

# All Saints' Church

The open door

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## Vestry Meetings 2023

The Vestry of All Saints' Gladstone meets monthly at 7.30pm, usually on the third Tuesday of each month. The dates for Vestry meetings for the coming year are:

Tuesday 21 February

Tuesday 21 March

Parish AGM

Sunday 12 March

# Saints *Alive!*



## Being Humble Before God...

It's so easy to step away from God's word and into the ways of the world when we find ourselves facing challenges. In the same way, when we come to Jesus and persistently say, "I want to be on your team, but I'm not going to play by your rules," we cease, by definition, to be his disciples. He won't let us keep playing like that for long. If we persist after many warnings and acts of prodding from God, we effectively choose not to be on his team any longer. This same message can be found in the words of Jesus, who said: "the Father cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit" (John 15:2). Jesus made it clear what he will do with the branches that are withered; spiritual death becomes a reality for those who continually and persistently remain in disobedience.

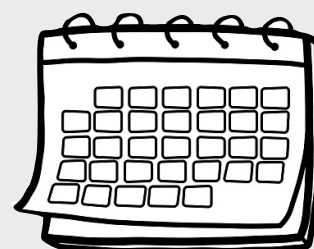
All this sounds quite intense, but according to scripture its true. We cannot fool ourselves into believing that we can be disciples without submitting to God directly and through his delegated authorities. That's like thinking we can be on a sports team and not listen to the coach. It just doesn't work. Anything we seek to do in the church starts with our submission to God by abiding in Christ. Only from this place of security can we walk with true humility in the rest of life. This kind of revolutionary thinking starts with disciples who humbly listen to God and to one another. As we continue to seek a way forward for the church in Invercargill, may we always seek God first and submit to God's direction in everything we attempt.

Ngā mihi nui

Rev. Richard.

## Coming Events...

- 1 December Nine Lessons Choir Practice at 7.00pm
- 2 December Ecumenical Rest Home Service at Clare House at 11.00am
- 4 December Said Eucharist at 8.00am; All Age Worship at 9.30am
- 6 December Archdeaconry Meeting at Holy Trinity, Windsor at 12.00pm
- 8 December Nine Lessons Choir Practice at 7.00pm
- 9 December Ecumenical Rest Home Service at Ascot BUPA at 11.00am
- 11 December Said Eucharist at 8.00am; Holy Communion at 9.30am
- 15 December Nine Lessons Choir Practice at 7.00pm
- 16 December Ecumenical Rest Home Service at Rowena Jackson at 11.00am
- 18 December Said Eucharist at 8.00am; Holy Communion at 9.30am; Nine Lessons and Carols at 7.00pm
- 24 December Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm
- 25 December Holy Communion at 9.30am
- 1 January Holy Communion at 9.30am



## Praying for the Future...

It's great that we have the opportunity to talk amongst ourselves about the future directions for All Saints' Gladstone and for the Invercargill Anglican parishes, but we shouldn't forget also that we have every opportunity to speak with God about our worries and our concerns as well. So as a means to help get us started and to assist in helping us to stay focused, the following prayer has been assembled as a guide. In it we give thanks for all those who have faithfully come before us and who set us up as a parish for ministry into the future. We give thanks that God has the ultimate plan for what will happen and we acknowledge that we are in God's hands. We acknowledge that we need God to open the hearts of the community so that we can work among them; and that only God can grant us the grace to achieve what needs to be achieved in order for God's plan to be fulfilled. I would like to thank Linda Te Au and Debra Murphy for their work in putting this together to support us all as we move ahead.

### Prayer for the Future

Gracious God who has been at our beginning and will be at our end. We give you thanks for our parish of Gladstone and our churches of All Saints and St Andrews. We recognise and remember with gratitude all those who came before us and built up your ministry here in this place.

Gracious God in this world of uncertainty You already know our future path and we your loving and faithful people pray that we can accept with gracious hearts the journey that lies before us.

We look to You for a new vision in our community. We know You will lead us into a future full of hope, joy and promise.

Give us the courage and the wisdom to openly discuss a new way forward that glorifies your Holy Name and brings a resurgence of life to your Anglican church in Invercargill.

We pray for our Bishop Steven, for our Vicar Richard and all those who lead us and guide us towards us a new tomorrow. We pray for those whose path is connected to ours that they would make thoughtful and compassionate decisions.

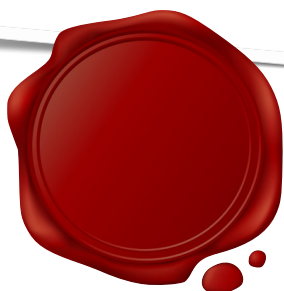
Give us the grace to listen to each other, to acknowledge past hurts, to reconcile as one united people in your Holy Name.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we would be inspired to dream, be prepared to risk losing everything to gain a better, brighter future where You are at the centre.

May it be your words we hear, may it be your light we follow.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus who died that we might live.

Amen



## Giving at All Saints

As a Parish we are very lucky and extremely grateful for the wonderful generosity of our Parishioners. We celebrate and thank you for your contribution to the running of the Parish, Missions, various appeals and the organisations we support.

There are different ways that you can give or contribute to the Parish.

- Internet Banking: Gifts given in this way still count towards your annual gifting receipt for IRD purposes. Our account is with the ANZ, account number - **06 0925 0171362 00**. Please use your name as the reference so the Parish Recorder can issue a receipt for tax purposes at the end of March each year.
- Envelopes: These are available through the Parish Recorder and you can make a donation using your envelopes. The amount you give remains entirely confidential and you will receive a receipt for tax purposes at the end of March each year.
- Cash: This can be put in the collection plate as it circulates during the Offertory Hymn. Cash is not able to be receipted.
- Bequest: Please speak with your advisor or trustee about leaving a bequest to the Parish.

## Thank You from the Vicar...

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who plays a role in making all the services and events at All Saints' Gladstone possible. There are many of you and you know the various roles that you play. My thanks also to those who look after the gardens and keep the church and facilities clean and maintained, your work is invaluable and your continued support is so very much appreciated. My thanks also to the members of Vestry and to our Wardens who work constantly to ensure the very best outcomes for everyone at All Saints'.

On a personal level, Talita and I would like to extend our thanks to you all for your prayers, support and encouragement throughout the year. We feel incredibly blessed to be a part of the All Saints' family and send our love and best wishes to you all this Christmas season.

### All Saints' Gladstone: Contact Us

**VICAR**

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Parish Office open Friday, 8am-11am

[www.allsaintsinvercargill.org.nz](http://www.allsaintsinvercargill.org.nz)

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these platforms...*

