

Monday
16 Dec 1pm Parish Office closed
OSL in Parish Centre

Tuesday
17 Dec 10am Dixon House Devotions (Pat Cogger)
3.30—5.30pm CROSSROADS prize giving in church and hall.

Wednesday
18 Dec

Thursday
19 Dec 5.30pm Music Practice in Church

Friday
20 Dec

Saturday
21 Dec



Services Next Weekend: 21 & 22 December 2019

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 Afternoon Worship

KUMARA No Service

WITNESS MAGAZINE

The latest Witness is in the foyer, and you are encouraged to take a copy. There are photos of two of our synod reps, and at least three photos of Marge!

THANK YOU

Big thank you to—

- Robin and Dave for repainting the porch under the veranda.
- Sammi Smith and all of the OASIS team and children for the delightful Nativity play at 10am service
- Nicki Mora and her fantastic team of

helpers for pulling off a fantastic SHED Ball once again.

• Everyone who assisted with the 5 Lessons & Carols service in Kumara and the 9 Lessons and Carols service in Greymouth.

GREETINGS

We received a Christmas card from Arthur Jamieson a West Coaster and long time member of this parish who recently moved to CHCH. He is doing well and worshipping at St. Christopher's Avonhead. He sends his Christmas greetings to all.

Prayer Requests to Joanna Lorimer - 027 380 2989

FLOWERS



Helen & Jeanette

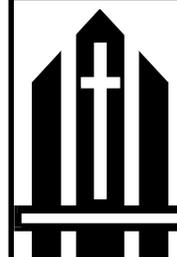
CHURCH CLEANING

Robyn White & Samantha Ennis



CHURCH MOWING

Lewis Bell



Anglican Parish of Greymouth & Kumara 14 & 15 December 2019

*Blessed to be a Blessing
Growing Disciples of Jesus*

Theme for this weekend: Advent 3:

Trusting God When Nothing Seems to be Happening.

Readings for this weekend:

Genesis 13:14-17 (p.14); Luke 1:67-75 (p.1309)

Prayer for the Day: Lord God, You spent many years training the Israelites to trust You. Sometimes You told them, well in advance, what You would do, but it was a long time before it happened. You wanted them to learn to trust You. Help us, Lord Jesus, to trust You when there seems to be no answer to our cries for help. We know You love us profoundly and deeply. Amen.

Theme for next weekend: The Second Coming of Jesus

Readings for next weekend: Revelation 1:4-8; Matthew 24:23-31, 36-39

**THIS SUNDAY NIGHT
At 7pm, this Sunday 15 December
we will celebrate the
Nine Lessons and Carols service
In Holy Trinity Greymouth**

We hope many parishioners and friends will support this traditional event.

PARISH PRAYER CALENDAR

These are now being printed and are available for you to take and use. The cost of production is about \$2 a copy. If you would like to put a donation in the offertory bag at any service in the next month or so, please do so. We can easily print more copies if the ones in the foyer run out. Let Robin know if it looks as though we need to do a reprint.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to a number of our high school students for awards received at the recent prize giving at Grey High:

Academic Effort with Distinction—

Year 12-Tristan Howard

Year 13-Melanie Lister & Joshua Lorimer

Chapman Prize for Architecture—

Tristan Howard

Student Leader of Arts for 2020—Abby Dodd

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.

Last week: Attendance: 107 Offertory: \$ 3,278 (Total needed: \$3,580)
Total donations received for 186 Main South Road Project so far: \$13,603
Donations contributed to 186 Main South Rd Project in November: **\$2,525**
Donations received in December will be reported by mid-late January



Marge On the front of the **Writes** newsletter we have congratulated the high school students linked in some way with our parish on their academic achievements. I want to

also add that our teens are also involved in various ways of service in the parish—

Byron Howard is an OASIS leader
Tristan Howard is a sound operator
Abby Dodd is a door greeter
Melanie Lister helps at the SHED
Joel Dash assists with OASIS
Jessica McEwan is a door greeter and morning tea server

In addition, many of our young people also hold down part-time jobs.

It isn't easy being a Christian teenager in today's New Zealand culture as we heard in Abby Dodd's testimony at her confirmation last year. We are very proud of our teens not only for their academic and service achievements, but also for their faith commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Robin has really enjoyed doing serious Bible study with the teenagers who have been part of Soul Food these last two years.

Also, congratulations to Melanie Lister for securing a place at Ara Institute of Canterbury to study Information Communication Technology (ICT) next year.

Please pray for all our young people.

