

THE SELWYN GROUP

had an end-of-year Christmas lunch on Wednesday last and had as guests the management team and the morning tea helpers. It was a grand occasion and John Mounsey played all the old songs for a sing-a-long between the finish of the regular Selwyn Meeting and the lavish lunch prepared by the Jones women (3 generations of them) who fed that team royally! Thanks Kate and Judy from all the celebration team!

Saint Georges Choral

There's been a continuous stream of positive feedback in relation to the Choral Group's final concerts for 2015 last weekend. The Theme "Where is the Room?" related to the Christmas story and through the singing and the stories told, to the plight of displaced people and refugees in today's world. The Choral Group worked hard on what could have seemed a series of carols which actually held quite challenging messages. Christmas gets covered with tinsel and glitter and coloured lights in today's holiday world. Most of the reality was quite different and the issues and story age-old tell of peoples hopes and dreams, trials and tribulations and stories of courage and determination against the odds.

Thames High School Junior Prize-giving last Thursday saw awards given to **Alex Juby** in Woodwork (first) and a number of Distinction awards; also awarded **Matthew Burchell** with first's and distinction's (both baptised here 2002/3). Great to share successes of the current generation!

THIS WEEK: 13-20 December 2015

- Mon: Vicar's Rest Day
S.Geo Choral Com. evaluate Concerts
- Wed: 9:30-12 noon Selwyn Group, Hall
MT/Hostess - Beth & Peter Philip
7pm Vestry first meeting at Vicarage
- Thurs: Office Attended 9am to 12noon
10am Healing & Holy Communion
Service (1662) Saint Georges Chapel (Catherine)
2pm Weekly Bible Study Group
- Fri: Office Attended 9am to 12noon.
- Sun: 9:00am at Saint Georges, NZ Eucharist
Theme - Moving with Mary's Song

Presider & Preacher: S. Georges, The Vicar
Te Puru, Peter Philip

Readings:

- Micah 5 v 2-5a** Denise Norris
Luke 1 v 47-55 Paul Jennings
Hebrews 10 v 5-10 Matt/Anna Juby

Intercessor: Fiona Harden
Liturgist: Catherine Mackereth
Server: Margaret MacKay

Music Ministry: S. Georges, Stuart du Preez
Te Puru, Barbara Harry

Welcome Team: Max & Vivienne Baggaley,
(Denise Norris), Bob Cox

Morning Tea: Margaret Smith

Sanctuary Guild: Dianne Hill, Lorraine Philips



Evacuation Procedures - In the event of a fire, listen to the presiding team & Welcomers; leave by nearest, safest exit & assemble on lawn in front of Hospital & wait for "all clear". NOTE THE EXIT NEAREST YOUR SEAT. TOILETS are in the Hall, next door.

CONTACTS Email: info@thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz

Website: www.thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz

Pastoral Ministry Contacts

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Parish Office Thur & Friday mornings 9-12midday Ph 07 868 6266

Thames Anglican parish seeks an inclusive ministry of serving Christ in prayer, action and worship.

If you are a visitor to the Parish, please let the sidesperson know your name.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CUP OF TEA IN THE CHURCH AFTER THE 9:00am SERVICE.

A safe place for the LGBT Communities

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INSPIRE ROSTER

- Mon 14th: Del Patten, Judy Bronlund
Tue 15th: Judy Jones, Colley
Wed 16th: D & D Norris, Lyn Chamley
Thur 17th: Rae Hinton, Marcia Sowman
Fri 18th: Colley, Arthur Mead
Sat 19th: Lois Robinson



Welcome
TO THE THAMES
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Tikanga Pakeha partner church
in the three strand Anglican Church
in Aotearoa/ New Zealand/Pacific

Sunday 2015 - 13 December
Advent 3

Service: 9:00am at Saint Georges - NZ Eucharist

Theme: Look Forward

Sentence: Shower, O heaven, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, and bring forth salvation. *Isaiah 45 v 8*

Call to worship

Rejoice and exult with all your heart
for we have much to celebrate!

God is in our midst, we have nothing to fear;
we are renewed by Love's song
exulting over us with loud singing
as though it were a festival day.

Healing Presence is among us
gathering in our neglected souls
and enabling that which is lame.
The shame of yesterday is transformed
into praise
and in wholeness we sing out across the earth.

We have been brought home,
gathered into the heart of the Homemaker;
here our deepest longings are fulfilled
before our eyes –
praise be to God!

Continued -

Lighting the Advent Candle

May they be a reminder
of your divine spark,
kindling new beginnings within us.

Joy be born among us.

We wait in hope, peace, and joy with all
your people
through the ages and into tomorrow.
Amen.

We sing

Light one candle for peace,
One bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to every heart.
He comes, he comes!

Together in Song 286 Words and music Natalie Sleeth.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

Lighting the Advent candle
Companion God,
we begin our Advent journey anew.
Illuminate for us a shining path to you.
(Light the first, second, and third candles.)

