



Weekly Newsletter Sunday 1 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: “Listen, God is Calling - Peace”

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5

Other readings: Matthew 24:36-44



Isaiah could have painted a picture of a time to come when all the nations will only lay down their weapons and live in peace. But acting out God's peace, it seems, means more than just quitting conflict. Crucial to Israel's prophecy is the more active, participatory nature of peacemaking; all must make the journey to a common table to unlearn war. Martin Luther King Jr.'s wisdom echoes loudly: “Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice.” Seeking justice means action, and the verbs the nations use in verse three (“go up,” “teach,” and “walk”) illustrate this powerfully.

Isaiah 2:1-5 (NIV)

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

NEXT WEEK: 8 December

Theme: "Christmas Story" : Nativity Play

Prayer Points: Please pray for: Avril and her knee replacement's healing; 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.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

Leadership Team Notice for the congregation concerning the process of Ministry Extension. This notice is given by Joan Rutherford as People's Warden and Alan Vickers as Session Clerk.

The Northern Presbytery Council approved the 2 recommendations from the Ministry Review committee: That the Ministry of Rev Lorraine Francis be extended for up to 5 years at St Johns; and that St Johns Co Operating Parish have the Methodist Church of New Zealand as the Coordinating Partner for the next 5 years.

Leadership Team is calling a congregational meeting today, Sunday 1st December 2013, to ask the congregation to accept Mr Bob Williamson as our nomination for the position of Presbytery Elder.

PRAYER CHAIN Please note that the prayer chain has been updated and the new lists are in your pigeon holes.

THE GIFT – Live concert on the big screen.

The Gift: A fun live concert for all. Dress up if you like, for a night out at the "ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre" @ St Johns. There will be light refreshments, wine, coffee, soft drinks etc.

A DVD on the large screen. Live at Slane Castle Ireland, Celtic Woman, A new Journey.

A night of singing, orchestra, choir and percussion, presenting Celtic Music including Hayley Westenra.

Show will commence at 6.30pm on Saturday 21st December 2013. Entry \$5.00 or

\$10.00 per couple or family [Which includes FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER 16]

Show will last approximately two hours with a 15 minute interval included.

Photography during the performance is not permitted and mobile phones must be turned off.

Our Web site is up and running – go on line and have a look www.stjohnsbbs.org.nz Let us know what you think!

Prayer Room 2013: "Listen - God is Calling" - this is the title of our prayer weekend this weekend - Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December. Come along and focus on praying for our church and our families and friends for the coming festive season. A signup sheet will be available soon and will be posted in the foyer so that you can choose your time. This will be a very small and simply decorated prayer area in the Worship room. If you are interested in helping us build the space or contribute in any way, contact me 021-1194446 - Janetta

Church Decoration for Advent: A group of us are meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 4th December to decorate the church for our Advent/Christmas season. All are welcome, just turn up on the night, many hands make light work. We will more than likely have a break for pizza, so that we still have some energy to get the creative juices flowing. We will remind you all nearer the time through another notice and also during "Our Life Together" – Janetta

Special Request from the Middlemore Hospital Chaplain Can we supply a Chaplaincy Team on Sunday 29 December to help transport patients to Worship please. We need a keyboardist, wheelchair operators and warm friendly smiles... Please contact Lorraine **ASAP**, if you know you will be around and able to help in this ministry. Thank you Lorraine

CHURCH TV : " Live the Advent journey as a child. This week on www.anglicantv.net, the unexpected Christmas, the story behind the story. Great for sharing with a friend

REAL LIFE: This Sunday night (1st December) John Cowan's guest will be the leader of the opposition, the Honourable **David Cunliffe**.

Carol singing on 17th December. Gather in carpark at 6pm for a 6.15pm departure (earlier because we have more stops this year). Ending as usual at Dannemora Gardens for singing and supper.

Tamaki Sports Academy offers mentoring, coaching, and work experience to South Auckland youth who have dropped out of the mainstream school system but show some sporting talent. A major fundraiser for the academy, and an excellent source of work experience for our members, is the free metal collection service we offer. We will pick up any old metal - computers, whiteware, roofing iron, metal piping, venetian blinds, batteries, car panels, cars, metal shelving, filing cabinets, machinery, lawnmowers, engines, and so on. If you do have any metal rubbish to get rid of, we are keen to pick it up for you. It is a win-win for both of us. Thank you to everyone in advance, and to those who have donated metal to us previously. Many thanks Tricia Ph 027 5105890.

Pakuranga Choral Society presents 'The reason for the season', All Saints church Howick 2pm Sunday 8 December. Adults \$25 Seniors \$20 Students \$10 tickets available at the door. For more info the flyer is on the column in the foyer.

State of St John's financial position at the 31/10/2013

	Month of October 2013		1 July 2013 → 31 October 2013	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
EXPENSES	14,195.34	17,096.00	60,388.96	68,252.00
INCOME	14,652.06	14,975.00	67,211.22	65,221.00
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	456.72	(2,121.00)	6,822.26	(3,031.00)

Comments (October):

- "Free Will Offerings" for the month of October **fell short of budget by (\$2,157.40).**
- "Free Will Offerings" for the four months [year to-date] **are short of Budget by (\$3,827.78)**
- The operating profit for October shows in the schedule above as being **\$456.72**. This figure includes the final "Thanksgiving Offering" gifting transacted within October of \$570.00. This \$570.00 was transferred to the "Special Purpose Saving Heating Fund" bank account in early November.
- With the transfer of the \$570.00 to the "Special Purpose Saving Heating Fund" we show an actual **operating loss of (\$113.28) for October.**
- **It is confirmed that the "THANKSGIVING OFFERING" TOTAL GIFTING FOR 2013 was \$5,933.00 which is an awesome result.**
- In line with our tradition of donating 10% of the annual "Thanksgiving Offering" to others outside our immediate congregation, the amount of \$593.00 will be forwarded to a Charity [yet to be determined by the Leadership Team] in early 2014.
- We continue to experience extremely tight cash flow and this will continue into December as we continue to pay off several large accounts amongst which is the account for the completion of the special engineering earthquake structural assessment report, our financial audit and annual Northern Presbytery dues.

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