



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 11 December 2016



**Theme:** Water in the Desert  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Karl Summerfield  
**Readings:** Isaiah 35:1 - 10, Matthew 11:2 - 11

**Sentence:**

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*- Isaiah 9:6*

**Prayer for the day:**

Gracious Lord, we thank you for your promises and for coming to earth to be our Everlasting Father. As we continue our Advent journey, remind us of your eternal and steadfast love,

and help us radiate this love to others by our actions, and with our words. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen .

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

## *Reflections...*



### **Faithfulness**

This week our theme is Everlasting Father. As I think about the eternal character of our God; his faithful love is obvious. Throughout history and into the eternal future, his enduring and persistent love envelopes us and weaves us into his plans.

I see his character displayed through creation so often. I also see it through his people. Knowing the Lord is active on our behalf gives me a strong sense of security for the future. However uncertain world events, local politics or family calamities are, the Lord is there for us.

I've been reminded of God's enduring faithfulness this week: Glenda Thomson led the final Girl's Brigade in our church hall on Tuesday evening. She was aided by her faithful assistants Philippa McKenzie and Kay Thomson.

Glenda has been involved in GB leadership for twenty-five years! Philippa for fifteen years!

Kay's time has been slightly shorter but her evident dedication to this ministry has meant a great deal to her Mum and to the girls themselves.

Amy Thomson also attended and led at Girl's Brigade too before moving on. And Glenda's Mum, Freda, has had a long association with GB too. I want to pay tribute to the faithfulness these women have lived out as they served the Lord. In their compassion and service to girls I have seen something of the Fatherly love of God played out.

As I write this Ron Barnes has just been transferred to the hospice. I have only known Ron in his latter years and never met his wife Dulcie at all. People tell me though of their dedicated service to God and this parish also.

Our Everlasting Father has been honoured by the lives of those I have mentioned and millions more that I don't even know of. My prayer is that our lives continue to point people towards his love and faithfulness – as long as we have breath.

Learning 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. Coffee and prayer. All welcome. Feel free to come and go.

**Community Christmas Lunch** - Please bring your clean ice-cream containers and lids to the parish office your to use for left overs on Christmas Day.

**Tea and Talk** - If you are available next year to assist, even if only occasionally please see Shiona Frengley. Tea and Talk resumes on Wednesday 8 February 2017.

**Lunch on the Hill** - Thanks to all who contributed to our final Lunch on the Hill for this year, next lunch will be 7 February 2017. We had 48 people present and as usual the team of cooks and helpers did us proud! Thank you all and enjoy a well earned summer break! Yvonne Smyth Elder Care Team Leader.

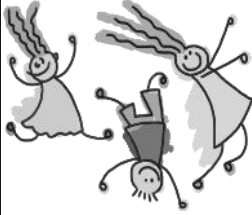
**Cafe Connection** - The last gathering at The Wooden Spoon cafe for 2016 will be held on Tuesday 20 December 10:30am, not Thursday as usual, see you there, all welcome.

**Youth group** breakup is on Friday 16 December and (weather permitting) and will be at Rabbit Island.

**Can You Help** - Due to the earthquake a solo mum in Stoke lost all the contents of her freezer which she had stocked for the holiday and festive season. Can you help us re-fill her freezer either with money to go towards a meat voucher or something for the festive season. Please phone Nikki Pritchard 5445314 or 027 378 9085 or email [dpnikki@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dpnikki@xtra.co.nz). Thank you.

