**Where is God in Christchurch?**

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**By the Rev Andy Eldred, Vicar of St Luke's, Greytown**

As the tears run down the dusty faces

and the earth shakes beneath frightened feet

When the clouds of smoke from ruined places

rise over destruction so complete

There is a question

Where is God?

Some believe that God's not there Or entirely non-existent

Some are angry that it's so unfair that God's love seems inconsistent

Some believe that God is mean and made the earth to shake

Some believe that Judgement is the reason for the quake

Still others cling to hope and faith as cathedral spires fall

For they understand what Jesus taught about God's love for all

The answer to the question is striking in its clarity

God is in the hearts and minds of all who think with charity

God is in the hugs of love and comfort in the sadness

God is in the words of hope that speak above the madness

God is in the rescuers who work all through the night

God is in the leaders who are trying to do what's right

God is in the food that's given lovingly at no cost

God is in the businesses who choose to take a loss

God is in the neighbor with a shovel in his hand

God is in the gifts that come from all across our land

God is in the parent's arms that hold their children close

God is in the wisdom to know what matters most

There is another question we should ask ourselves today

When all the graves are covered and the rubble is cleared away

Will things go back to normal to the way they always were?

Where profit more than people is what makes us feel secure?

Perhaps the saddest thing will be after all the grief and fear

Is that it all go goes back to normal and we forget that God is here