



**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Sunday 26 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:** "Call: A Challenge and a Gift"

**Focus Scripture** Matthew 4:12-23

**Other Readings:** Isaiah 9:1-4



Jesus takes up John's call to change direction and calls his first four followers from their ordinary lives into extraordinary lives of discipleship. We might hear this call to the disciples as a challenge and wonder if we would have the courage to follow. Yet, this call also serves as a gift to Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John; offering clarity and creating a hinge point for their lives. They have been living by default, and Jesus gives them this free gift of choice to follow.

**Matthew 4:12-23 Jesus begins his ministry and chooses four fishermen (HCSB)**

When He heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee. He left Nazareth behind and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, along the sea road, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles! The people who live in darkness have seen a great light, and for those living in the shadowland of death, light has dawned. From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!" As He was walking along the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. "Follow Me," He told them, "and I will make you fish for people!" Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him. Jesus was going all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

## **NEXT WEEK:**

**Sunday Worship: 2 February 14**

**Theme:** "Awakening to God's Reality and Love"

**Focus Scripture:** Matthew 5:1-12

Other Readings: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

**Prayer Points:** Please pray for: 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, 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 and Laurel Leach with their medical concerns whilst in hospital.

## **CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:**

**Holiday Programme:-** The Holiday programme was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who made donations of baking for the morning and afternoon teas. William and Jeannine.

**Church Picnic:-** Sunday 16 February from Midday. The Hancock house will be open for you to bring your picnic lunch and enjoy some time together with games for the younger ones or younger ones at heart and the BBQ will be on.

**Notice of Rev Marilyn Welch's** commissioning as Methodist Northern Regional Superintendent on Thursday 30th January 2014 at Trinity Methodist church on the Pakuranga Highway. The service starts at 7:30pm.

**Our Web site is up and running** – go on line and have a look [www.stjohnsbb.org.nz](http://www.stjohnsbb.org.nz)

**Volunteer Hospital Chaplaincy** Assistants training Course for Auckland City Hospital  
The course covers areas of

- ❖ A confidential listening ear.
- ❖ Safe and supportive help to look at issues.
- ❖ Spiritual support
- ❖ Encouragement
- ❖ Ward visits during the day.
- ❖ Pastoral skills which are transferable and professional

**Auckland 2014 1 day a week for 2 hours training from March– July**

Enquiries to the Course Co-ordinator Mary Lythe on 09 818 2792 or 021 123 0568 Email at [lythe@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lythe@xtra.co.nz)

Applications close 18 January 2014.

Selection Interviews during February 2014.

**Day Time Concert Series:** The Life and Times of Glen Miller. Howick Picton Centre, Tuesday 21 January 11am. Book online at [www.daytimeconcerts.co.nz](http://www.daytimeconcerts.co.nz) or call toll free on 05080 266 237. Concert starts at 11am and includes lunch with the artists who are Greg Ward, Debbie Penny and a four piece brass band.

**REAL LIFE:** This Sunday night (26th January) John Cowan's guest will be MP for Maungakiekie, **Peseta Sam Lotu-liga**

**Life Changing Courses** Check out the range of affordable Community Courses Pakuranga Counselling Centre are running this term (see noticeboard). Evaluations from participants have been overwhelmingly positive, eg *"I felt that I belonged, I'm not alone, and I was given time to speak. The Hand-outs were inspiring, and the presenter had good knowledge."* Phone 576 4248 for more information.

### State of St John's financial position at the 31/12/2013

	Month of December 2013		1 July 2013 → 31 December 2013	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
EXPENSES	15,059.84	15,850.00	88,919.18	102,099.00
INCOME	13,508.21	14,976.00	93,242.62	95,174.00
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	<b>(1,551.63)</b>	<b>(874.00)</b>	<b>4,323.44</b>	<b>(6,925.00)</b>

Comments (December):

- **"Free Will Offerings" for the month of December** fell short of Budget by (\$900.207).
- **"Free Will Offerings" for the six months [year to-date]** are short of Budget by (\$6,461.15).
- The continuing shortfall of "Free Will Offerings" month on month this year are making the management of our cash flow difficult with the need to cover essential payments by "borrowing" \$1,000.00 from our Special Purposes Savings Roof Fund while deferring payment of an invoice of \$1,236.25 owed to one of our Partner Churches which must be paid in January.

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.