

### Opportunities for Prayer @ St George's

**Prayer Chain:** A small number of St George's members have pledged to pray regularly for those that seek support. Requests for prayer are strictly confidential & can be made to David & Lynette Wood. Email: dandlwood@gmail.com or Ph: 021 208 3561

**Pre-Service Prayer:** Held before the 8.30am and 10.00am services in the Pastoral Care / Prayer Room. You are welcome to join us. Access is through the back entrance of the main church building, first door on the left.



### St G's Men's Annual Retreat 2020

20-21 November, Vaughan Park, Long Bay.

**I AM BECAUSE WE ARE**

**Price: \$150** (Students and those not staying over Friday night \$100)  
Includes all meals and accommodation.

To book a place, make full payment into **12-3011-0590994-01**  
Particulars: **Ubuntu**, Ref: **<your name>**  
and email **steve.barnett.clear@gmail.com**  
For more info see the church notice board or email Steve directly.

# Blue Christmas



December 13th at 5.30pm



### Working Bee this Week!

The team will meet this coming **Wednesday, 18 November** between 9am & 12 noon!



Don't forget morning tea in the hall after the 8.30am service  
and in the church after the 10.15am service today.  
Everyone is very welcome.



### St. George's Life Groups

St George's has a number of **Life Groups** that operate on a fortnightly basis. These groups focus on pastoral support, spiritual nourishment and getting to know one another better. We are keen for as many people as possible to be a part of a supportive **Life Group**.

Please contact [office@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz](mailto:office@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz) or speak to Josh after one of the services if you are interested in finding out more about **Life Groups**.

### Saturday Morning Prayers

Every Saturday, during term time, a group of people get together to pray for all areas of church life. You are very welcome to join this group at any time.

**8am - 9am** in the Pastoral Care Room  
**Enquiries: Malcolm Taylor - 027 499 7749**



st George's  
EPSOM

# STORIES OF

# HOPE

“Empowering people to be Christ's followers in the world.”

**SUNDAY SERVICES, 15 November**

**8.30am - 10.15am**

**THEME:** “Coming Alongside”

**SPEAKER:** NayHouy Greenfield “from *Alongsiders International*”

**READINGS:** 2 Corinthians 1:4-14; Matthew 28:18-20

**VERSE OF THE DAY: 2 Corinthians 1:4** “God comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us”

**WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 18 November**

**10.00am**

**Speaker:** Judy Carey - “*Acts 13, The First Missionary Journey*”

**SUNDAY SERVICES, 22 November**

**8.30am - 10.15am**

**Speaker:** Chris Clarke “*Christ in the Workplace*”

**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.**

## REFLECTIONS FROM KIDS AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

**HOPE** - Hope is one of the things that holds us when things are tough. Hope is promised through our faith, we are invited to put our hope, our faith in Jesus. Right now we are walking toward the season of Hope! Each Christmas we are reminded again of God's love for us, for our world and the potential of God's kingdom here on earth. Each year we proclaim Peace on Earth, Jesus is come, and each year our reality is such that war, famine, disease, poverty, inequality and so much more.... remain with us. And still we hope.

We look at our children, they embody hope. They see the world through fresh eyes, constantly wondering 'why'! As they grow they build their knowledge and understanding of the world and they still question why, still wonder how things can be better, and sometimes they want things to stay as they always have been.

As adults we look at the young and hope for better for them. Though within boundaries, because we know the pitfalls of walking blindly. We long for our young ones to be safe, to not have to wrestle as we have wrestled, to not lament as we have lamented, but also to not be too far up the mountain of joy, because that can be false too. And yet, we know that they have to learn, as we have learnt. Experience is a hard taskmaster, but an effective teacher.

Here's the thing, as we have journeyed with others, we have learnt to carry hope, and faith, and love, each offering strength and wisdom that helps us stand. Sandy on Sunday, and Nay this coming Sunday both walk alongside young people. Sandy in education, Nay through the Alongsiders organisation. People who have committed to walking alongside children and young people knowing they are deeply gifted and cherished by our Living God. Knowing that to learn to hold the candles of Hope, Faith and Love children and young people need adults willing to walk with them, to talk and listen, to spend time and share experiences with them.

