



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 18 May 2014

“Being the Gospel to all People”

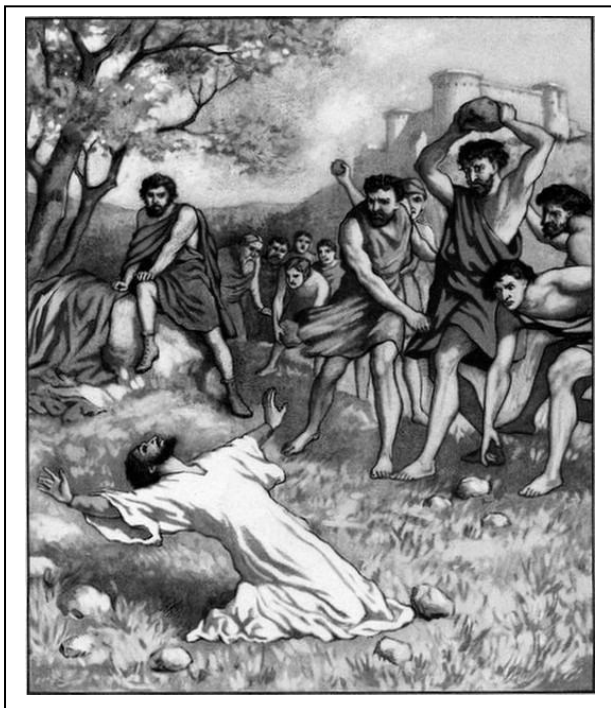
A very warm welcome is extended
to all visitors to St Johns.

Morning tea and is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy some time
with us.

Today's theme: “Courageous Faith”

Focus Scripture Acts 7:55-60

Other Readings: John 14:1-14, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10.



The people covered their ears – they did not want to hear the witness Stephen offered of the true nature of God's love, present from the beginning of time. The American folksinger Odetta once told a story about stereotypes, and said, “A stereotype happens when you say, ‘Don't tell me nothing about you. I already know all I want to know about you.’” Was it out of fear of what they might hear – that it might change them – that the people covered their ears? Their minds were made up, and it seems they could not risk hearing a message that might challenge their preconceived ideas and biases.

This is the world the church of the risen Christ encounters on a regular basis, and is the world to whom we must testify as well. Can we do that with the conviction of Stephen?

Acts 7:55-60 (NIV) Courageous Faith

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 25 May 2014

Theme: "Never Abandoned"

Focus Scripture: John 14:15-21

Other Readings: Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66: 8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22

Prayer points: Please pray for: Ray Chisholm with his illness; Jeannine's uncle with cancer treatment continuing but with very positive signs so far.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

Entertainment Books:- Hi everyone the entertainment books are here in the office again for \$65 if anyone would like to purchase one please contact me or leave a note on my desk on Sunday. For each book sold we raise \$13 to help towards our budget shortfalls so your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you Jeannine

School Holiday Programme 7-11 July 14 For the next holiday programme we will be needing plastic milk bottles, newspapers and cardboard boxes, so please can you start collecting and if you can put them in the main office for Jeannine. Thank you very much.

Leprosy Mission Boxes are due in please, bring them in for Joan Jones.

June Fellowship Meeting Be sure to keep Tues. 24 June free at 10.00a.m. to attend our Fundraiser movie BELLE at the Monterey Cinema in Howick. The price of \$15 includes coffee and a scone before the movie. \$3 goes to St Johns. The movie will begin at 10.30. Do invite your friends. We have a 40 seat cinema booked. This is a very good movie about the Abolition of Slavery and a charming love story. I loved it. Sign up on the clip board in the foyer and please pay Loas before 15 June when the deposit is due.

40 Hour Famine: Yep that time again. We have at least 3 young people looking for sponsorship: Amanda and Maria are doing the no electronics and food option while Daniel is doing the no food and no talking! option. Talk to Lorraine if you are looking for sponsorship or who to offer sponsorship. Thanks L

Anglican TV:-

Bible in Schools:- They are in need of teachers for this year. If you are interested there is a print out of the details on the column in the foyer.

What do New Zealanders need to know about Islam? 'Sea of Faith' in Auckland is running an evening session on Sunday 18th May from 7pm (tea and coffee with address from Dr Zain Ali at 7:30 pm) at St Lukes Community Centre, 130 Remuera Road, gold coin donation. If you would like to know more the flyer is on the column in the foyer or speak to Lorraine (who is probably able to offer car seats).

Anglican and Methodist: Thanksgiving for the covenant (2009) service being held today, Sunday, 18 May at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell. More details on the column in the foyer.

Sunday May 18th is our turn to enable patients at **Middlemore Hospital** to attend the weekly Chapel service. If you are able to help with this ministry please let Lorraine know. We need a few extras as we can usually count on a couple of Youth Band members helping, but they are our musicians @ St Johns this Sunday.

Real Life with John Cowan: This Sunday night (18th May) John Cowan's guest will be social development and local government minister, Hon Paula Bennett.

Anglican Bishops letters – A message from the Bishops of Aotearoa, The senior Bishop of the New Zealand Dioceses and the Bishop of Polynesia on same sex marriage is on the column in the foyer.