



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 26 February 2017



**Theme:** Humble Service  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Susan Gill  
**Readings:** Psalm 131, Matthew 6:24 - 34

## Sentence:

Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out.  
- *Matthew 6:33 (The Message)*

## Prayer for the day:

God of life, you have created all of life with great care. As we wonder at your world, help us to discern your great care for each one of us. Help us to see our place as humble servants. Free us from anxiety about worldly things that

we may concentrate on our part in building your kingdom. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

## Reflections...



### A radical call

Our Diocesan camp *Convergence*, held last weekend, was a great time of unity. There were many highlights for me. One was a comment from an elderly lady. In one of our evening prayer sessions she said "I really don't like this music. But I love the way it helps our younger people to worship God. Isn't it wonderful to see them having so much fun and so on fire for the Lord?" or words to that effect. That lady wasn't complaining. There was no whine in her voice about the music. What was important to her was that others were enabled to come into God's presence and be changed! How cool is that! What an attitude of grace!

Here are some thoughts from a few who participated. Lyn Ashby writes: "I found Justin to be an excellent person who spoke from his own experiences. These were powerful as the Holy Spirit was communicating principles of God's truth through him to me. Life is hard; life is not a party and you're not always going to be happy as the world would insist that you be. There was much spoken of hospitality. Your home is your primary place of ministry. You should clarify your ministry before deciding on a house. I understand Proverbs 24:17 now that I have heard this – a Holy Spirit revelation!"

Rhys Barak commented: "We were learning how to do Good on purpose.... I liked the cabbage Football!" Morgan Barak liked catching cockabullies' and enjoyed the older kids groups. Griffin Barak said: "The burgers were tasty."

Kai Kruse thought it was wonderful to see the children and young people there worshipping God and having a ball. He was very pleased to see so many there.

Jan South reflected on the camp this way: "It was great to be able to go over to Bethany Park even though it was only for Saturday morning. The first thing that struck me even as we drove in was the number of young families and young people who were there - so good to see them being involved and to know they are all part of our Diocese. Some of my age group were there as well but I think a lot of us were there for the morning or the day. We started with a worship session led by City of Light and then Bishop Justin Duckworth spoke to us for the rest of the morning. His Bible verse

was Hebrews 13:16:

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

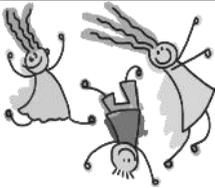
God loves to see us worshipping as a church family for an hour or an hour and a half on Sunday morning but he wants to see us living out our life as a Christian for much more of our lives than that. Bishop Justin likened our lives sometimes to being on a trampoline - its not smooth going but continual ups and downs. When we became a Christian we said we gave our lives to Christ. Bishop Justin compared it to writing God a blank cheque (for my generation!) or giving him our pin number ( for the present generation!!) We gave him the right to use us so that others may come to know Him as well. He shared parts of his own life with us as he had tried to live out these beliefs in his own life and he focussed on the opportunities we all have to share our faith. Firstly in our homes where we choose to live and how we use our homes to welcome others. Second our families and how we all have opportunities as a family to relate to other families around us. Thirdly in our careers and workplaces - in the choices we make here and the way we relate to others who work with us. And finally in our leisure and recreation-we often spend a lot of time with different groups of people here who share the same interests as us during which God will give us opportunities to make a difference in people's lives. I was so pleased I had the chance to hear this visionary Bishop."

Anything Bishop Justin says is worth listening to. I was inspired by his aim to reclaim a 24/7 faith. It reaffirmed our parish aim to provide resources for families and individuals to do that this year. We are not about providing a Sunday event or even adding on a home group or Bible study (important though those things are). We are about building a community (communities) of hope and faith; communities that impact our wider community and drive back the powers of darkness and abuse.

We aren't all called to belong to radical communes but we are all called to be vital and active members of the Kingdom of God. What does that look like in our context? How do we show genuine hospitality especially to those that no-one else will? How do we live as if Jesus really does walk this earth calling people to himself?

