

Monday 24 Dec *Parish Office closed Robin in Westport*  
**7pm Family Christmas Eve Service with Crossroads dancers (no communion)**  
**11pm Candlelit Christmas Eve Service (quiet and reflective, with communion)**

Tuesday 25 Dec *Robin in Westport*  
**8am Christmas Day Service (traditional with communion and carols)**

Wednesday 26 Dec *Robin in Greymouth*

Thursday 27 Dec *Robin in Greymouth*

Friday 28 Dec *Robin in Westport*

Saturday 29 Dec *Robin in Westport*

Sunday 30 Dec *Robin in Westport*  
**NO walking group**




**Anglican Parish of Greymouth & Kumara**  
**22 & 23 December 2018**  
***Blessed to be a Blessing***  
***Growing Disciples of Jesus***

**Theme for this weekend:** Advent 4 - Preparations for the King

**Readings for this weekend:**

2 Peter 3:8-14, 17-18 (p.1590); Matthew 25:1-13 (p.1263)

**Prayer for the Day: God faithful and true, make us eager with expectation, as we look for the fulfilment of your promised coming. Grant that we may be ready, and our hearts answer, "Come, Lord Jesus." Amen.**

Theme for next weekend: New Beginnings

Readings for next weekend: Jeremiah 18:1-6; Luke 5:36-38

**Services Next Weekend: 29 & 30 December 2018**

**SATURDAY:**

**6pm Communion** (Prayer Book, Hymns, Reflective)

**SUNDAY :**

**8am Holy Communion** (Quiet & reflective, no music. Finishes by 8.50am)

**10am Family Communion** (Songs and hymns)

**2pm Holy Communion**

**KUMARA No service**

***What Christmas Means to Me***

*By Lewis Bell*

*In my early twenties I was not in a good place—my life was crashing down around me. Then one spring day I read the Christmas story. A virgin woman named Mary would give birth to a baby—the Son of God. He was to be called Jesus. He was God Himself who came to earth to dwell amongst the people of that time.*

*While on earth, Jesus told stories, called parables, to teach important lessons. He healed the sick as well as other miracles.*

*Jesus also made atonement for our transgressions. If we ask for forgiveness, He promises to save us, give us a personal relationship with Him, and the joy of eternal life with Him.*

*So Christmas, for me, is not only a celebration of Jesus' birth, but also a time to say, "Thank you, Jesus. Thank you so much for the hope we have to look forward to being with You forever."*

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Helen & Les Rzepecky and team from the Baptist Church (and any others who wish to volunteer to help) are holding the annual Christmas lunch at **12 Noon on Christmas Day** as usual at the Baptist Church 78 High Street. All are warmly invited to attend. To register for the meal, or to offer to help, please contact Les or Helen on 768 5629.

**THANK YOU**

The following note of thanks was received from All Saints Church, Hokitika this week in gratitude for our gift to them for their earthquake strengthening work. You may recall that the parish decided to tithe our earthquake strengthening donations to those in similar circumstances. Vestry chose to give our third tithe gift (\$7500) to All Saints, Hokitika.

*Dear Rev'd Marge Tefft and Parishioners of Holy Trinity Anglican Church,*

*On behalf of All Saints Church I would like to sincerely thank you for your donation towards the refurbishment of our church. Not only is your gift wonderfully generous, but it is inspirational and will prompt us to think hard about our stewardship. The money will be used in stage two which involves seismic strengthening of the roof and replacement of roof tiles.*

*Congratulations on the completion of your own earthquake strengthening work and we wish you all a blessed Christmas and happy New Year.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Mark Falloon*

*Secretary/People's Warden  
All Saints Church, Hokitika*

Last Week: Attendance: 199 Offertory: \$ 4,447 (Total needed: \$3,200)

Total Earthquake funds donated up to end of November 2018: \$217,532

Earthquake donations received in November 2018: \$3,225

Note: Earthquake Funds received in December will be reported by mid January

**FLOWERS**



Jeanette & Rose

**CHURCH CLEANING**

Robyn & Samantha



**CHURCH MOWING**

Lewis Bell





## Marge Writes

What an amazing celebration the SHED had for its 20th anniversary last weekend. Our congratulations to Tim and Nicki and all leaders and participants (past and present) for 20 very successful years.

You will see in this week's Cobden-Runanga newsletter insert that Tim and Nicki continue to feel strongly called to the Cobden-Runanga parish, the work of the SHED, and the wider community of Greymouth in general. Robin and I, too, feel this same strength of call to this parish and the community. Both Tim and I had to make decisions whether or not to walk the path towards becoming the next bishop of Nelson. I'm so glad (and I'm sure Tim is too) that we have a good Shepherd who leads us and helps us in these sorts of decisions and we can trust Him with the outcome as we walk in obedience. Do continue to pray for the process of electing a new bishop.

I know that this is a very busy time of year for all of you, but, whether you are staying in Greymouth or travelling away, I pray that you will take the time on Monday or Tuesday to gather with some followers of our Lord Jesus and remember the extent of God's love for us such that He came to earth as one of us to save and transform us and so give Him thanks and praise. Please read Lewis Bell's testimony of what Christmas means to him on the back.

Wishing you all a most blessed Christmas!

