

Monday 2 Dec **Westland Anniversary Weekend—Parish Office Closed**
 9am– 4pm Erect Christmas Tree in Church (Marge, Emily & Robin)

Tuesday 3 Dec

Wednesday 4 Dec
 8am Parish Prayer Meeting in the Parish Centre
 10am Dixon House Devotions (Emily)
 12 Noon Dixon House Board Meeting in Parish Centre
7pm Regent Theatre Community Carols

Thursday 5 Dec
 2pm Grief Support Group in Parish Centre (FINAL)
 7pm Men's Prayer Gathering at Reefton

Friday 6 Dec
Emily's half day off from 12 Noon
10am Kids 'n Coffee in Trinity Centre (Christmas Special)
5pm-9pm Christmas Free Stall in Town Square
 7pm The SHED (186 Main S Road)

Saturday 7 Dec
Emily's Day Off
8.30am Men's Breakfast at Elim Church
10am - 2pm Contemplative Prayer Day in Kumara Church
 1.30pm Special Private Service in Church

Sunday 8 Dec **5.30pm—7pm Potluck & Prayer in Church Lounge**

Services Next Sunday 8 December 2024

GREYMOUTH:

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

KUMARA: 4pm Making Space

Prayer Requests to: Joanna Lorimer - 027 380 2989


FLOWERS
 Christina



CHURCH CLEANING
 Dorothy and Norman Wilkins



CHURCH MOWING
 Roger Lavers



Last Weekend: Attendance: 68 Offertery \$3,467 (Budget weekly total needed: \$3,700)
 Holy Trinity Church account # 03-0846-0012777-00



HOLY TRINITY Church

Anglican Parish of Greymouth & Kumara
1 December 2024
Growing Disciples of Jesus
Blessed to be a Blessing

Theme: Advent 1—HOPE in the Hardships
Sentence: To you Lord I lift up my soul; my God I have put my trust in you; you are God my Saviour; for you have I waited all the day long.
Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (p 1010); Luke 21:25-36 (p 1353)
Prayer for the Day:
 Come, O come Emmanuel, you are the way, the truth and the life; Come living Saviour, come to your world which waits for you. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.
Preacher: Marge Tefft

Theme for next weekend: Advent 2—Jesus Makes PEACE Possible
 Readings next weekend: Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
 Preacher next weekend: Emily Holmes

POTLUCK & PRAYER
DEC 8th & 15th

As we look forward to a new year ahead, we're setting aside two evenings in Advent to connect over food & pray together for how God is at work among us & what He is inviting us into in 2025. On Sundays, Dec 8th & 15th, at 5.30pm, bring along food to share & join us in the Church Lounge for a Potluck meal followed by prayer time concluding by 7pm at the latest.

REGENT THEATRE CAROLS

Wednesday 4 December at 7pm

The Ministers' Association have prepared another special event, and have even persuaded the pastors of the town to perform, once again, a pantomime of the Christmas Story. If you have never seen Robin in a tutu, this is probably your chance!

We encourage you to invite family members and friends to join you at this special occasion. It is a safe, enjoyable community event, as well as giving a Christian message.

MARKET STALL THIS FRIDAY

Thank you very much to everyone who is helping in any way with the market stall on Friday. It's going to be another fun evening! Bakers - please drop baking off at the Parish Centre, or to Samara's (2 Redwood Place) before Friday. If you want to help or have questions, please ring Samara Ewan on 768-4590 or 021-107-1674. Please continue to pray for this event to be a blessing to our community, that we would be able to pray for people, and for good weather.



Marge Writes

Today is the first day of the Church year. Today we begin the season of Advent—a season of waiting.

The word advent is derived from Latin and means “arrival”. In Church parlance “advent” refers to the arrival of Jesus the Messiah (Christ).

Jesus’ first advent (arrival) roughly 2,000 years ago is what we celebrate at Christmas; Jesus’ second advent (arrival) is what we look forward to with anticipation sometime in the future.