Learning together in love,

*Susan*



## = KIDS' CHURCH CALENDAR =

**Today Sunday 26 February** - What is Shrove Tuesday? Pancake making

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

**Building Fundraiser** - Honey 500gms \$7.00 // 1kg \$13.00 // 2kgs \$25.00 See Anne Askin  
Ph. 542 3284

**Lenten Study** - We will be holding four practical studies during Lent. The theme is *Listening and Responding to God*. Rev Chris Donaldson will be leading. The sessions will be held at 7.00pm on Thursdays and we'll begin at 7.00pm with dessert and coffee with study running from 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Session 1 is on 9 March and we will explore *Hearing Holy Spirit's Voice* – the foundation for expressing Holy Spirit's gifts; Session 2 on 16 March covers *Prophetic Intercession* – learning to pray according to God's will; Session 3 on 23 March looks at *Motivational Spiritual Gifts* – living and working in Holy Spirit enabling; and the series finishes on 30 March with Session 4 *Let's see what God has for us*. Existing house groups will close for the 4 weeks so that everyone can attend.

**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.

### Prayers for the Week

**God's World** - Sovereign Lord there is much of your work we don't see. We don't see all the disasters you have averted. We do see what has occurred because of the terrible freedom you have granted humanity. Sometimes we wish you didn't trust us so much! We pray especially for the famine in South Sudan and for the ongoing refugee problem, and for Christians persecuted for their faith and the work of the Barnabas Fund in this area.

**Our Local Community** - We pray for our local businesses that may be affected by the Queen St redevelopment. Also as the children settle back into the routine of school we pray for each school in the area and especially for teachers and the pressures they face. And for the NZMCA Motorhome Rally in Richmond at the moment, with folk attending from all over New Zealand, for a great time of fellowship.

**Mission** - Generous God, we pray for the Sussex family resettling into New Zealand, especially the children. May they make good friends quickly and continue to live out your mission in this country.

**Christ's Church** - We remember the Awatere congregations today and for Dawn Daunauda as she leads this church. We pray especially for those affected by the Kaikoura earthquake, some of whom are preparing to spent winter in campervans and suchlike, while their homes are uninhabitable. We thank you for government agencies recognizing the needs of these people. Thank you for all who were blessed at Convergence last weekend. We pray for the Presbyterians on their church family camp this weekend. May they see afresh Jesus as light of the world and be inspired to shine your light. Please help them in their search of what it means to be church in NZ today – especially as we are trying to be a new church. As the season of Lent draws nearer please bless for our Ash Wednesday services in the morning and with the Catholic Congregation and others in the evening. Also we ask for your loving, tangible presence to be with David Hollingsworth, Nick Kirk and Ian Thatcher.

**Our Parish** - Today we give thanks for all those who contribute to children's ministry in our parish especially for our Team Leader Catherine. We are delighted that Hamish and Jonathan are teaching the intermediate age group; asking for your enabling and encouragement for them both. Please provide the people support we need to disciple our precious children and young people. We ask for your healing power to be upon Anne Green, Peter Bean, Ellie, Pam Butler, Lisa Arrandale, Sonja and others we know.

## This Week...

### Monday 27 February

7.00pm Men's Forum (J Klootwyk)  
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

### Tuesday 28 February

10.00am Fortnightly group (M. Silke)  
10.00am Fortnightly women's group (B. Page)  
10.30am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)  
4.30pm Shrove Tuesday pancake tea in hall.  
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)

### Wednesday 1 March

10.00am Wednesday Service  
10.00am Tea and Talk  
7.00pm Ash Wednesday Service

### Thursday 2 March

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

### Sunday 5 March

9.00am Holy Communion\*  
10.45am Holy Communion\*

*\*Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

## Coming up...

### Thursday 9 March

7.00pm Lenten Study

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

**St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am**

**Sunday 26 February**  
**Sunday 12 March**

Morning Prayer  
Holy Communion

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

### Roster for 5 March - Thank you for serving us all!

<b>Leader:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	J Sardella	<b>10.45am</b>	S Gill
<b>Reader:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	A Heslop, V Matthews	<b>10.45am</b>	TBC
<b>Sidespeople:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	B Page	<b>10.45am</b>	TBC
<b>Welcomer:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	G Thomas	<b>10.45am</b>	TBC
<b>Tea:</b>		M Gibson, S Stephens		
<b>Chalice:</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	S Stephens, C Ward	<b>10.45am</b>	S Stephens, C Ward
<b>Flowers:</b>		A Heslop	<b>Creche:</b>	M Brosnahan

**Theme for Next Sunday:** No condemnation

**Readings for Next Sunday:** Romans 5:12 – 19, Matthew 4:1 - 11

### 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