

**Church Office Hours:** 9am -12noon, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays).

**'Prayer Chain'** – Urgent matters for confidential prayer support, can be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Joy McHardy or Val Judd.

**Tuesday 'Prayer For the Nation'**-11am–12noon in Church prayer room. For more info contact Janet Burgess.

**Tuesday Bible Study** – Meeting at 1.30pm in the Church House for duration of The Prayer Course. For more info contact Val Hawkins.

**Wednesday 'Mens Breakfast'**- Meets at 6:45am - 7:50am in the Church house lounge. Starting The Prayer Course. For more info contact Paul Cosson.

**Friday 'Revival Prayer'**– every Friday evening 6:30pm-7:30pm at Joy McHardy's home.

**Volunteers Needed:** Thinking of the year ahead ... we would love some more help in most areas: Explorers, Kidzspace, Matrix, Youth Group, Greeters, Musicians, Morning Tea, Worship leading, AV, Sound desk ... If you feel God prompting you to volunteer in an area, please let Paula or Dione know.

**Pick Your Own – Ballarat Apples** – Anne & David Russell have a tree laden with Ballarat apples. Great cooking apples. If anyone would like some they are welcome to bring a bag and pick their own off the tree. 78b Atkinson St – in the back garden. If no one is home, please help yourself.



**TOSS (Thursday Open Shed Sale)** – we would love to have another of these but we need some more things to sell. If you have any unwanted, un-needed things you would love to get rid of, we would love them please. All proceeds go towards local mission – CAP, Hospital E-Bags, Foodbank, RAK. Anything not broken and in ok condition appreciated, except clothes and books.



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – “Bows & Arrows”**

Meet at Sonrise Christian School, 451 Nelson Rd

7pm – 9pm Bring \$3

See YG Facebook Page or Tirzah for more info.



	Today	Next Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Greeters</b>	H Hockey, <i>volunteer</i>	J Phin, D Whibley
<b>Explorers Crèche</b>	R Theobald	J Langford
<b>Matrix</b>	N Hawkins	L Hindle
<b>Ministry Team</b>	J McHardy	A Clement
<b>Cups of Tea</b>	E & B Bowis, A Alder	S & M Patrick, D Benson
<b>Flowers</b>	D Dobbie	D Dobbie
<b>AV &amp; Sound</b>	P Oram, G O'Neil	D Russell, P Walker
<b>Counters</b>	A Radcliffe	A McLean



**Sunday 17th March 2019**

**10am: “How Long God?”**

What to do when heaven is silent – Psalm 13

**Leading: Rachal McIntyre      Preaching: Paula Levy**  
**Duty Elder: Rodney Judd**

**6:30pm - Evening Fellowship Gathering**

**Church Leader:** Paula Levy    **Office** 06 867-9604    **Cell** 021 140-4667  
**E-mail** [paula@mup.org.nz](mailto:paula@mup.org.nz)

**Church Office**    06 867-9604    **9am – 12noon**  
**E-mail** [office@mup.org.nz](mailto:office@mup.org.nz)    **Website:** [www.mup.org.nz](http://www.mup.org.nz)  
Mangapapa Church, P.O. Box 2146 Gisborne 4040

**Elders Team**

Andrew Russell: 027 815-1635    Rodney Judd 06 863-2400    Llew Paul: 022 052 8297

*'Explorers' creche is operating and available for 1-4 years.*  
*'Kidzspace' Primary age children head out when directed.*  
*'Matrix' Intermediates meet during the message time, over in the house*

## Paula writes....

I wonder what areas God has been speaking to you about, and touched your heart with this week in terms of prayer. In looking at Intercession Pete Grieg has challenged us to

- Get informed
- Get inspired
- Get indignant
- Get together

As we are learning together in this area we see time and time again that God somehow uses our prayers to change the world. I loved that quote: "The Hinge of History is the bended knee". If I pray, I can influence what happens in the future. If I don't – some things may not happen. It is an amazing privilege to be able to, in a small way, work alongside God in seeing the things of His Kingdom come about. Inspiring! And yet: this next week we start to look at what is perhaps the elephant in the room:

What about that prayer that hasn't been answered?

