

Monday 13 Jan *Marge and Robin's day off Emily on holiday all week.*

Tuesday 14 Jan

Wednesday 15 Jan 10am Dixon House Devotions (Marge)

Thursday 16 Jan

Friday 17 Jan

Saturday 19 Jan

Services Next Sunday 19 January 2025

GREYMOUTH:

8am Traditional Holy Communion
10am Family service with Communion & Music
2pm Holy Communion

KUMARA: 10am Morning Worship (Rach & Evan)

TRIAL EVACUATION

Sometime between now and the end of January we will have a required fire drill at one of our Sunday services. Those serving as sidespersons, worship leaders, and clergy are advised to pick-up an instruction sheet on the long table in the foyer.

Prayer Requests to: Joanna Lorimer - 027 380 2989

FLOWERS

Rose & Jeanette

CHURCH CLEANING

Robin & Theresa



CHURCH MOWING

Henry Shaw



Last Weekend: Attendance: 68 Offertory \$3,819 (Budget weekly total needed: \$3,700)
Holy Trinity Church account # 03-0846-0012777-00



HOLY TRINITY Church

Anglican Parish of Greymouth & Kumara
12 January 2025
Growing Disciples of Jesus
Blessed to be a Blessing

Theme: Looking for Jesus in all the wrong Places

Sentence: Jesus answered, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?"

Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-21, 26 (p 346), Luke 2:41-52 (p1312)

Prayer for the Day: God of salvation, A new year is underway. As we make our plans, help us to see where You are at work in ourselves, our parish and our community. Give us the courage to join You in Your work. Amen.

Preacher: Marge Tefft

Theme for next weekend: Wedding Miracle
Readings next weekend: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11
Preacher next weekend: Robin Kingston

THE MOVE POSTPONED

We received word this week that the organisers of The Move event felt that they were not adequately prepared for this year's planned tour of the South Island and as a result the event that was to be held in Dixon Park today at 4pm has been **postponed until sometime next year**. This decision would not have been easy for these young people to make, but kudos to them for wanting to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

LIVING WATERS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Following on from last year this year's festival will be on Sat, Jan 18th from 10am to 10pm at 32c Adairs Road, Hokitika. Cost \$25. Featured artists include Jules Riding, Oliva Harawira, Paul Foulds, and Brendan and Karen Hall. See brochure on foyer notice

board for further details and how to register

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- 9am, 22 Feb 2025—**Relational Evangelism Seminar**

This will be an opportunity to hear a brilliant and practical speaker on the topic of sharing our faith in practical non-pushy ways with friends.

Our guest speaker will be Julie-anne Laird. **Our parish will be joining with Cobden-Runanga at Church of the Resurrection at 40 Richmond Street.**

Julie-anne's topics will be—

- How people become Christians- 14 Things I've Learnt
- 6 Sorts of Friends

Please make every effort to be there.



Marge A number of years ago I was greeted in the new year not with, "Happy New Year!" but with "Happy New You!"

It was a Christian, of course, who extended the greeting wanting to get those she greeted with it thinking about the state of their souls. Perhaps G.K. Chesterton said it best:—

"The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul."

Of course it does no good to try and change our hearts by sheer grit; only the Holy Spirit can do that work as we spend time with Jesus in His Word, in prayer, in worship (both personal and corporate), and then obey what ever we perceive He is asking of us to be and do.

So, as we venture into the new year, may we do so with courage and anticipation of what God wants to do in and through us as individuals and us as a parish.

Happy New You!

With love and blessings, *Marge*

UPDATE FROM CHRIS & CATHERINE

Our Arabic language lessons are going really well. We are now able to read and write (simply) in Arabic. We can construct fairly complex sentences in Arabic. We have a wonderful teacher who is fabulous and he really loves us.

We have a three-hour lesson 4 mornings a week, and spend the rest of the day reviewing and doing homework. We also meet with a language helper during the week to practice. On the 5th day we have other meetings and work.

We also spend time in our neighbourhood, engaging with people, and using what we are learning in real-life contexts. It is nice to walk down the street and wave to or be acknowledged by people we know as we walk.

The government has just passed some laws related to refugees entering the country. Reports suggest at least 1 million. Some refugees have been arrested and sent back to the countries from which they came.

Pray for the church to know how to respond to this situation—for opportunities to show love and kindness, and to bring hope in a really tough situation.

A copy of the full letter is on the foyer noticeboard.

SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S SERMON

Kia ora.

"We three kings of Orient are
One on a tractor, two in a car
One on a scooter, tooting a hooter
Following yonder star.

Oh, star of wonder, star of light
Star of bewdy, she'll be right
Star of glory, that's the story
Following yonder star."

That's of course the "Kiwi" version of the Christmas carol "We Three Kings" - as sung by New Zealand Comedian, John Clarke - aka Fred Dagg - in the mid-1970s. But whether we recall the original carol or it's take-off, have we ever truly looked closely at the story's origin and meaning?

It is foretold somewhat in Isaiah 60:1-6 (The Glory of Zion) and is described in Matthew 2:1-12 (The Visit of the Magi - "Magi" is Greek for "Wise Men"). Matthew only gives us the "bare bones" of the story, which none of the other three Gospels recount. Over the years, be it via music, research and analysis or other means, we have sought to "flesh out" the story, but perhaps missed its true significance.

Arguments there will always be - as to exactly:

- When the visit took place (we simply told it was "after" Jesus was born);
- How many Magi were there (only stipulates "three" types of gifts);
- Their status of the Magi (the passage does not refer to them as "kings" or "rulers" - although they probably had sufficient status to command an audience with King Herod)
- Their names (the passage doesn't name them); or where they came from ("the East" potentially spanning a wide geographical area).

The Epiphany (Greek word meaning *to reveal*) of our Lord Jesus Christ is about celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, as represented by the Magi. Importantly, the Magi were Gentiles - probably astrologers from modern day Iran or Saudi Arabia (to which "Midian" and

"Ephah" in Isaiah have relevance), while the Parthian Empire at the time included much of "the East" from modern day Syria to Pakistan, including Persia. Astrology was a practice prominent in the religion of Zoroastrianism, which dominated this area. Their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh held high value in Greek, Roman and Egyptian cultures at the time. The Magi were both generous to Jesus with their gifts - and they worshipped him, being almost certainly the first Gentiles to do so.

It came as a real challenge to the Jews of the time that Jesus would throughout His ministry emphasise that salvation was for Jew and Gentile alike. And His associating with the despised Samaritans, lepers, prostitutes, tax collectors, and Romans no doubt had many in Israel at times asking who's side was He really on? Yet much of the New Testament is devoted to how the Good News, having been rejected by many Jews, was successfully preached and spread among the Gentiles.

The Jew-Gentile division seemed a clear one at the time - rather like the relatively few and ever diminishing number it would seem of Christians relative to non-Christians within a very and ever increasingly secular Aotearoa/New Zealand. So how can we be a light to our modern day "Gentiles" - an ever increasing number of whom have next to no knowledge of Jesus Christ and His Good News of salvation being possible for all who repent and turn to Him (not just those of us presently in Church)? A huge challenge for sure - I know that well from working with the great group of young people we have at The Shed. They have much potential to do great things for God, but have little if any Church background, hence understanding of the Jesus story and what it means for them. And it is the same for so many others of all ages out there. I pray that we may all feel encouraged to take up the challenge of reaching our many and diverse non-Christian peoples in our society today. May God richly bless and equip us in doing so.

Blessings,
Doug Bray

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