



**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Sunday 22 December**

**"Being the Gospel to all People"**

A very warm welcome is extended  
to all visitors to St Johns.

Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy some time with us.

**Today's theme: "Lessons and Carols"**

**Focus Scripture: 8 Lessons containing the whole story of Christmas**



At the end of our Advent journey a Saviour is born. As we think anew about our dreams, our sense of belonging to God's family, and the mysteries and miracles of the Holy Spirit, may we also consider, as we approach the manger, the ways we need a saviour. From what are we saved? For what are we saved?

**John 1: 1-14 (NIV) What the Story of Christmas Means**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his

**WORSHIP NEXT: 24 December Christmas Eve 7pm Family Focus**

**24 December Christmas Eve 10:30 pm Carols Singing**

**24 December Christmas Eve 11pm Communion Service**

**25 December Christmas Day Communion Service**

## **Sunday Worship: 29 December Worship Service**

**Theme:** Orientation, Disorientation, Reorientation

**Focus Scripture:** Psalm 148

**Other Readings:** Isaiah 63:7-9, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

**Prayer Points:** Sheila as she recovers from her shoulder operation; George Morrison as he recovers from the removal of a growth on his kidney; Marie Davis for her recovery with her ongoing hip issues, John Pybus for the serious bruising on his leg, Steven Chaplin for a speedy recovery (shoulder/s) after being squished between a car and a bus, while riding his bike home from work, and for the car driver. Joy Rzoska with her ongoing medical concerns whilst in hospital.

## **CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:**

### **The remaining December Advent Services will look like this:**

Today, Sunday 22nd at 9:30 am is our Lessons and Carols service.

Tuesday 24th at 7 pm is our Family focused Christmas Eve service.

Tuesday 24th at 10:30 pm we have a half hour of carol singing and then at 11 pm our traditional Christmas Eve service with Communion.

Tuesday 25th at 9:30 am we have our Christmas day worship celebration (with Holy Communion)

The season of Advent closes on Christmas Eve and the season of Christmas begins.

Sunday 29th December at 9:30 am is a return to regular worship.

**Christmas Donation's 2013 are for the Sea Ambulance Boat for the Helena Goldie Hospital in the Solomon Islands.** Leadership Team also agreed that we will add the 10% Thanksgiving Offering donation to what is given as cash offerings in our Christmas Services.



**Dr. Graham Longbottom says the needs are to repair the boat, improve the canoe shed with slipway winches and simple solar power system. Costs est. \$ NZ\$ 42,000.**

The Sea Ambulance is the only way of transferring patients for advanced medical treatment in the nearest provincial hospital in Gizo. It takes 1 hour and 30 minutes by sea ambulance in normal condition. Our support from New Zealand will be of help to improve this facility. With your contribution to the fund you can be a participant in this mission.

**Our Web site is up and running** – go on line and have a look [www.stjohnsbb.org.nz](http://www.stjohnsbb.org.nz)

**CHURCH TV** : This week on [www.anglicantv.net](http://www.anglicantv.net) Thank you for your wonderful support during the year, it has been great working with you. One final bulletin insert for the year: "Everyone, from every background and point of view, is invited to the great celebration of Christmas. Join us on [www.anglicantv.net](http://www.anglicantv.net) for a big Merry Christmas from HMNZS Te Mana.

**REAL LIFE:** This Sunday night (22nd December) John Cowan's guest will be deputy Prime Minister, the **Hon Bill English**.

**CBA is again going to be broadcasting** from 6pm-12midnight on Christmas Eve and from 6am – 6pm on Christmas Day this year nationwide on Newstalk ZB & Radio Sport. It's going to be an action packed 18 hours of radio with special guests, theologians, and a bit of fun.... and we hope you'll encourage your church to get their non-Christian friends, family, and neighbours to tune in.

### **State of St John's financial position at the 30/11/2013**

	Month of November 2013		1 July 2013 → 30 November 2013	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
EXPENSES	13,470.38	17,997.00	73,859.34	86,249.00
INCOME	12,523.19	14,977.00	79,734.41	80,198.00
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	<b>(947.19)</b>	<b>(3,020.00)</b>	<b>5,875.07</b>	<b>(6,051.00)</b>

Comments (November):

- **"Free Will Offerings" for the month of November** fell short of Budget by (\$1,733.17).
- **"Free Will Offerings" for the five months [year to-date]** are short of Budget by (\$5,560.95).
- The significant reduction in funds received over the first five months of this financial has seriously affected St John's cash flow.
- For the first time in several years we had to defer payment of several invoices at the close of November. These invoices have been held over for payment in December.
- Early forecasting of Offerings and other income for the month of December indicates that cash flow will be extremely tight again. There is a significant risk that further deferment of payment of expenses for the months of December and January will be necessary. The Finance Team are reviewing the situation regularly.

Please continue to pray for an improvement in our immediate financial situation while continuing to give thanks to our wondrously gracious LORD for the gifts that he bestows upon us here at St Johns.