What about that nagging doubt?

What about the loved one who wasn't healed?

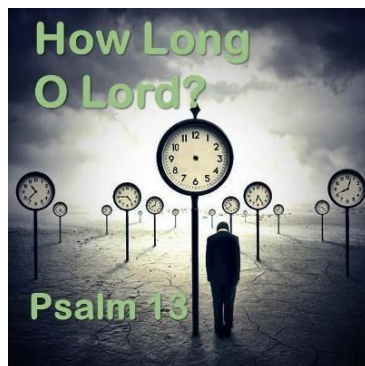
What if we have quietly given up on prayer – because we remember the time we poured out our heart, we really trusted God – but he didn't come through.

In the Prayer Course it suggests we can become vulnerable to three particular temptations:

- Doubting God's love for us
- Doubting God's power to answer us
- Pretending that we're okay when we're not

One of the key starting places I believe to move beyond these is honesty. We don't have to pretend God has answered. We don't have to pretend we are ok. And we don't have to pretend the doubts aren't there. I have heard it said "The Bible is more honest about unanswered prayer than most churches." At least half the Psalms are laments. These are Psalms of honesty and sadness and indignation, crying out to God: How Long? Where have you gone? Lament gives us permission to express grief and suffering . . . not just praise. It allows us to cry out for situations in our own lives – and raise legitimate questions of justice and brokenness in our communities and our world. We can address God in what could be described as risky ways . . . in honesty, in frustration, but yet knowing He is the transformer of what has not yet appeared. When we lament together we also reduce the power of pain because we share our suffering.

There is nothing the nearness of Jesus cannot overcome.



Sometimes, often, God intervenes in miraculous ways when we pray. Sometimes He doesn't, but He joins us in the pain and walks with us.

This week, may our prayers grow in honesty but also in courage as we learn from the psalms of lament. Because they don't just leave us in the place of despair but draw us forward, to remember again the acts of God in the past, to cling onto the knowledge He does love us and will never leave us – and trust that one day – one day – all will be healed and restored.

In whatever struggles you are facing this St Patricks Day, may Jesus

*"Shield you against wounding, and may you know Christ with you, Christ before you, Christ behind you, Christ in you, Christ beneath you, Christ above you."*

Amen

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**Kia Kaha Mangapapa** – There is a community meeting this Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm in the Church house. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

## **Looking For – Two Co-ordinators**

- 1) Working Bee Co-ordinator – Someone willing to organise the list of things to be done at a working bee and assign tasks on the day.
- 2) Stillborn Baskets Co-ordinator – We have been asked by Gisborne Hospital if we could do up some baskets/packs specifically for those who are grieving a stillborn birth. This would be a separate ministry to the Baby Packs that are currently being done and we are looking for someone who would be interested to take on this ministry.

If you are interested in either of these roles, or want more information – please see Paula or Dione.

**Needed:** Some new, soft toys to put in the Baby Packs. They need to be small ones, no bigger than 15-20cm high as they are for newborns.



**Foodbank** – Thank you to all who have been so generously giving to the foodbank. The need has been quite high recently and we have given out 10 food parcels in the last two weeks, which have been received with much appreciation. Our stocks are now quite low in some areas and we are currently in need of: Long-life Milk, Milk powder, Pasta Sauce, flour, toothpaste, crackers, biscuits, muesli bars, cans of corn, coffee, mashed potato, and dehydrated peas.



**CAPtion** - HELP WANTED !!! On March 28th we are hosting a morning tea for community organisations to hear about our CAP services, so that they can promote these to people they come in contact with. To do this we need people to help in the kitchen and another person to look after a resource table. If you can help please contact Nicola on [nicola.hawkins@capnz.org](mailto:nicola.hawkins@capnz.org) or ring 863 2580.