



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 27 September 2015
Thanks Giving Sunday

“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: Does God answer prayer today?

Focus Scripture: Esther 4:9-17

Other Readings: James 5:13-16; John 14:23-27

“I lift up my eyes to the hills –
where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Psalm 121: 1-2.



Esther 4:9-17 (NIV)

⁹ Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, ¹¹ “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”

¹² When Esther’s words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 04 October 2015

Theme: Abundant Possibilities

Focus Scripture: Psalm 16

Other Readings: 2 Peter 1:1-11 (The Message) Matthew 25:14-29 (NRSV)

Prayer points: Please pray for: George Morrison in Middlemore hospital. Loas Toungh and her bruised ribs; Mary Metcalf and her family with the passing of her husband Brian. Please pray for our parish finances, it has been a tight month financially; Little Cubs Kindy for more children as they vacancies because some children have reached school age and Kindy competition is strong. Holiday Programme 28 Sept to 2 October for the leaders, lots of children, morning and afternoon teas and a safe and happy week.

NOTICES:

THANKSGIVING OFFERING: Each year we set one special Sunday for Thanksgiving. I don't know how this tradition at St Johns arose but I assume it reflects the old idea of Harvest Thanksgiving. In an urban parish we can give thanks for the arrival of Spring after a wet, cold Winter and personally, thanks for any special blessing we have received during the past year.

The Leadership Team have decided that 90% of this year's Thanksgiving will be added to the fund we have set up to meet the cost of our latest staff member, the Children, Youth and Family leader. The 10% remaining, as usual, will be given outside the parish, this year to the Tear Fund Appeal for victims of slavery and human trafficking.

Giving to the Thanksgiving offering can be through marked envelopes which regular envelope givers will have received with their bundle of envelopes. I have additional envelopes available which you should mark with your number so that the amount can be added to your Inland Revenue receipt at the end of March 2016.

Any questions, please talk to me or one of the Finance Team (Christo John, Shania Qui and Brannie Ma) Thank you Bob Williamson

Message from Lorraine: I am half way through my Study Leave and I am on Study leave from 23 September until the end of October.

Should you have any questions or worries while Lorraine is on leave the three "go-to" people are:

Alan Vickers, cell phone 021 051 3040 or 533 3790. Or email; avick@xtra.co.nz
Joan Rutherford cell phone 027 537 2308 or 533 8761
and Bob Williamson.

Daylight Saving: This Sunday (today) is Daylight saving you need to put your clock forward 1 hour at 2am which will then become 3am.

Real Life: John Cowan's guest this Sunday night (27th September) will be NZ comedian, **Andrew Lumsden**, more commonly known as **Te Radar**

Did you know ... ?

All sermons (and newsletters) are posted on our web page –

www.stjohnsbb.org.nz

- 1 Open the main web page
- 2 Scroll down to the bottom – click on “Newsletters”
- 3 Choose “Latest News”, then choose “Sermons”
- 4 This gives a listing of all sermons given at St Johns since September 2013!
- 5 Click on the date or topic that interest you, and ... there it is!

Have fun! Trevor Haigh

Food Bank:- The foodbank are in short supply of Sugar and flour (Small bags) Milk powder, jelly, tinned fish and tinned fruit. If you could please consider this during your weekly shopping. Thank you very much.

Calling all amateur photographers! Submit your best photographs for a chance to win a spot in the 2016 CEC calendar, fundraising for our court case costs.

THEME: NZ Nature

ORIENTATION: Landscape Orientation

SIZE: Minimum 2MB

DETAILS: No date stamps please

Submit your entry via email to andrea@bkl.co.nz by Monday 21st September. Photos will have scripture added to them by our designer. Winners will be notified by email by 5 October and will receive photo credit.

Open Home Foundation is a Christian social work agency which has been running for over 30 years. We provide foster care for in the Auckland community for two main groups of children and young people. One group are kids in state care through Child Youth and Family; the other are kids who have an intellectual disability whose families need respite care. What makes OHF distinct is that all of our staff and foster carers are Christians. We believe that one of the most practical ways of showing the love of Christ is by Christians opening their homes to children and teenagers in need. We would love the opportunity to let people in your congregation know about our agency to see if any of them could be open to becoming foster carers for us. Zac Kim Foster Parent Social Worker Zac.Kim@ohf.org.nz 096342057

ORGAN Recital – Saturday 10 October 730pm. Martin Setchell St Columba, Botany. Flyer on the column in the foyer.