



Weekly Newsletter Sunday 8 December

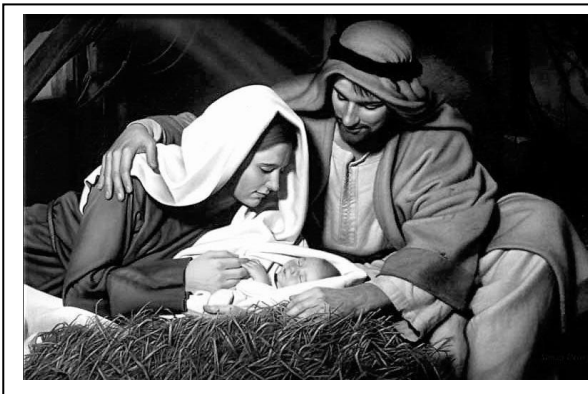
“Being the Gospel to all People”

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: “Listen, God is Calling - Hope”

Focus Scripture: Children's Church Nativity Story



Imagine for a moment that Jesus had been born in Herod's palace amid all the riches and finery of that place. Imagine that His bed had been a golden crib, imagine Him having enjoyed a life of abundance and plenty. If that were the case, would you feel the liberty to come to Him? Probably not! However, He was born in a manger and thereby He made Himself accessible to all who would come to Him. Luke 2 records the visit of the shepherds. These common men felt the liberty to approach Him in this place. Later, even the wise men, these learned, wealthy men felt equally at home bowing before Him. One of the reasons Jesus shunned the palace in favour of the stable is so that He would be available to all who desired to come to Him. Thank God, whosoever will can find all they will ever need in Jesus.

The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-7 (Good News Translation)

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. 3 Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger - there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

NEXT WEEK: 15 December

Theme: Liberation's Song

Focus Scripture: Luke 1: 47 – 55

Other Readings: Isaiah 35: 1-10, James 5: 7-10, Matthew 11: 2-11

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; Marie Davis for her recovery with her ongoing hip issues, John Pybus for the serious bruising on his leg, 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 with her ongoing medical concerns whilst in hospital..

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

The remaining December Advent Services will look like this:

Today, Sunday 8th our 9:30 am service has the Children's Church leading worship.

Sunday 15th our 9:30 am service is regular worship.

Sunday 15th at 7.00 pm we offer a Blue Christmas Service. This is an offering we make for all those who have experienced loss particularly in the past year. Sometimes that loss is of a loved one, but sometimes this is an opportunity to acknowledge the wider dimension of loss in our lives. If you know of someone who has suffered loss, and might not hear of this opportunity, please consider asking and accompanying them to this service.

Sunday 22nd at 9:30 am is our Lessons and Carols service.

Tuesday 24th at 7 pm is our Family focused Christmas Eve service.

Tuesday 24th at 10:30 pm we have a half hour of carol singing and then at 11 pm our traditional Christmas Eve service with Communion.

Tuesday 25th at 9:30 am we have our Christmas day worship celebration (with Holy Communion)

The season of Advent closes on Christmas Eve and the season of Christmas begins. Sunday 29th December at 9:30 am is a return to regular worship.

THE GIFT – Live concert on the big screen.

The Gift: A fun live concert for all. Dress up if you like, for a night out at the "ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre" @ St Johns. There will be light refreshments , wine , coffee, soft drinks etc.

A DVD on the large screen. Live at Slane Castle Ireland, Celtic Woman, A new Journey.

A night of singing , orchestra, choir and percussion, presenting Celtic Music including Hayley Westenra.

Show will commence at 6.30pm on Saturday 21st December 2013. Entry \$5.00 or

\$10.00 per couple or family [Which includes FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER 16]

Show will last approximately two hours with a 15 minute interval included.

Photography during the performance is not permitted and mobile phones must be turned off.

Our Web site is up and running – go on line and have a look www.stjohnsbb.org.nz

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. A good team is taking shape – thanks guys, we just need a couple more folk. Thank you Lorraine

CHURCH TV : "Christmas is coming, we hear and see it where ever we go, even in the sounds of the birds around us, as captured this week on www.anglicantv.net.

REAL LIFE: This Sunday night (8th December) John Cowan's guest will be Emirates Team New Zealand skipper, **Dean Barker**

Carol singing on 17th December. Gather in carpark at 6pm for a 6.15pm departure (earlier because we have more stops this year). Ending as usual at Dannemora Gardens for singing and supper.

Pakuranga Choral Society presents 'The reason for the season', All Saints church Howick 2pm Sunday 8 December. Adults \$25 Seniors \$20 Students \$10 tickets available at the door. For more info the flyer is on the column in the foyer.

Auckland Presbytery Part-Time Administrative Assistant position advertisement. Wendy Roberts the Presbytery Administrative Assistant will be concluding her service with Presbytery on the 20th December 2013. Wendy has served Presbytery well and it has been a privilege to work with her. Now....we are on the hunt for her replacement. The sort of person we want is a good communicator, understands Church processes and structure and is good at being an administrative "Jill of all trades." Do you have someone in your parish who might feel this is a task they could fulfil? If you have please pass on this information and encourage them to contact this office and speak to either Wendy, Forbes Worn or Alex Robinson. The planned cut-off date for applications is 16th December 2013, with interviews possibly later that same week. The successful applicant would be asked to commence on the 13th January 2014 when the office reopens after the Christmas/New Year break. Alex Robinson, Clerk. *Northern Presbytery PO Box 85 051 Harris Rd, Mt Wellington Auckland 1545 7 Harrison Rd Mt Wellington Phone: 09 579 9480 northpres@vodafone.co.nz*

State of St John's financial position at the 31/10/2013

	Month of October 2013		1 July 2013 → 31 October 2013	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
EXPENSES	14,195.34	17,096.00	60,388.96	68,252.00
INCOME	14,652.06	14,975.00	67,211.22	65,221.00
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	456.72	(2,121.00)	6,822.26	(3,031.00)

Comments (October):

- "Free Will Offerings" for the month of October **fell short of budget by (\$2,157.40).**
- "Free Will Offerings" for the four months [year to-date] **are short of Budget by (\$3,827.78)**
- The operating profit for October shows in the schedule above as being **\$456.72**. This figure includes the final "Thanksgiving Offering" gifting transacted within October of \$570.00. This \$570.00 was transferred to the "Special Purpose Saving Heating Fund" bank account in early November.
- With the transfer of the \$570.00 to the "Special Purpose Saving Heating Fund" we show an actual **operating loss of (\$113.28) for October.**
- **It is confirmed that the "THANKSGIVING OFFERING" TOTAL GIFTING FOR 2013 was \$5,933.00 which is an awesome result.**
- In line with our tradition of donating 10% of the annual "Thanksgiving Offering" to others outside our immediate congregation, the amount of \$593.00 will be forwarded to a Charity [yet to be determined by the Leadership Team] in early 2014.
- We continue to experience extremely tight cash flow and this will continue into December as we continue to pay off several large accounts amongst which is the account for the completion of the special engineering earthquake structural assessment report, our financial audit and annual Northern Presbytery dues.