



Little Acorns



November 2020 – January 2021

The Quarterly Newsletter of
Holy Trinity Anglican Parish, Woodville

New Testament People

As Christians we are unique among the world's faiths in having a holy text, the Bible, with two very distinct parts – although they are parts that aren't exactly equal in size. From our Jewish forebears we have the Old Testament, which Jewish people call the Tanakh, and then from the early Christian writers we have the New Testament. At the centre of the two, the pivot from Old to New, sits Jesus. The one who we frequently refer to as the Word made Flesh, especially as we head into the Advent and Christmas seasons, who has inspired so many words about himself, and with the Holy Spirit and the Father forms the Holy Trinity, the God of relationship and love.

In the Gospels we frequently see Jesus helping his followers understand what sits behind passages from the Old Testament, showing them the deeper truths and intentions that sit behind the literal words. In the Old Testament there are the complex purity laws laid out in Leviticus governing what people should eat, wear, touch, and do, and on which particular days. In the New Testament we have directions from the Gospel and Epistle writers, such as Paul's letter to the Colossians telling us "do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ."

In the Old Testament, there is animal sacrifice in the temple as an attempt to atone for our sins; in the New Testament we have the one perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world, the Son of God who poured out his life for us – the sacrifice we recall each Eucharist.

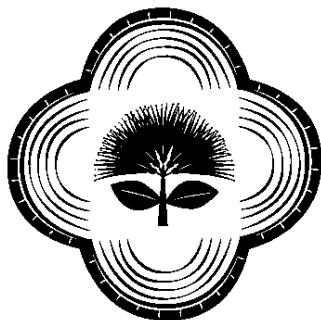
It's a gross simplification, but if I was forced to sum up each half of the Bible in two words the Old Testament's would be 'calling' and 'judgement' and the New Testament's would be 'love' and 'forgiveness'. This is not to say we ignore the Old Testament, it helps act as the ground for the New Testament. But most importantly we need to read it with New Testament eyes – the model that Jesus gives us in the Gospels and which Paul and the other Epistle writers continued – to understand the books of the Old Testament in the light of Christ, of God with us.

The Holy Spirit may be perfect wine but it is poured into the clay cups that are people, and nothing human can be perfect – not individuals, our deeds

or our language – only God is perfect. So we need to read the Bible carefully, with Jesus as our guide, seeing what animates the spirit of the words rather than pouring over exacting interpretations of each individual word.

As we head into Advent and Christmas, we are reminded more strongly than ever that we are all called to be New Testament disciples of love, not Old Testament Pharisees of judgement. Let us strive to live up to that calling, let that be our offering to the Christ coming once more into the world.

Arohanui, Rosie



Message from the Ministry Team

The Ministry Team would like to thank all the hard workers who help keep Holy Trinity running, and wish everyone a Holy Christmas, and a safe and happy New Year. The past year has seen New Zealand and the world go through a pandemic like nothing seen for a century. The year has brought its share of laughter and tears, and we remember those no longer with us, as well as those beset by illness. Our sincere prayer is that the year to come brings us greater happiness than sorrow, and that around the world people can get on top of Covid-19. God bless you all!



In Memoriam

The past months have seen the deaths of a small number of Woodville and former Woodville folk. Our sympathy and prayers go out to the families and friends of the departed. We remember:

- ⊕ Ian Menzies
- ⊕ Sean Burgess



Young at Heart, Older Folks' Social Afternoons

2pm Thursday 26 November, then resuming in January on the fourth Thursday of each month

Holy Trinity Hall

Please contact Rosie McMillan if you'd like help with transportation.



Stand Up and Sing group

Stand Up and Sing, the community singing group, meets at 7.00pm on Monday evenings in Holy Trinity. All are very welcome to join!



Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

12pm, Tuesday 22 December

Holy Trinity Hall

Please contact Rosie McMillan if you'd like help with transportation.



