

Anglican Parish of Amberley



*Holy Innocents
Church Street, Amberley*



*St Paul's
Brighton Street, Leithfield*

Winter 2015 WHAM *parish quarterly newsletter*

Tuning in to God's wisdom

When we hear people say, "I'm at my wits' end," we know how they feel! If you've spent time with a toddler in tantrum mode, or an hour on the phone with the IRD, you will probably say the same. You're so frustrated you can't go on, you don't know what to try next.

The phrase *wits' end* originated in the *King James Version* – Psalm 107:27 says, "They reel to and fro, and stagger like drunken men, and are at their wits' end." The verse is about people who dither in their devotion to God.

An ancient definition of *wit* was 'knowledge'. So, the phrase meant that people were at the end of their knowledge, and probably at a point where they needed to rely on faith. The frustration you feel when you are at the end of your knowledge may be just the place you need to be! It means you can no longer rely on your own understanding, but on God.

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts' [Isaiah 55:8,9].

When we look for God's wisdom we are tuning in to far greater knowledge than we can ever have. We may not know which way to turn next, but God certainly does. So next time you're at your wits' end, ask God for wisdom and see what he will do. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously..." [James 1:5].

Rev'd Lynnette Lightfoot

Vestry Report

Vestry is focussing on the following for the remainder of 2015:

Repairs to Holy Innocents
Pastoral Care
Health & Safety

Fundraising
Messy Church
Baptism & Confirmation

We aim to have all outstanding work on Holy Innocents church completed by the beginning of December 2015. Work on the stained glass windows has begun and the large Altar window has already been repaired.

Fundraising has to be a high priority to help pay for repairs and maintenance. With the help of parishioners, we hope to raise \$10,000 this year through fundraising activities. A further \$700 has just been added to the window repair fund – thanks to Patricia Gardner for organising the bacon sales. In further good news, the Hurunui District Council's Heritage Fund has granted us \$2,500 toward window repairs.

Pastoral care is one of the parish's most important activities. The pastoral care team has been much reduced over the past few months and Vestry is giving full support to Lynnette to not only rebuild it but also refocus on key activities.

We would like to offer encouragement to those running Messy Church. Attendances vary from session to session, but increasing the profile of this worthwhile activity may help to keep attendances up. It is hoped that a possible *Messy Pet Service* in September is something the whole parish can get behind.

With changes to the Health & Safety Act, Vestry – particularly Wardens – must take on additional responsibility to ensure that no-one on church property is exposed to danger or put at risk from work being carried out. Church property will be inspected to identify existing and potential hazards and a *Health & Safety Incident Register* introduced. This will be kept in the hall kitchen. Any accidents or health/safety issues, no matter how minor, must be recorded in the *Register* by those involved.

Baptism and confirmation are two important church rites that in recent times have been almost unseen in our parish. Lynnette, with the full backing of Vestry, is very keen to hear from anyone interested in either – ph. 03 313 8726.

In further news, we were recently informed that Mr William Basher left a bequest to the parish to be used for the maintenance of Holy Innocents, where Mr Basher's funeral service was held in October 2014. The bequest is for a substantial sum, and we will ensure that it is used in a way befitting of Mr Basher's generosity.

Vestry was delighted to approve a plan by Mark Lander and a team of parishioners to gift a handmade paper floral wreath to the Transitional Cathedral. We wish the team well with this project and look forward to seeing the results.

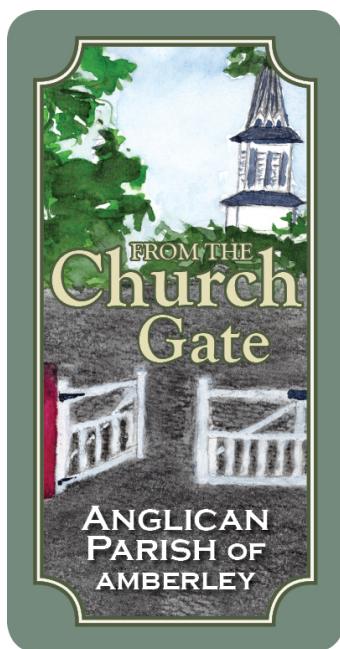
Vestry wishes the Rev. Margaret Retallick all the very best as she looks forward to a full recovery from her recent illness. We hope to see her back in our community soon.

