

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

SUNDAY SERVICE, 21 September

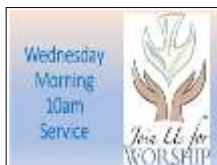
The Calling of St Matthew

SPEAKER: Lukas Thielmann

READINGS: Ephesians 4:1-6; Matthew 9:9-13

VERSE OF THE DAY: Matthew 9:9

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the **tax collector’s booth**. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.



WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 24 Sept - 10.00am

SPEAKER: Stan Thorburn

"New Shoots - A reflection from Ezekiel"

NEXT SUNDAY, 28 Sept - 10.00am

SPEAKER: Stan Thorburn

Baptism (Covenant Reflection)

VISITORS ... It's great having you worship with us today. We hope you feel at home, and please join us in hall after service for morning tea.

Reflection from Rev Jeremy Woods

Good morning, welcome to St George's! It is so good to be able to gather with you in worship today.

This morning we have **Lukas Thielmann** preaching from the lectionary exploring **the call of St Matthew**. In Matthew 9 we read of Jesus going around and calling the "tax collectors and sinners" to follow him. He sits and eats with them, the people you're not meant to be seen with. The other. The unclean. The unrighteous. This is the way of Jesus—to transgress the boundaries that we put up, to extend and receive **hospitality**. This is the shape of Jesus' missional discipleship: sitting and eating and getting to know people you normally wouldn't. Jesus gathered a group of young men around him all of different backgrounds. Matthew the tax collector would have likely been hated and despised (at least initially) by his fellow disciples.

This is a timely message given the current cultural and political polarisation driven by social media, click bait news, and "conflict entrepreneurs," a term I heard this week for those benefit from radicalising and dividing us. In this context, we the Church are called to be a unified people who gather and open our hearts and lives to one another across all sorts of boundaries of: culture/language, age, socio-economic, political viewpoints, preferences of worship styles, and so on.

This week this community has seen two beautiful expressions of this. Firstly, the **men's retreat last weekend**, with over 30 men, half of whom were under the age of 21, going deep together and learning from one another. The second was the **women's couch conversations**, with over 40 women gathering around tables to share about faith through life's ups and downs. Let us continue being a community that is open to the gift of each other.

Archbishops Statement on Gaza

This morning we will have some time in prayer for Gaza, and all the places of deep pain in our world. The Archbishops of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia have put out a joint statement calling the Church to prayer, which you can read by scanning this QR code.




GIVING


- **DONATION BOX: In the Church.**
- **EFTPOS: Available at the back of the Church**
- **INTERNET BANKING: Bank A/c**

St Georges Church Epsom : 03-0104-0109844-01

***To get a giving number for tax receipt purposes, email
lisad@stgeorgeseppsom.org.nz**

Hello and welcome to our service this morning! 

As it's the school holidays, we're all together for the service today.

There's paper, pens, colouring and activities if the children would like to use them, in the creche area. 

Have a wonderful week,

Jess, Hayley and the team



Life-giving conversation

St G's men with the men resident at Elizabeth Knox Home.

2:00 pm Friday 26th September
(4th Friday of the Month)

Join other St G's men in conversation Liz Knox men. Just bring yourself and a few life stories to share.

For catering purposes, email or phone your availability to Steve Barnett
Steve.Barnett.clear@gmail.com,
021672107

Quiz Night!

Leprosy Mission Fundraiser

All funds raising to go to The Leprosy Mission for a new van in Nepal.

Friday 3rd October 7PM

\$15 a ticket,
Under 16 \$10

Food, Drink, &
Raffle tickets for
purchase (EFTPOS
available)



BAPTISMS

We are planning a Baptism service on the
2nd of November

for those who would like to make a public declaration of their faith. Please let **Jeremy** know if you are interested.

We will have pre-baptism conversations with the Baptism candidates. You are welcome to join the exploration without a commitment of getting baptised at the end if you are unsure.

Living as the Beloved

Do you long to know that you are God's beloved? Jeannie Martin Blaker & Eamon Butler are offering a (mostly silent) retreat based on the book '*Life of the Beloved*' by Henri Nouwen.

When: 13-16th November 2025. **Cost** \$625

Where: the Friary, 50 Hillsborough Rd.
Live in only (meals and bedding provided)

Email Jeannie for further details:
jmartin.blaker@gmail.com

Stretch and Balance Workshop



Practical exercises to improve your posture, strength and well-being.

6 October – 10 December - 10 Weeks

Monday and Wednesday both at 1pm-2pm Cost: \$300

For more information please Contact: **afong@anthonyfongfitness.co.nz** or 021 297 249

BISHOP JIM WHITE MEMORIAL LECTURE
THE CHALLENGES OF AI
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
100 ST ANDREW'S ROAD, EPSOM



THURSDAY, 25
SEPTEMBER
7:30 PM

GUEST SPEAKERS:
PROF. NEIL DODGSON | REV'D HILARY WILLETT | KIT WILLETT

St Johns Royal Oak Quiz Night

Saturday 11 October, 7pm
\$20pp teams of 4-6, cash only

Support our Anglican neighbours
at their annual fundraiser. Entry
fee includes supper, tea and
coffee. BYO other drinks and
snacks.

admin@stjohnsroyaloak.net
for more info.

WIREMU TAMIHANA - THE KINGMAKER

Waikato Pilgrimage Series

8AM - 5PM SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER

To learn more/ register go to
pilgrimagesaotearoa.nz

ONE THOUGHT For TODAY

*By Bishop
Bruce Gilbert*
\$25

*Available from
Julie or Duncan
Macdonald*



Working Bee! - **Wednesday 24th September**

The team will meet between 9am & 12pm. New helpers welcome!



Please Join Us For Morning Tea

You are invited to stay for morning tea in the Hall after the service.

Opportunities for Prayer at St George's

Saturday Morning Prayer: Weekly prayer meeting in the
Pastoral Care Room. 8.30am – 9.30am. Contact Malcolm Taylor,
taylors_nz@xtra.co.nz for more information. All welcome.

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.

Confidential Prayer Chain: Contact: Lynette Wood dandlwood@gmail.com or phone 021 208 3561

