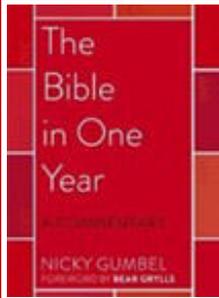


Opportunities for Prayer @ St George's

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 10.15am 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.



Bible in One Year with Nicky and Pippa Gumbel (Alpha) is very highly recommended by those who are completing it this year.

Several are planning to do it again next year.

Download the free App **BiOY** to listen to the Bible and commentary or alternatively receive a daily email - either way you will be blessed.

Any queries please contact Penny Kestle on 027 25 755 25



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 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.**

Plan Your Marriage

not just your wedding

St. George's Marriage Preparation Course

The next St. George's Marriage Preparation Course starts **Wednesday, 27th January 2020**

The course covers 5 weeks and will be held by Duncan & Julie Macdonald. If you wish to take part in this excellent course or know of a couple who are getting married in the near future who would like to attend, please contact Julie via email, duju@xtra.co.nz for further details or to enrol.

Staff Contact Details

Vicar **Josh Jones** joshj060@gmail.com Mob: 021 075 3232

Operations / Administration **Lisa Dorotich** lisad@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz Ph: 520 5652

Accounts **Leanne Stralen** leannes@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz Ph: 520 5652

Pastoral Care **Josh Jones** joshj060@gmail.com Mob: 021 075 3232

Youth & Families **Steph Brook** stephb@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz Mob: 021 535 162

THE JOURNEY OF ADVENT

st George's EPSOM



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

SUNDAY SERVICES, 20 December

8.30am + 10.15am

THEME: “ADVENT LOVE”

SPEAKER: Chris Farrelly, CEO City Mission

READINGS: Psalm 94:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; John 16:19:24

VERSE OF THE DAY: **John 1:5** “The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.”

WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 23 December (final service for 2020)

10.00am

Speaker: Judy Carey - “The Shepherds and the Stable”

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, 24 December

5.30PM - Family Christmas Service

Speaker: Steph Brook

7.30PM + 9.30PM - Christmas Eve Holy Communion with choir and orchestra

Speaker: Josh Jones - “Awe and Wonder”

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 25 December

9.30AM, Speaker: Steph Brook

SUNDAY SERVICES, 27 December

8.30am + 10.15am, Speaker: Josh Jones

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

"Who is wise and understanding among you?

Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom."

James 3:13

There are certain people that you come across in life that seem to crop up in conversations with other people involved in the different arenas of life. When this particular person's name does crop up, you find that people speak of this person with fondness and high regard. Even if they don't personally know them, what they view from afar engenders respect and huge mana. Our guest speaker today is one of these people. I first met Chris Farrelly four years ago when he was appointed CEO of the City Mission for the homeless here in Auckland. Gareth and I invited him to speak at St George's and for a few weeks we had the pleasure of his company in our community. After a few months at Chris's invitation, Gareth and I went across to see the City Mission premises and the scale of their operation. Since then, Chris along with his team, have had an enormous impact on the culture of the organisation and its mission work.

Back in 2018, City Mission embarked upon the most exciting vision project in their history. Project **HOMEGROUND** was launched to complete a purpose-built safe space to stand against homelessness, hunger and poor health by 2021. It would be unlike anything else seen before in New Zealand, offering pragmatic, hands-on services and support to help those who need it most. A stunning vision for a powerful new way of solving age-old problems and the need to raise \$110 million. Chris described the heartbeat of this vision with these words ... "A community can flourish only when its most vulnerable are treated with compassion and dignity, and when effective methods and resources are applied to restore their mental and physical wellbeing." To date, a magnificent \$105 million has been raised.

I had coffee with Chris a few weeks back to catch up and to hear a snapshot of his passion and the City Mission story. Even this glimpse of his 4-year tenure amplified my own sense that Chris was God's person for such a time as this in the City Mission story. It was also clear that Chris sees the Spirit of Christ and the presence of God deeply at work in this stunning achievement. We are so stoked to have Chris with us in our penultimate Sunday of 2020 and the final Sunday before Christmas.

WHAT AN OCCASION

A huge thank you to all our **children and young people** for the gift you gave us in last Sunday's Christmas story rendition. It was a true celebration of the spirit of hope at the end of a challenging year. Thank you also, to everyone who helped make this very special time of worship happen, and for the community of St George's for your support.

Josh and the 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.stgeorgesepsom.org.nz

Please complete this and either drop it into the Sunday Offering 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.



Well, what a weekend!

We have finished all children and youth ministries for the year, with a celebratory dinner welcoming next year's year 7's, we've farewelled Oscar and Ajit into God's next adventures for them and we've danced, acted, sung and prayed together inviting the 10.15am congregation into the Christmas story once again!

Now we rest, over the next few weeks there will be activities at the back of the church for anyone who 'listens through doing'.

Over Christmas we gather to worship on **Christmas Eve at 5.30pm** and **Christmas Day at 9.30am for Family friendly worship**. If you'd like to chill together on Christmas Eve, bring a picnic around 4.30pm and hang out on the lawn at church.

We will re-start ministries in **February** as usual but watch this space for other opportunities to get together over the summer.

In the meantime, may God bless you richly, and nurture you kindly in this busy season.

Much aroha from all of us.

Steph, Callum, Lynette, Hayley and the KidsChurch leaders.

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 and visiting us today.

Welcome Dee!

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



Festival One

A group of us are heading down to **Festival One**, teens are welcome to join the whanau and families are also welcome to join the clan.

Talk to Maree Walters, email g.m.walters@slingshot.co.nz or

Steph Brook at stephb@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz

Tickets are available from <https://www.festival.one>



Important Reminder
Christmas Eve Service Times!!

5.30pm
Family Christmas Service

7.30pm & 9.30pm
Christmas Eve Holy Communion
with Choir and Orchestra