

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE CO-VICARS

It was a beautiful time of celebration here at St George's as we culminated our Advent journey with the celebration of Christ's birth. We were very grateful to have around 600 people attend the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and our prayer is that wherever we are on our faith journey, it was a time that deepened our desire to walk more closely with Jesus Christ.

For most of us, the **New Year** always brings a sense of reflection on the year just passed and hopefully a fresh sense of optimism for the year beginning. The month of January is traditionally a time for **Sabbath** and restoration, giving us the opportunity to recharge our batteries for the coming year. As a leadership, we try to take the spiritual principle of Sabbath seriously, as experience has taught us that 'running on empty' is not a wise way to journey and will inevitably lead to 'breakdown' of one kind or another.

To reflect and inspire this Sabbath season of healing and rejuvenation, we begin our new sermon series, **"Savouring the Sabbath" with Stan Thorburn beginning the series.**

Please take away our Sermon Series card with an explanation of the theme and all the details involved. **Please remember that the service times are 8.30am and 10am throughout January.**

### OUR FOUR CORE VALUES

'He Tangata, He Tangata, He Tangata. *It is the people, the people, the people.*'

**A Place of Grace** – A community where everyone can come and be safe, loved and accepted. Everyone is valued and empowered to be the person God intended us to be.

**Diversity is a Gift** – A life-affirming, life-enhancing community, celebrating our God given differences and growing deeper in our relationship and formation in Jesus Christ.

**Creativity and Justice** – Encouraging and releasing our creative gifts and advocating the intrinsic value and dignity of all people, the land and all living creatures through the ethos of Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship).

**Daring Greatly** – Having the courage, trust and vision, to follow the Spirit's leading. To see beyond what we already see, to become more than we already are. To be an outward-focused church, creating pathways into the community and people we are privileged to serve.

Peace and grace,

Co-Vicars, Rev. Josh Jones and Rev. Gareth Walters.



**ESOL Classes** are held on **Tuesdays in the church hall from 10am till 12 noon during school terms.**

**Six levels** from beginner to advanced. Classes \$20 per term, includes morning tea. For more information please contact Rose Cooper on 021 170 7070, email [rosecoper2000@gmail.com](mailto:rosecoper2000@gmail.com) or just come along.

**ESOL Bible Study Classes** are held on Thursday mornings from 10am till 12 noon. Morning tea is provided, and there are 2 class levels.

Please contact David Wood on 908 3202 or [dandlwood@gmail.com](mailto:dandlwood@gmail.com)

### St. George's E-News

We are now sending out **E-News** which provides info on up-coming events, community life and ways to get involved at St. George's.

If you haven't received it in your in-box, check your spam / junk mail.

If you are not receiving it at all and would like to, please contact the office via email,

[office@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz](mailto:office@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz)

### GIVING

- EFTPOS: Terminal is available at the back of the church.
- INTERNET BANKING: Westpac Bank account # 03-0104-0109844-01
- DONATION BOX: At the back of the church.



**"Empowering people to be Christ's followers in the world."**

**SUNDAY SERVICES, 5 January**

**8.30am - 10.00am**

**THEME: "Savouring the Sabbath"**

**SPEAKER: Rev. Stan Thorburn**

**READINGS: Exodus 20:8-11; Psalm 23:1-4; Matthew 11:28-30**

**VERSE OF THE DAY: Genesis 2:3** *"God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."*



**SUNDAY SERVICES, 12 January**

**8.30am - 10.00am**

**Speaker: Rev. Kate Berkley - "Savouring the Sabbath"**

**VISITORS ... It's great to have you worshipping with us today.**

**Do pick up a 'Welcome Pack' on the table at the back of church.**

**We hope you feel at home here and we look forward to getting to know you.**