Holy One, we light these candles,
a flicker of starlight,
cradled in a forever circle of green,
a sign of belonging, of growth,
of possibility, of awe and wonder.

December Services

December 13, 20, 9am
Communion & Advent Wreath.

Christmas Eve

10am Holy Communion
7:30pm - Interactive Communion

Christmas Day

9am Communion and Carols

December 27

10 am Holy Communion



AM 26 O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

(refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe;

Latin Advent Antiphons, tr J M Neale

Reflection Prayer

Spirit of God, you flow over these waters
and between and within your baptized
people.

**Reveal to us the ways we compromise
your justice
in order to seek and secure our own
comfort.**

Through the prophets of former times and
today

you call us to return to you.

Move our hearts through these cleansing
waters
and give us a passion to become your
gospel people.

(Pour water into the bowl.)

We hear your call to repent;
**to turn away from all that keeps us
from living your way.**

(Pour water into the bowl.)



Reflection Prayer - Continued

We hear your call to be made new;
**to begin again
and to become more clearly
reflections of Christ.**

(Pour water into the bowl.)

We hear your call to become people of
justice;

**to open our hearts in compassion
and to bear the fruit of our relationship
with you.**

(Pour water into the bowl.) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Rejoice. Rejoice in God always.

Again I say, rejoice.

For God is near.

✠ And the peace of God, which is beyond
understanding,
will keep you centred in Christ always
and enable you to serve the world so loved
by God.

Thanks be to God.

Collect

**God of flood and fire,
calling us to turn
from dead halls
echoing with greed:
may the gift of your Spirit
come to us from another place,
burning with life and a hope
that will not be quenched;
through Jesus Christ,
the one who is to come. Amen.**

V: Come, O come:

R: Emmanuel, God with us.

Christmas Flowers

On Wednesday the 23rd Dec at 10am
Fiona Harden would love a small team of
helpers to arrange Christmas flowers. The traditional
colours are red and white, but if you have any flowers
with long stems to donate, they would be much
appreciated. Please see Fiona or ring her on 8681136
if you can help. Many thanks, *Fiona*

SHC 25 John the Baptist

John the Baptist, child of wonder,
knew his Lord as yet unborn.
With John's joy we greet you, Jesus,
Mary's child, salvation's dawn.

John the Baptist, desert-dweller,
called a nation back from sin.
Hearing John, we turn to seek you,
Jesus, - let new life begin.

John the Baptist, great truth-teller,
challenged common folk and kings.
Give us, Christ, the prophet's courage
in the tests our mission brings.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy!
We join John to give you praise,
and with John we spread your message;
love, forgiveness, God's free grace.

*Words Elizabeth J. Smith
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Today's Readings & Ministers

First Testament: **Zephaniah 3 v 14-20**

The Lord will renew us by his love

Reader: Max Baggaley

Gospel: **Luke 3 v 7-18**

What must we do

Reader: Winnie Sheehan

Presider & Preacher: Graham Colley

Intercessions: Rae Hinton

Liturgist: Fiona Harden

then to **page 465** in NZ Prayer Book

Fiona Harden, Server: Kate Sayer

After Communion: **Philippians 4 v 4-7**

The Lord is near

Reader: Margaret Smith

Music Ministry: Finlay Clements

Welcome Team: Raewyn Grey, Kate
Jones, Ray Deed

Morning Tea: Margaret MacKay

Sanctuary Guild: Lois Robinson,
Vivian Bathurst

COC 50 Who is this child?

Words © Shirley Murray

Who is this child that is to be born,
who is the child?
Less than a wisp of straw
in a stable,
brighter than the sun, the light
from his candle,
this is the Christ!

Who is to sing the song of his birth,
who is to sing?
All whom the story touches
and changes,
hopeful and healed,
whom love rearranges,
these know the song.

Who is to dance the dance of his
birth,
who is to dance?
Limbs that are leashed
a life into freedom,
hands that will hold the world
in a welcome,
these know the dance.

Who are to be the bearers of
Christ?
who are they now?
All who give birth
to lively compassion,
carrying peace
as dearest possession,
these bear the Christ.

Sending Forth

We have heard the good news
of God's realm
where all have enough, no one
lives in fear,
and peace and justice guide
each heart.

Let us go now to be people of
good news.

**We are on the way!
Thanks be to God! AMEN**

COC 40 Star-Child

Star-Child, earth-Child
go-between of God,
love Child, Christ child,
heaven's lightning rod,

*This year, this year,
let the day arrive,
when Christmas comes
for everyone,
everyone alive!*

Street child, beat child,
no place left to go,
hurt child, used child,
no one wants to know,

Grown child, old child,
mem'ry full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears,

Spared child, spoiled child,
having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child
knowing joy in store,

Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
star of stars that shine,

Words © Shirley Murray



Help is needed for **Foodbank Parcels** - Christmas Parcels will be packed this Monday 14th
December. Volunteers are needed from 9am. Please phone Andre'a at the Baptist Community
Ministeries on 8686274 if you are able to help.