



**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Sunday 5 January 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:** Christmas 2, Epiphany

**Focus Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12

**Readings:** Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians:1-12



**EPIPHANY:** As brightly as the story's star, the Epiphany opens up the stellar power of God's coming to humanity, and our awkward, dramatic, unlikely fumbling toward the Divine. We see the rewards of leaving the comfort zone of one's own faith and of interfaith cooperation, the penalties for missing the signs of other seekers, and the ways all of us are Herod, all of us are the magi, and all of us long for power

### **Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV) The Magi Visit the Messiah**

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem<sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.<sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.<sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.<sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## **Sunday Worship: 12 January 2014**

**Theme:** 1<sup>st</sup> after the Epiphany – Turning Points

**Focus Scripture:** Matthew 3:13-17

**Other Readings:** Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43

**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:**

**Our Christmas Donation's for 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. There will be no Bulletin this week.

**REAL LIFE:** This Sunday night there will be no bulletin. Thank you for a wonderful year.

## 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.

