

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 10.00am 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.



Kiwi Pilgrimage Timetable 2021

Upcoming event:

Saturday, 17 April 2021 - Endurance or Muscular Christianity

Destination: The Selwyn Monument at Bombay. Leaves St George's at 6.00am and returns approx. 9.00pm. Dinner and return transport is organised for you.

More information about these pilgrimages is on the church website under Kiwi Pilgrimages.

To register a place, please email Greg Smith at gregskelbrooke@gmail.com or phone Brian Perkins on 636 3259.

Walking notes will be sent prior to the date to those who have registered.



Northern Bound Pilgrimage

Matapouri to Whananaki

Friday, 23rd – Sunday, 25th April 2021

The northern pilgrimages are now made up of a couple days walking using the Te Araroa (long pathway) trail to journey toward our destination, Rangihoua. Our next pilgrimage north will have some more beautiful northern beaches to enjoy as we head from Matapouri to Whananaki.

We will stay the two nights, Friday, 23rd and Saturday, 24th April in the comfortable motels at Whananaki Holiday Park. We'll have plenty of time to get to know the history of the local peoples as we continue to walk both the off road coastal tracks and the Te Araroa trail.

If you're interested in joining this leg of the journey we can provide you with more detailed information, please email Sarah sarah.laurie56@icloud.com or Fiona fee.mccauley@gmail.com



ROSTERS

Thank you everyone who offers help every month with our rosters. New rosters are now at the back of church for you to amend or update. If you are new to the church and wanting to help please add your name and contact Leanne in the office, leannes@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz, training can be provided if needed.

We greatly appreciate any assistance you can offer. *thank you*

NZCMS (New Zealand Church Missionary Society)

Next fellowship meeting

Date: Tuesday, 30th March 2021 **Time:** 10am **Venue:** Selwyn Village, Point Chevalier, "Music Room"

Speaker: Jolene - NZCMS Mission Partner from the Middle East **Contact:** Lea Tovey on 528 7773.

Working Bee this Week!

The team will meet this **Wednesday, 31 March** between 9am & 12 noon!



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 LENT

st George's
EPSOM

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

PALM SUNDAY SERVICES, 28 March

8.30am - 10.15am

THEME: "Palm Sunday"

SPEAKER: Chris Clarke

READINGS: Luke 15:17-22; Mark 11:1-11

VERSE OF THE DAY: Zechariah 9:9 *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*



WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 31 March

10.00am

Speaker: Colin Ruge - *"Jesus The Perfect High Priest and The Lamb"*

EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday

9.15am Children's Service, **10.30am** Contemplative Adult service

Speaker: Josh Jones

Easter Sunday - 'Resurrection Hope'

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

**"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.
"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways and My thoughts are higher than yours."**

Isaiah 55:8-9

Today we begin the most important 7 days in the Christian Church calendar. When Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey for Palm Sunday, this is so much more than a quaint choice of transport. It's a volatile symbol of the subversive nature of the Kingdom message that Jesus Christ has spent his entire ministry proclaiming to anyone with ears to hear and eyes to see. The profound and piercing wisdom of these words from the prophet Isaiah (above), are never more clearly on display than in the events leading up to the crucifixion of Christ on the Cross and the Resurrection. EVERYTHING about this week reveals the startling difference between the thoughts and ways of God (as revealed in Christ), and what are so often the thoughts and ways of humanity. At every turn on the way to the Cross, we see the whole panorama of the broken human condition played out by all the main protagonists.

- **Peter is all our capacity for denial.** When we speak the fine words, but come to the crunch, self-preservation wins out.
- **Judas is all our betrayals** of the greater cause for the lure of our own gain and the seduction of money.
- **Caiaphas, the Chief Priest,** willing to sacrifice a principle or a person (in this case Jesus) for the supposed greater good of an organisation or institution. How many times have we seen the sorry consequences of this?
- **Pilate is all of us,** cynically washing our hands of a situation that's getting just a little too messy and complicated. Play out the easy option of compromise and keep the status quo ticking over.
- **The Roman soldiers,** mocking and taunting Jesus. The inner bully that lurks in us all.
- **And finally, the Crowd** representing the fickle spirit in all of us, and our capacity to find the scapegoat and desire blame.

On Good Friday, the full redeeming power of the Cross will confront all of us to consider where our thoughts and ways are not in true kingdom alignment with the thoughts and ways of God. But we will also see the full enormity of just how wide, long, high and deep is God's love revealed in Christ. The magnificent redeeming power of the Cross, is that the love on display *judges* all in our human condition that 'is not love', in order to reconcile and restore all that 'is not love' back to the way and truth of Cross-shaped, Christ-shaped love. As St Paul so beautifully captures ... **"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"** Romans 5:8. **"God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself"** 2 Corinthians 5:19.

I'm still firmly convicted that in a world awash with uncertainty, brokenness and hurting, that the message of this **Holy Week of Easter** has to power, to captivate, compel and transform hearts that are truly seeking. Even when I wasn't a Christian, I recognised deep in my bones, that the cross of Jesus was the ultimate revelation of the true power of self-giving love. And I still believe that so many others do too. It touched and transformed my life and our prayer for this deeply sacred journey of Holy week, is that all of us take the time to fully engage with its full power. From Palm Sunday to the Resurrection, let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church and our own hearts.

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.**



This week is **Palm Sunday**, yay!

After a very long wait we get to hang with the Farmyard, and more specifically a real live donkey during the 10.15am service! We'll start in the service and worship with the youth band, then head outside for a while to visit with our furry visitors and hear all about the first **Palm Sunday**, then back in for Communion.

Youth Group, Kids Church and Little Kids Church will all hang together for the morning!

We are so looking forward to it, see you soon!

Aroha from **Steph, Callum and the Kids Church team**

Please pray for our partners working overseas.

Dee Jones, Zambia, Foundations for Farming - working with SIM, who is at home on furlough for 5 months.

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



Resurrection

Lunch on the Lawn

Sunday, 11th April from 11.45am

We've booked the pizza oven again.

Everyone is very welcome!

2021 Tax Receipts

We can't thank you enough for your amazing generosity and support to the church and roof appeal this past year. You really are making an incredible difference.

This is to let you know that we're going to send your Tax Certificate for 2021 via email by the end of April, so let us know before **31st March** if your contact details have recently changed. Email Lisa at lisad@stgeorgesepson.org.nz or call the office on 520 5652, Mon - Fri from 9am to 3pm. **Thank you.**



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@stgeorgesepson.org.nz or speak to Josh after one of the services if you are interested in finding out more about **Life Groups**.



Hope Project – The Big Idea

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to help distribute the **"Hope for All"** booklets to homes in Epsom. Please pray for the distribution that is being done by the church. We pray that some will come to St George's and enquire about the Hope we have in Jesus.

