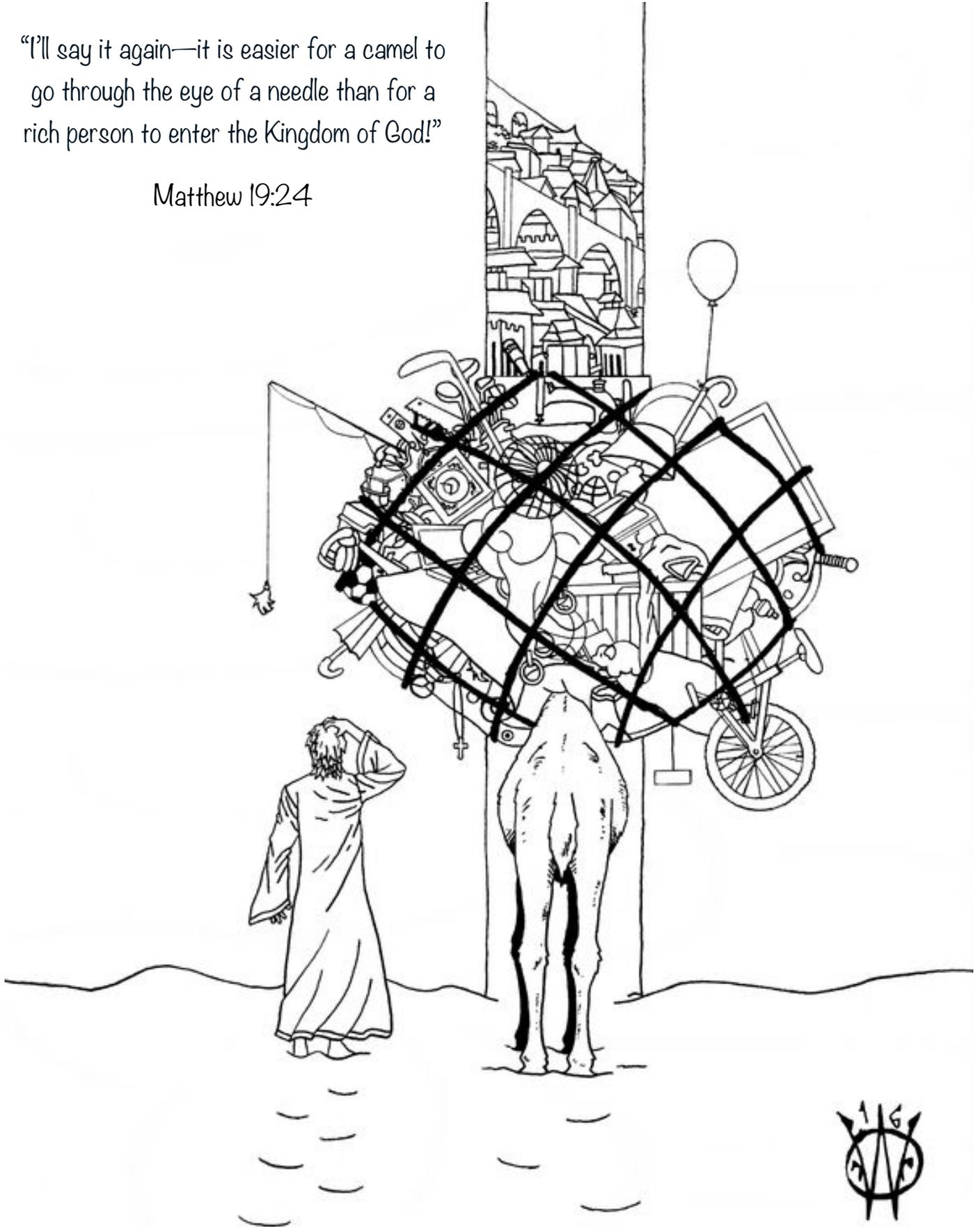


Connections

“I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

Matthew 19:24





Pastor's Pen With Pastor Mark

Dear GBC Faith Family,



I am so proud (in the right sense of the word) of all of you in our GBC Faith Family for making an extra effort to remain connected through this testing time. What a joy it was to be back together again at Pentecost for our first live service in 2 months.

So what has God been doing in and through this time? Why did God allow COVID19 in the first place? Why does bad stuff happen to good people?

