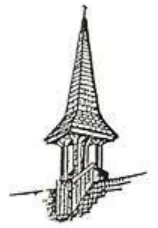


# St John the Baptist Anglican Church

## Newsletter March 2019

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### A note from Stan...

Three weeks ago we began the sermon series on the 'Sermon on the Plain.' It started with the Beatitudes – the blessings that were countered by sorrows or woes. The next Sunday Jesus urged his disciples (including us) to love our enemies – do good to them, lend without expectation, and be compassionate as God was compassionate. Finally, last Sunday we read about not being judgemental and critical: Jesus asks us to know God's knowledge thoroughly – learn it, then most importantly, apply it. That way we can all fulfil God's commission to enable disciples of others with quality knowledge, skill and attitude.

All three weeks of readings eulogise desirable virtues, and it is in week three that we are invited to apply them. At our last Men's Group meeting, we were given a handout containing a series of articles about, 'accessing and applying God's word' for discussion. The document was introduced by verses from the book of James (1:22 – 25): "Do not merely listen to the word..."

Two parts of the article stood out for me. First was, "How to Know the Bible." Here we read that, "The word of God is more than simply a set of guidelines or recommendations. It gives us the foundation for how we live, move and shape every aspect of our lives." Using the image of the fingers of a hand, we can learn five methods for accessing God's word:

And finally we have the prerequisites for applying the bible. The article studied by the men's group emphasises what Jesus was saying at the end of his sermon on the plain... it is not enough to acquire this wonderful knowledge, we must apply it to our lives. You'll find these pieces on page four of the newsletter.

Kindly,

Stan



### VESTRY MEETING NOTES – FEBRUARY 2019

Some points of interest from our meeting last month:

**Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March at 10.30am** in the church. If you wish to serve in any capacity you will be welcomed! Doug reported that we are in funds but cannot be complacent. We received the December and annual accounts and agreed to present them at the AGM – agreed with one abstention.

An Easter Market, to raise funds for the parish, will be held in the church grounds on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of April. We intend to run some stalls and hope that others, like the Koreans and Syriac church, will join in. Stan and Peter Mundell are in charge of the organising and any help that anyone feels they can give to them as soon as possible will be appreciated. Don't all approach them at once!

We discussed the fact that several jobs around the parish are done by different people. The ideal is to have people multitasking but this has not worked out that way yet. However, all tasks are going well just now.

Gill is drafting a letter to be given to parents/caregivers asking permission to use photographs of their children, captured in parish activities, in social media online and to liaise with Karen.

### HELP NEEDED!

If anyone is able to help out with clearing rubbish containers, and checking tidiness in the hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday for the 2nd week each month, please contact either, Maureen Webley, 444 8767, Dick Offwood 444 8531, or Mike Wilkin 441 456. There is a roster on the notice board if you would like to look at it. Cheers Maureen Webley.

## In and around St John

**Sunday Services:** 8am, 9.30am, Eucharist.  
5pm (study/discussion group). All welcome, come as and when able.

**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 Users

**Rowe Dance** - ballet classes for 3-8 year olds on Monday 2.45-4.30pm, Wednesday 3.45-5.30pm and Thursday 3.30-4.30pm in term time.

**Rowe Dance** - dancing for adults, Friday 10-11am.

**Rowe Dance** - Personal tuition by arrangement.

**Joy Russ Dance** - Monday 8.30-9.30pm.

**Positive Balance Yoga** - Mon, Tues 6-8.30pm, Thurs 5.45-8.15pm in term time.

**Weight Watchers** - meet in St Jude's Room weekly, Tuesday 5.30-7.30pm.

**Jumping Beans** - Wednesday 9am-1pm in term time.

**Scottish Country Dance** - Wednesday 7.30pm - 10pm throughout the year.

**Northcote Steps** - meet in the St Jude's Room, Friday 7-10pm throughout the year.

**Soccer for Tots** - Sat 9am - 1pm during term time

**Northern Performing Arts** - Saturday 4-8pm.

**English Folk Dance** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, 7-10pm

**Early English Dance** - 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month, 7.30 - 10pm

**Al Anon family support group** - 3-5pm first Sun of each month.

**The Korean Yaewon Church:** Sunday 10am-5pm (hall), 1.40pm-3pm (St Jude's Room).

**Plus occasional use by...**

Northcote Residents Association

Northcote/Birkenhead Boat Owners Association

St Thomas, Syrian Church.

