**PARISH NEWS**

**LENT 2 – WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?**

 **25th FEBRUARY, 2018.**

***If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me. Mark 8:34***

**IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK –**

*Sunday, 25th February –* ***TO-DAY*** *– 11.30am – Harvest Festival - Dyer’s Crossing.*

*Monday, 26th February – Bookshop training – 12noon – followed by Committee Meeting.*

*Friday, 2nd March –* ***WORLD DAY OF PRAYER***

*Friday, 2nd March – Service 10.30am, Estia, Forster.*

*Saturday, 3rd March – 10.30am- Bookchat, St. Alban’s*

*Sunday, 4th March – 12 noon – monthly BBQ, St. Alban’s.*

**HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE – DYER’S CROSSING –**

 A service of Holy Communion at 11.30am this morning - followed by the auction of produce. A light lunch will be served – sandwiches and home-made pies. Everyone is welcome to come out to the country – always a remarkable day.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER-**

 The service this year is being co-ordinated by the Uniting Church, Forster (opposite the Fire Station) on **Friday, 2nd March at 11am.** Refreshments will be served in the Hall at the conclusion of the Service. The focus country this year is SURINAME, located on the north east coast of South America.

 An excellent set of resources has been received, the suggested order of service provides opportunities for as many as 12 people to be involved in leading the Service.

 If you feel called to be part of this service or that you will be attending please let the office know and they will pass this information on to John Archer who is co-ordinating the day on behalf of Pastor Geoff Battle.

**REPORTS FOR OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH –**

Reports are to be with the Parish Secretary, Judy Hall by the end of **February.**

**CHRISTIAN BOOKCHAT CLUB –**

The next get together is Saturday, 3rd March, 10.30am in the Parish Hall and the book chosen is “Sensible Shoes” available from our bookshop, only two copies left, $22.99each. Talk to Judy if you would like more info. A gentle way to introduce friends to the faith we share, always a cuppa.

**FIRST SUNDAY BBQ AT ST. ALBAN’S –**

A good roll-up last month and we played a game of “Family Feud” after we had consumed our BBQ. Great fun! What will Phillip and Deborah bring along this time? Join us for a relaxed and friendly few hours. Bring whatever you feel like having for lunch, doesn’t need to be a BBQ. Cutlery and crockery, laughter, friendship, glasses, serviettes supplied.

**SAMARITANS FOR FEBRUARY –**

 Tins, tins, tins – whatever you feel would be useful – fruit, veg, spreads for the kid’s sandwiches - remember the ½ price specials!! A great variety of tins coming in, well done, only a week of February left!

**OUR PARISH VISION –**

We will connect meaningfully with our community in order to

inspire hope and transformed lives through faith in Jesus.

**As we worship our God we include in our prayers this week:**

**In Our Parish:**

Parish Op Shop. Something Special Christian Bookshop.

Please continue to pray for people with ongoing needs in your prayers each

day, **Keith Bell, Louise, Keith Roach, Leonie Bell, Pam Fibbens, George Hodgson, Paul Raymond Ferris, Dianne Hardin, Maureen Armstrong, Jenny, Andrew Mazaraki, Betty Walsh, Rev. Bill Green, Peter Board, Lesley Barrett,**

**Barbara Hughes, Jenny Lawson.**

We commend to God’s keeping those who have recently died

and we pray for those who mourn their passing. We remember with thanks

those whom we have loved whose anniversary occurs at this time – **Jim Harris**

**John Griffis, and Harry Murray.**

If you would like to add someone to the Parish Prayer list, be sure to obtain permission from the person concerned and then contact the Parish Office.

**In Our Diocese:**

Bishop Peter & Nicki

Brendon Lowndes (Property & WHS)

**Parishes, Schools and agencies:**

Newcastle Grammar School, Stroud, Dungog, Stockton.

**SUPPORT TO DEFENCE ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY –**

RAAF Specialist Reserve Chaplains, War Widows and Widowers and the work of Legacy. Vocations and training – especially pray for those studying at theological colleges for future ministry as Defence Force Chaplains: Stephen Gibbins – Moore College, Peter Taylor – Ridley Theological College, Angela Stanfield – UTC and Tim Mannix -St. Marks.

**CMS – FEBRUARY MISSION FOCUS –**

 What a blessing to have had **Liz Burns** with us for a week, hearing her stories of life in Tanzania, listening and learning how a different culture works for God’s glory. Liz was able to join so many groups, attend so many church services and renew our focus on her missionary work in Tanzania.

**GROWTH GROUP AT DOUG DOWLING’S –**

 Doug’s group meets at 5.30pm each Tuesday at 4 Becker Road, Forster,

Study for an hour then enjoy a shared meal. Talk to Doug for more details.

**BUNNINGS BBQ’S –**

Just making sure you have the dates marked on your calendars as this is one of those “connect with our community” times – Saturday, 7th April and Saturday 12th May. Proceeds to Toddler Time. Names to office.

**CAPPUCCINO DRINKERS –**

A note from Keith B. - $64.00 has been forwarded to the Chaplaincy from St. Alban’s.

**QUARTERLY WORKING BEE AT ST. ALBAN’S –**

 Saturday, 10th March, starting at 8am or when you can get there. Lists on the board at St. Alban’s. Morning Tea whenever. You can always come and have morning tea and then do a bit of cleaning – especially if Saturday is your “sleep-in” morning. Two names so far – see if we can add more to-day.

**SOMETHING SPECIAL BOOKSHOP –**

We are holding a training session on Monday, 26th February at 12 noon for all bookshop volunteers. If any parishioner is interested in volunteering in the bookshop you are very welcome to attend. The training session will be followed by a committee meeting.

 The bookshop will be closed Tuesday, 27th February, as the books are returned and reprocessed at Port Macquarie Koorong. If there is a particular book or item you would like us to get for you, please let us know. You can ring Phillip Castle on 0422 036 656.

**OUR SPECIAL PRAYER FOR A FAMILIES MINISTER-**

Loving an Generous God,

We bring before you all who minister in your name in this parish and we pray for the need for a families’ minister.

Please give wisdom and guidance on the raising of finance to support this outreach. May we approach this with the generosity of Spirit you show to us.

Give to those who will be tasked with this selection courage, guidance, sensitivity and discernment in the implementation of this ministry initiative.

We ask these things through your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**BODY BUILDING HINTS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST –**

**BODY BUILDING HINT #10: Romans 12:10**

‘Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.”

While it’s great to catch up with friends at church, take the plunge to first talk to new people or people you don’t know when church finishes before you talk to your friends. It’s an important way to build the body of Christ.

**FROM PHILLIP CASTLE – Acting Treasurer –**

 Unaudited figures for 2017 show offertories exceeded budget. Envelopes takings were $66,200 (against budget of $65,900), loose offertories $22,900 ($22,100) and Electronic Funds Transfers $47,800 ($43,000). In addition, $5,400 was given for a Families Minister and over $3,500 raised by the Fete, neither of which were budgeted for. Op Shop takings were a very healthy $63,000.

**To Forster-Tuncurry Anglican Parish Community**,

As many of you know, following a Mini Stroke (TIA), that I should take the doctor’s advice and retire from my ministry activities within the parish.

I spent some time in hospital, where the doctors performed a number of tests and on release said I should visit my own doctor and have more tests and checks.

After receiving their advice, which was difficult to hear and take, it has not been a decision that both Jill and I have taken lightly, as it has not been in our plans to retire any time soon.

We will miss you all, and, there will be times that we would be able to come and join with you on special occasions.

There are so many of you who have phoned or sent cards, too many to name, for which we thank all of you.

May Christ’s love be with you all now and in the future.

Blessings and best wishes,

**Rev’d Bill Green and Jill.**

**FROM PARISH COUNCIL -**

At our meeting last night, we decided to advertise for a paid cleaner for both St Nix and St Albans in this week's edition of Parish News. St Nix would be for approx 2 hours each fortnight. St Albans would be for approx 2 hours each week. Applications should go to Judy in writing by end of February. Enquiries about duties involved need to go to Heather Webster as I will be away for some of the time. Judy

**A NOTE FROM DIANNE HARDIN –**

Dianne is now home after spending the last three months in hospitals and rehab after a severe break to her left leg.

“Thank you all so much for your love and care, for visiting, everyone has been so kind, but above all thank you so much for your prayers – don’t stop yet, as I am still not out of the woods, and those who know me well, know that “taking it slowly” is not something that I am good at!”

 **CONTACT DETAILS**

**Senior Minister/Rector**: Rev’d Mark Harris 0425 265 547

 revmarkharris@icloud.com

**Priest in Local Mission:**  Rev’d Helen Quinn 0427 592 723

**Parish Office:** St. Alban’s Anglican Church: 5543 7683

 info@forsteranglican.com

**Parish Secretary:** Judy Hall 0400 890 728

**Op Shop:** Head St Car park 6555 4267

**Book Shop:** bookshop@forsteranglican.com5543 7683

**Parish Website:** www.forsteranglican.com

**Items for Parish News:** Phone Lyn 0491 136 455 email:clivelyn46@gmail.com or Parish Office 5543 7683 by noon Wed.

Our bank details: BSB 705077 Account 000400710

Account name: Anglican Parish of Forster/Tuncurry

This blank page can be used for a number of useful things –

1. Notes on the message (sermon)
2. Names and phone numbers of friends you meet for the first time to-day –
3. Harvest Festival – items you would like to purchase and your top pricie!
4. I am sure you can think of any number of uses for this page…………………………………….