As I mentioned in our last GBC newsletter, one of the effects of COVID19 has been like a plough breaking up hard self-reliant hearts and making them receptive to the seed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and there were 3500 people in one 'hard to reach' Asian area born again as a result. We see throughout the scriptures that God places the priority on our eternal wellbeing over our temporal comfort and pleasure. He uses the pain associated with living in a "fallen" world for our ultimate good. As Peter says in 1 Peter 1:3-9,

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Add to that, that God has made available to us the incredible privilege of prayer...the ability to bring about positive change in the midst of difficult times, and you can see that God doesn't abandon us when the going gets tough.

My prayer for us as we go through this next quarter is that we will be receptive to what God is saying to us by His Spirit as He communicates with us through our circumstances, through God's Word and through mature Christians. Paul tells us to be led by the Spirit. To do that we need to be listening to Him and perceiving what He is doing in, through and around us. We are living in an exciting time when God is on the move and those who listen to and respond to Him will be on the front seat of seeing Him doing some amazing things.

May God bless you with a hunger and thirst to know Him more and love Him above all else.

Pastor Mark.

OUR MISSION

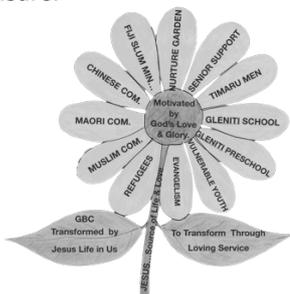


Connecting You With Life

We exist to nurture, empower and equip a community of Jesus followers, to be living signposts pointing those around us to Jesus Christ, the source of eternal life.

OUR VISION

Jesus is the source of life and love in us therefore faith, love, hope, joy and peace flows out from our church family, into our community and beyond, bringing God glory and pleasure.



COMMUNICATION

58 Gleniti Road, Timaru 7910

9am-12pm Tuesday & Friday

03 686 2829

gleniti.baptist@xtra.co.nz

www.glenitibaptist.org.nz

facebook.com/glenitibaptist

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zdxBXfUSJj6TbyGxC_LFwFel2gaeWWr8

ALL AGE WORSHIP

10AM Sundays

Gleniti Baptist Church
58 Gleniti Road, Timaru

All Welcome

Children & Youth

With Pastor Wendy

Children & Youth Ministries During Lock Down

8 weeks with no face to face gatherings.
18 young people. 19 children.
37 care packs created and delivered!
(see pics)



During lock down we've all had to do things differently, including Children's and Youth Ministries. Our Children's Ministry team pulled some extra Zoom meetings to work out how we could best continue to connect with our primary school aged children. We found a rhythm in our Sunday afternoon Zoom gatherings. As a team, we played to our strengths. Louise Erskine presented a cooking slot each week. We made chocolate cake, ANZAC biscuits, flat bread, smoothies, ice-cream and more! The recipes were shared in our Facebook group each week and the kids loved trying them out at home and sharing their results the next week. Mark Creba had a game for us each week. We played 20 questions, charades, Pictionary and others. All the while the banter between Mark and Simon kept us all entertained! Lisa had some great ways for helping us remember our memory verses. Mark would have had us sing everything to the tune of 'Happy Birthday' but fortunately more creative brains prevailed! Wendy took the teaching slots and after looking at Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we looked at a number of Jesus' parables. These Zoom sessions have had a great 'in your lounge room' feel to them and a particular bonus has been the extra interaction with parents and even grandparents!

Youth Ministry has also taken on a digit life. Dara did an awesome job posting challenges and alike on Instagram, keeping us frowning in confusion and laughing at our digital creations. (Have you ever tried to turn a potato into a Disney character?!) We joined with other youth groups for a massive online quiz challenge a couple of times. Wendy & Isaac found they made an effective team, especially when there was a movie category and a bible category. Dara and Hadassah also pulled off impressive results. We met by Zoom each Friday evening and discovered there were many games we could play while Zooming. We had scavenger hunts, quizzes, a very impressively coded escape room (#Dara'sgotskills!), online Pictionary, charades (there's some humorous video footage of that somewhere!) and more. We did play lots of games, but we also had some great conversations about truth and other topics. One of the cool things to come out of our lock down time was a new, weekly bible study via Zoom for our young people. We're currently working our way through Mark, using a couple of different models for how to read and study the bible, working on equipping young people to read and understand the bible for themselves. Prior to lock down, we probably wouldn't have considered a virtual bible study but having become well used to Zooming, it now feels like a viable option.

Toward the end of lock down we were able to deliver care packs to all our children and young people. Youth group has recommenced meeting on Friday evenings (and continues to Zoom bible study on Monday evenings) and we're looking forward to seeing all our children on a Sunday morning soon, but until then we'll continue to Zoom on Sunday afternoons.