Just as the Lord’s people waited for the Messiah’s first coming; so we wait for his return. In fact, God’s people have been waiting for the second Advent ever since Jesus ascended to heaven after his resurrection.

The Bible makes it very clear that in this waiting time between the first and second Advents of Jesus (between the initiation and full consummation of God’s Kingdom on earth), we live in a space that is far from perfect. And yet, we can have HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE (the four great themes of Advent) in the waiting.

Robin and I saw this truth play out before our eyes on Tuesday when we went to CHCH to spend time with Craig Bruce and his children Harmony and Ethan.

Craig has been told he has 4-6 months without treatment and treatment may or may not extend his life. He would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as he weighs up length vs quality of his remaining time.

Yet, in spite of this news, Craig is experiencing amazing hope, peace, joy, and love. He actually expressed a hint of excitement that he may be seeing Jesus soon. Life here and now with its troubles is not the end for those who trust in Jesus. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

And that is the basis for our hope too. May this Season of Advent, as we wait for Jesus’ return, with whatever difficulties we face, be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

With love and blessings, *Marge*

HOW’S IT GOING?

If you missed Greg’s excellent sermon last week encouraging us to sink our life’s anchor deep into Jesus because God can be trusted to fulfill his promises, please listen to the audio recording or watch the visual recording available on the website.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- 4 Dec—Combined Churches Regent Theatre Carols at 7pm
- 8 Dec - 5.30pm—7pm Potluck & Prayer in Church Lounge
- 22 Feb 2025—**Relational Evangelism Seminar**

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

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER DAY

Saturday 7 December 10am - 2pm.

Holy Trinity Church, KUMARA

Please bring your Bible, journal, pen, a Christmas plate to share for lunch, and a Koha for use of the building.

To register your attendance or for further information, please contact: **Sharryn McAuliffe** - Phone 027 207 3431
Or email: mj.sp.mcauliffe@outlook.com

MEN’S BREAKFAST

When: Saturday, 7th December at 8:30am

Where: Greymouth Elim Church
41 Guinness Street, Greymouth
Small Koha appreciated where possible.

COVID MAKING ROUNDS AGAIN

We continue to get reports of parishioners coming down with covid or flue. Our thanks to them for taking appropriate measures to avoid spreading the germs.

If you are 65+, or have serious underlying conditions and you test positive for covid, please contact your GP to see about getting an antiviral medication. Also, let the parish office know if you have need of anything if you are having to isolate with an illness.

BOOK REVIEW by Joanna Lorimer

Robert Laidlaw - *Man For Our Time* by Ian Hunter

What a truly inspirational biography this is. Robert Laidlaw was a remarkable man of God. He believed the concept that you cannot outgive God. He started tithing and giving at a young age. The more he earned, the more he gave. The more he gave, the more he earned. Soon he was giving 50% of his income and even went beyond that. God blessed him to be a blessing.

Robert knew how to work hard as well as have fun. He created his own, very successful business, from scratch. He was a man of prayer and always sought the Lord in both personal and business dealings. The one time he ran ahead of the Lord’s guidance, he deeply regretted it for the rest of his life. Robert encountered many setbacks and very tough times. Yet he remained a man of integrity and resilience. He always rose again and continued to follow the Lord.

This volume also contains a copy of the booklet: *The Reason Why* by Robert Laidlaw

This booklet was written and printed by Robert in 1914. He originally wrote it for his staff, to explain his faith in God and why they should consider it. It quickly found a wider audience as he continued to print and distribute copies. Many years later during the war, Robert met people in Europe who came to know the Lord through this little booklet. Amazingly, this booklet has been translated into many languages and is still in print today. This is well worth a read, even if you have been a Christian for many years.

The book **Robert Laidlaw—*Man for Our Time*** that also includes the booklet ***The Reason Why*** can be found in our church library in Section F.

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