



Church on the Hill

Sunday 10 December 2017



Theme: Bringing comfort
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Jean Palmer
Readings: Isaiah 40:1 - 11, Mark 1:1 - 8

Sentence:

O Lord, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God! Lead us by your truth and teach us, for you are the God who saves us.
- Psalm 25:1,5

Morning Advent Candle Lighting:

Light the first Advent candle
As the people of God,
We have lit the candle of hope.
As the people of God,
we search for love...

Light the second Advent candle
Come quickly to shine on us;
come quickly to brighten our path;
come quickly to restore our love.

Prayer for the day:

Come, O come Emmanuel,
you are the way the truth and the life;
you are the true vine, the bread of life.
Come living Saviour,
come to your world which waits for you.

Amen

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



Communication

The biggest challenge I think we face, as a church community, is that of communication.

We all communicate using different language. A word can mean something very clear to one person and another completely different thing to someone else. Take the word 'spirit' for example. For some it means a spiritual being; others think of it as a kind of 'essence'; for others it means someone's intention; still others think of alcohol.

We use different kinds of language to talk to each other.

We also have different preferences in the way we communicate. Some people don't have a computer. Of them, some will prefer a face-to-face conversation; others really like a telephone conversation and the land-line is better than a cell -phone; others digest the written word easiest. Those who do use modern technology have their different preferences too. Some like email; some facebook; others whatsapp; still others love Messenger whether it is on computer or cell phone, others Skype and on and on.

So we use different kinds of language and we communicate using different mediums as well. If that weren't complicated enough we all have different lenses through which we filter communication addressed to us or others. Our past experiences have shaped us. Our society has enculturated us. We have biases and prejudices.

Usually all of these things are unconscious.

So we use different language and different mediums. And we hear things in our own unique way too.

We seldom think about any of these things. When we do, it is usually because we are forced to, as some kind of misunderstanding has arisen. Communication is not impossible though.

We do need some skills to communicate well. The most important of these is the will to hear and be heard – I think this is at least partly what Jesus was referring when he talked about loving our neighbour. Really if we have this, everything else follows.

If we care about the person who is speaking we will listen carefully. We will clarify things we don't understand. We will ensure they have the time to speak and we won't interrupt. We will ask whether they just need to get what they are saying off their chest or if they need a practical outcome. We will listen to the words being said and watch the speaker's body language to see if the two are congruent. (If they aren't we'll politely try to draw out what is underlying the spoken words.)

And we'll be aware of our own 'triggers' – those things that annoy us and make it difficult for us to listen further. We'll examine where those triggers come from and what healing we need.

I could go on. There's an awful lot to communication. How we communicate reveals our love and it equally reveals the gaps in our love.

I believe we are on the right road though. That will be tested as we consider Motion 29.

And next year, probably after I come back from Sabbatical in May, we'll look at how we can improve our communication especially as it relates to keeping you all in the loop about what is happening etc.

Learning together in love,

Susan

= KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

Today Sunday 10 December

Making truffles for Christmas gifts

Next Sunday 17 December

School Holidays

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



Christmas gifts - Buy sets of specially wrapped preserves and give them at Christmas. You can choose which preserves you would like included. \$20 for four jars. Samples and a clipboard for your orders at the back of the church. If you have any questions please phone Shiona 544 4155.



2017 Christmas Services

Sunday 3 December 7.00 pm Church on the Hill
Remembering those who won't be with us this Christmas

Sunday 10 December 6.00 pm Church on the Hill
Family Carol Service with Richmond School Choir and Church Youth Band

Sunday 17 December 7.00 pm Church on the Hill
Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 7.00 pm St. Albans Appleby
Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Church on the Hill
Traditional Communion Service

Christmas Day 10.00 am Church on the Hill
Family Communion Service

Prayers for the Week

God's World – Father God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love, shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your worldwide Church, and peace among nations, may world leaders show tolerance, and respect the views of one another, and dialogue with each other for world peace.

Mission Partners – Today we pray for our Mission Partners, Murray and Fey Cotter, serving God in Albania, where Murray's focus is disciple making and pastoral support and Fey is involved in the international leadership of European Christian Mission. Bless them in the valuable work they are doing.

Diocese – Thank you Lord for the parish of Victory Community Anglican Church. For Revd Greg Holmes as he leads this church. We pray that God's will be done in their search for a youth intern, and for their Christmas services and guidance as they look towards next year. Look with favour upon them we pray.

As Christmas approaches, we pray for all the services being held in the Nelson area, that people who don't know Jesus will feel compelled to come and see.

Community - We pray today for our Catholic brothers and sisters, as they proceed for the coming year following parish amalgamation, may they be aware of the promptings of the Holy Spirit, as they come to terms with a changing world, and a changing model of church.

We ask for a special blessing on the staff and pupils at Richmond School as they deal with the heat and end of year stress.

We pray for all in our community who feel unloved or out of sorts. Comfort them we pray and may we show Christ's love to those we know. We also pray for those feeling burdened financially with Christmas coming. Bless all who work for Age Concern, for the great work that they do, including care packages for the elderly. Thank you for the relationship we have with them through Tea and Talk. Thank you for the ladies of this parish who support Tea and Talk, and for Shiona who had the vision for Tea and Talk.

Our Parish – We pray for the Vestry of this church, for all who give their time and energy to serve you in this valuable way. We pray for guidance for them as they work on next year's budget. We also pray for the Family Carol Service this evening. We pray you continue to pour out your love and grace on Albertha, Gwen, Ellie, Margaret Silke and others known to us. Continue, we pray, to comfort Val Barnes in her recent sad loss.

This Week...

Monday 11 December

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 12 December

10.00am Fortnightly group (M Silke)

10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)

7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frenghley)

Wednesday 13 December

10.00am Wednesday Service

10.00am Tea and Talk

Thursday 14 December

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

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

Sunday 17 December

9.00am Morning Worship *

10.45am Holy communion *

7.00pm Lessons and Carols with Choir

** Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve

7.00pm St. Albans Appleby

Christmas Eve Service

11.30pm Church on the Hill

Traditional Communion Service

Monday 25 December Christmas Day

10.00am Church on the Hill

Family Communion Service

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

St Albans' Appleby Services

10.30am Sunday 10 December

Holy Communion

7.00pm Sunday 24 December

Christmas Eve Service

If you wish to give financial support to Holy Trinity Church, our bank account number is:
03 0751 0146369 001 Westpac Richmond

Roster for 17 December - Thank you for serving us all!

Leader:	9.00am I Price	10.45am J Palmer
Reader:	9.00am A Burrough, K South	10.45am M Did-Dell
Sidespeople	9.00am K South	10.45am J Green
Welcomer:	9.00am B Page	10.45am TBA
Chalice:	9.00am N/A	10.45am J/A Green, N Pritchard, L/T Summerfield
Tea:	A Burrough, V Matthews	
Flowers:	D Martin	Creche: M Martin

Theme for Next Sunday: Breaking Stereotypes

Readings for next Sunday: Isaiah 12, Luke 1:57 – 66

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