**Convergence Camp** - Family Camp 17-19 February 2017 Bethany Park, Kaiteriteri Intentional Living with Bishop Justin Duckworth Information / Registrations email: [convergencecamp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:convergencecamp@xtra.co.nz)

**AAW Morning Teas** - The popular weekly morning teas will be held in January 2017. Next week details will be on a loose sheet in the pews news so that you can put it on your fridge for reference. A social event for all. Contact Anne Webb for details



## = KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

**Today Sunday 11 December** - Singing at Church on the Hill, St Alban's and the Warehouse

**Next Sunday 18 December** - No Kids' Church but Video "Why do we call it Christmas"

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** - We pray for those civilians who are trapped in Aleppo and Mosul, open up the ways for them to safely leave and to receive the essentials they need for life. Grant a change in the hearts of those on all sides of the conflict to put compassion before military gain. In Mosul, we pray for help to reach the seventy-two thousand who have fled so far, especially for warm accommodation, as winter has brought freezing temperatures. We continue to pray for all those who have suffered loss of homes and livelihoods in the recent earthquakes, particularly those in the Kaikoura and Awatere parishes and in the Aceh province of Indonesia. Give wisdom to central and local government as they plan major repair works to restore communications and services to those badly affected. We also ask for guidance for the choosing of a new Prime Minister and deputy. May the process be respectful with a healthy result.

**Mission Partners** - We pray for the Corin family in Asia, for the micro-loan programme that they are starting in a new part of the country – that Chris would make contacts with the right people to make this a success, and through supporting pastors and church planters through this project, that the church will grow in this new region. We pray for wisdom for Catherine as she balances teaching at school and continuing to spend time with the local ladies she has been meeting with, may these relationships deepen as You bring Your light.

**Diocese** - We pray for the parish of Tahunanui with Nathaniel and Simone Petterson and their vibrant team. Bless and encourage their children's and teen's ministries and the 'Christmas in Tahuna' programme, that they would reach people with the message of Jesus. We pray for discernment and clear leading in the appointment of the new Community Pastor, that the right person would be appointed and for Your blessing on this new ministry when it begins next year.

**Local community** - We pray today for Richmond Catholic Church with Father Seph Pijfers, help the church to maintain a sense of unity with the amalgamation of the Richmond, Motueka and Takaka parishes. Bless Merrick Mitchell in his role as lay pastoral leader for the three parishes, especially as he prepares for his formal installation in this role at the end of January.

**Our Parish** - We thank you for the enthusiasm of the new Building Group. Guide the Vestry as they receive the latest iteration of the building plans, that they may discern Your will. Bless all the preparations for the Christmas Day Lunch, for those who volunteer, for those who give and for those who distribute invitations – may it all fit together.

**Those in need within our own church family** - Please be with Rob Blackbeard and family as they mourn the loss of Ingrid, Grace Parker and family as they adjust to the loss of Bert. We pray also for Carole Burke, Ellie, John Barnes, Laurie D'Eganneh, Pam Butler, Val Jordan, Eric Gafa, Christopher and Sonja and others we know. May Your peace, healing and comfort surround them, and grant them the abiding sense of Your presence with them. We also pray for Your blessing on the staff and residents of the rest homes and retirement villages in our area.

## This Week...

### Monday 12 December

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

### Tuesday 13 December

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)

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

10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

6.30pm Carol singing in community, supper at vicarage

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

### Wednesday 14 December

10.00am Wednesday Service

### Thursday 15 December

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

7.00pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

### Sunday 18 December

8.45am Morning Worship

10.45am Holy Communion

4.00pm Messy Christmas

## Coming up...

### Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

11.30pm Communion and Carols

### Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day)

8.00am and 9:30am Christmas Day Services.

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

## St Albans' Appleby Services

**10.00am Sunday 25 December** Christmas Day

**10.30am Sunday 8 January** Holy Communion

If you wish to give financial support to Holy Trinity Church, our bank account number is:

## Roster for 18 December *Thank you for serving us all!*

**Leader:** 8.45am J Burrough

**Reader:** 8.45am A Burrough, K South

**Sidespeople:** 8.45am K South

**Welcomer:** 8.45am B Page

**Tea:** A Burrough, V Matthews

**Chalice:** 8.45am N/A

**10.45am** J Palmer

**10.45am** M Did-Dell

**10.45am** J Green

**10.45am** J South

J/A Green, N Pritchard,

**10.45am** L/T Summerfield

**Flowers:** D Martin

**Creche:** TBA

**Theme for Next Sunday:** Prince of Peace

**Readings for Next Sunday:** Jeremiah 33:1-3, 10-16, John 14:25-31

## 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