With love, Marge

### HOW'S IT GOING?

A hundred years or so after the exiles returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the temple, God's ancient people fell into the same pattern of living that had been their lifestyle before the exile. Once again injustice, idolatry, lack of respect for God, the Temple and His ways was increasing, the poor and powerless were being taken advantage of, and men were divorcing their wives for no good reason. It was as though the 70 year "time out" had made no difference to their hearts. And, so, God raises up yet another prophet to speak to His wayward people. The prophet's name was Malachi and, in the Old Testament book that bears his name, we read six disputes that God had with His people.

Last weekend we focused on how the people had neglected to bring their tithe (10% of harvests and income) to the Lord in order that the Temple could be maintained and the work of the priests and Levites be supported and also the needs of the poor to be met. The tithe was required of the people to help them learn generosity, to care for the needs of others, and to trust the Lord for all that they needed. In return for their obedience in this area of their lives, God promised to meet the needs of His people in amazing ways.

The giving of 10% is still the relevant starting place for God's people as He teaches us to hold all things loosely, to be generous and to trust Him to meet our needs. It is the only area of our lives that God challenges us to test Him to see if He will indeed take care of us if we obey Him in this area.

So, how's it going?

### 2019 PARISH PRAYER CALENDAR

The Parish calendar is completed, with over 170 names in it. It is available for purchase in the foyer and at the parish office. Cost: \$5 each. Our grateful thanks to David Hastings for all the work he has put into creating this for our parish.

### THE WALKING GROUP

Please note that there is **NO walking group this Sunday (23rd) or next Sunday (30th)**. Walks will resume on Sunday, Jan 6th.

### BOOK OF PARISH MEMORIES FOR SALE

Robin's book covering highlights of the parish history from the 1990's to 2018 is available for purchase in the foyer after the service, or from the Parish Office. The cost is \$20.

The book covers at least 40 different topics, has over 200 coloured photographs, and is a good summary of all that God has been doing in and through the parish over the last 30 years.

**Have you thought about giving yourself a Christmas treat and purchasing a copy, or giving it to someone as a gift?**

### TEAR FUND CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year our parish is offering an opportunity to support the Tear Fund Christmas appeal. The leaflet "Room at the Inn" was included in last week's newsletter and some extras are on table in foyer. The leaflet contains details on giving to support the Syrian refugee crisis.

**Donations can be posted directly to Tear Fund in the Free Post envelope Please complete the form and include in the envelope if you wish to receive a receipt from TEAR Fund for tax rebate purposes.**

### HELPERS WANTED FOR 2019

Before we put together the 2019 rosters for cleaning the church and mowing the church lawns, we would like to offer everyone an opportunity to join these essential behind-the-scenes ministry teams in our parish. If you are interested in being on the roster for either of these jobs on about a once every 3 months basis, please give your name to Robin, Marge or Nicky. Thank you to those who have recently responded.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 25 December to Wednesday 2 January. The office will be open as usual on Thursday 3 & Friday 4 January, but closed from 7-11 January. Marge and Robin will be around, but not necessarily keeping the normal office hours going. Please leave messages under the front door or on voice mail during this time. The office will re-open as usual for 2019 on Tuesday 15 January.

### CONVERGENCE CAMP FEB 15-17 2019

This is essentially a Diocesan Family camp put on by the Nelson deanery. Feedback from the past couple of years is really positive. It is held at Bethany Park in Kaiteriteri. The speaker for 2019 is Spanky Moore from CHCH who is excellent. Brochures on the table in the foyer.

### LADIES RETREAT 8-10 MARCH 2019

A women's weekend retreat in Methven is coming up on 8-10 March 2019. This is an opportunity for ladies to come away and be refreshed and renewed in their walk with God, to enjoy great fellowship and a bit of pampering. The theme for the weekend is "The Spirit-Filled Life." Beth Allison from Melbourne is the guest speaker. CWCI {Christian Women Communicating International} are hosting the event. Registration booklets are available in the foyer with all the details, please help yourself and take one for a friend.

### COMING EVENTS

#### Monday 24 December at 7pm

Family Christmas Service (No communion) with Crossroads dancers at HTC

#### Monday 24 December at 11pm

Candlelight communion service at HTC

#### Tuesday 25 December at 8am

Traditional Holy Communion & carols at HTC

#### Tuesday 25 December at 12 noon

Community Christmas Lunch at the Baptist Church

Parish Website: [www.greymouthanglican.co.nz](http://www.greymouthanglican.co.nz)

Parish email: [office@greymouthanglican.co.nz](mailto:office@greymouthanglican.co.nz)

Parish Postal Address : PO Box 27 Greymouth 7840 Phone: 03 768 7508

Vicar: Revd Marge Tefft, 201 Tainui St, Greymouth, Ph: 03 768 7508

mobile: 021 0233 2189, email: [margetefft@xtra.co.nz](mailto:margetefft@xtra.co.nz)

Asst Priest: Archdeacon Robin Kingston, 201 Tainui St, Greymouth, Ph: 03 768 7508

mobile: 021 0228 7926, email: [robin@greymouthanglican.co.nz](mailto:robin@greymouthanglican.co.nz)

Parish Administrator: Nicky Hawes (Tues-Fri: 10am to 2pm)

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Ph/Fax: 03 768 7508 email: [office@greymouthanglican.co.nz](mailto:office@greymouthanglican.co.nz)

Vicar's Warden: Peter Wetherall 768 6714, People's Warden: Diana Fensom 768 4942

Parish Health Advisor: Marjorie Newcombe, Ph/Fax 03 768 7299

Kumara Verger: Joe Payn 736 9960, Sharing Shed: Nancy Holman 768 7704

Prayer Requests to: Ngairé Fisher 768 6505