

Worship Services April 2017

**2nd - 9.30 am Morning Worship St Paul's Valmai McKenzie
(Communion)
11am Morning Worship St James Harvest Thanksgiving Alan Blair**

**9th - 9.30 Morning Worship St Paul's J. Coutts.
11am Morning Worship St James Palm Sunday J Coutts**

**14th (Good Friday) 9.30 – Morning Worship St Paul's J. Coutts (Combined
with Baring Square)
St James joining with St Andrews Anglican Tinwald**

**16th (Easter Sunday) 9.30 – Morning Worship Combined at Baring Square
No service at St Paul's
11am St James own Morning Worship Communion Rev J Coutts**

**23rd 9.30 am Morning Worship St Paul's J Coutts
11am morning Worship St James J Coutts**

**30th 11am Combined Serves at St Andrews No services at St James or
St Paul's**

Next Newsletter deadline for articles, items is April 16

**If you would like to contribute a editorial that would be much ap-
preciated also.**

Your newsletter has been brought to you by your contact person:

COMBINED NEWSLETTER

April 2017



St Paul's Presbyterian Church
65 Oxford Street, Ashburton

St James Presbyterian Church
127 Thomson Street, Tinwald

THE AMAZING STORY.....

The Amazing Story concerns a man, a carpenter who lived 2,000 years ago in an obscure Roman province in a town called Nazareth. At age 30, the Man hung up his leather carpenter's apron and began to speak publically up and down the countryside.

Religious leaders were ambivalent at best. Most felt deeply threatened, because this ex-carpenter taught in huge outdoor meetings with compelling authority – and he healed people. Not just colds and fevers, but crippled limbs and blind eyes. On two occasions, he even brought people back from the dead.

The religious leaders saw their orderly world spinning out of their control. And so they determined to eliminate the Man. They infiltrated his inner circle so they could grab him away from public view. And once in custody, they engineered a trial behind closed doors, and then put huge political pressure on the Roman governor to execute him immediately. Within 12 hours of his arrest, the Man hung on a cross. Six hours later he was dead – seemingly a martyr to a glorious but hopeless cause. But there's more. The Man did not resist his arrest and crucifixion – in fact, he had predicted it to his followers again and again. And he taught that his death would have incredible meaning – that he would give his life as a ransom for many. That is, his death would pay the ransom price for a multitude of people who were enslaved by their own sins – and set them free. That's what he said. And on that cross he prayed for his crucifiers – certainly enslaved in *their* sins – "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." And he died. A Roman centurion who saw him die said, "Surely, this man was the Son of God."

He died on a Friday at just about three in the afternoon. By dusk he had been buried by a rich follower in a tomb hollowed out of solid rock, a tomb protected by a huge stone that rolled into place along a channel in the rock, then clunk! The tomb was secure. Friday night and all day Saturday his cold body lay there.

But Sunday morning, the Sunday we call Easter, some women had come to complete the hasty burial and they found the stone rolled back and the tomb empty. An angel appeared to them saying, "He is not here, he has risen." This, too, the Man, Jesus, had foretold to his followers.

Over the next 40 days, he appeared to his disciples and others, to even 500 at one time. And then he left planet earth promising to return. His Spirit was poured out on his followers a few days later. Within a single generation his followers travelled with the Amazing Story to all of the known world. Our world has never been the same. Because where people believe the Story, they find forgiveness and freedom and meaning. They receive the Spirit of God themselves and they began to love.

The Story we tell is a life-transforming Story. If we would tell it to our children and grandchildren, they would find that it is much more compelling than any Easter bunny tale. The only appeal it lacks to your children – and to our desperately needy world – is a few pastel candy Easter eggs. Tell the Amazing Story. It changes lives.

**Minister Rev John Coutts – Phone 308 8705 /
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St James 127 Thompson St Tinwald

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Rosters for March 2017 St Paul's

Welcome:

2 & 9 P Cannan/G Donnelly

23 C Crone/C Efford

May 7 J & J Crouchley

Elder:

2 & 9 I Officer-Holmes

23 S Thomas

May 7 J Scott

Flowers:

2 & 9 J Marks

16 & 23 I Page

May 7 B Arnst/I Porter

Morning Tea:

2 F Prichard/E Leak

9 I & M Page

23 F Johnston/J McOmish

Cleaning:

April 9 Jen Dowdle/L Braam

10-23 MChapman/R Gordon

24- May 7 J Butterick/R Wylie

Rosters for March 2017 St James

Welcome:

2 J Ross

9 A Royds

16 A Royds

23 H Blee

Elder:

2 M Bishop

9 G Lee

16 G Lee

23 D McFarlane

Door:

2 A Ross

9 M Reeves

16 M Reeves

23 L Burrige

Communion Elders:

M Bishop and D McFarlane

Morning Tea/ Supper:

2 k & A Lovett

9 M & A Blair

16 J & A Ross

23 C Fleming/ A Royds



Farewell and Thank You.

We are sorry to say farewell to the Inwood family, Paul, Tracey and Meg. They have shifted to Christchurch where Paul has a new position in the hospitality industry. Paul was a very able and willing person to step up in his capacity as a lay preacher and Tracey coordinated several children's holiday programs over the years with Meg as one of the co opted support people. Whilst we will obviously miss the family's valued input, I am sure parishioners at St Paul's will collectively wish them every success in their new venture in Christchurch.



Meetings and dates to remember

April 2 Daylight Savings Ends. Turn the clock back.

Check the smoke alarms.

April 3-7 St Paul's on Meals on Wheels

April 5 St James' Worship Committee 1.30pm

April 11 St Paul's Women's Group 10am

April 14 Good Friday

April 18 St James's Parish Council 7.30pm

April 19 St James' Women's Fellowship, visit Waihi Lodge

April 20 Hospital Chapel Service 11am

April 19 & 20 Blood bank in Ashburton

April 24-28 Meals on Wheels, St James'

April 25 Rosebank Service 11am

May 3 St James' Worship Committee 1.30pm

Something of Interest:

Ray Coster was Moderator of the Presbyterian Church from 2012 to 2014.

He joined the CBM (Christian Blind Mission) in 2015 and became Chair in October 2016

Ray is also the New Zealand delegate working with CBM International.

He is currently on the Central Committee of the WCC (World Council of Churches).

Ray retired in August 2016 from 40 years as a Parish Minister.

There is more about Ray in the Autumn 2017 SPANZ issue.

I found this very interesting and I am sure others will do so.

Rev John Coutts will conduct the following services at rest homes on behalf of St James' and St Paul's.

Thursday, April 20 Hospital Chapel at 11am

Tuesday, April 25 Rosebank at 11am

Your support is welcome.

St James' Women's Fellowship

Wednesday, April 19

The next meeting will be a visit to Waihi Lodge in Geraldine.

Devotions led by Judy Reeves Roll call: Afternoon tea and fresh fruit for residents.

Visiting and hostesses: Moira Macleod, Judy Reeves, Alison Scammell

Pool cars, leaving the church at 11.45am Lunch in Geraldine.

Visitors welcome to join us.

St James' Parish Register

Baptism: On Sunday, March 5, we welcomed with love into the church family Makeda Margaret, daughter of Nicola and Daniel Epilo and great-granddaughter of Bev Reveley.

Meals on Wheels

St James' is responsible for delivery for Monday, April 24, Wednesday, April 26, Thursday, April 27 and Friday, April 28.

If you are able to assist please ring Moira

on 308 9575