Our role as parents, grandparents, teachers, youth workers and leaders of young people is to build their resilience, to enable them to stand as independent adults in this crazy world. Research holds that young people need at least 6 significant adults in their world **who are not related to them**. Adults who think they are awesome, who will listen when they talk, and go out of their way to know what's happening in their world. Friends and peer groups are important, family is of course important, faith community is important and combined we offer hope to one another. We remind one another of the promise of Christ, and we need to do that with our young people, in ways and language that makes sense to them, in the same loving and gracious way that we have been invited to choose Hope. The scriptures are full of the expectation of the community of faith living, loving and worshipping together! From Jesus telling the people of the importance of having faith like a child's, to the nation of Israel all standing together to receive the Laws of Moses multiple times. The Psalmists often speak of God's expectation on the people to hand on the knowledge of God's love and wisdom to future generations, and judgements to be endured if we fail too. While our world happily segregates us into young and old, into age groups and generational cohorts, abled and less abled may we, in the church, regain our patience and grace for all our vulnerable members of our congregations, sacrificing for one another that all may come to carry the Hope of the Christ Child out into our broken and hurting world.

How do we start? By praying for our children, young people and their parents, asking God to give us Jesus love for them, and then by extending the hand of friendship.

May you be blessed this week by Gods heart for his people.

**St. George's Kids and Youth leadership team.**

### 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.

**Youth on Sunday** will be staying in the service today, we're all wearing our **Jandals** in honour of "**FlipFlop Sunday**" and the visit of Nay from "**Alongsiders**".

Next week we will be back in the youth rooms!

**Friday Youth** will also be in the youth rooms, we're having a games night... a bit of competition never hurt anyone right? Yeah right!

So come for some fun, build some great memories, and maybe we'll sort the snacks too!

Please pray for our young people over the next few weeks as they start or continue their exam season. **Thanks. Steph, Oscar, Callum and Ajit**



Hi families,

This week we are joining together in big church to hear Maree's friend Nay talk about their work with "**Alongsiders**".

It will be a great opportunity for us to think about what happens for other people, other places and what their needs are and, as Nay will explain, things that help remind us of others can be really helpful.

Their thing is **Jandals!!** (or flipflops – whatever you call them!).

There will be activities for the kids to do and little kids will still be running.

**See you soon!**

**Lynette, Hayley, Steph and the Kids Ministry Team**

### Please pray for our partners working overseas.

**Dee Jones, Zambia**, Foundations for Farming - working with SIM, who is at home in NZ for 5 months furlough at the moment

**Miriam Tillman, Togo, Africa**, Pharmacist, Hospital of Hope Pharmacy, working with CMS

**Sarah Scott Webb**: Human trafficking and exploitation prevention, SIM Intl./ Communications NZ

Also supporting **Alongsiders**



### **Auckland City Mission - Be Someone's Angel this Christmas**

St George's will again be helping the Auckland City Mission to make Christmas special for families in need, by collecting Christmas gifts for the **Auckland Angel appeal**.

If you'd like to be someone's Angel this Christmas, please drop off your donation of a **new, un-wrapped gift at the church office collection point**.

All donations will be picked up from **Monday, 23rd November**.

See our e-news or church notice board for more details.

**Thank you for your generous support this Christmas.**



### **St George's Advent Lunch on the Lawn and a Huge Thank you to Everyone!**

**Save the date! Sunday, 29th November at 11.45am**

We would like to invite you all to the start of **Advent** with lunch on the lawn, which we are combining with our annual **Thank You** event this year.

This year we'd like to thank everyone, not just all our wonderful volunteers, but everyone for your continued support throughout this extraordinarily difficult year.

We appreciate everyone in our St George's community and would like to show that with a gathered lunch.

There will be a pizza truck, with strawberries and cream to finish for all. **Just bring yourselves and enjoy being together.**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

