray for the grace to be more like Jesus in all our relationships and tasks, both in those that are easy and in the difficult ones. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit; one God now and forever. **Amen**

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

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# Reflections...



## Offering safe conversions

Use your heads as you live and work among outsiders. Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out. - *Colossians 4:5-6 The Message Version*

As a church community, we've been talking a lot about being a safe place. I believe that's because our Gracious Guide is calling us to this and has been leading the conversation. As I considered this verse one day I discovered some keys which lead me to further thought and prayer:

It assumed we have relationships with people outside the church – not to do so is insular and unhealthy. It can reinforce our prejudices and narrow ways of thinking.

There are opportunities to share about what God is doing in our lives. We are to take those opportunities and not worry about whether we have all the answers or may get something wrong. The Holy Spirit is bigger than that and has lots of helpers not just us. We are only part of the picture but we are part of the picture. Most people have an inner desire to belong to something greater than themselves whether they are aware of it or not. Jesus is the answer to every question – what he has done in life, death and resurrection – what he continues to do in our lives through the Holy Spirit every day.

Our speech is to be gracious. I find myself too readily critical. That is not gracious. I love how the Message puts it "The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out." It's easy to identify what "not putting down others" is. As I pondered the "not cut them out" business I thought about how easy it is to cut people out of conversations. Here are some ways I identified that we sometimes do that:

- Using language no-one else understands – sometimes violent language such as asking for the blood of Jesus to cover a person or situation. Christianese is unhelpful. It would be good for us to find normal words and to use them with each other as practice for normal conversation with others.
- We can talk about events that we've been part of but others haven't too much – excluding their circumstances and experience.
- We can dismiss that experience as inferior and come across as judgemental.
- We can forget that wherever there is goodness, truth and love; there God is. The Holy Spirit is at work in everyone – everyone – whether it is obvious or not.
- We can cut people out because we are too busy to really listen and converse with people the way they want and need. Karl will talk about that today.

Gracious Lord, help all of us to make the most of every opportunity to allow you to be gracious through us. None of us knows how many opportunities we have with anyone. Life is short for them and for us.

These verses really challenged me. What is the Lord saying to you through them?

Learning together in love,

*Susan*

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**Annual Budget 2018** - The Finance Team are currently working on next year's budget and a deficit is looming. To assist us to manage this situation we are asking for sponsors the pay for the monthly page in the Waimea Weekly, \$550.00 a month. We are fortunate to have a capable group of people who work hard to prepare this page each month. The coverage that is achieved makes this a very missional publication and an excellent way to place the activities of the Church on the Hill and St Alban's in the public eye. We would love to hear from people who would be prepared to pay for a month or months to enable us to continue with this outreach. If this sounds like something that you could do I would love to hear from you. We don't want the money until next year, just prior to the month that you sponsor. If this is something that you could do, would you please contact me this month on 544 5314 or 027 544 5314 or email me at [dpnikki@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dpnikki@xtra.co.nz) Thanks very much.  
Dave Pritchard, People's Warden.

**Youth Ministry** - In a "Big Faith" move we are currently investigating appointing a Youth Ministry Intern to work in our church with our younger members. Again, "the money," is an issue and we will need \$25,000 + !!!!!!! If you could see your way clear to support this next year, I would love to hear from you. Same contact details as above. Thanks for reading this and giving it some prayerful attention. Dave.

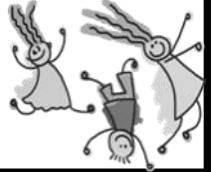
**Ticking the Boxes Seminar** - The last seminar for the year is on Wednesday 15 November. It is at St Pauls Brightwater and the topic is Getting a promotion- Death from a Christian Perspective. A finger food lunch will be served at 12.00, gold coin donation. Feel free to invite a friend or neighbour.

**Christmas is coming up** - and so is the Richmond Community Christmas Dinner. It would be helpful if everyone could start saving their ice cream containers for use on Christmas Day - we put leftovers in them and can never have enough. Please also think about anyone you know who might be blessed by this ministry - we welcome anyone who would like to come. We will be asking for volunteers to help to set up beforehand, on the day and to clean up on Boxing Day. Please contact Michaela on 544 4502 if you are interested in helping.

## = Kids' Church calendar =

**Today Sunday 12 November** TBA  
**Next Sunday 19 November** TBA

The toy box and baby change facilities are available anytime at the rear of the Church.



## Prayers for the Week

**God's World** – We pray for your creative and disciplined ways to combat climate change Lord as we see the impact on countries least able to cope. While we often feel helpless to do anything we can each play our part. Help us to live simply and reduce single-use packaging and perhaps even our purchases! Thank you that Syria has signed the Paris Accord leaving only the U.S. to do so. We pray for all countries impacted by violence and natural disasters.

**Mission Partners** – We thank you Lord for Murray and Féy Cotter and their work in Albania and wider afield. We pray for Féy's commitments with the leadership team of European Christian Mission (ECM) who work across Europe. We ask for wisdom for her and the ECM leadership team in their project work and the work load Féy carries behind the scenes. We also ask for your ongoing leading in the disciple-making and mentoring her and Murray carry out in their local church.

**Diocese** – We thank you for the ministry of the Rev. Di Griffin in the sparsely populated Reefton and Grey Valley. Some of us remember their time with us very fondly. We pray for a fresh infilling of your Spirit for the small Anglican community there; an infilling of grace and mercy that will overflow to the wider community.

**Community** – Our local church focus today is the Methodists; who are led by Martin Oh. They are a small church in Richmond and now amalgamated with Stoke forming one parish. Help them as they face the struggles of decreasing membership. May they be aware of your love for them and your presence with them.

We pray your blessing on the businesses in our community and ask for healthy growth for the horticulture, viticulture and the orchards in this area. We continue to pray for the workers and supervisors on the Queen St upgrade.

**Our Parish** - We also ask you to continue to pour out your love and grace on Albertha, Gwen, Ellie, Margaret, John Barnes and others known to us. Please be with the residents and staff of the rest homes and retirement villages in our parish.

Please give continued wisdom to Susan, Wardens Karl and Dave, and our Vestry as they lead our parish. Finally we thank you for our Staff Team and the volunteers who have stepped up so willingly in David's absence. Bless them all and David as he returns to work on Monday.

## **This Week...**

### **Monday 13 November**

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

### **Tuesday 14 November**

10.00am Fortnightly group (M Silke)

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)

7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)

### **Wednesday 15 November**

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

### **Thursday 16 November**

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

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

### **Sunday 19 November**

9.00am Morning Worship

10.45am Holy Communion

*\* Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

## **Coming up...**

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

**St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am**

**Sunday 12 November Holy Communion**

**Sunday 26 November 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 19 November - Thank you for serving us all!**

**Leader:** 9.00am O Haring

**Reader:** 9.00am A Burrough, K South

**Sidespeople** 9.00am J Burrough

**Welcomer:** 9.00am A Burrough

**Chalice:** 9.00am N/A

**10.45am** J Palmer

**10.45am** M Did-Dell

**10.45am** J Green

**10.45am** N Pritchard

**10.45am** N Pritchard, M Ross,  
E/D Stanger

**Tea:** J South, K South

**Flowers:** M Brosnahan

**Creche:** TBA

**Theme for Next Sunday:** Bishop Richard to advise

**Readings for next Sunday:** Bishop Richard to advise

### **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			

### **Holy Trinity Church**

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### **Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm