

# St John the Baptist Anglican Church

## Newsletter December 2019

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### A note from Stan...

The weeks that lead up to Christmas can be a difficult time to focus on God. We will feel the weight of Christmas shopping, preparing to receive guests, putting up the Christmas tree and accompanying and decorations, baking treats and fitting in Christmas parties. All this alongside our normal day's work or usual activities.

It takes great intentionality to make space for Christ during the Christmas season. We are fortunate that the birth of Christ has so many different perspectives – Jesus' parents, his uncle and aunt, some shepherds, far-off wise men, a tyrannical king and prophets. All these provide fresh views and opportunities to think about the coming of Christ. When we enter into it, our story reminds us that Christmas is not a task to be done but a celebration to be marvelled at.

While I wish to emphasize the views of celebration and anticipation, this time of the year is also an occasion for reflection and sadness. We tend to think of those who have passed since last Christmas, and those who are no longer a part of our everyday lives. This time of year is a good opportunity to acknowledge the person or persons, and to reflect on the year that was. Perhaps our faith was challenged, or perhaps it has become much stronger as we have acquired more knowledge. Whatever your thoughts on Christmas, I hope you will deliberately set aside some time for meeting Christ.

Communion with Christ has a customary and prevailing kaupapa (method or approach) that, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Please set aside time to call or visit a friend or family member that is on their own this time of year. The feeling of loneliness is compounded during the Christmas season for those who have no one to share it with. And should the opportunity arise, give to someone in need either through our church initiatives or the national care organisations.

I close with a warm invitation to join us for worship throughout the festive season, a wish of a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year, and the blessing of our Father Son and Holy Spirit.

Kindly,  
Stan

### SERVICES AND TIMES FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD 2019-2020

#### 1 December 2019

08:00 am	Holy Communion
09:30 am	Holy Communion
5:30 pm	Advent-Christmas Discussion Group

#### 8 December 2019

08:00 am	Holy Communion
09:30 am	Holy Communion
5:30 pm	Advent-Christmas Discussion Group

#### 15 December 2019

08:00 am	Holy Communion
09:30 am	Holy Communion
5:30 pm	Advent- Christmas Discussion Group

#### 22 December 2019

08:00 am	Holy Communion
10:00 am	Combined Christmas Service with St Thomas and Yewon Church

#### 24 December 2019

11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
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#### 25 December 2019

09:30 am	Christmas Day Service
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#### 29 December 2019

09:30 am	Holy Communion (one service only)
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NB: There will be one Holy Communion service each Sunday of January 2020 at 09:30am

## In and around St John

**Sunday Services:** 8am, 9.30am, Eucharist.

**Fourth-Sunday School:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 9.30am

**Evening Women's Fellowship:** 7.30pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month

**Men's Supper & Bible Group:** 7.30-9pm twice a month on a Wednesday. Check the weekly service sheet for each venue.

## Hall and St Jude's Room Users

**Babysitting Club** – one Saturday per month – 4pm-9.30pm (hall and kitchen).

**The Korean Yewon Church:** Sunday, 9.30am-5pm (hall), 9am-11am (St Jude's Room).

**Target Training** – Wednesday, 4pm-9.30pm (St Jude's Room).

**Positive Balance Yoga** - Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 6pm-8.30pm, in term time (hall and kitchen).

**Weight Watchers** – Thursday, 5.30pm-7.30pm (foyer).

**Jumping Beans** – Wednesday, 8.30am-1pm in term time (hall and kitchen).

**St Thomas – Syrian Church** – Sunday, 1pm-4pm (Chapel, foyer and St Jude's Room).

**Al Anon family support group** – Sunday, 3pm-5pm (St Jude's Room).

**Scottish Country Dance** - Wednesday 7.30pm – 10pm throughout the year (hall and kitchen).

**English Folk Dance** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30pm-10pm (hall and kitchen).

**Early English Dance** – 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month, 7pm-10pm (hall and kitchen).

**Soccer for Tots** – Saturday, 8.30am-10.30am during term time (hall and kitchen).

**Northcote Steps** – Friday, 7pm-10pm throughout the year (St Jude's Room).

**Kaipatiki Community Facilities Trust** – Preschool Play – Tuesday, 9am-1.30pm from 14th May (hall and kitchen).

**Book Club** – Wednesday, 7pm-9pm (foyer and small kitchen).

**Essentrics Breast Cancer Support/rehab exercise Class** – Thursday, 10am.

If you'd like to book the church, hall or St Jude's room, please email Jansyl Andrews at [sjbanglican@gmail.com](mailto:sjbanglican@gmail.com)

## Readings for the month

### December 1 Advent 1

Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Epistle: Romans 13: 11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24: 36-44

### December 8 Advent 2

Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Epistle: Romans 15: 4-13

Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

### December 15 Advent 3

Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-10

Epistle: James 5: 7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11

### December 22 Advent 4

Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16

Epistle: Romans 1: 1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-25

### December 24 Christmas Eve

Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16

Epistle: Acts 13: 16-26

Gospel: Luke 1: 67-79

### December 25 Christmas Day

Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10

Epistle: Hebrews 1: 1-4

Gospel: John 1: 1-14

### December 29 Christmas 1

Reading: Isaiah 63: 7-9

Epistle: Hebrews 2: 10-18

Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-23

### January 5 Epiphany

Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Epistle: Ephesians 3: 1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

## PASTORAL CARE REPORT

I start this report with a sad update to the November Newsletter. Two of the cats who featured there are no longer in my household. Joe and I had to say goodbye to the sister and brother Seren and Dippy (otherwise known as Serendipity). Seren's paw was held while the tears were shed on 30th October and Dippy a mere nine days later on 08th November. They have joined Buffy as two more new stars in the sky. A seasonal tribute follows.

Services in November have been at Shoal Bay Villa on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Regency on Friday 29<sup>th</sup>.

There have been visits to both North Shore and Southern Cross Hospitals, CHT Onewa, and folks at home including Communion. With four couples shifting I have been busy keeping the Parish Roll up to date.

On Sunday 08<sup>th</sup> I will attend the 9.30 a.m. Service and I have offered a contribution for morning tea to observe the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate.

Wednesday Morning Prayer concludes for this year on 11<sup>th</sup> December. It is to be followed by morning tea to celebrate the 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of my Ordination as a Priest.

Over the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> I plan to visit at least 12 folk no longer able to attend Church to take a Christmas greeting (a lovely card made by Rosemary Saunders). Where applicable the visit will be Christmas Communion.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> I'll attend at 8.00 a.m. and then go on to Breakfast.

Come Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and I'll joyously wave a piece of plastic called a Gold Card.

Vivienne Hill (The Reverend)



BUFFY

SEREN

DIPPY

## MEN'S SUPPER & BIBLE READING GROUP

This month we have only one gathering and that is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

*It is a SPECIAL EVENT!*

We are having a Barbecue at Stan's Place (the vicarage), and ALL MEN ARE INVITED (whether you come to the Men's group regularly or not)

Not only that, but we are also inviting your wife (or significant other half) We'd love to have you join us for this occasion.

**\*\*We will send out the menu and contribution requirements very soon, but first, we do need to know who and how many are coming. So, if you would like to come to the Men's Group end of year BBQ, please email or phone Richard Lewis, as soon as possible. Latest, by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. That way we will know how many we will have to organise and cater for. Details as soon as we get your replies in by 4<sup>th</sup> December - Pleease.**

Any queries, phone Richard Lewis 4199 026 or Peter White 419 4380.



## FIND ST JOHN'S ON FACEBOOK!

Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search: @AnglicanChurchNorthcotePoint





## Contacts

### Vicar:

Rev Stan Pilbrow 480 7568

### Wardens

Vicar's Warden: Marc Bos 0274978090

People's Warden: Karen Perrett 418 3715

### Pastoral Care:

Rev Vivienne Hill 441-4325

### Synod Representatives

Peter Mundell 418 1443

Doug Dempster 418 1448

### Fourth Sunday School

Karen Perrett 418 3715

### Hall Hire

Jansyl Andrews 027 217 2627

### Recorder

Wendy McPherson 473 3448

### Women's Fellowship

Rosemary Saunders 489 5830

### Men's Supper and Bible reading group

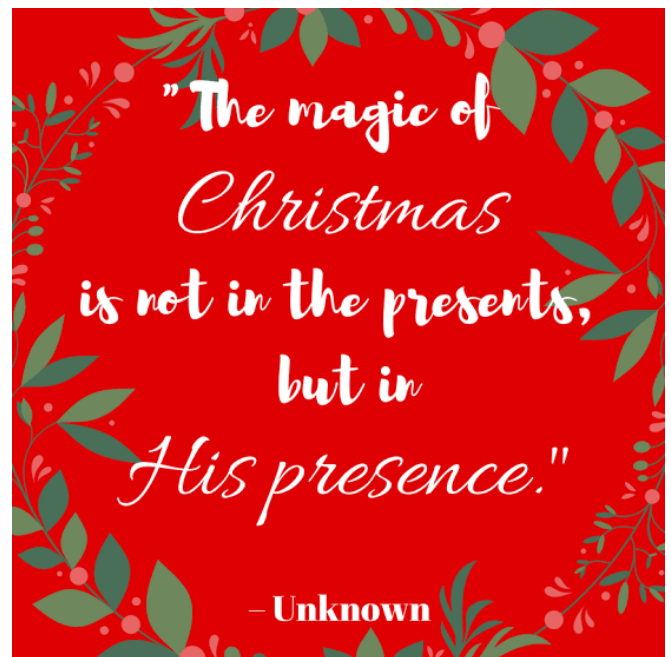
Peter White 419 4380

### Catering Committee

Barbara McIlroy 418 4117

### Office Admin, Newsletter and Website

Natalie Roffey 0226074376



Your newsletter is prepared by Natalie. You can contact Natalie by emailing her at [sjbanglican@gmail.com](mailto:sjbanglican@gmail.com). The newsletter is published on the first Sunday of the month and the deadline for submissions is the previous Tuesday.

This Newsletter is sent to all email addresses as provided for the Parish Roll. If you do not wish to receive this communication by email, please write to [sjbanglican@gmail.com](mailto:sjbanglican@gmail.com).