Life Groups

You can be part of...



Famlan Life Group

6:30pm Monday Fortnightly

Location: Various

Hosts: Kathryn & Richard Robinson

Cell: 021 055 1379



Living in the Spirit Life Group

7pm Monday Nights

Location: Various

Hosts: Maurice & Susan Butler

Cell: 027 233 4316 / 027 843 1612



Tuesday Morning Life Group

10am Tuesday Mornings

Location: Various

Hosts: John & Lesley Holden

Cell: 021 0238 0945



Turners' Life Group

7:30pm Tuesday Nights

Location: Pleasant Point HW

Hosts: Kerry & Diane Turner

Cell: 027 488 2056 / 027 699 2510



Lagesse Life Group

7:30pm Wednesday Nights

Location: Gleniti

Hosts: Bruno & Martine Lagesse

Cell: 027 688 6196 / 021 169 1991



Timaru South Life Group

7:30pm Thursday Nights

Location: Parkside

Host: Elsie McDonald

Cell: 027 347 0261



Men's Life Group

7:30pm Friday nights

Location: Various

Host: Tony Shaw

Cell: 027 221 1537

Lockdown Reflections

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

1 Peter 5:7 NLT

A Word from God during Lockdown - 12 May 2020

Have you been listening to Me, My people?

When I allowed your usual activities to be stripped back, did you take the opportunity to turn to Me?

What did you use the extra time for?

Did you find any more time for Me?

Did you turn your ear to Me?

Did you open My Word and let Me speak in to your challenges?
your frustrations?

your disappointments?

Did you ask Me what I saw about this situation?

I want your heart, I want to be with you – you to be with Me.

I care about you and what you're going through now, and always.

I want you to **know** that I am **with** you, all the time.

I know what you're going through.

I know your needs, your desires.

I understand.

Look up, My children – look up and see what I am doing.

Behold, I am making all things new.

Look for Me at work in your life.

Listen to Me speaking to you as you go about your day.

Follow My heart, for you can do great things with Me.

Don't bury this and wait for My return.

Use it for My glory, and you will see what we can do together.

Miriam Morton

A Story

This story is just a story (not true), it was based on a story I read that was written about 100 years ago, and the message was so good. Jenny Scriggins.

I had a dream.

In my dream I said, "I wish we could go out and sit and have a coffee with my family and friends again. I wish I could go shopping. I wish I could visit grandchildren and great grandchildren."

Then an angel stood before me holding a key, and he said "My Master sends you His love, and asks me to give you this."

"What is it, I asked?"

"This key is to unlock the door so you can go back to what you did before lockdown."

Now I would be happy!

I came to the door and thought, "Now everyone will be happy, but as I was about to put the key in the lock, I stopped.

"What am I doing? Will the world just go back to racing on and never think of the Lord? Will I get busy again and forget about when families slowed down and shared so much more time together. Will I forget that we had opportunities to bless our neighbours. Will I forget that I had opportunities to encourage many of my Christian family with a phone call? Will I forget that I have had the opportunity to spending more time with the Lord. What a foolish wish I had."

Then the Lord stood before me.

He reached out His hand to take the key. As I put it into His hand, I saw it rested against the wound-print in His palm.

It hurt me to think that I grumbled against anything He had allowed to happen and bring us closer to Him, in His great love for me.

Then He took the key and hung it on His girdle." Do you keep all the keys of the plans and direction of our lives?" I asked Him.

"I do, my child." He answered graciously.

Then I looked again, and there hung all the keys of my life. He saw my look of amazement and asked me, "Did you not know, my child, that My Kingdom rules over all?"

"Yes, over all. My Lord!" I answered.

Then I knew it was not safe for me to grumble about anything, anything at all.

Then He put His hand gently on my shoulder and said, "My child, your only safety is, in everything, to love, and trust and praise."



Pentecost Prayer & Fasting - 30/31 May 2020

As our first week back at church approached since lockdown there was a real sense of anticipation of how God would move in our midst. Especially as we celebrated Pentecost where the Holy Spirit came in power upon the church.

A number in the church felt a call to pray and fast for 24 hours leading up to our first service. Some of us met corporately through this time for prayer, worship, fellowship, ministry, and witnessing. God moved powerfully in so many ways among us, people received deliverance from affliction, physical and emotional healing, anointing and prophecy.

This was a precious God ordained time which concluded with an anointed worship service, a rich presence and leading of the Holy Spirit. Looking forward to God's continual leading and drawing us closer into His presence.