With love and blessings, *Marge*

Parish Website: www.greymouthanglican.co.nz

Parish email: 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

Asst Priest: Archdeacon Robin Kingston, 201 Tainui St, Greymouth, **Ph:** 03 768 7508
mobile: 021 0228 7926, **email:** robin@greymouthanglican.co.nz

Parish Administrator: Nicky Hawes (Tues-Fri: 9am to 1pm)

Parish Office, 201 Tainui St, Greymouth

Ph/Fax: 03 768 7508 **email:** office@greymouthanglican.co.nz

Vicar's Warden: Jacquie Jones 027 576 8495, **People's Warden:** Diana Fensom 768 4942

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

Kumara Contact: Nikki Davies 027 308 4584

HOW'S IT GOING?

When is it the right time? It seems in life that there are right times for things to work really well. We need to judge those moments for ourselves, especially when it affects our jobs, our house, health, relationships, etc.

For God to come down to earth and be born as a baby, it had to be the right time. It was for at least the following reasons:

1. God had been preparing the Israelites for the coming of the Messiah for at least 1,500 years.
2. Through the vision and conquests of Alexander the Great, there was a common language, Greek, that made it easy to spread the Gospel.
3. The Romans, who were the leaders of the empire at the time Jesus came, wanted to be able to get their troops to any trouble spot quickly, so they built brilliant roads. This made it easy for travel throughout the empire.
4. There was Pax Romana, a peace throughout the empire because of the tough rule of Rome. This made it reasonably safe for travel for missionaries.
5. God had prepared a fore-runner to prepare people. This was John the Baptist who challenged Jews and Gentiles to repent and ask God for forgiveness of their sins.

Are you prepared to worship this Christmas?

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

We received an email from Anglican Missions this week:

Hi Nicky and all at Holy Trinity, Greymouth, Thank you for your kind donation of stamps received recently. Your efforts are much appreciated – lovely to have them trimmed so beautifully.

Just a reminder about not including the generic KIWI stamps – it's a bit confusing as we do want the alternative mail ones. I have attached an information sheet for your collectors. (see this on notice board in foyer) You will be interested to know we have raised just over \$3,600 from stamps sales so far this year.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Best wishes from the Anglican Missions office.

Kind regards, Linda J

A Letter from Bishop Steve concerning the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care

You will be aware that the Royal Commission has begun its work and has recently been involved in contextual hearings.

The Commission's Website says:

"The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care is looking into what happened to children, young people and vulnerable adults in care between 1950 and 1999."

The focus of the Commission is on 'Abuse in Care' with reference to:

1. **State-run institutions**
2. **Faith-based institutions**

The extent of (2) includes our care of children, young people and vulnerable adults in our churches, schools, orphanages, elder care homes, and other ministries governed and managed by Anglican Social Services/Anglican Care.

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, including the Diocese of Nelson, is committed to engaging with the Commission and its work, and will do everything it can to assist the Commission fulfilling its purposes. The Diocese of Nelson is encouraging submissions to be made to the Commission by survivors of abuse in its care. Contact details for communicating with the Commission are:

Phone: 10 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday (NZT) **0800 222 727** [Calling from Australia, 1800 875 745]

Email: contact@abuseincare.org.nz

Mail: Royal Commission of Inquiry
PO Box 10071
The Terrace
Wellington 6143

If this raises issues that affect you directly, I am happy to meet with you. Please contact me through the Diocesan office: **bishops.pa@nelsonanglican.nz**

+ Steve

DRIVERS NEEDED

Greymouth St Johns are in need of volunteer drivers for the Community Health Shuttle which is a free service that takes people to medical appointments in Greymouth and Hokitika. A normal driver's licence is required. If you are interested in finding out more about how you could help, please contact Lisa 027 309 6807.

THANKS FROM ALICE

It is difficult for me to find the words to express my gratitude to all those lovely people who sent cards for my 90th birthday - unfortunately I do not have contact details for some of you so am unable to send you a Christmas card with a note of thanks.

My warmest thanks also go to all those who were involved in any way at all in the "afternoon tea" on the Sunday - it surpassed any expectation I may have had as it not only brought many friends who I had not seen for some time, from in and out of town, but it was great to see others making the most of a similar opportunity. It was indeed a very happy chatty time for many.

I will take this opportunity to send love and blessings to you all for a joyous Christmas and a happy, healthy 2020.

A very happy Alice.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Tuesday 24 December-Christmas Eve

7pm Family Christmas Service (No H.C.)

11pm Candlelight communion with carols

Wednesday 25 December-Christmas Day

8am Christmas Day Holy Communion

Noon Community Lunch at Baptist Church