Christmas Services and Events

Saturday 12 December 11.30am

Woodville Christmas Parade

Sunday 13 December 5.00pm

Woodville Combined Churches' sausage sizzle in Fountaine Square from 5.00pm, with the Service of Lessons and Carols – featuring the Dannevirke Brass Band – starting at 6.00pm (in Holy Trinity if wet)

Thursday 24 December 8.00pm

Christmas Eve Family Eucharist at Holy Trinity

Carols start at 8.00pm, service begins at 9.00pm

Friday 25 December 9.30am

Christmas Day Eucharist at Holy Trinity



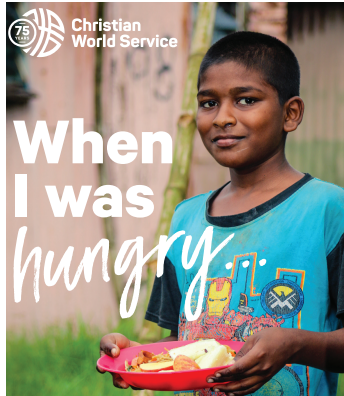
Christmas Letterbox Decorating Competition

Holy Trinity is again organising a Christmas letterbox decorating completion for Woodville. Entry forms will be available at the Woodville Information Centre, on Vogel Street, and must be completed so the judges know which category the letterbox is entered for (see point 4 below). The conditions are:

1. Decoration of letterboxes can begin on Saturday 5 December and must be completed by the morning of Friday 11 December, with judging to take place that afternoon.
2. Winners will be announced at a prize-giving ceremony at 5pm during the WDV Christmas picnic in Fountaine Square on Saturday 12 December.
3. There are cash prizes of \$50 each for four categories: i) aged 12 and under; ii) aged over 12; iii) nativity; and, iv) recycled/ environmentally friendly.
4. Decorations can't affect the delivery of mail – the postie must still be able to see street number and easily put mail in letterboxes.
5. A list of the addresses taking part in the competition will be published to allow people to have a look at all the different letterboxes.

The competition's slogan is:

"Holy Trinity Church – sending the right Christmas message"



Christian World Service Christmas Appeal

At the close of World War Two, the National Council of Churches launched the first Christmas Appeal by asking New Zealanders to remember “the millions in the east and the west, who are hungry, cold and homeless”. The first appeal went to the people of Greece who had given food and shelter to New Zealanders during the fighting. For the last 75 years, your gifts have helped people in every corner of the world find the food, warmth and shelter they need for each day. Working together with CWS, we have supported local partners to tackle hunger at its root and made known God’s love for the world.

With your help, displaced people have planted new gardens, farmers have learned to grow food in tough climates, and families are eating a more nutritious diet. In Sri Lanka and South Sudan, in Lebanon and Haiti, many more families need that support to thrive.

The economic cost of Covid-19 has been high. Your gift at Christmas will give people the life that has been taken from them. Instead of hunger and worry, they will watch new gardens flourish and their children thrive. With your gift and prayers, we can help many more families. Please give generously to the 2020 Christmas Appeal. Make love go around.

The theme for this year's appeal comes from Matthew 25:34, "...for I was hungry and you gave me food..."

Information about the CWS partner groups and the work they do will be available on posters at the back of Holy Trinity or online at www.christmasappeal.org.nz. In Advent there will be envelopes available in the church to make a donation.

People in Need?

As disciples we are constantly called to be the hands and feet of Christ. Please let Rosie McMillan know if you:

- ❖ are aware of someone who would appreciate a pastoral visit, whether it's to discuss a particular issue or just to have a general visit
- ❖ know of someone who is struggling or on a tight budget, and could benefit from meal support or some other form of assistance



Woodville Foodbank Thanks

The Woodville Combined Churches committee would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has donated either money or goods over 2020 – your generous support keeps this valuable service going during a very difficult year for a great many people!

If you're able, please feel free to bring a can or packet of foodstuffs along anytime to a service – there is a collection basket at the rear of the church.



The Grace and Impatience to Wait

In our secret yearnings
we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair
we doubt that you will.
And in this privileged place
we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we
and by those who despair more deeply than do we.
Look upon your church and its people
in this season of hope
which runs so quickly to fatigue
and this season of yearning
which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
Give us the grace and the impatience
to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,
to the edge of our finger tips.
We do not want our several worlds to end.
Come in your power
and come in your weakness
in any case and make all things new.
Amen.

*Walter Brueggemann
From 'Awed to Heaven, Rooted to Earth'*



Bazaar and Flower Show

A sunny spring day helped draw a crowd to the Holy Trinity Hall on Saturday 12 September, where they found tables laden with baking, sweets, produce, plants, crafts and raffles. A large selection of beautiful blooms filled the centre of the hall, so no one could mistake the day for anything but the Church's Bazaar and Flower Show!

