

### 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: dandwood@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.



## 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](mailto:duju@xtra.co.nz) for further details or to enrol.

### News Years Eve Gathering

You are invited to a **New Years gathering from 6-11pm** at the home of **Ken and Margi Leech**. Please contact Margi to confirm with an offer of shared food, email [margi.leech@gmail.com](mailto:margi.leech@gmail.com) or 027 449 3878



### Do You Have A Spare Car?

A former parishioner, Ruth Lawson-McConnell, is visiting family until the end of April due to compassionate circumstances and is in need of a car until her return to Vancouver. If you can offer help, please contact **Ruth** on [dr.ruthmcc@gmail.com](mailto:dr.ruthmcc@gmail.com) or 022-640-2941  
**Thank you.**

**Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**



### Staff Contact Details

**Vicar Josh Jones** [joshj060@gmail.com](mailto:joshj060@gmail.com) Mob: 021 075 3232

**Operations / Admin Lisa Dorotich** [lisd@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz](mailto:lisd@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz) Ph: 520 5652

**Accounts Leanne Stralen** [leannes@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz](mailto:leannes@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz) Ph: 520 5652

**Pastoral Care Josh Jones** [joshj060@gmail.com](mailto:joshj060@gmail.com) Mob: 021 075 3232

**Youth & Families Steph Brook** [stephb@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz](mailto:stephb@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz) Mob: 021 535 162

# Celebrating Christmas

stgeorges  
EPSOM



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

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, 24 December**  
5.30pm

**THEME: "CHRISTINGLE'S JESUS"**

**SPEAKER:** Steph Brook

**READINGS:** Isaiah 9:3-4, 6-7

7.30pm + 9.30pm

**THEME: "AWE AND WONDER"**

**SPEAKER:** Rev. Josh Jones

**READINGS:** Luke 2:19; Hebrews 12:28-29; Luke 2

**VERSE OF THE EVENING: LUKE 2:19** *"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."*



**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 25 December**  
9.30AM

**THEME: "JESUS GIFT"**

**SPEAKER:** Steph Brook

**READING:** The Nativity Story

**SUNDAY SERVICES, 27 December**

8.30am + 10.15am

**THEME: "EPIPHANY"**

**SPEAKER:** Rev. 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

*"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."*

Luke 2:19

*'The thrill of hope - a weary world rejoices.  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.'*

There has been much to ponder in this extraordinary and challenging year, but life is about finding and treasuring the gifts in the challenge. Finding hope in all our circumstances is core to who we are as a humanity. Christmas is when we celebrate and sing about the gift of hope that the birth of Christ gives us. The thrill of hope that can cause this weary world to rejoice. The vision of **HOPE** that all the prophets gave us. Which is to **IMAGINE** a world not as it currently is, but a world as it could and should be.

All of us will have come today because we intuitively recognise something of the magnitude, awe and wonder of what this celebration signifies. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we welcome you warmly.

In the past year we will have all encountered the joys and the trials of life and for some of us this will have involved difficult and very tough times. What carries us all through these times is the belief that there is light at the end of the tunnel. We are a people and a faith centred in the hope of Jesus Christ. This 'hope' is oxygen for the human spirit.

Here at St George's our vision and aspiration is to be a life-affirming and life-giving community that reaches out to connect with those who no longer reach out and connect with church and Christianity. It's important to us that there is a spirit of grace and non-judgemental inclusion. Where we can all come '**just as we are**' authentically and openly to go deeper in our spiritual faith walk. The words below express this beautifully, the spirit of who we aspire to be as a church community in Christ.

*If this is not a place where tears are understood,  
where do I go to cry?*

*If this is not a place where my spirits can take wing,  
where do I go to fly?*

*If this is not a place where my questions can be asked,  
where do I go to seek?*

*If this is not a place where my feelings can be heard,  
where do I go to speak?*

*If this is not a place you'll accept me as I am,  
where do I go to be me?*

We hope that you enjoy your time at St George's and our prayer is that it will be a time of Spirit touching spirit. If anything of your time here prompts you to journey with us more, we would love to see and get to know you in 2021.

**May the hope, peace, joy and love of the Christ be with you this Christmas.**

**Josh and the St George's 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.



Well, we've made it! In what can easily be described as a tumultuous year. We have continued to gather together when we could and how we could, we continued to worship and grow in faith and love together. Now it's time for sabbath, for time to rest, recover and be renewed in the setting aside of the everyday patterns. Thank you for all that you've done throughout the year, be it taking part, leading, preparing or encouraging, you are deeply appreciated.

As you gather with family and friends or enjoy some well earned solitude, if you head away to mountains, beaches, rivers and lakes, or revel in the familiarity of home, may you be deeply blessed by God's presence and renewal of your souls. May fears be put to rest and joy, hope, faith and love be amplified. May worship happen unexpectedly and peace be your comfort.

**See you next year.**

With much aroha, **Steph, Callum, Lynette, Hayley**  
**and all the children, youth and families teams.**

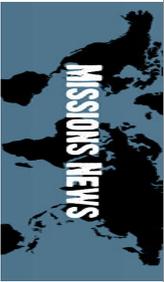
**Please pray for our partners working overseas.**

**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**



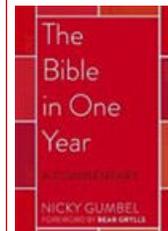
### Festival One

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.

Contact Maree Walters, email [g.m.walters@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:g.m.walters@slingshot.co.nz) or

Steph Brook at [stephb@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz](mailto:stephb@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz)

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



**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



### St George's Online Services

Our final online service for 2020 will be **Christmas Eve, 24th December.**

We will rest over January and resume our online services again in **February 2021.**