John Field-Dodgson, Bishop's Warden and Vestry Chair
28 June 2015

News and Notices

Pastoral Care: Next meeting Tuesday, 28th July 2pm, Parish office. All welcome.

Soup & Discussion: St Barnabas, Woodend, **29 July 6pm**, Rev Peter Carrell will lead discussion on Gen. Synod Motion 30 (the church's response to same-sex couples).



From the Church Gate: Last Spring's Christmas cake stall at the A & P Show was a great success (Thank you Sue, and all those who contributed in any way!) but the experience raised several ideas for improvements. Looking ahead, this year we'd like to advertise and **take pre-orders** before, during and after the Show, offering cakes in three standard sizes/prices. We need not make as many cakes to sell at the Show, and most should be small- or medium-sized, which are the best sellers by far.

This depends on having a small team of bakers willing to make a quantity of standardised cakes, who will be given key ingredients and/or reimbursement. Donations of eggs, money for other ingredients etc., and volunteers for wrapping cakes and running the stall would all be gratefully received. We must put some thought into the position of the stall and eye-catching signage. If you can make cakes or help in any way, or would co-ordinate the stall, please talk to Gillian, ph. 314 9213. Thank you!

Messy Church — Creative, Celebrating Church for Everyone

Sunday 26th July, 4.15pm: Zacchaeus – The Little Man in the Tree

Come along and 'be the church' for local families.

(Looking ahead to September: Messy Pet Church!)

WORDFIND WITH A DIFFERENCE!

There are 16 books of the Bible mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find. One pastor found 15 books in 20 minutes but it took him much longer to find the 16th. Let's see how long it takes you!

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts... and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a pastor to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found! A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are 16 names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.

July 2015

Sun	5th	9.30am	Holy Innocents – All-Age Morning Worship
Sun	12th	9.30am	Holy Innocents – Holy Communion
		11.00am	Vestry meeting – Hall
Sun	19th	9.30am	Holy Innocents – Anglican/Presbyterian M. Worship
Sun	26th	9.30am	St Paul's – Social Services Sunday [guest preacher]
		4.15pm	Messy Church – Hall (all welcome)

August 2015

Sun	2nd	9.30am	Holy Innocents – All-Age Morning Worship
Sun	9th	9.30am	Holy Innocents – Holy Communion [Rev. Ted Good preaching]
Sun	16th	9.30am	St Andrew's – Presbyterian/Anglican Service [Ian Yong preaching]
Wed	19th	10.00am	Rest Home services
Sun	23rd	9.30am	St Paul's – Holy Communion [Rev Brian Turner preaching]
Sun	30th	9.30am	Holy Innocents – Combined Amberley/Woodend-Pegasus Service

September 2015

Sun	6th	9.30am	Holy Innocents – All Age Morning Worship
Sun	13th	9.30am	Holy Innocents – Holy Communion

Parish Contacts

*Parish Administrator: Patricia **021 0256 5468**, or ej.pdgardner@kinect.co.nz
[N.B. 13/7 – 21/8, use above ph. no. or alternative email: gillian@blueskies.co.nz]

*Priest in Charge: Rev Lynnette Lightfoot, **03 313 8726**, or lightfeet@xtra.co.nz



Visit **Anglican Parish of Amberley** on Facebook for photos, notices and snippets. See www.amberleyanglican.com for a schedule of services, news, parish information, and reflections.

To book our well-heated Hall and/or Certified Food-Safe Kitchen, please phone Pat on 314 8272. Enquiries welcome.