Brendan Grantfc

Close Up With Alan Cunningham

Psalms 91:1-2 New Living Translation (NLT)

"Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him."

We sing about God being a good good father (and that He is) there's more than 260 references in the New Testament to God as father. Another chorus says, God is so good, God is so good, Good is so good. He is so good to me. I think it is fine to sing these words, but I encourage you every morning to speak out God's goodness, love, care, faithfulness, protection, provision and give thanks for them. Goodness is the very essence of God's nature. Also find one of the many promises in the Bible and hold on to it so you can recall it during the day when required.

Hebrews 13:15 (NLT),

Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name.

Every promise of God has come true, not a single one has failed. We are very fortunate here at GBC to have many prayer groups and intercessors standing in the gaps for others. When we pray God hears the desires and the cries of our heart, it has been said that our prayers move the hands of God, PRAYER IS POWERFUL. There are 375 verses in the Bible on prayer. I have experienced this power in my life recently knowing that others were praying for me, being lifted up and held in a safe and secure place.

For the 3 months prior to Christmas 2019 my body had been fighting infections because I had damaged my elbow while gardening at home, most likely a rose thorn or a splinter. Although a little uncomfortable I didn't take much notice of it until it started to discharge and become quite smelly. I felt embarrassed and asked two people from church was it okay for me to keep attending. It was time now to go to the doctor who put me onto antibiotics and sent me for an x-ray that was Tuesday – results on Thursday – referred to specialist at the hospital – could be at least one month's delay and may not even be seen before Christmas. I was rung on Friday with an appointment for Monday, biopsies taken and more antibiotics plus a referral for an MRI scan (sometime). Rung Wednesday morning and because of a cancellation could I please come straight away for a scan. Back to the specialist for the next two Fridays and because he felt it was best for me to see an orthopaedic surgeon I was off to him a week later. During this period my arm was dressed twice a week and because the antibiotics (even those extra recommended by Christchurch hospital) did not clear the infection and also the infection had travelled into the triceps tendon, an operation was scheduled for late January 2020.

A one night stay in hospital then home with my arm mobilised in a back-strap cradle extending from my wrist to nearly my armpit. Listening to my grandson I thought a back-strap was a nice cut of venison meat. The next nine weeks was quite difficult. Three weeks in the backstrap, two weeks in a cuff and collar sling, then four weeks with limited movement, to allow the outside of the wound to heal. As a very private person I don't accept help easily, but in this case I had no option to put my pride in my back pocket and humbly receive it.



I have been very grateful to the district nurses for their help and care in dressing and showering me. Also to family for their support, as I could not have managed on my own. During this time in a conversation with Pastor Wendy she mentioned the word patience. This word made me think of a time many years ago when the Lord told me he was going to teach me patience. If anyone else had heard that conversation they would have laughed and said "You must be joking", or "That will be a miracle", because I grew up a very angry man, with a temper. Over a period of time I became healed of both.

Patience was required for both Jenny and I, while we were working through her years of sickness (cancer and stroke). In her later years after developing epilepsy I became her full-time caregiver, and I surely needed the extra patience that the lord had so graciously gifted me, to be able to cope.

Romans 5:3-4 (NLT),

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens out confident hope of salvation.

In life if you get thrown a curve ball, and you surely will, remember God loves you as one of His children. Put your trust in Him and, hold His hand, and He will walk you through trial to the other side. He will not leave you. BELIEVE. After coming through this period in my life, I have found a new peace and contentment that comes from a greater appreciation and understanding, that in and through Jesus Christ, all I need I already have. God is Good.

ANZAC

Another Type of Sacrifice for Peace

I never knew my paternal grandfather. Over the years I've learnt a bit about him.

As a Methodist Minister, Hedley White was moved on every 3 years or so, to a new pastorate – anywhere in New Zealand – as decided by a governing board (although ministers could state a preference).

In 1940, during the Second World War, my grandfather arrived at Tauranga Methodist Church.

World War II was colouring the whole spectrum of New Zealand life, including the churches. Tauranga Methodist Church displayed pictures on the vestibule wall of men on war service.

Hedley was a member of the New Zealand Christian Pacifist Society and pledged absolutely to refuse to have any participation or support for war.

It was said of my grandfather:

"Hedley was not argumentative. He did not flaunt his views before the congregation. His preaching was always solid, treating the basic truths of the faith. But this did not fit the jingoistic patriotism of the time or the attitude of some of the local church leaders."

