

New Songs Practice - 7:15pm Monday 23 February in Church for an hour. Shirley Jackson
Ph. 544 5477

World Day of Prayer - Service 10.00am Friday 6 March at the Richmond Church of Christ. A group of people from the Bahamas have written the service. All welcome.

The Word for Today - Copies have been requested from Rhema Media and should be available in the Church next Sunday 1 March.

Music Workshops - Richard Rendle is holding contemporary workshops at Church on the Hill in March. Richard is a Christchurch guitar player who has been a solo musician and led teams at various Anglican and other churches over the years. He understands which songs work for a congregation and which don't. Richard's workshops will be exciting for musicians, singers, worship leaders and anyone who enjoys making a "joyful noise to the Lord". Guitarists can bring acoustic instruments and play along with some chord sheets provided. Bring a music stand. Copyright restrictions limit wholesale distribution of sheet music but how to access resources will be made clear. Sessions are Friday 6 March 7.30pm - 9.00pm and Saturday 7 March 10.00am - 12.00pm and 1.00pm - 3.00pm. Each session is more or less stand alone. Folk can come to one and get something out of it or come to all three for maximum input. Each session will cover different songs so if someone comes to all three they would have heard 30 songs. Cost is a gold coin per session. BYO lunch on Saturday. Drinks will be provided. Register with Church on the Hill office 544 8844 or email church.onhill@xtra.co.nz.

Building Fundraiser - Honey is now available. Honey 500gms \$7.00, 1kg \$13.00, and 2kgs \$25. See Anne Askin between the services or Ph. 544 9059.

Vestry Meeting Key Points:

- At present we are about \$2,000 per month short of what we need to run the church and support missions. Our discussion was detailed and robust. Could you pray for His guidance for our church family as we seek to find ways to remedy this.
- Our next meeting on 25 February will be focused on the Strategic Plan, which will be available at the AGM.

Vicar Support

While Kevin and Anne were here they suggested I establish more support for me and my leadership role. That seemed like a good idea to me and to Vestry. So I have appointed Joe and Carol Sardella as Vicar's Advisors. As the title suggests, their role is to be available to advise me, pray for me, and offer general encouragement and support – and the odd gentle rebuke when needed. I'm delighted they have accepted the appointment. They are mature, wise and enthusiastic Jesus followers and Church on the Hill members. This new support for me is additional to the able assistance the Wardens already provide.

With Vestry's endorsement, I have also established a Vision Team consisting of Micah Did-Dell, Michaela Ross and Debbie and Dave Trigg. Their role is to meet with me to discern where God is leading us as a parish, what the priorities are for worship (UP), discipleship and fellowship (IN) and mission (OUT). We then make suggestions to Vestry to discuss and make a decision. Most of you will know Micah and Michaela. Dave and Debbie are 9.00am worshippers and have been part of our church for about a year. I wanted Christians who are relatively new and therefore have 'fresh eyes'. Between the two of them, they have passion, vision, teaching and people skills, along with wonderful administrative ability. Please introduce yourselves to them if you haven't already. - Susan

Reflection questions:

- There are accounts of a devastating flood in most Middle Eastern cultures, as well as the Hebrew Scriptures. What lessons can 21st century people learn from this event?
- Why is Holy Baptism essential for all Christians?
- Have you ever had a wilderness experience like Jesus and if so, what was it preparing you for?

