

**Couch Conversation #2:**  
**God, Gifts and the Arts.**

**Thursday 8 December, 7.30-9pm.**  
**St George's Church Hall.**

Please join us for an evening of 'Couch Conversations' & Christmas treats with the women of St George's.

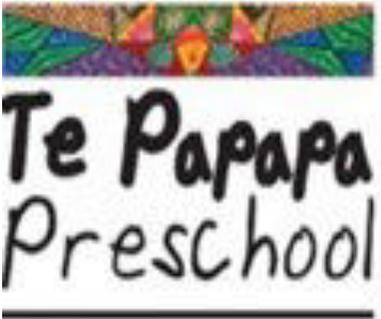
We will begin with a short conversation on the couch with some inspirational women from our community, followed by catch up with each other over a cuppa.

For catering purposes, please let Hayley know if you can make it, otherwise just turn up on the night, we'd love to see you.  
stgs.women@gmail.com or 0274355488

**Christmas Gifts for Te Papapa Preschool Children & Families**

Third Space are collecting Christmas gifts for the Te Papapa preschool children and families again this year.

If you would like to give a Christmas gift for a family (wrap & mark Family) or for one of the children (wrap & mark either M/F & age), drop your Christmas gift(s) into the church office by **Friday, 9th December**



**Next Working Bee!**

The team will meet this coming **Wednesday, 7th December** between 9am & 12pm!!




Wednesday Morning 10am Service



Join Us for WORSHIP

**Opportunities for Prayer @ St George's**

**Saturday Morning Prayer - Zoom Up:** Weekly prayer meeting on Zoom 8.30am - 9.30am. Contact Malcolm Taylor, [taylor\\_mnz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:taylor_mnz@xtra.co.nz) for more information.

**Prayer Ministry:** After every service there are always people available to pray with you. All those offering prayer have been trained to pray with others.

**Prayer Chain:** There is a small group who pray for requests confidentially. Contact: David and Lynette Wood [dandlwood@gmail.com](mailto:dandlwood@gmail.com) or phone 021 208 3561. Requests are welcome.



Hi everyone!

December is here & we seem to be in the thick of all things end-of-year, with school finishing & Christmas preparations in full swing. Our prayer is that you would still be able to take a moment to remember why we do all this rushing around & what the real reason for the season is!

The Christmas play performance is next Sunday and we're really looking forward to putting it all together. If at all possible, could those in the play stay after church this morning so we can run it through on the stage and the dancers too!

We're all downstairs again this week, there are plenty of activities for those not so involved in the play or dance and everyone is welcome!

**Have a wonderful week,**  
**Jess, Hayley, Callum and the Youth and Kids Leaders.**



**Calling All Singers and Orchestral Players**

As is our custom, we intend to form a choir and chamber orchestra for **Christmas Eve** this year.



**Ken Leech** is very keen to hear from anyone who would like to sing in the choir or play in the orchestra.

Please register your interest with Ken, [ken.leech@gmail.com](mailto:ken.leech@gmail.com) or ph: **021 241 1522**

**Contact Details for Church Staff**

**Vicar**  
**Josh Jones**  
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**Priest Assistant**  
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**Life Groups**  
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**Kids, Youth & Families**  
**Jessabel Unni**  
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**Women's Ministry**  
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**Verger**  
**Gary Bromley**  
[office@stgeorgeseppsom.org.nz](mailto:office@stgeorgeseppsom.org.nz)  
Ph: 520 5652

Hi everyone,

Thanks to those who stopped by and wrote on Christmas cards for our mission partners on Sunday. This Sunday (4th December) we will have them at the back of hall after the service again for you to write on or sign. We would love for you to stop by and add your greetings. If by chance you are not going to be around to do this in person, please send any email messages to: [Bec.somerville22@gmail.com](mailto:Bec.somerville22@gmail.com) for us to collate with the cards.



**Sunday, 11th December**  
**at 5.30pm**

**Blue Christmas**  
**& All Souls**





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

**SUNDAY SERVICE, 4 December**  
10.00am

**THEME:** ‘Longing for Peace’

**SPEAKER:** Rev. Josh Jones

**READING:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Hebrews 1:1-3; Matthew 26:47-52

**VERSE OF THE DAY: Matthew 5:9** “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.”

**WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 7 December**

10.00am in the hall

**Speaker:** Glenys Brookbanks - Healing Service

Prayer  
and Healing  
Service

**SUNDAY SERVICE, 11 December**

10.00am in the hall

**Children & Families Christmas Play**

**VISITORS ... It’s great to have you worshipping with us today.**  
We hope you feel at home here and we look forward to getting to know you.

19 Ranfurly Road | Epsom | Auckland 1023 | Ph 09 520 5652 | office@stgeorgesepsom.org.nz | www.stgeorgesepsom.org.nz

## REFLECTIONS FROM REV JOSH JONES

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God”

Jesus Christ Matthew 5:9

Would you believe that today is the **9<sup>th</sup> week** of our transition into the hall for our services. As we prepared for our move, we felt sure that this would be an exciting time of opportunity with the Spirit showing us new possibilities for our worship life together. We were very much looking forward to the two congregations getting to know each other better so that we could feel like one St George’s whanau in Christ.

What we couldn’t have realised is just how much we have been enriched and blessed by the whole experience. So many people have remarked on how much they are enjoying this transition journey. The hall gives us a different worship space dynamic and with it a greater sense of intimacy which has engendered a deeper closeness and intensity of worship. Which means we can look forward to the time when we take all that we’ve gained from this experience back into the church when we re-open. With the church roof now projected to finish by late March the plan is to stay in the hall until the roof is completed and we celebrate the Great Unveiling. The only exception (if it is possible) will be for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

All of which gives our **Advent Sermon Series** on ‘Longing’ a deeper layer of resonance as we journey towards the great celebration of Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ. Today I have the privilege of exploring our **Longing for Peace**. As Christians we know that peace doesn’t mean an absence of conflict but knowing the deeper peace of Christ within the conflict. We also know that this isn’t an easy thing to master, especially given the fractious times of conflict in which we now live.

Today I’ll be looking at our **Longing for Peace** through the lens of the prophet Isaiah. One of the aspects of Advent that I like most is that we get to hear from the voice of the biblical prophets. What wisdom can the prophet’s voice give us for the challenging times in which we live and our longing to know peace in our hearts and peace for our world?

Here are some wise words of encouragement from **Stacey Duke**.

“However hard it may be to believe that a new and longed for reality will take hold some day, there is a power in walking in God’s Christ light now, one step at a time.

*The future belongs to God, but the first step towards this future belongs to those who have glimpsed God’s light and are willing to trust that enough light lies ahead.”*

### GIVING

- EFTPOS: Not available at the moment.
- INTERNET BANKING: Westpac Bank A/c # 03-0104-0109844-01
- DONATION BOX: In the hall or office.

### ROOF

- INTERNET BANKING: Westpac Bank A/c # 03-0104-0109844-04