



St John's
Being the Gospel to all People

Weekly Newsletter
20 December 2015 Advent 4

“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.

A Lessons and Carols Service

Today's Theme: “Mary and Joseph” – Advent 4

Readings: Luke 1:26-28

Other Readings: Psalm 80 :1-7; Isaiah 9:1-7

Luke 1:26-28 New International Version
(NIV)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.”



NEXT WEEK: 24 December Christmas Eve Service 7pm
24 December Carol Singing and Worship 10.30pm
25 December Christmas Day 9.30am

Christmas Theme is: Sunday 27 December 9.30am

Focus Scripture: Psalm 148

Other Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Prayer points: Please pray for: Little Cubs Kindy for more children, they need at least 15 more children for the New Year. Brenda Ryan with ongoing health issues. Our church family and their safe travels during the Christmas Holidays.

CHURCH PHONE BOOK:- On the table in the foyer is a copy of the last phone book that was issued. I have made a few changes and updates so if you could please confirm and sign that your details are correct and if not make the changes in pen. We also need to ask you to confirm that if we have taken your photo at a Church function we can put it on the web page. If you would sign to confirm that this is ok next to your address. Once the details are all confirmed I will re-print a new book. Thank you Jeannine

Christmas and Sunday Services for December 2015:

December 20th 9:30 pm is our Lessons and Carols Service in the morning.

7pm is our Blue Christmas service.

December 24th 7 pm is our Family Christmas Service

10:30 pm Carol singing

11 pm Christmas Eve Service.

December 25th 9:30 am Christmas Day Service.

December 27th 9:30 am Is back to regular Sunday worship!

Please invite friends and family to join you and us in these special times of remembering Our Coming Saviour, celebrating the coming of our Saviour and looking to his coming again.

Christmas Eve Singers – please come and join the Youth Band singing carols on Christmas Eve from 10:30pm. Practice is 7-9 pm Tuesday 22 Dec.

Giving is down almost 15% on our budget forecast which is requiring us to defer maintenance. If you are able, please review your giving and if you would like to join the envelope system or to move to Direct Credit giving please talk to Bob Williamson or Brannie Ma."

Christmas Charity 2015 – What our cash offerings will support.

The Leadership Team have determined our Christmas Charity this year is to support Tear Fund. They fund 5 causes: Protect; Sponsor; Restore; Empower; and Nourish. They believe communities have the best solutions to their problems, so they identify local organisations around the world to partner with and empower, to affect positive change. You can go on line and explore more of their work at <https://tearfundwebuat01.azurewebsites.net/Our-Work.aspx>

Our specific support is for the "Protect" cause of 'Anti-trafficking and Exploitation'



Tear fund believes people are not commodities so they combat human trafficking to protect people from slavery and exploitation.

A Learn More Fact:



\$150 billion (USD)

Is the annual profit generated through human trafficking and slavery. Of that, sexual exploitation generates \$99 billion

Christmas Charity continued...

You can learn more by typing in this address:

<https://tearfundwebuat01.azurewebsites.net/Our-Work/Anti-Trafficking-Exploitation.aspx>

Tear Fund says: Human trafficking is organised criminal activity that deceives and coerces people into slavery. The vast majority of victims are vulnerable women and children trapped in poverty, who are robbed of their freedom and dignity.

Tearfund has a deep compassion for the oppressed and a yearning for justice. We believe the exploitation of poor and vulnerable people is a gross injustice that must be confronted.

What we're doing

We take a holistic and comprehensive approach in dealing with human trafficking and exploitation. Through our partners, who are fighting trafficking and slavery in Southern and Southeast Asia, we're:

- Helping to protect people vulnerable to trafficking by running empowerment and education programmes.
- Assisting authorities to break the criminal networks behind trafficking and slavery to set victims free.
- Working with local law enforcement to help prosecute the traffickers and brothel owners to prevent further people from becoming enslaved.
- Giving survivors a safe place to heal and recover, and restoring their dignity through rehabilitation.

More facts:

1 – 2% The number of victims that are ever rescued

22%

Of 21 million people enslaved in the world are sexually exploited

Without demand for pornography or prostitution there would be no sex trafficking

12 years Is the average age of a victim of sexual trafficking and this is getting younger