Local artists Turia Blackenberry and Malcolm Stewart showed some of their work, adding amazing creativity to the bright colours and floral scents filling the hall.

In the Flower Show, the 2020 Champion Bloom was won by Sue Ladd and Marilyn Blatchford won the Margaret Pinfold Memorial Trophy for most points in show. The Anglican Women's Group wish to thank Turia and Malcolm for the exhibition, and everyone who came along to make it a fantastic day!



Spring Dinner

For the past 13 years, Holy Trinity has hosted a themed mid-winter dinner in its hall. This year Covid-19 saw the dinner pushed out to spring, but the delay didn't dent the fun for the 60 attendees who got to enjoy a trip 'Around the World in 80 Days'.

People got into the spirit of Jules Verne-inspired theme by dressing up in a mix of international, Victorian and traveller costumes, which matched the decorations that took people everywhere from Australia to Zanzibar. The evening featured themed games, a multi-round quiz (Do you know what the most popular colour of toilet paper is in France, or what it's illegal to put on your neighbour's cow in Texas?) and a delicious three-course menu that covered dishes from Italy, the South Pacific and America. People had a great time, filling the hall with laughter, chat and music.

A big thank you to everyone that came along – people’s ongoing support makes the dinner the fun event it is. Planning has already started for next year’s event, which should hopefully be back in its usual June/July slot and will take people to Sherwood Forest. If you’re planning on coming along it might pay to practice your bow and arrow skills, and track down a green tunic. (The answers to those two quiz questions earlier are pink and graffiti by the way – who knew!)



*I come to proclaim
good news to you*



Events

November 2020

- Wednesday 11th 10.45am Armistice Day civic service in Fountaine Square
- Thursday 19th 2.00pm Anglican Women's Group meets at in the Hall
- Thursday 26th 2.00pm Young at Heart social afternoon in the Hall

December 2020

- Thursday 3rd 10.30am Anglican Women's Group meets at the Hall for trip to Viv's Kitchen in Sansom
- Saturday 12th 11.30am Woodville Christmas Parade
- Sunday 13th 5.00pm Woodville Combined Churches' sausage sizzle in Fountaine Square, followed by a Service of Lessons and Carol
- Tuesday 22nd 12.00pm Senior citizens Christmas lunch in the Hall

January 2021

- Thursday 28th 2.00pm Young at Heart social afternoon in the Hall



Church Services

November 2020

Sunday 1 st	9.30am	Morning worship
Sunday 8 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 15 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 29 th	9.30am	Eucharist

December 2020

Sunday 6 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 13 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 20 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Thursday 24 th	8.00pm	Christmas Eve carols and Eucharist
Friday 25 th	9.30am	Christmas Day Eucharist
Sunday 27 th	9.30am	Union Service

January 2021

Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 17 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 24 th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 31 st	9.30am	Eucharist

First-Footing Prayer for the New Year

This day is a new day
That has never been before.
This year is a new year,
the opening door.
Enter, Lord Christ—
we have joy in Your coming.
You have given us life;
and we welcome Your coming.
I turn now to face You,
I lift up my eyes.
Be blessing my face, Lord;
be blessing my eyes.
May all my eye looks on
be blessed and be bright,
my neighbours, my loved ones
be blessed in Your sight.
You have given us life
and we welcome Your coming.
Be with us, Lord,
we have joy, we have joy.
This year is a new year,
the opening door.
Be with us, Lord,
We have joy, we have joy.

The Northumbria Community

The above prayer is a 'first-footing' prayer. In Scotland and Northern England whoever first crosses the threshold of your home after the passing of midnight on New Year's Eve is the person who "brings in the year" for you and your house. This prayer invites Jesus to 'first-foot' for us, to bring in the new year for us.

Key contacts

Parish website: www.htwoodville.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/holytrinitywoodville/

Role	Person	Telephone
Local Priest	Rev. Rosie McMillan	06 376 5972
Parish Wardens	Janice Wiri	06 376 4838
	Rona Squires	06 376 5076
Vestry Chair	Vicky Tomlinson	022 643 9419
Parish Treasurer	Janice Wiri	06 376 4838
Parish Secretary	Rona Squires	06 376 5076
Anglican Women's Group	Rev. Rosie McMillan	06 376 5972
Foodbank Coordinator	Jim Worboys	06 376 4023