

PEOPLE

Brad Sayer (like many of our student parishioners) also did well in end of year awards at Parawai School. He's also been appointed one of the senior team of students who will help lead the school in 2016.

ANGLICAN Taonga

The Advent issue of our National magazine arrived in the parish at the beginning of the month. Taonga contains articles that have been researched and cover the length and breadth of these islands. There are also stories about the international church that help to keep us informed about the world-wide network of Anglicans. Pick up one of the remaining copies on the hall side of the church near the morning tea area.



THIS WEEKS CLEAN UP

If you've got a 20 minute 'moment' during the week could you help put the *sparkle* on Saint Georges for Christmas?

- ◆ Dusting and cobwebs high and low
- ◆ Penetrating oil on high altar & pulpit
- ◆ Update noticeboards
- ◆ Tidy leaflets (throw out old)
- ◆ Launder altar cloths
- ◆ Recycle cardboard boxes
- ◆ Clean up morning tea trolley
- ◆ Clear weeds around forecourt and ramp
- ◆ Tidy gardens
- ◆ Look under ends of pews (feet)

THIS WEEK: 20 - 27 December 2015

Mon: Vicar's Rest Day
3pm Place at the Table Trust meets
Wed: 9:30-12 noon Selwyn Group, Hall
MT/Hostess - Jenny Colley & Claire
Thurs: Office Attended 9am to 12noon

Christmas Eve

10am Holy Communion (1662)
Saint Georges Chapel (Arthur)
7.30pm All age Christmas
Communion and Carols at S. Georges.

Christmas Day:

9am Communion and Carols
- Saint Georges

Sunday 27 December 9am

- Communion and Carols
Celebrant: Brenda Deed
Preacher: David Cooper

Readings:

1 Samuel 2 v 18-20, 62 Finlay Clements
Luke 2 v 41-52 Beth Philip
Colossians 3 v 12-17 Jenny Colley

Intercessor: Margaret MacKay
Liturgist: Catherine Mackereth
Server: Kate Sayer

Music Ministry: Stuart du Preez
Welcome Team: Steve Darwell, Rex Geary,
Lois Robinson **Morning Tea:** Denise Norris
Sanctuary Guild: Vivienne Baggaley,
Celia Newby

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.

INSPIRE ROSTER

Mon 21st: Peter Philip,
Catherine Mackereth
Tue 22nd: Phyl Devcich, Moi James
Wed 23rd: George Haffenden, Jo Gregory
Thur 24th: D & D Norris, David Juby
Fri: CHRISTMAS DAY
Sat 26th: Margaret MacKay

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

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WELCOME

TO THE

Thames Anglican Church

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

Sunday 2015 - 20 December Advent 4

Service: **9:00am at Saint Georges - NZ Eucharist**
9:30 am at Te Puru

Theme: *Moving with Mary's Song*

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

Teach us to sing your praise, O God.
**Teach us to sing with notes
formed by hopes and acts of justice.**

Teach us to sing with harmonies
shaped by mercy's wide embrace.
**May all the earth join the chorus
and dance to your beating heart.**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

Companion God,
we begin our Advent journey anew.
Illuminate for us a shining path to you.
(*Light the first, second, third, and fourth
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.
May they be a reminder of your divine spark,
kindling new beginnings within us.
**God's love, prepare us to be
your love to others.**

Love be born among us.
**We wait in hope, peace, joy,
and love with all your people
through the ages and into tomorrow.**
Amen.



We sing

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

Together in Song 286 Words and music Natalie Sleeth.

NJ 97 Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace,
where there is hatred, sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, give faith;
where despair, give hope;
where there is darkness, shed light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O my Lord my master,
let me not look for help so much as to
help;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and in dying we are born to eternal life.

