

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.



December 13th at 5.30pm

Blue Christmas



St George's Church Car



Our poor, old church car is coming to the end of its life. We were told that the WOF we got in August will be our last. If anyone has or knows of a vehicle that is for sale, is not too expensive, perhaps can take more than 5 people, so our youth ministry can use it too, we would love to hear from you. We'll consider all options. Please let the office know, phone 520 5652 or email office@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz

Thank you.



Healing Service – Wednesday

Come and join us next Wednesday at the 10am service!
Everyone welcome.

Prayer
and Healing
Service

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 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



THE JOURNEY OF ADVENT

st George's
EPSOM



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

SUNDAY SERVICES, 29 November

8.30am - 10.15am

THEME: “ADVENT HOPE” - *The Prophecy Candle*

SPEAKER: Rev. Josh Jones

READINGS: Isaiah 61:8 - 11; Colossians 1:19 - 20; Matthew 23:23 - 36

VERSE OF THE DAY: Hebrews 1:3 *“The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”*

WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 2 December

10.00am

Speaker: Glenys Brookbanks - *“Healing Service, God’s Breakthrough”*

SUNDAY SERVICES, 6 December

8.30am - 10.15am

Speaker: Jeremy Woods - *“ADVENT PEACE”*

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 JOSH JONES

I recently spent a couple of hours over at St John's College with around six other Vicars from across the Auckland Diocese. The main topic of conversation was inevitably the various challenges of leading church communities in this extraordinary year. There were some common themes shared by everyone of the lockdown challenge, of keeping communities connected and how to plan in the midst of great uncertainty. Also, the sense of 'emotional fatigue' that everyone felt was clearly evident in various ways at the end of this 2020 journey.

As I listened to the different perspectives, I did have the encouraging sense that we as a church community had negotiated these difficult times well. Having and keeping an **Online Service** presence was a very intentional move right from the beginning. All the feedback we have received indicates that this has been a positive experience and a major factor in keeping a sense of community connection. Nothing can ever replace a community of believers who gather as a worshipping people, but when this hasn't been possible the online presence has kept this sense of connection alive. We also get many from our community who can't make church weekly and have commented on how the online services have enabled them to still feel 'part of the St George's conversation'.

On Thursday Vestry (our governing body) met to discuss next year's budget and there was a unanimous determination to keep our social media presence a continued and growing expression of our ministry and mission. Every single church now has to face the reality that in order to communicate the message of the Gospel in ways that are both relevant and transformative, an online presence is essential.

ADVENT BEGINS

Today is the beginning of our Advent journey culminating on Christmas day. I've said many times that the significance and implications of the incarnation cannot be underestimated. Without the incarnation there is no Gospels, no parables, no life and teaching of Christ. There is no Cross, no Resurrection and no sending of the Holy Spirit, everything is a consequence of the 'word becoming flesh'. Or as Eugene Peterson of The Message translation puts it ... "**God came to walk in the neighbourhood**". Please stay after the 10.15am service as we begin our Advent celebrations with our annual **Lunch on the Lawn** celebration.

St. George's Leadership Team.

If you would like to make regular donations or a one-off gift to the church, you can do this by completing one of our **"Giving Forms"**.

These forms can be found on the table at the back of the church, from the office or downloaded from our website, www.stgeorgeseppsom.org.nz

Please complete this and either drop it into the Sunday Offertory Box at the back of church or post / drop into the office, 9am - 3pm weekdays
(St George's Anglican Church, 15 - 19, Ranfurly Road, Epsom, 1023).

At the end of every financial year a tax receipt is provided via email.

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 this week is service week, we'll be helping with set up for our

Lunch on the Lawn today!

Then doing some videoring for our Christmas Pageant!

Next weekend we're off on camp, leaving at
4.30pm on Friday, 4th Dec, returning Sunday around 5pm.

Sign up link is on the Facebook page, Instagram and Youth Ebulletin.

Steph, Oscar, Callum, and Ajit



Hi families,
This Sunday we will be practicing for the **Christmas Pageant**, then during lunch we'll aim to sneak away and do some filming!

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**



St George's Christmas Eve Choir and Orchestra

Would you like to sing in the choir or play in the orchestra for our fabulous **Christmas Eve services**?
Rehearsals start on **8th December (for choir)** and **16th December (for orchestra)**.

Please register your interest with Ken Leech by email: ken.leech@gmail.com or txt 021 241 1522



Working Bee this Week!

The team will meet this coming **Wednesday, 2 December** between 9am & 12 noon!



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

TODAY at 11.45am!!!

Please join us **today** for the start of **Advent** with lunch on the lawn, combined with our annual **Thank You** event .

There is a pizza truck and strawberries and cream for all.
Just bring yourselves and enjoy being together.

We look forward to seeing you!

