



## Weekly Newsletter Sunday 17 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 Kingdom of God Has Come Near”**

**Focus Scripture:** Isaiah 65: 17-25

**Other readings:** Isaiah 12, Luke 25:1-8



This passage from Isaiah pulls together themes of judgment and salvation that run through the entire book. Verses 19–23 address the atrocities and suffering experienced during times of war, while the closing scene recalls the creation story set in the Garden of Eden, and suggests a radical reversal. Whereas the first human rebellion led to violence and death, God's forgiveness of humanity now leads to harmony and peace. Of note is that the new creation Isaiah prophesies bears many resemblances to the old one: life continues on earth and people will still die. However, in this idealized new world, grief, premature death, injustice and oppression will not exist. The prophet envisions a radically inclusive community, with membership based on faithfulness rather than bloodline.

### **Isaiah 65:17-25 (NIV)**

"Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

**NEXT WEEK: 24 November**

**Theme:** "A World Filled With Love"

**Focus Scripture:** Colossians 1:11-20

**Other readings:** Jeremiah 23:1-6, Luke 1:68-79, Luke 23:33-43.

**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; Jack (from Youth Band) Varn Dell's family on the death of his Grandpa in the UK. Marie Davis for her recovery after a hip replacement on Thursday.

## **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 on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013, to ask the congregation to accept Mr Bob Williamson as our nomination for the position of Presbytery Elder.

**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!

**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

**"A GIFT FOR YOU" Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December:** You are invited to a concert at 6.30 pm. Watch this space!

**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 :** This week on [www.anglicantv.net](http://www.anglicantv.net) "Advocating for those in need. The small things we can do to help others can make a big impact on their quality of life

**REAL LIFE:** This Sunday night (17th November) John Cowan's guest will be New Zealand Entertainer and Singer Jackie Clarke.

**Food in Schools Bill Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> !** 'Feed the Kids' bill for breakfast and lunch in low decile schools came to Parliament on 13<sup>th</sup> November. We have 270,000 in poverty and 100,000 going to school hungry. Milk and Weetbix, and Kidscan reach about 27,000 kids. This bill is about healthy food for breakfast and lunch for all children in low income schools

Actions:

Let Betsan know of your interest or support [betsan@publicquestions.org.nz](mailto:betsan@publicquestions.org.nz)

Look at the website <http://feedthekids.org.nz/>

- Email your MP and ask them to support for the bill to the first reading. This is a practical way to 'Let Children Live and Learn'

Betsan Martin Methodist Public Issues Email: [betsan@publicquestions.org.nz](mailto:betsan@publicquestions.org.nz) Ph. (04) 473 2627

**The Handel Consort & Quire** will sing Palestrina's Mass Tu es Petrus on today, **Sunday 17th November, 6pm** in what was the chapel of the beautiful Star-of-the-Sea in Howick.

Previously a convent/orphanage/school, the Star-of-the-Sea is now used as a venue for Howick Children's and Youth Theatre and other events.

The intimate chapel comprised of rendered brick has a lovely warm resonant acoustic, very suitable for this type of music. We will also sing a few Christmas carols to add variety and provide a taste of our Christmas concerts which are fast approaching!

If you have not been to this special venue before then here is a fantastic opportunity!

The beautiful historic building is set up on a hill overlooking the sea and has spectacular views out over the ocean. Entry is only \$25 (or \$20 if you pre-pay) Email [inverted\\_mordent@hotmail.com](mailto:inverted_mordent@hotmail.com) for more information.

**Memorial Service** for Rev John McKinlay to be held on Sat 30 November. Details on the column in the foyer.

**Christian World Service Philippines Typhoon Appeal.** Flyer and further details on the column in the Foyer.