



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 17 December 2017



**Theme:** Breaking Stereotypes  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Susan Gill  
**Readings:** Isaiah 12, Luke 1:57 – 66

**Sentence:**

Awe fell upon the whole neighbourhood, and the news of what had happened spread...

*- Luke 1:65*

**3rd Advent Candle – Joy**

As the people of God,  
We have lit the candles of hope and love.  
As the people of God,  
we search for joy...

**Come quickly to shine on us;  
come quickly to brighten our path;  
come quickly to restore our joy.**

**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...



## Ch-ch-changes

We have a marvellous staff team here in Richmond Parish. I'm so grateful for each team member. Each one contributes in their unique way and together we enrich the ministry among church folk and in our wider community. Each member of the staff team encourages the others and we are always learning off each other too.

I first greeted Catherine's news that she planned to finish in Children's Church with sadness. She has done a lot of work in giving the children good foundations in who they are in Christ and how they contribute to this church and community.

However I recognise the wisdom of Catherine's decision. It will have positive effects for our church – perhaps pushing us to make changes that are essential for our growth and well-being. (Obviously financially her decision goes some way towards addressing the looming budget deficit for 2018 as well).

Thank you Catherine. We so appreciate your ministry among us and are very glad that you plan to continue on as a vestry member.

The Wardens and I have had some discussions about our church children's future. I have also had some very helpful conversations with Sue Fallow, Children's Ministry Enabler with our Diocese. Sue is of the opinion that Children's Ministry across the board is moving away from age-determined silos into intergenerational worship. She tells me that STRAND which is the national church's children's ministry group will be working on that this coming year.

Possibly what will happen is one combined service each month – we've had a lot of positive feedback about combined services over the last year.

Then the second service would be for all ages (perhaps not crèche age children). This will challenge us all to learn from each other. Preachers would have to speak entirely differently and service elements need to be tweaked.

As part of Vestry discussion one member wrote:

...there will be challenges and this does need to be carefully discussed/planned. I don't think we're 1,000,000 miles away from what we're after as things are right now..... I think we can do this, and if we're clever about it we should be able to make it sustainable and engaging for everyone.

Of course further prayer, discussion, planning and consultation needs to occur but it is reassuring that we seem to be heading in the right direction. During January we'll discuss with worship leaders, children and families etc. I simply wanted to give you a heads up now so that you can give feedback now or later on.

In addition Vestry has agreed to employ Joshua Allan-Johns as a Youth Intern next year. Josh will be studying with BTC at diploma level for about half of his working week. The rest of his working hours will be taken up with Youth Group and most likely 24-7 at Waimea College.



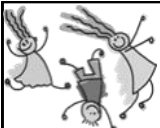
Josh has eight years of experience in youth leadership, along with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences.

He has completed some papers towards a theological degree at Laidlaw College. He is an accomplished bass player and loves leading worship. He has interests in marine biology, reading and gaming and creating customised Lego models

The plan is for him to move up from Christchurch later in January. Please pray for suitable accommodation for Josh – preferably a flat – and for a great settle in with us and BTC. I know you will welcome him warmly.

Learning together in love,

*Susan*



## = KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

**Sunday 17 December - Sunday 4 February:** School Holidays - Activities at the back of the Church  
Toy box and baby change facilities are available anytime at the rear of the Church.



## 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** – Heavenly Father, as Christmas approaches we pray for peace in the world. We pray that all governments will work for justice and righteousness. We pray for the escalating situation in North Korea, for wisdom for world leaders as they deal with this situation, that world peace will be their priority. We pray for refugees everywhere, and for the work of The Barnabas Fund as they seek to help the persecuted Christians. We pray for strength and courage for those undergoing persecution, and for the peace that only God can bring.

**Mission Partners** – Today we pray for our Mission Partner, Christine, settling into her new home in the North Island, thank you that she has Dr T visiting over Christmas, her first Christmas without Allan. Let her know your peace with her.

**Diocese** – Thank you Lord for the parish of Waimea, for Rev Martin Harrison as he leads this church, and for the great pastoral skills you have given to Martin. We pray for the community carol service and other witnesses to the community. We also pray for funding for their various projects. We thank you for the great New Testament Bible reading they are doing together and for the gifts you have given them to be who they are. We pray too, for Nicola Berthelsen, and the excellent job she does in the Elder Care area.

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 The Church of Christ, thank you for the relationship we are developing with them through the Ticking the Boxes seminars, bless their minister Steve Rollo we pray.

We pray for the schools beginning their summer break, for a time of refreshment for teachers, and children.

**Our Parish** – Thank you for our clergy, for Susan as she leads this church, for Jean Palmer and her involvement with the Wednesday service, and for all the assisting, and retired clergy we give you thanks. We pray you continue to pour out your love and grace on Albertha, Ellie, Margaret Silke, Murray Savage, Doug McGilvary, and others known to us. Continue, we pray, to comfort Val Barnes in her recent sad loss.

## **This Week...**

### **Monday 18 December**

9.00am Church open for Prayer  
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

### **Tuesday 19 December**

10.00am Fortnightly group (M Silke)  
10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B Page)  
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S Frengley)

### **Wednesday 20 December**

10.00am Wednesday Service  
10.00am Tea and Talk

### **Thursday 21 December**

12.00pm Weekly Study group (W Wilkinson, J Lines)  
7.00pm Fortnightly group (J Palmer)  
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N Pritchard)

### **Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve**

10.00am Combined Communion Service

7.00pm St. Albans Appleby  
Christmas Eve Service  
11.30pm Church on the Hill  
Traditional Communion Service

*\* Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

## **Coming up...**

### **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**

**7.00pm Sunday 24 December**

Christmas Eve Service

**10.00am Monday 25 December**

Christmas Day 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 24 December - Thank you for serving us all!**

**Leader:** 10.00am J Palmer  
**Reader:** 10.00am S Frengley, M Reynolds  
**Sidespeople** 10.00am J Lines  
**Welcomer:** 10.00am A Webb  
**Chalice:** 10.00am S Frengley, S Paine  
**Tea:** G Bevernage, E Epoi  
**Flowers:** R Armstrong  
**Creche:** G Thomson

**Theme for Next Sunday:** Bringing Wonder

**Readings for next Sunday:** 2 Samuel 7:1 – 11, 16 Luke 1:26 – 38

## **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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## **Website**

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## **Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
10.00am - 5.30pm  
Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm