

The Clarion

Holy Trinity Church, Invercargill.

Newsletter - Spring 2016



What does a prophet look like?

Jeremiah 22:3, 13

Thus says the LORD: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place.... woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbours work for nothing, and does not give them their wages.

EVERY TUESDAY, a group of brave souls have been meeting at Holy Trinity to study the book of Revelation. This had been a great adventure, and I have been reflecting that this book, and other books of prophesy still speak to our community, our nation, and our world.

I suspect that when most people in New Zealand hear the word “prophet” or “prophesy” they think of a fortune teller like Nostradamus, who can predict future events, usually in such a well coded form that any event will be made to fit the prophesy: “a great nation will rise up and war against the world” for instance is a prophesy which can be made to fit events in any era!

The primary role of the prophet, in the tradition of Abrahamic faiths, is not however to predict future events, but to speak the word of God to those who are alive today, and in particular to those who are in power today. This at times involve predicting future events, which are a natural consequence of present societal failings, but this is as a part of a larger movement of speaking out against injustice in the world.

The Old Testament prophets spoke out against many injustices. They condemned the rich who “eat the flesh of my people”, they condemned unpaid and underpaid labour.... they condemned those who use acquired wealth to become even wealthier by charging crippling rent and interest.

In a word they tackle many of the same issues which

plague Aotearoa in the 21st Century. While a minority of people own multiple properties and rent them out for profit, often with little regard for making sure they are habitable, others sleep in cars with their families, or have to choose between food and heating.

We have CEOs who are paid 26 times more than their average employee (up from 15 times in 2002), and labour laws which are leading to more casual work forces who can be more easily fired when they are no longer useful to create more wealth.

We have a widening gap between those who have wealth, land, and assets, and those who do not. We have become a less caring, and a less equal society.

And while it is true that the prophet’s main task is not to predict the future, some predictions can be made... if we continue on this path we will see more homelessness, more poverty, more prisoners, and more division in the future. Unless we begin to once more walk in the way of the Lord. The way of justice.

If the prophets of old were alive today – what would they say? I suspect they would say that a minority in *this* nation continue to “eat the flesh of the people.”

We have the same God as the people of ancient Israel. The same God who sent prophets out to speak out against injustice then, sends us out to speak out against injustice now.

And like those prophets... we are called to challenge the injustices in our own nation (and in an increasingly globalised economy, this means speaking out against economic justice wherever it is to be found). It means we must challenge our leaders, risk being unpopular, and at times feeling unheard and ignored.

How can we be a prophetic voice, in the true sense of the word, today? This is a question which challenges me, and will cause me to reassess how I view the role of the Church in the 21st Century.

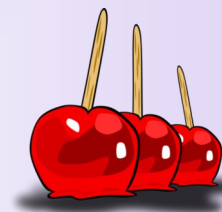
Max Whittaker
Curate

Bazaar

Saturday 1 October 10.30am

Cake Stall - Janice Burton, 218 2681

What a lovely looking stall, filled with delicious cakes, muffins, biscuits, loaves—iced, un-iced, fancy and plain. Can you help bake for this stall, or donate eggs, sugar or flour—see Janice. Attached to this stall are homemade sweets. Are you an expert at making these treats. Kids love toffee apples.



Raffles—Jean McEwan, 218 9453

We are so lucky to have a pedal car again this year as first prize, and of course a grocery hamper and a Christmas cake. There are other prizes also, but if you have something new you wish to donate, please see Jean. If you are able to sell some tickets to family, friends, work colleagues, neighbours, again contact Jean.

Produce Stall—Bev Barton, 217 8429

Jams, pies, mousetraps, herbs, small meals, sandwiches, desserts. Oh, and do not forget our radish-growing challenge. How are your seedlings growing, keep them warm and watered.



Plants—Cheryl Casey, 217 7061

Off to a good start with a good strike of seeds. Just keep your seedlings in a warm place and watch them grow. Annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs and trees. Strawberry plants do sell well. Do you have shallots left over—just poke them into potting mix...

Chocolate Wheel—Evan Cheyne, 217 0225

A good way to stir up the customers, especially when whitebait is the prize. Do you know of anyone that might like to donate some blue cod, maybe a crayfish, or any other treats like that?



Books and White Elephant—Grace Singleton, 217 6927 and Fay Blissett, 217 4415

A small selection from these two stalls will be displayed in the foyer and meeting room.

Please remember we always need many helpers, especially when cleaning away at about 1.30pm. Your help is always appreciated.

Lily Bulb Fundraiser

\$2.50 each or 5 for \$10

Get your orders in by 11 September, by dropping them into the parish office, or to Cheryl, 72 Bourke Street or phone 217 7061. An order form is included with this 'Clarion'.



Pastoral Care

During the past month I have had the opportunity to visit all who are named for Pastoral Care. Thank you for being so welcoming to me and to your regular pastoral visitors. For those who have been unwell, I pray that you have a speedy recovery. We had the pleasure of celebrating with Mrs Clara Stancombe on her 102nd birthday, in her own home where she remains with assistance.

Once again I emphasise that our Pastoral Visitors are available to help with transport to appointments, for a visit at home, in hospital or a resthome, and Holy Communion if you are unable to attend church. We can only respond if we are made aware of a family member or friend who is in need.

Please do not hesitate to make the call, 217 5483. If unattended, please leave your name and phone number and I will reply as soon as possible.

We continue to assist with Communion Services once a month at Takitimu and Peacehaven Resthomes. Keep warm and safe from falls as we brave the wet and frosty weather conditions.

Erin McCallum, 217 5483

Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care.

Association of Anglican Women

Our next monthly meeting is on Monday, 3 October at 2.15pm when Kathleen Sutton will be enthralling us with some of her many adventures.

Festival Week

To celebrate Festival week we shall enjoy a potluck lunch on Sunday 25 September at 11.45am.

The AAW evening is Tuesday, 13 September, 7.30pm. Following a short service, we welcome Dot Muir and her team who recently returned from their trip to Uganda and the Rwenzori Project. The collection will be for The Rwenzori project. Women from other churches in North Invercargill will be our guests.

Parish Missions

As Mission Facilitator and Overseas & Outreach Convenor for AAW I have included all missions that our Parish is involved.

Vestry Initiative

The Vestry this year is donating \$500 to Invercargill's Koha Kai. This programme offers life skills including cooking and gardening to support those with a disability to live independently. Volunteers prepare healthy lunches in return for a gold coin donation for four local schools. The Poppycock Trust was given \$500 for their school dyslexia programme.

Toilet Bags for Kew

We recently received a donation from a person who had an unexpected stay on hospital and was grateful to have toiletry items available.

We also have some parishioners who knit hats, and booties for premature babies. This is really appreciated by everyone in the maternity wing. Talk to Rose McDonald if you would like to help here.

South Centre

South Centre is always thankful for our donations of grocery items or money every week towards their food bank. Items needed: toilet paper; toiletries, cleaning products, items for lunches.

Petauke

We are still in communication with Rev'd George who is their Vicar and Archdeacon. They have a very large congregations and their ministry is going well.

World Vision

Our World Vision sponsored child, Francoise who lives with her parents in the Kabuga community in Rwanda is doing very well at school. We have received a school report from her. We encourage members of our parish to write to her. To get her postal details contact Joan Sutherland or me.

Susan Slaughter

Parish Mission Facilitator & AAW O&O Convenor

Fund Our Bishop

Do we want another bishop for our diocese when Bishop Kelvin retires? If your answer is yes, then each one of us needs to do something positive to ensure that this happens.

Currently, our diocese does not have the funds to pay the salary of a bishop and this is of real concern to the Diocesan Council.



It has been suggested that if each one of us chose to give a weekly contribution for five years equivalent to a cup of coffee [approximately \$3], this would mean that we could appoint a bishop knowing that the salary would be assured. Even an extra \$1 a week will help.

This money could be paid by direct debit from your bank account into the 'Fund Our Bishop' diocesan account on a weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annual basis. The 'Fund Our Bishop' account number is Diocese of Dunedin, 06-0901-0015680-00. Please quote 1200-200-200 as a reference and include your name and address.

Max's Ordination Service

Max Will be ordained to the priesthood here at Holy Trinity on Friday, 4 November at 7pm. Supper to follow, and we are expecting a lot of visitors. Please keep Max and Audrey in your prayers.

Congratulations to Max on being presented with his Doctorate at the graduation ceremony in Dunedin last week. He is now the Reverend Doctor Max Whittaker.

Taizé Services

Taizé Services are held here at Holy Trinity on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 7pm.



Parish of North Invercargill

Holy Trinity Church, cnr King & Antrim Streets

Priest	Liz Cheyne	217 0225
Curate	Max Whittaker	021 297 2488
Wardens	Jean McEwan	218 9453
	Janice Burton	218 2681
Administration Office	at Holy Trinity	217 7729
	Fay Blissett, Parish Administrator	
	PO Box 6033	
	Invercargill, 9841	
Email	anglican@in2net.co.nz	
Web Site	www.holytrinity.org.nz	
Office Hours	Tuesday & Wednesday 9am to 12 noon	
	Friday 9am to 10.30am	