### Readings for the month

#### March 3 Ordinary 8

Reading: Isaiah 55: 10-13

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15: 51-58

Gospel: Luke 6: 39-49

#### March 10 Lent 1

Reading: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

Epistle: Romans 10: 8b-13

Gospel: Luke 4: 1-13

#### March 17 Lent 2

Reading: Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

Epistle: Philippians 3: 17-4: 1

Gospel: Luke 13: 31-35

#### March 24 Lent 3

Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-9

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9

#### March 31 Lent 4

Reading: Joshua 5: 9-12

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

#### April 7 Lent 5

Reading: Isaiah 43: 16-21

Epistle: Philippians 3: 4b-14

Gospel: John 12: 1-8

### EVENING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Evening Women's Fellowship meet at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 March for a short members meeting followed by our first speaker for the year. She will speak to us about 'Adaptive yoga' and will demonstrate as well as talk to us. This should be helpful and interesting. Do come!



## PASTORAL CARE REPORT

The past month has been one of Services; Regency on Friday 08<sup>th</sup>, Shoal Bay Villa on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, and Northbridge (with Holy Communion) on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>. In between were three visits to North Shore Hospital before our parishioner, Eldrid Reed, was relocated to Lynton Lodge in Westmere. Home visits numbered just two.

The Wednesday Morning Prayer is an important time. During Lent it will change to a Eucharist, with Stan looking after Ash Wednesday on 06<sup>th</sup> March.

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January I mentioned compiling a list of all the ministry parishioners carry out in their daily life and work. My first draft of this follows and is based on what I know. In some cases I might not have the correct job title. Please advise me of corrections and of omissions so these can be rectified. (Please note it does not include any of the ministry within the Parish, it is highlighting what we do in the community.)

At Synod last year there was substantial discussion about the keeping of Parish Rolls. To date (six months on) the new regulations have not yet been sent to Ministry Units. However, I have kept our roll as up to date as possible. With the AGM to be held on 31 March the last date for new entries is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. The full document will be available for checking after the Services on each of 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March. One thing I do know concerns the Privacy Act and it is vital that all new entries are backed up by a form. I have designed a suitable one which will go to the Vestry for approval at its next meeting.

**Vivienne Hill (The Reverend)**

### FIRST DRAFT OF...

### HOW PARISHIONERS OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORTHCOTE, MINISTER THROUGH THEIR DAILY LIFE AND WORK

Air Traffic Control  
Bank Officer  
Bookshop Assistant  
Cattery Owner  
Celebrant  
Cleaner  
Columnist  
Delivery Person  
Doctor  
Examination Supervisor

Girl Guide Leadership

Lawyer

Learning Assistant (Secondary School)

Library Assistant

Meals On Wheels

Mechanic (Small Engines)

Medic

Member of: Barbershop Singers, Book Club, Ecumenical Services Committee (Northbridge), Rotary International, the Greater Auckland Chorus, Tripe and Onions, U3A

Musician

Nurse

Parents, Grandparents, Great Grandparents

Stormwater Control

Supporter of: Auckland City Mission, Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust, Blind Foundation, Cancer Society, CBM, De Paul House, Forest & Bird, Fred Hollows Foundation, Harbour Hospice, Hearing Dogs, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Neurological Foundation, Pacific Leprosy Foundation, Red Cross, Riding for the Disabled Inc., Ronald McDonald House, Salvation Army, SPCA, St. John Ambulance, The Leprosy Mission, World Animal Protection, WWF-NZ,

Teacher (including Relief)

Volunteer Firefighter

## MEN'S SUPPER & BIBLE READING GROUP

Join us for two gatherings this month – on the Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. These are an evening of good banter, chatting, stories we hope are mostly true, (no guarantees!!) good discussion over a Bible chapter, and a great supper which we all bring and share. Here are the details.

### Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March

On both occasions, we will meet at Peter White's place, 14 Vincent Rd Northcote Point.

