

### 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

Graham Colley (Vicar) PO Box 227, Thames Ph 07 868 6267

Wardens Kate Jones Ph 07 8686 003 & Finlay Clements Ph 07 868 7516

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

Music reproduced with permission under license 604812 LicenSing - Copyright Cleared Music for Churches

#### 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  
Music: Sussex. Used under license.*

### 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.