



**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Sunday 30 March 2014**

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

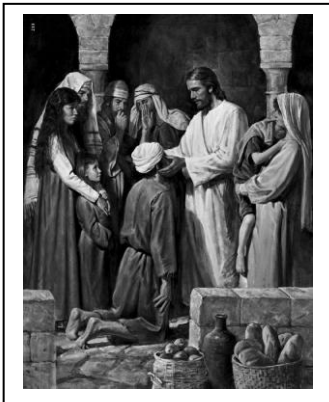
A very warm welcome is extended  
to all visitors to St Johns.

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

**Today's theme:** "Learning to See"

**Focus Scripture** John 9: 1-41

**Other Readings:** Psalm 23



The disciples' question about who sinned to cause the man's blindness reflects the current opinion of the time, but Jesus dismisses it. Neither the man nor his parents sinned. In fact, the man's blindness can become an opportunity to reveal God's healing activity. Jesus sums up the meaning of the events: those who are convinced of their own correct sight are demonstrating that they are actually blind to the activity of God in their midst. The willfully blind are the sinners, not the physically blind.

#### **John 9:1-15 (NIV): Jesus heals the blind man**

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

## **NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 16 March 2014**

**Theme:** "Raised up"

**Focus Scripture:** John 11:1-45

Other Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11

**Prayer Points:** Please pray for: George Morrison with more recent complications from his surgery; Ray Chisholm with his illness; Dorothy Sinclair with her recovery after ankle surgery.

### **CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:**

**DAYLIGHT Saving changes next weekend, 6<sup>th</sup> April.** As my memory aid is 'Spring forward, Fall back' we must be changing our clocks **back** an hour. See you at Church at 9:30 am!!!

### **Preparing Ourselves for Easter**

**1 Worship Services:** This year we have incorporated into Sunday worship during Lent and at Easter a liturgy designed to help prepare ourselves for this key time of the Christian year. We are moving through the season of Lent with lit Lenten candles but each week we are extinguishing a candle so our light is slowly fading into darkness as did Jesus' life. On Good Friday the Christ candle will be extinguished as we recall Jesus death and suffering, to be relit on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the risen Christ and the transforming power of God.

The weekly liturgy offers a short time for personal reflection, followed by the extinguishing of a candle before we pray together. The Christian Education Team prays that this will be a time of blessing and spiritual renewal for you.

**2 Lenten Worship Focus:** At the front of the worship room is our Lenten display that is added to each week. It began with an attempting to remind us of a beach, sand, shells and drift-wood leading our eye to the deeper blue of the horizon. As Island people we do not live in deserts, in wilderness's that for instance enable us to quickly identify with Jesus desert wilderness experience or the more traditional Church Lenten language. We do have the wild expanse of the ocean, the freedom of the beach, the wave and wind scatterings along the shore.... The prayerful hope is that we walk towards Easter mindful of the call of these six weeks to deliberately examine our inner self the image of the wilderness of our sea will provide a place for spiritual engagement between God and self. A walking stick for a blind person is added this week to remind us of the man who was given his sight by Jesus....

**3 Lenten Studies:** Lenten studies booklets are available for those who wish to use them for their own personal or family devotions.

**Men's Group:** The group is now meeting on Monday nights (7.00 – 9.00 pm) at 1/57 Mellons Bay Rd. We meet for a chat, a cup of tea or coffee, prayer and bible study. We are beginning the year with an exciting study of Book of Acts. Any new members are welcome. If you have any queries, please contact Bob Williamson, Ian Dittmer or Alan Vickers.

**END OF FINANCIAL TAXATION YEAR: 31 March 2014** For those who make their “OFFERINGS” using the St John’s “ENVELOPE” System, Sunday March 30 is the last Sunday to have your “OFFERING” included in the receipt total for your 2014 “ENVELOPE” donations rebate claim. For those who make their “OFFERINGS” using the “ONLINE” banking system, Monday March 31 will be the last day to have your “OFFERING” included in the receipt total for your 2014 donations rebate claim. “DONATIONS REBATE RECEIPT” It is planned that individual member receipt’s for the financial year ended 31March 204 will be available for collection with your new year’s envelopes on Sunday April 6. If anyone requires clarification, advise or assistance regarding this important event, please contact Jeannine 534 2305 or Peter Hancock 535 5355

**Quiet Day** On Saturday April 12 from 1 - 5pm Chris Skinner will lead us in worship, music and quiet reflection on the theme of “Christ with Us: Stepping into Holy Week” This will be an opportunity to help us prepare ourselves for Easter. Cost \$10. Signup sheet in foyer or contact Loas on 533 0670

**Website Serving Rosters Access:** We have put the monthly rosters on the website, please contact Jeannine for login details.

**Mainly Music Team** would like to share that Grace Corbett has stepped down from leading Mainly Music after 7 years. She has accepted part-time employment which precludes her from being available for us. We want to say THANK YOU to her – it has been a fantastic time of fun and sharing the Gospel with a pinch of worry for flavour 😊. Go well Grace and return soon please. So we have a prayer request for a new member of the MMTeam – and just maybe a new presenter please.

**Anglican TV :** “The little things we do can mean so much to others. We become the light of the world in its darkness. This week on [www.anglicantv.net](http://www.anglicantv.net) we explore little random acts of kindness

**Real Life:** This Sunday night (30 March) John Cowan's guest will be CJ Bruton Basketballer

#### **State of St John’s financial position at the 28/02/2014 Comments (February):**

- “Free Will Offerings” for the month of February exceeded Budget by \$232.46.
- “Free Will Offerings” for the seven months [year to-date] are short of Budget by (\$7,897.66).
- As at the 28<sup>th</sup> of February we had managed to clear all outstanding invoices and to return the final \$500.00 of the \$1,000.00 borrowed from the Roof Fund at the end of December to assist with cash flow at that time.

February 2014	Actual	Budget
EXPENSES	12,117.62	16,768.00
INCOME	14,578.49	14,977.00
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	<b>2,460.87</b>	<b>(1,791.00)</b>

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