

St John the Baptist Anglican Church

Newsletter September 2016

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A note from Stan...

Spring Greetings to You All!!

I think spring has arrived, thank goodness. My yard needs to dry out quite a bit.

The beginning of September sees our church preparing for a number of events that will occur in October. First, a service on the 2nd October to bless our animals and elements of nature in recognition of St Francis of Assisi. See our notice in this news sheet. The next event is a week later on the 8th October when we host our second garage sale for the year. Already items are being stored here at St Johns and in the Vicarage. Again, we have a notice concerning that in this issue.

At some time in the future, I would like to have an Alpha course conducted here at St Johns. I have met with the Auckland Development Coordinator for Alpha, Nadine Karp, and we would like to explore the possibility. I have also enclosed in our newsletter a short introduction to the course. Further discussion is yet to take place regarding the course, participants and start.

Finally, you may recall that I spoke of a cartoon I saw on Facebook recently where a person is looking at children dressed in ragged clothing, begging for food. The first caption refers to a person exhorting God to do something about the plight of the children. The person is calling out, "Do something Lord! How could you let this happen?" The second caption is God's reply. "I have done something, I made you." Rather than continuously urging God to do something, let us take up the challenge. In particular, let's include others in our prayers each day... bring attention to the plight of others. I believe prayer is a powerful way to bring joy, hope and possibility to people.

May our Father bless you all.

Kindly,

Stan Pilbrow

A SERVICE FOR OUR FURRY FRIENDS

On the 2nd October, Rev Vivienne and I will celebrate the life of Friar Francis of Assisi who was born in 1181. After a relatively frivolous life, he rejected everything he had received from his rich father and began a life of poverty, preaching the love of Christ. Gradually, others began to gather around Francis as he led preaching tour around Italy. He prepared simple rules for living for his followers and the Order of Friars Minor was born. The order grew rapidly and spread throughout Europe, including England in 1224.

Much loved and sometimes misunderstood, Francis is chiefly thought of as an animal and nature lover. However, his rejection of material possessions and security, his love for the imperfect church of his time, his missionary zeal and devotion to God were more memorable to his followers. Francis died in 1226 and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' love of nature and animals is what we want to celebrate on the 2nd October. You are invited to a 10:30am service in the church hall along with your pets and domestic animals. The service will be short, with two hymns, a homily, prayers and a blessing for our animal/pet guests. You will then be invited to share a light morning tea of hay, pet pellets, water and biscuits.

One Eucharist service only will be held on the day at 8am. More details about the service will follow. Please spread the word, and invite children and grandchildren to witness the blessing of companions and pets that are so dear to us.



In and around St John

Sunday Services: 8am, 9.30am, Eucharist

5pm (study/discussion group). All welcome, come as and when able.

Sunday School: 4th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Evening Women's Fellowship: 7.30pm 2nd Tuesday of the month

Men's Breakfast & Bible Group: 7.15-8.15am fortnightly on a Wednesday.

Craft Group: Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday 1.30pm in the St Jude's Room

Next Garage Sale: Saturday 8th October

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.

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.

Positive Balance Yoga - Mon, Tues, Thurs evenings, 5.45pm - 7pm or 7pm - 8.15pm in term time.

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.

Barnardos Kid Start - fortnightly on a Thursday 9am-12pm.

English Folk Dance - 2nd Friday of each month, 7-10pm

Early English Dance - 4th Friday of each month, 7.30 - 10pm

Alcoholics Anonymous support group - each Friday evening

AlAnon family support group - 3-5pm first Sun of each month.

North Shore Stitchers - 3rd Sun each month 10am - 2pm

Plus occasional use by...

Northcote Residents Association

Northcote/Birkenhead Boat Owners Association

St Thomas, Syrian Church.

Readings for the month

September 4 23rd Ordinary

Reading: Jeremiah 18: 1-11

Epistle: Philemon 1-21

Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33

September 11 24th Ordinary

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-10

September 18 25th Ordinary

Gospel: Luke 16: 1-13

September 25 26th Ordinary

Reading: Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15

Epistle: 1 Timothy 6: 6-19

Gospel: Luke 16: 19-31

October 2 27th Ordinary

Reading: Lamentations 1: 1-6

Epistle: 2 Timothy 1: 1-14

Gospel: Luke 17: 5-10

GARAGE SALE

We are now collecting items in earnest for the Garage Sale which takes place here on Saturday 8th October. If you have anything that you wish to donate to the sale, please leave it with Stan at his office for storage. If you need an item to be uplifted, either call in to St Johns or call Stan to arrange a pick-up time.

WHAT IS ALPHA?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Typically run over ten weeks, each session looks at a different question that people can have about faith and is designed to create conversation. There's no pressure or charge: It's just an open, informal and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together.

What does Alpha look like?

There isn't really an average Alpha. Alpha is run in local communities all around the world and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafes, churches, bars, prisons, parks, universities, schools, homes – you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

Food

Whether it's a group of friends gathered around a kitchen table, or a quick catch up over coffee and cake, food has a way of bringing people together. It's no different at Alpha. Most sessions start with food, because it's a great way to build community and get to know each other.

Talk

The talks are designed to engage guests and inspire conversation. Usually around thirty minutes long, they can be given as a live talk or played as a video. They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions such as "Who is Jesus?" and "How can I have faith?"

Conversation

Probably the most important part of any Alpha: the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and simply discuss it in a small group. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

PAINTING RECEIVES BLESSING

On Sunday the 28th August the latest in a series of historical paintings illustrating the development of the site of the Church of St John the Baptist, was blessed and hung in the entrance hallway. This painting by Dawn Manley is a water colour featuring the beautiful gateway to the church frontage.



