

Monday  
23 Dec *Parish Office closed*

Tuesday  
24 Dec **7pm Christmas Eve Family Service**  
**11pm Christmas Eve Candlelit Communion Service with carols**

Wednesday  
25 Dec *Christmas Day Parish Office closed*  
**8am Christmas Day Holy Communion**  
**12 noon Community Christmas Lunch at the Baptist Church**

Thursday  
26 Dec *Boxing Day Parish Office closed*

Friday  
27 Dec

### Christmas Services

#### Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve

**7pm Family Christmas Service with children's activities and Crossroads dancers. (No Holy Communion)**

**11pm Candlelight Holy Communion Service with carols**

#### Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day

**8am Christmas Day Holy Communion**

**Noon Community Lunch at Baptist Church**



#### Services Next Weekend: 28 & 29 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 Holy Communion**

**KUMARA No Service**

Prayer Requests to Joanna Lorimer - 027 380 2989

#### FLOWERS



Carol

#### CHURCH CLEANING

Danny Cattell &  
Dave Lankshear



#### CHURCH MOWING

Tony Woollett



**Anglican Parish of Greymouth & Kumara**

**21 & 22 December 2019**

***Blessed to be a Blessing  
Growing Disciples of Jesus***

**Theme for this weekend: Advent 4:**

The Second Coming of Jesus

**Readings for this weekend:** Revelation 1:4-8 (p.1602);  
Matthew 24:23-31, 36-39 (p.1262)



**Prayer for the Day:**

**Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert, watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Theme for next weekend: The Shadow over Christmas

Readings for next weekend: Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13:23

#### 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.

Marge and Robin will be around during this time and can be contacted for pastoral care needs.

The parish office will re-open on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

#### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Bishop Steve has sent a letter to parishes thanking all those who have been involved in ministry in any way. He concludes with:



*I do pray that this Christmas the Holy Spirit will refresh us all as we celebrate Christ's coming among us as Immanuel—and that you will all get a chance to rest, recreate and rejoice in God's goodness.*

*May God bless you all.*

*Bishop Steve*

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closed from Christmas Day until 6 January. However

Last week: Attendance: 224 Offeritory: \$ 4,057 (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** What do  
gummy  
**Writes** bears have  
to do with  
Christmas? Well if you  
want to find out, come to  
our Christmas 7pm Family  
service. There will be an  
interactive activity for

everyone to join in, thought provoking videos  
and of course carols. We will also be treated  
to a special Crossroads Dance. Please note  
there will be no Communion at this service.

If you prefer a more contemplative non-  
gummy bear Christmas Eve, then consider  
attending our 11pm Candlelight Communion  
service with carols.

We will also have a Communion service with  
carols on Christmas Morning at 8am and  
some of the elements from the Christmas  
Eve 7pm service will be incorporated if  
children are present.

If you will be out of town for Christmas,  
please find a place of worship to celebrate  
the miracle of the Incarnation—God  
becoming a human being in order to save  
us. Christmas, after all, is all about Jesus.

A very blessed Christmas to you all.

With love and blessings,

*Marge*



**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: 9am to 1pm)

Parish Office, 201 Tainui St, Greymouth

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

How do we trust God when nothing seems to  
be happening? If you think this is hard, join  
the club. However, God went to great  
troubles to teach His chosen people, the  
Jews, how it was essential for them to trust  
Him regardless of how long they had to wait  
without seeing any results.

Abram was a prime example, as he and his  
wife Sarai waited for their promised baby.  
After 11 years of trying they both agreed to  
let Sarai's slave girl, Hagar, take Sarai's  
place. This worked like a charm, and Ishmael  
was born. However, God's plan was that  
Sarai would be the mother, not Hagar.

14 years later, Sarah (renamed from Sarai),  
does have a baby, Isaac, at the age of 90—  
and Abraham (was Abram) was 100! This  
was God's plan from the start. Abraham had  
to learn that he couldn't change the  
requirements. He had to trust God, however  
impossible the situation seemed to be.

When the Hebrew people became slaves in  
Egypt they cried out to God for Him to set  
them free. It was 80 years before they found  
that God had called Moses to come and lead  
them out. They had no idea that God had  
miraculously saved Moses as a baby, and  
trained him for this role all that time.

It was 400 years from the last prophet,  
Malachi, before eventually God raised up  
John the Baptist and then Jesus.

All we can do is learn to trust God, pray and  
believe, and keep doing what is right.

### 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.

### 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!

### TRAINING FOR SUPERVISION

Clergy and many professional people in  
Greymouth are required to have regular  
supervision, but it is quite difficult to find  
suitable people qualified to provide  
supervision.

**CAIRA** is a one year training course that is  
provided around New Zealand that prepares  
people for formal accreditation as  
supervisors. For the first time in about 15  
years we are having a course held here in  
Greymouth for 2020. It consists of a once a  
month 10 hour training session held on a  
Friday evening and a Saturday all day until  
4pm. The first session is Friday & Saturday  
14/15 February; then 27/28 March and 17/18  
April. We meet monthly until the end of  
November.

The course will be held in our Parish Centre,  
and the subsidised cost will be \$375 for the  
whole year. Anyone who is interested in  
being trained in this aspect of ministry is  
encouraged to chat to Robin as soon as  
possible, definitely by early January 2020.

### COUNCIL YELLOW TIES

If there are any parishioners or friends who  
have spare yellow rubbish ties, we will be  
very pleased to accept your gifts of them for  
parish use. They can be given to the clergy  
at any time. Many thanks.

### VOLUNTEERS FOR CLEANING

Many of our cleaners are reaching the age of  
retirement (about 80yrs old plus!). We are  
wondering if any of those a bit younger may

be able to find the time to be on the roster. It  
involves being on for a fortnight three times a  
year. The second week of the fortnight really  
only involves a quick tidy up and vacuuming  
of the floor. Do let one of the clergy or Nicky  
Hawes know if you are able to offer.

We are assuming those currently on the  
roster are willing to continue. However,  
please do not hesitate to retire from the job if,  
for any reason, you wish to stop. As our vicar,  
Marge, says, "*We only want willing volunteers  
in all areas of ministry in this parish.*"

We believe that all tasks or ministries are  
done for the Lord, and not because we want  
to please the vicar!

### BISHOPDALE COLLEGE OFFERINGS

Last weekend Robin shared how it is  
important to stay purposefully occupied while  
we wait for the fulfillment of God's promises.  
He shared his story of doing with biblical and  
theological studies in preparation to be a  
more effective lay person in the church which  
then of course prepared him for ordained  
ministry when the call, that was first  
whispered to him as a child, came.

Bishopdale College offers many different  
options for exploring and deepening faith,  
and being equipped for service, mission and  
leadership! Semester 1 enrolments are now  
open. Take a look at what's on offer – either  
take a prospectus, or visit our website for  
details: [www.bishopdale.ac.nz](http://www.bishopdale.ac.nz). Work towards  
a qualification, or take classes for interest  
without the pressure of completing  
assignments. Course options in Semester 1  
include:

- Mercy, Justice and Social Transformation, exploring the Church's role in holistic development and enacting social justice
- New Testament Epistles, focusing on 1 Corinthians and how to read Paul's letters
- Biblical Greek, where you learn to read the New Testament in the original language
- Story of Christianity, which is an overview of church history.

And remember this can be done from home.  
Chat to Marge or Robin if you are interested.