7.30 – 9pm

Any men want to come along? If you haven't been before, you're most welcome. Just bring some supper to share.

Invitations are **FREE**, from Peter White 419 4380 or Richard Lewis 4199 026 or from one of the regular guy attendees.



## FINANCES

Slow start as usual for church offerings but catching up.

Hall hire - great returns in from last year's hireage.

Painting the vicarage is going to be a big job.

## ...CONTINUED FROM STAN'S NOTE ON THE FIRST PAGE

### James 1: 22-25

Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.

### Accessing God's Word

#### Hearing

Hearing the Word taught by teachers provides fresh insight into the Scriptures to challenge and expand our understanding, as well as stimulating the appetite for its truth.

#### Reading

Reading the Bible is often the way that God most directly speaks to us. Many people find it helpful to use a daily reading program or other method that takes a systematic approach to drawing lessons from the Bible.

#### Studying

Earnestly studying the Scriptures allows God's Word to speak directly to our hearts – to correct, encourage and edify us. Writing down your discoveries will help you organise and remember them.

#### Memorising

Memorising God's Word trains us to use the Sword of the Spirit when we are faced with temptations and opposition by Satan. By holding passages from the Bible in our minds, we are also able to have them readily available for witnessing or in encouraging others with a "word in season".

#### Meditating

Meditation is the thumb of the Word Hand, because when used in conjunction with each of the other methods, the Spirit begins to deeply move in our hearts and speak to our souls. Only as we meditate on

God's Word – thinking of its meaning and application in our lives – we will discover its transforming power at work within us.

### The Prerequisites for Applying the Bible

It is both wonderful and necessary to respond to what you read in the Bible – to submit to its principles and focus on applying its transforming truth. But before you can begin to apply Scripture, you must meet three conditions of the heart.

#### 1. You Must Be His

The first, and most obvious, necessity is that you must belong to Christ. Spiritual awakening precedes spiritual appetite. Without a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus, His Word remains closed to you. *"The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned"* (1 Corinthians 2: 14).

#### 2. You Must Be Hungry

A healthy newborn has a strong appetite. As Jesus said, *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled"*: (Matthew 5: 6). God rewards those who diligently seek after Him, not those who casually snack after Him.

#### 3. You Must Be Humble

As your spiritual appetite grows, so must your willingness to obey it. A humble submission to the principles it yields is vital. Think of Samuel's response to God's call: *"Speak, for Your servant hears"* (1 Samuel 3: 10). Studying the Bible is energising when you humbly apply its truth in obedience.

### VICAR'S WARDEN AND SYNOD REPS NEEDED!

We are still looking for a Vicar's Warden for this year, as well as Synod representatives who are not part of Vestry and of course, vestry members. These are important positions concerned with the governance of our little church. The success of our organisation, its direction and operation is very much a result of a robust and enthusiastic vestry committee. Please give some thought to putting yourself forward for selection this year.

A pastor's wife was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their Mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." The oldest boy turned to his younger brother and said, "You be Jesus."

**FIND ST JOHN'S ON FACEBOOK!**

Just search:

@AnglicanChurchNorthcotePoint

**Contacts****Vicar:**

Rev Stan Pilbrow 480 7568

**Wardens**

Vicar's Warden: Doug Dempster 418 1448

People's Warden: Karen Perrett 418 3715

**Pastoral Care:**

Rev Vivienne Hill 441-4325

**Synod Representatives**

Rosemary Saunders 489 5830

Louise Collenette 441 3055

**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.

**HAWAIKI POANANGA-HANCOX**

These photos are of Hawaiki who has been in our prayer column of our service sheet these past three months. He is back receiving yet more treatment for his condition.



**A country preacher** decided to skip services one Sunday to spend the day hiking in the wilderness. Rounding a sharp bend in the trail, he collided with a bear and was sent tumbling down a steep grade. He landed on a rock and broke both legs. With the ferocious bear charging at him from a distance, the preacher prayed, "O Lord, I'm so sorry for skipping services today. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish—make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me!" At that very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to his knees, clasped his paws together, and began to pray aloud at the preacher's feet: "Dear God, please bless this food I am about to receive."

*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).*