Music: Audrey Smith, arranged by Barry Clewett

**"THIS BEAUTIFUL SEASON OF
ADVENT
... TRY TO TAKE ITS SPIRIT,
TO THINK OF IT ...
SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES
TO LOVE JESUS IN HIS POOR ..."**

B.H. Nelson

Prayer of Confession

Vulnerable God, when we gaze upon you in the starry glow of the nativity scene we sometimes neglect to see your human face behind the wire of confining fences. In our busyness we may pass you by on the street corners, in the office, the coffee shop – unable to hear your voice.

We confess that in preparing for Christmas there are times we forget to make room for the Christ who is with us in the hungry, the lonely, the needy, the afraid.
(Pause for silent reflection.)

**Open our eyes to see you in our everyday lives.
Open our ears to hear your cries for peace with justice.
Open our hands to reach out in compassion.
Open our hearts to the possibilities of your love working in us and through us.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

✠ May God's ever abiding presence kindle the embers of sacred care and compassion deep within you as you move to the rhythm of hopeful joy and wonder.
Thanks be to God.

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*

Collect

God made known in the friendship of women, the word of greeting and unseen life enwombed: give us the courage of the teenage mother who brings into the world a song of joyful revolt and a God who needs her love; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

V: Let it be to me:

R: according to your will.

AA 23 Come now, Lord Jesus

1. Come now, Lord Jesus, enter our Christmas, be to us no stranger in this new-made manger.
2. Come, small and human, born of a woman, yet a Son much greater of our own Creator.
3. Come, cold and crying, comfort denying, no place to receive you, few yet to believe you.
4. Come, poor and simple, our flesh your temple in your body feeling hurt as well as healing.
5. Come, gift and token, bread to be broken - star and sign still point you, myrrh will yet anoint you.

©Zulu Melody Arr. Stanley Glasser
/Guy Jansen Words Shirley Murray

Today's Readings & Ministers

First Testament: **Micah 5 v 2-5a**
The shepherd of the Lord

Reader: Denise Norris

Gospel: **Luke 1 v 47-55**

Mary's Song

Reader: Paul Jennings

Presider & Preacher: S. Georges, The Vicar

Te Puru: Catherine Mackereth

Intercessions: Fiona Harden

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

Liturgist: David Juby

Server: Margaret MacKay

After Communion: **Hebrews 10 v 5-10**

Christ came to do God's will

Reader: Matt/Anna Juby

Music Ministry: S. Georges, Stuart du Preez

Te Puru, Brenda Deed

Welcome Team: Max & Vivienne Baggaley,

(Denise Norris), Bob Cox

Morning Tea: Margaret Smith

Sanctuary Guild: Dianne Hill, Lorraine Philips

Christmas Services

December 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 419 Fred Kaan (b. 1929)

Sing we a song of high revolt;
make great the Lord, his name exalt:
sing we the song that Mary sang
of God at war with human wrong.

Sing we of him who deply cares
and still with us our burden bears;
he, who with strength the proud disowns,
brings down the mighty from their thrones.

By him the poor are lifted up;
he satisfies with bread and cup
the hungry men of many lands;
the rich are left with empty hands.

He calls us to revolt and fight
with him for what is just and right,
to sing and live Magnificat
in crowded street and council flat.

Today's Reflection ...

Advent preparations draw to a close on this last Sunday in the season. Or do they only now begin? The child whose birth we prepare to celebrate comes to change everything - and us - for the good. In what ways might Mary's song be moving us to trust, to go, and to do? What words or activities, what rituals or projects, have helped Mary's ancient song take on new life for you in this season?



**Why can't my birthday be about me?
That's my wish Santa.
Is that too much to ask?**

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 mes-
sage;
love, forgiveness, God's free grace.

Words Elizabeth J. Smith

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

Our Weekly Bible Study group will take a break in study until mid January. For any enquiries contact Peter Philip 07 868 5028.

Sending Forth

Blessed is she who believed what was spoken to her by God would be fulfilled.

**Blessed are we,
bearers of God's promise,
moving to the beat of God's heart.
AMEN**