



Church on the Hill

Sunday 13 December 2015



Theme: Living Justly
Vicar: Susan Gill
Preacher: Jean Palmer
Readings: Philippians 4: 4-7, Luke 3: 7-18

Third Sunday of Advent Prayer:

Prayer: Lord of all, remind us of the things that are truly important. Come to this world, come to us, come to all people and bring the justice that few expect but everyone needs. **Amen.**

Sentence:

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- Isaiah 40:3

Prayer for the day:

Almighty God, thank you for John the Baptist, and for all those voices crying out in the wilderness, all those who prepare your way of

justice and peace. May we listen when a prophet speaks your word. Most importantly, may we obey your words. **Amen.**

Following Jesus, Building Community

Reflections...



A Private Advent?

I've noticed that most of us Anglicans are reserved when it comes to talking about our faith in Christ. Some of us seem reluctant to share with others what God is doing in our lives and how we experience him.

Perhaps that is because we lack the language or the confidence? Or perhaps it is because we think our experiences are not spectacular enough or ...? Perhaps we just over-think things rather than allowing the Spirit of God to work in our emotions and experience and not just in our minds.

Maybe this is the season to throw caution to the winds.

"This is the irrational season
when love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
there'd have been no room for the child."

*-Madeleine L'Engle,
from A Cry Like a Bell: Poems*

How could we be more open with each other, regardless of the language we use? How can we encourage each other to express what is

happening in our lives on spiritual as well as practical levels?

Small groups are part of the answer. Next year, we'll be doing some work on strengthening our small groups, and starting some new ones.

Another part of the answer surely lies in our unstructured, random, occasional meeting times – perhaps in the street or at the doctors or wherever.

How would it be if as well as asking each other how we are, we also asked what was happening for us spiritually/God-wise?

What is God doing in your life right now?

For me, the invitation is to know he gazes on me lovingly, even though I am often not conscious of his presence at all.

Perhaps that is easier to write than to say?

I need your help to express my daily relationship with God just as much as you need the help and encouragement of others.

Is Advent a private season of the year? Is our relationship with God private? Or are there ways we can be more honest and outwardly focused?

Learning in love,

Susan

2016 Christmas Appeal - This year we are supporting Tear Fund with our Christmas giving.

New Year Morning Teas - The popular weekly morning teas will be held again in January 2016. Next week details will be in your pews news on a loose sheet so that you can put it on your fridge for reference. A social event for all.

Church Flower Roster 2016 - Can you help? Unfortunately we have lost 2 of our arrangers and wonder if there is any women or men - maybe you are new to our Church - interested in flowers who would like to join us. It need not be onerous; if when it's your turn, you are unable to do them for any reason we have our silk flowers which can be used. If you are remotely interested do please have a chat with myself or Susan (our Vicar). Thank you. Brenda Page Ph. 544 5872.

Carol singing around the parish - This Tuesday night 15 December. Meet 6.30 p.m at the church. We need singers and musicians Please put your name on the list at the back of the church. We would appreciate biscuits or posies to take with us. Please leave them in the church on Tuesday. If you know someone who would appreciate a visit please put their name on the list as well. For more info contact Anne Askin Ph. 542 3284 or Jan South Ph.544 8413

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. All welcome. Feel free to come and go.

Budget Service - Waimea Anglican Budgeting Advice Service is now available. Ph. 544 8901 or 022 020 5565 to get in touch with an advisor or talk to Anne Askin to find out more.

Volunteers Wanted - Church cleaning January. Please contact Susan Gill if you can help.

 <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</p>	
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	<p>Children's Programme</p> <p>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 / Younger youth (Yr 7 to Yr 11) in Youth Room in the hall.</p>
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Prayers for the Week

God's World: We continue to pray for Peace among all people whatever their faith. That God's peace can flow over all the world. Bless all who struggle to find the perfect Peace. We pray that the young men and women, who have turned toward death and destruction, find you and your peace. We pray for refuges in all countries that they have warmth and food. We pray for all in the floods in England especially remembering Ann and Kevin Roberts in Carlisle as they minister to those in this area.

Mission Partners: This week we bring to mind and pray for Allan and Christine in Central Asia. May their visa and papers be cleared. Bless the work they do within the college and with the students. Be with Christine as she struggles with language difficulties with her students. Keep them both warm and safe as the first snows of winter arrive.

Diocese: We pray for Bishop Richard. Be with Richard Hilary and their family through this wonderful time of Christ's Birth. May God bless them mightily. We pray for the Cathedral and Dean Kirk that God's healing hand is upon him. Be with him, Kim and their family at this time. May the family and the congregation at the Cathedral be upheld by our prayer for them.

Local Community: We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ at the New Life Church, especially Jono and Vanessa Martin. We pray that all there will find the peace of Christ at this time of year as we celebrate Christ's coming. May the New Year bring them many blessings.

Our Parish: We give thanks for the youth group that led last week's service. Be with them as they grow in Christ. Our Church is beautifully decorated for the season of Christ's birth. We pray for all who took part and for all who feast their eyes upon them. May they feel the Holy Spirit here in the Church. We pray for the preparation for the Christmas Dinner. For all who help and especially all come that they be truly blessed.

Those in need within our own church family: Loving God we continue to pray for George and Bev, Carole Burke, Lisa, Fiona, Ellie, Freda, Linda, Bill, John Barnes, Joan and May and all others known to us who need your prayers at this time. We pray for all in Hospital and Rest homes within our Parish and for those who care for them. May your Grace, Mercy and Peace be with them. We give thanks for all our answered prayers, loving God.

This Week...

Monday 14 December

7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

Tuesday 15 December

10.00am Weekly group (M. Silke)

10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)

11.30am Lunch on the Hill

Wednesday 16 December

7.30am Prayer

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

10.00am Wednesday Service

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

Thursday 17 December

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

7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)

7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

Sunday 20 December

9.00am Morning Worship

10.30am Holy Communion*

4.00pm Messy Christmas

**Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

Coming up...

- Refer to sheet in Pewsnews

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

St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am

Sunday 13 December Holy Communion

Sunday 27 December 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 20 December *Thank you for serving us all!*

Leader: 9.00am Peter Bean

10.30am S Gill

Reader: 9.00am K South, A Burrough

10.30am M Did-Dell

Sidespeople: 9.00am K South

10.30am J Green

Welcomer: 9.00am B Page

10.30am J South

Tea: A Burrough, V Matthews

Chalice: 9.00am N/A

10.30am J/A Green, N Pritchard
L/T Summerfield

Flowers: A Heslop

Creche: N/A

Readings for Next Sunday: Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

Theme for Next Sunday: A Holy Life

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	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