

## A Service to celebrate the Ministry of The Reverend Stuart Howes



Dear Christian friends, in the book of Ecclesiastes, the Preacher writes the following verses:

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to seek, and a time to lose...."

Our friend and colleague Stuart who has served as the curate in both St Eata's and St Giles Church, is leaving us to follow another call in his life. Today, therefore, it is a time to mark the ending of his ministry amongst and with us; a time to look back, and a time to look forward; a time for joy, and a time for sadness. It is a time to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for what Stuart has given us in our lives together.



Blessed be God.  
**And blessed be his holy name.**

The Lord makes everything beautiful in its time.  
**Whatever God does endures forever.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
**And forget not all his benefits.**

Bless the Lord, all you hosts:  
**You ministers who do God's will.**

Bless the Lord, all you works, in all places of his dominion.  
**Bless the Lord, O my soul.**



### **The Collect for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Trinity**

**O GOD, the strength of all them that put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Gospel:**

Alleluia, alleluia, we worship God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Alleluia.**

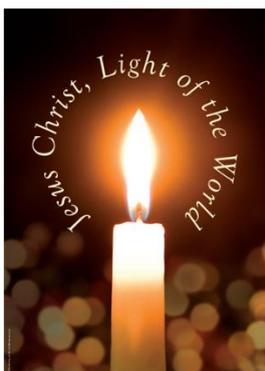
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark Chapter 16: 14-18

### **Jesus Commissions the Disciples**

<sup>14</sup> Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news<sup>[b]</sup> to the whole creation. <sup>16</sup> The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes in their hands,<sup>[c]</sup> and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Reverend Andrew to speak

**Intercessions are offered.**



- ❖ Prayers will be offered in thanksgiving for Stuart's ministry.
- ❖ For Stuart, Vickie and Amelie as they prepare for their future.
- ❖ With acknowledge Janice, Stuart's Mother.
- ❖ We pray for the people and parishes of Christchurch, Wellington and Holy Spirit, Hadley.

We are led in saying this prayer together:

**Living God, draw Stuart, Vickie and Amelie deeper into your love;  
Jesus our Lord, send them out to care and to serve;  
Holy Spirit, make them heralds of good news.  
Stir, strengthen, teach and inspire them to live your love  
with generosity and joy, imagination and courage;  
for the sake of your world  
and in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**We join together in the words our Saviour taught us as we say:**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*Reverend Andrew addresses the congregation.*

For everything there is a season; a time to go, and a time to come. Yet the Spirit blows where it will. And for those who are led by the Spirit, they must follow. God has blessed both St Eata's, St Giles and the wider community with three years of service by Stuart. He has been our curate, our co-worker in Christ, our counsellor, our teacher, our friend. With joy and sadness, we mark and celebrate the ending of his ministry with us.

Stuart you came amongst us as a deacon, together we shared in your ordination as a Priest throughout your curacy you have been called you to be a pastor, to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members, to announce God's forgiveness to us, to preside at our celebrations of the Lord's Supper, and to comfort us with the Gospel in times of sickness, trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. You have blessed couples as you have conducted their marriage services and been actively involved in the lives of our local schools. You have inspired others to be involved in Pray, bake and read. You have led and inspired many through starting Café church and been of immense value within Messy Church. You have been a technical wizard regard our Parish websites and Facebook pages! You have endured countless PCC meetings but equally you have helped many through the recent months of this pandemic through creating inspiring, thought provoking worship.

You have provided leadership and guidance for us in the spirit of Christ. You have challenged us with the Gospel mission in your work. You have helped us to mark our direction and encouraged us on our way. Together we have served the Lord and his Church in common devotion to the Gospel. Sharing in our joys and sorrows, you have been important to us in our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ.

*The Departing Minister addresses the congregation.*



People of God, you accepted and welcomed me to serve as a curate in this place, and now God has seen fit to lead me to another stage in my life and service. I praise God for the time which we have shared together. I have known your love and your patience. You have ministered to me as I have ministered to you. You have been my teacher as I have been yours. You have forgiven me as I have forgiven you. Hand-in-hand, we have walked in the light of Christ, and we have grown together in the Gospel. Our lives have been intertwined by the Holy Spirit, and I shall not forget all that we have shared together.

Reverend Andrew says:

In thanksgiving, let us pray for Stuart and for our life together. Eternal God:

**We thank you for Stuart and for our life together in our congregations and community. You have led him by the Holy Spirit to serve your people in this place, to build up your Church, and to glorify your name. We have worked in common for the sake of the Gospel. Together we have studied your Word.**

**Together we have broken bread and given thanks. In thanksgiving, we praise you for raising up faithful servants among us for the ministry of your Church. And we pray that Stuart may continue to exemplify, in word and deed, the Gospel of your Son. Grant that we, with him, may continue to serve you in the Church on earth, and be brought to rejoice in your kingdom forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Scripture tells us that endings are only new beginnings. Therefore, let us go forth, doing God's will in our respective places, for the sake of the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Go now, and do God's will. As you have been a blessing to us, go to be a blessing to others.**

Stuart: As you have been a blessing to me, so also may you be a blessing to others.

**All: Witness faithfully in word and deed to the love and salvation that is known to us.**

Stuart: Strive for righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness among yourselves.

**All: Give and receive comfort as you serve within the Church.**

Stuart: Give and receive comfort as you serve within the world.

**All: May God, the Father, bless you in your ministry in the parish of Christchurch, Wellington and Holy Spirit, Hadley .**

Stuart: May God, the Father, bless you in your ministry in both St Eata's and St Giles.

**All: May God, the Son, be ever with you and guide you.**

Stuart: May God, the Son, be ever with you and guide you.

**All: May God, the Holy Spirit, equip you with everything good to do God's will.**

Stuart: May God, the Holy Spirit, equip you with everything good to do God's will.

**Stuart and All: And may you always know God's peace. Amen! Amen!**



**Reverend Andrew prayers a Blessing upon Stuart, Vickie and Amelie.**

May God give you... For every storm, a rainbow,  
For every tear, a smile, for every care, a promise,  
And a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share,  
For every sigh, a sweet song,  
And an answer for each prayer and may God Bless you and each person with us this day, in the name of God, .....

Stuart, Vickie and Amelie, go forth from us all in the name of Peace.

**All: Thanks be to God, Amen. Amen.**