MEN'S SUPPER

Yes, this is the new name for the old "Men's Breakfast". We will be meeting twice a month, usually in a home from 7.30pm – 9pm. All men are welcome. Simply bring a plate of share-able supper.

This month we'll be meeting on September 14th and September 28th. Please note these dates in your diary, keep an eye in the notices section of the pew sheet for more details or call Richard Lewis on 419 9026.

WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP

Our September meeting is in the St Jude's room at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th September. Instead of a speaker we have decided to share with each other what we were doing in 1978. If this idea brings gasps of horror or a complete loss of memory perhaps you could think of something that happened in your life 'in the seventies'? Hopefully we will enjoy some laughs and what we recall will prompt memories for others. See you there.



Contacts

Vicar:

Rev Stan Pilbrow 480 7568

Wardens

Vicar's Warden: Doug Dempster 418 1448

People's Warden: Pru Giles 489 1998

Pastoral Care: Karen Perrett 418-3715

Synod Representatives

Rosemary Saunders 489 5830

Louise Collenette 441 3055

Hall Hire

Richard Lewis 419 9026

Recorder

Wendy McPherson 473 3448

Women's Fellowship

Rosemary Saunders 489 5830

Catering Committee

Barbara McIlroy 418 4117

Office Admin, Newsletter and Website

Natalie Roffey 022 607 4376

PETER ROLLINS EVENTS

Pints and Parables, Auckland, NZ

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 from 7pm to 9pm

Don't miss out on what promises to be evening filled with humour, insight and provocative stories that will connect the deepest questions and truths of what it means to be human and what it means to genuinely follow Christ

The Oak Room, Drake Street, Victoria Park Market

Tickets here: <http://peterrollins.net/pints-and-parables-auckland-nz/>

Building on Fire, Auckland, NZ

Thursday, September 15, 2016 from 10am to 5pm

In this intimate all-day event we'll explore how the challenge actually lies in keeping that white-hot fire lit; building our lives around it, within it, and on top of it. During the sessions we'll explore a truly liberating understanding of faith that keeps this purifying fire alive. A faith that has the power to impact our individual lives, our relationships and our communities.

Tickets here: <http://peterrollins.net/building-on-fire-auckland-nz/>

The Last Supper, Auckland, NZ

Thursday, September 15, 2016 from 7pm to 10.30pm

Join writer, writer, philosopher, and storyteller Peter Rollins for dinner and what promises to be an unforgettable evening filled with great food, stories, parables, comedy and conversation that will inspire both heart and mind. Strictly limited to only 12 people so don't miss out.

Tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/the-last-supper-with-peter-rollins-tickets-27043801739>

Alphabet word-puzzle

The following puzzle consists of 26 rows of letters with one empty space in each row. There is one place for each letter of the alphabet in the 26 empty squares. Fill in each letter so that a word of at least 5 letters is formed reading across only. Not all the letters in each row are used; it's up to you to discover which ones are needed to complete the right words. Some of the letters may fit in more than one of the empty squares to complete words; however only one arrangement of all the letters of the alphabet will complete a word in each row.

C	A	B	R	O	T		E	R	E	A	S	H
S	I	M	B	A	R		O	N	A	H	U	Y
G	R	I	O	B	E		O	N	D	E	R	D
N	A	F	F	R	O		E	N	J	O	Y	G
T	H	E	B	R	E		D	R	I	S	E	K
I	J	A	R	L	I		E	R	T	Y	E	D
K	I	N	G	D	O		I	N	A	T	E	T
C	R	H	E	R	O		C	U	P	Y	E	S
N	E	T	A	P	R		V	O	K	E	T	H
A	M	A	N	G	E		S	H	O	M	D	E
P	U	L	T	O	O		H	I	L	I	P	S
M	P	L	O	W	R		T	I	N	G	L	Y
J	U	S	T	I	C		L	E	D	M	E	Z
A	T	H	A	C	R		C	I	F	Y	A	S
I	N	D	A	N	G		R	A	C	E	D	Y
G	O	N	E	D	I		I	N	E	T	Y	X
D	I	S	C	I	P		E	T	E	N	D	J
G	C	L	O	S	E		R	U	T	H	L	E
T	H	A	C	A	N		L	E	A	D	E	D
I	N	S	T	R	I		E	E	P	I	N	G
U	N	F	O	U	N		N	O	W	N	E	R
R	E	L	A	X	E		D	V	E	N	T	Y
A	D	M	I	R	E		U	I	R	E	M	E
N	E	D	E	P	I		T	L	E	S	S	Y
S	P	A	R	T	A		E	D	I	A	N	S
U	N	F	R	I	E		D	V	A	N	C	E

Solutions to last month's puzzle

			M	A	S	O	N		
	C	R	O	W	N				
		L	I	Q	U	O	R		
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D		
		O	R	G	A	N			
		F	L	E	E	C	E		
			P	O	R	C	H		
			N	A	Z	A	R	I	T
			F	O	X	E	S		
			K	N	I	F	E		
		P	S	A	L	M			
		T	E	M	P	L	E		
		U	N	D	E	R	T	A	K
			T	I	T	H	E		
			N	O	B	L	E		
			G	O	S	P	E	L	
				W	R	A	T	H	
	F	O	R	B	I	D			
		P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R
		I	V	O	R	Y			
			R	E	S	C	U	E	
			L	O	C	U	S	T	
				J	A	M	E	S	
			H	E	A	V	E	N	
	J	O	S	E	P	H			
				K	N	E	E	L	



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