



## Weekly Newsletter Sunday 3 November

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

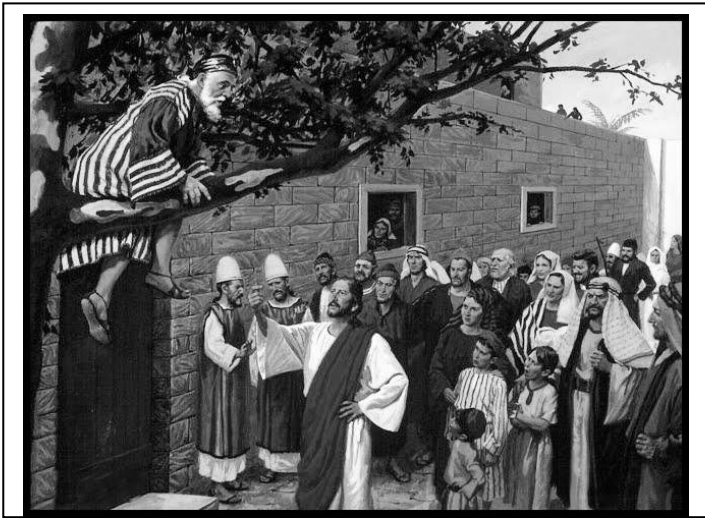
A very warm welcome is extended to all visitors to St Johns.

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

**Today's theme: "The Strength of Our Witness"**

**Focus Scripture:** Luke 19: 1-10

**Other readings:** Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4



We witness to the power of God's love when we give of ourselves and trust in the message of Christ. This week's readings show individuals who witness through their zeal, hospitality, and forbearance. Consider the many ways we can tend to and witness to God's love.

In an age of self-promotion in social networks such as Facebook and Twitter, and a need for churches to stay relevant through online media, how do we (and can we) guard against the trappings of appearances and spend more time on authentic relationships?

**Zacchaeus meets Jesus: Luke 19: 1-10 (NIV).**

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

**NEXT WEEK: 10 November**

**Theme:** "Praise God"

**Focus Scripture:** Psalm 145: 1-5, 17-21

**Other readings:** Luke 20: 27-38

**Prayer Points:** Please pray for: Avril and her knee replacement's healing; Sheila as she recovers from her shoulder operation; our monthly finances which were short last month; the freshly elected Leadership Team; George Morrison as he recovers from the removal of a growth on his kidney; Reece, Jeannine's husband recovering from knee surgery; Jack (from Youth Band) VarnDell's family on the death of his Grandpa in the UK.

## **CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:**

**Leadership Team Notice for the congregation concerning the process of Ministry Extension:** Active members of the parish have been encouraged to express their views on the extension of Lorraine's ministry to the Leadership Team in the weeks before the review on 3 November. See the hand out on the Church Foyer desk. An informal meeting of the congregation and Leadership Team will be held immediately after the morning service today, Sunday 3rd November for the congregation to express their views in a group situation.

Notice is hereby given that there will be a special meeting of the Leadership Team tonight, 3rd November at 6pm and a further special meeting of the Leadership Team and the Review Team at 7pm. This notice is given by Joan Rutherford as People's Warden and Alan Vickers as Session Clerk.

**Congratulations to Melissa and Gershwin** on the announcement of their engagement. What exciting news, our prayers for your future together.

**Our Web site is up and running** – go on line and have a look [www.stjohnsbb.org.nz](http://www.stjohnsbb.org.nz) Let us know what you think! A huge thank you to Steven Chaplin, who designed and made it an original Stjohnsbb site - well done.

**GIRLS BRIGADE: CHRISTMAS Inspiration Evening: 7 pm, 14 November 2013:** Join us for an enjoyable fundraising evening for our Area of Girls Brigade. Get yourself prepared for Christmas by the Christmas Heirloom Company Demonstration night at 24 Marua Rd Ellerslie. Tickets \$15 each – includes nibbles. Please order your tickets by 27 September. For tickets, contact Julie Dickey: 5355814 or 0274925659 or email: [juliedickey@ews.net.nz](mailto:juliedickey@ews.net.nz) For a ride please talk to Lorraine on Sunday's.

**Prayer Room 2013: "Listen - God is Calling"** - this is the title of our prayer weekend on the Weekend of 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, I will have a meeting after worship next Sunday 11th Nov, or 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

**Clendon Christian Pre-School notice.** Tessa has started work here as an early Childhood Teacher and would like any donations we can offer please... So any old clothing, plastic-ware, ice-cream tubs, plastic lids, anything they can use for art activities, even any old furniture etc. There is a box in the Church foyer or ring Tessa on her mobile 0211949334.

**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

**TRADE AID STALL OPEN THIS SUNDAY** After church today, there will be a stall selling a range of Trade Aid's products including coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and a selection of dried fruits.

**Ourhouse@stjohns.** Come next Monday 4 November at 9.30 am for our work day. Light activities for one hour followed by morning tea , or coffee, and a chat. A time to take pride in our house. Tasks could include , tree trimming, window cleaning, sweeping paths, tidying a corner, weeding the memorial garden, cleaning in the kitchens, dusting and of course chit chat. As always, many hands make light work etc. Please bring your own cleaning gear, gardening tools, sweeping equip or tools to suit your ability and skills.

**CHURCH TV :** This week on [www.anglicantv.net](http://www.anglicantv.net) "Just like New Zealand parents with a new born, with friends and family the future king of New Zealand is christened

**REAL LIFE:** This Sunday night (3rd November) John Cowan's guest will be legendary broadcaster, **Leighton Smith** (to be confirmed).

#### State of St John's financial position at the 30/09/2013

	Month of September 2013		1 July 2013 → 30 September 2013	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
EXPENSES	14,914.93	17,875.00	46,193.62	51,156.00
INCOME	23,979.01	20,795.00	52,559.16	50,746.00
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	<b>9,064.08</b>	<b>2,920.00</b>	<b>6,365.54</b>	<b>(410.00)</b>

#### Comments (September):

- "Free Will Offerings" for September exceeded budget for the month by **\$822.50**
- "Free Will Offerings" for the first three months [year to-date] are behind budget by **(\$1,670.38)**
- The operating surplus for September is recorded in the above schedule as being **\$9,064.08**.
- However, this \$9,064.08 includes the "Thanksgiving Offering" gifting transacted during September of \$5,363.00 as well as a special anonymous gift of \$1,000.00 [dedicated to the Heating Fund] being a total of \$6,363.00. This means that the true "Operational "surplus for September was **\$2,701.08**.
- The \$6,363.00 will be transferred to the "Special Purpose Saving Heating Fund" bank account in early October.
- **THANKSGIVING TOTAL GIFTING FOR 2013 was \$5,933.00**. This was an awesome response.
- 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] in early 2014.
- Cash flow through September was extremely tight and this condition is expected to continue through October and November.

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