In October 1941, the church quarterly meeting decided that they did not require Rev White for the third year of his posting, and asked for another minister to be appointed to the Tauranga church.

Despite many churches being without a minister, no suitable appointment could be found for Hedley White.

Because of his stand against war, he had no job – and no home. He and his family made a *different type of sacrifice for peace*.

With his invalid wife and the three youngest children, he moved back to Carterton, staying with one of their adult daughters, her husband and their 3 young children.

After 30 years in church work, my grandfather found heavy labouring work – spending Monday to Friday away in the Hutt Valley.

In late 1942 he was able to get a local job in a clerical role for a vegetable growing project, where Japanese prisoners from the Featherston Prisoner of War camp worked. (As this was not a usual military activity, it was not against his pacifist principles).

He struck up friendships with some of the Japanese men, and shared his faith with them. He led at least one of them, Torao Fujimoto, to faith in Jesus.

The friendship and discipleship endured, by letter, over the years, continued on by the next generation.

Fifty years after Torao and Hedley first met, my parents had a visit from a friend of the Fujimoto family, a Christian pastor, who had a message from Torao Fujimoto: *"I was given eternal life in spite of giving up my life for the war, through Jesus Christ and Rev. White"*

Enduring fruit, enduring friendship – because of my grandfather's sacrifice for peace.

Miriam Morton



Where the Poppies Now Grow



*Where poppies now grow
On vast fields
Where once there were
Bodies strewn in blood
Freedom fighters from long ago
Brave young boys going to the unknown
Bayonets piercing into flesh
a smoke covered sky
men crying out
a hand rising up from the mud
a sea of destruction, fires burning, such an
unnecessary loss of life
lifeless bodies, eyes open wide, covered in filth
the stench of death
Where poppies now grow,
rows and rows of white crosses
a lament to those who have fallen
the bugler standing on a hill
on the going down of the sun
"We will remember them"*



By Susan Butler

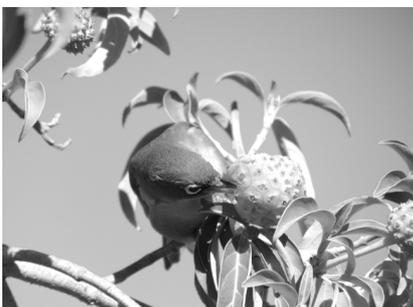
Creative Space

Diamond Artwork - mosaic artform, painter creates a painting by sticking small resins that sparkle on a canvas that has corresponding numbers. By Sue Milford & Jenny Krouse.



Wonder - Reflection & photos by Deanna Grant.

Waves crashing gently onto the shore
The beach is peaceful, calming, but making a soul feel so alive.
As the sun sets behind the shadowy mountain ranges, filling the sky with glorious, vibrant colour,
Birds fly over the sea, soaring, dipping, searching for food.
The radiant sky dimming slowly to dusk,
Stars starting to twinkle and shine merrily,
The cheerful moon shimmering prettily too.
As the night fades into another wonderful day,
The sun rises majestically once more, painting the sky with exquisite pink hue.
Autumn's colours radiantly wondrous to the eye.
My heart fills with mesmerising wonder, so much captivating beauty in the world to see.
God is an incredible artist, with the intricate beauty of all nature and wildlife so fetching and dazzling.
Creation is an incredibly breath-taking masterpiece.
Just to know amongst all this enthralling splendour,
You were created, and so wonderfully beautiful too.



STAFF

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Tony Shaw 027 221 1537
Karen Munnings 021 265 3452
Denyse Taylor 03 686 1632
Grant Taylor 03 686 1632

Elders

John Davey 03 684 6250
Brendan Grant 03 686 0444
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MINISTRY CONTACTS

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Pastoral Care

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Louise Davies 03 688 8241

Rest Home Services

Veronica Tompkins 03 686 0656

Senior Support

Carolyn McLoughlin 03 684 7372

Worship Team

Mark Pavelka 03 684 8985

Youth Ministry

Wendy Geerling 03 686 2829

Upcoming Events

You are welcome to join us for the following...



GBC Quarterly Meeting

Gleniti Baptist Church
10 June 19:00



Chess Tournament

Gleniti Baptist Church
20 June 10:00



Family Movie Night

Gleniti Baptist Church
26 June 19:00



Barn Dance

Gleniti Baptist Church
17 July 19:00



Understanding Islam

Gleniti Baptist Church
25 July 09:00



GBC Conference 2020

Gleniti Baptist Church
7 August 10:00



GLENITI BAPTIST CHURCH

CONNECTING YOU WITH LIFE