



*St John's*  
Being the Gospel to all People

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**13 December 2015 Advent 3**

**“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 we celebrate the Children’s Church sharing of the Christmas Story.**

**Today’s Theme: “Our Coming Saviour – Shepherds” Advent 3**

**Readings: Luke 2:8-20**

**Other Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 19:1-6**

**Luke 2:8-20 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 20 December Advent 4**

**Christmas Theme is: "Mary and Joseph"**

**Focus Scripture: Luke 1:26-28**

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



**Prayer points:** Please pray for: George Morrison who is improving well please pray for this to continue. Little Cubs Kindy for more children, they need at least 15 more children for the New Year. Brenda Ryan with ongoing health issues.

**CAROL SINGING IN THE COMMUNITY:-** We are at it again this year – taking our voices and Christmas spirit out into the community to bring some pleasure (we hope) to members of our church and the community!

Date: Tuesday 15 December. Meeting in car park at 6pm heading off at 6.10 sharp! We have a lot of visits this year, including 3 Retirement Villages; Highlands, Bruce McLaren and Dannemora Gardens!

We need as many voices as possible – in fact we need YOURS! You do not have to be a trained singer or be part of our singing group – if you can make a noise come along!

Bring a plate for supper – Dannemora Gardens will be hosting us for supper when we finish singing there. Need more information – contact Judy 2748534

### **Family Barbecue**

Thank you to all who came and helped and made our guests welcome. I felt we had a warm and happy atmosphere with continual noise of joy from the little ones in the Bouncy Castle. Thankyou Lord, for a fine day. Bob W.

**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 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 also Once the details are all confirmed I will re-print a new book. Thank you Jeannine

### **Christmas and Sunday Services for December 2015:**

December 20<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am is our Lessons and Carols Service in the morning.

7pm is our Blue Christmas service.

December 24<sup>th</sup> 7 pm is our Family Christmas Service

10:30 pm Carol singing

11 pm Christmas Eve Service.

December 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am Christmas Day Service.

December 27<sup>th</sup> 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 the Carol singing from 10:30pm and Worship from 11 pm. First practice is 7-8 pm Wednesday 16 Dec.**

**Mandarin Fellowship** Christmas party/dinner 12 December, 5pm. Shared dinner here at Church with dinner first then songs and prayer. All Welcome. Any questions please see Shania Qiu.

**Giving Envelopes:** In preparation for the new financial year I am starting the process for the giving envelopes. If you wish to make any changes ie moving from weekly to fortnightly please contact me in the office. Thank you Jeannine

### **Finance summary 4 months to 31 October 2015**

	Actual	Budget	Last Year	Notes
<b>Income</b>				
Giving	31525	36666	34861	1.
Rents	28848	28560	24657	
Total income	64020	71962	65515	
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Staff	39123	39647	31085	
Total expense	68484	70548	61075	2.
Surplus/(Deficit)	(4708)	1414	4439	

Notes- Reasons for (deficit) against budget

1. Thanksgiving (1610), Envelopes (3214)
2. Insurance all year paid (3681) will save in full year.

“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 CONCERT**

Handel Quire present their annual Christmas concert. There are 3 performances this year, Fri 18 Dec, 8pm Holy Trinity Church, Devonport, Sat 19 Dec, 8pm St Michael's Church, Remuera and 5pm St Andrew's Church, Pukekohe. Admission by donation (we suggest \$20). The choir will sing a wide variety of exquisite Christmas music from renaissance to Contemporary and the audience will get to join in with some well-known carols too. Organist is Michael Bell.