



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 24 May 2015

"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: "Be a Prophetic Witness for a Flourishing World"

Focus Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Other Readings: John 15:26-27; 16: 4b-15



As the church commemorates Pentecost at a point in world history where climate change poses one of the greatest challenges ever faced by humanity, the Holy Spirit may be leading the church into truths both ancient and new. The Holy Spirit may be reminding the church of the broader story, lost in the modern period, of God's redemption of all Creation, and calling on Christians to be prophetic witnesses for a flourishing world.

Acts 2:1-21 (NIV) The Day of Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 31 May 2015

Theme: "Trinity Sunday"

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Other Readings: Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

Prayer points: Give thanks for an increase in the numbers attending Mainly Music. Please pray for: Youth Band for more band members please; Ian Pinel and his recent cancer diagnosis. Pray for the beginning of a new start for our Children and Youth Leader – Sonja and family. Cory (Jeannine's son) for surgery recovery. Judy Qiu needs rental accommodation, please.

Thank you to our Mandarin Brothers and Sisters for our lovely morning tea today, it is to celebrate our 3 year old 'joint' birthday. Pentecost Sunday really is the birthday of our 2 peoples at St Johns – not only The Church universal!

4eva@6 Notice: tonight we are going off site to "INSPIRE a Pentecost gathering to Renew, Restore, Revive." *The Northern Presbytery Prayer and Healing group is holding a night of encouragement, and prayer and healing.*

When: Sunday, 24th May 2015 at 6pm. Where: Ponsonby -St Stephen's

Presbyterian Church, 65 Jervois Rd. This is a **Presbytery wide** event, and we would love to see the church full of people who are wanting to be blessed and united as the Body of Christ. Our **Guest Speaker is Lydia Read**, a dynamic speaker and leader who heads up the New Wine Team in New Zealand. Lydia is a trained accountant, but has chosen to live in the country and farm with her husband Shane. She is studying for her BTheol, but her heart is with the New Wine movement and has a passion for encouraging people to live a Dynamic Christian faith. If you'd like a ride or can offer a ride, talk to Lorraine please! All are welcome to the above service. A flyer with more information is on the foyer column.

Holiday Programme Leader: Please pray for a leader for our School Holiday Programme. Shirley and William have been carrying this role but are unable to for much longer. Sonja has not enough hours to fulfill this role so we can't ask it of her, although she can offer support. We can probably manage to arrange cover for this coming July but the September – October one will be very difficult.

Visit to Ian Pinel. Lorraine is asking Ian if we can come and visit him. If he agrees, I have 4 seats in my car – so if you would like to go please let Lorraine know. When we have a day and time I'll contact you. First come, first seated!! Thanks L

Thank you to Kate McEwan for the poppies that have been our foyer table centre piece as an ANZAC tribute.

A letter from Ian Pinel to the Congregation: Thank you for the wonderful card you sent me – it was touching to receive such heart-warming messages. My association with St Johns extends 31 years and I was able and privileged to assist the church in many capacities. It was a privilege to have a group of friends who have contributed greatly to the well-being of running the parish. Also my best wishes to the Mandarin section. I would like to extend my thanks to the ladies, the musicians and the young people who assist with the “little ones”. Once more, my big thanks and best wishes to you all for the wonderful memories and church services I have attended.

Congratulations to Betty Curd for her being the ‘Thanks a Bunch’ recipient in the Eastern Courier. She was nominated for her morning teas for the Highland Park sewing group. They make baby clothes for Middlemore Hospital / the Dingwall Trust.

Pakuranga Choral Society Inc: Concert: “Schubert, Haydn, Hamilton” to be performed on Sunday **24 May @ 2pm** in All Saints Church, Howick. It is being performed to celebrate 40 years of Music in Pakuranga and Howick. Guest Conductor is David Hamilton with Michael Bell as accompanist. St Georges Choir from Thames will be joining the Pakuranga choir to give a combined choir of 100 voices

Thinking of Living in a Retirement Village?

Practical tips for intending residents and their families



FREE SEMINAR
6:00pm on Wednesday, 27 May 2015
Howick Bowling Club
33 Selwyn Road, Cockle Bay

The Commission for Financial Capability is running free seminars about living in retirement villages. These seminars are for intending retirement village residents and their families.

The seminars will focus on things to consider before choosing to live in a retirement village and provide practical tips before you sign up to make the move.

Speakers from the Commission, Retirement Villages Association and legal profession will discuss practical things to consider before you sign up to live in a village including types of retirement village structure, costs and operations, important resident's rights and where you can find out more information.

The seminars are 90 minutes long and include question and answer time throughout. Tea, coffee, and light refreshments provided.

EVENT REGISTRATION

Register online at www.cffc.org.nz/what-we-do/retirement-villages/ or call 0800 268 269 Places are limited. Registration is essential.