



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 6 July 2014

“Being the Gospel to all People”

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

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

Today's theme: “Rebekah & Isaac”

Focus Scripture: Genesis 24: 24-38, 42-49, 58-67

Other Readings: Matthew: 11:16-19, 25-30



The story of Rebekah and Isaac is rich with detail and significant cultural context. We not only meet Rebekah, but we hear of her meeting Isaac and then getting married. In a break with tradition, Rebekah is asked to make the choice about marrying – a choice that would not have been the norm for the time.

The story is told from the perspective of a servant to Abraham, Isaac's father, and continues the story of Abraham, Sarah, and their son. Through this passage, the reader is invited into the servant's connection with God, through the power of prayer.

Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49 (NIV)

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys. My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. And my master made me swear an oath, and said, 'You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.' success to the journey on which I have come. See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar," and if she says to me, "Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too," let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son." "Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' "She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too.' So I drank, and she watered the camels also. "I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' "She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.' "Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms, and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son. Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn."

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 13 July 2014

Theme: "Tension and Prejudice"

Focus Scripture: Genesis 25: 19-34

Other Readings: Psalm 119: 109-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Prayer points: Please pray for: Ron Ashton with his cancer diagnosis, and our many church members travelling overseas, Anyone with winter illnesses and Alan Busfield whose health is deteriorating.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

End of year AGM. With this fast approaching can all team leaders please forward their reports to the office as soon as possible for preparation of the AGM document. Thank you.

ROSTERS:- Thank you so much to those that have offered so far I am still looking for more help if you are able in all areas.

Entertainment Books:- We have 4 books left to sell if you are interested please see Jeannine as soon as possible. They are in the office 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:

Thank you so much for all your support of materials for our Holiday Programme. We can't wait to start using them for our creations.

Can you please pray for us this week as we get under way and please don't forget donations of baked goods for our morning and afternoon teas.

Thanks in advance!

Life with John Cowan: This Sunday night (6th July) John Cowan's guest will be former All Whites player, **Ivan Vicelich**.

Food Bank: The food bank is in desperate need of flour, tea, toilet paper, milk powder or long life milk, jam, toothpaste and tooth brushes. If you could, please consider this when purchasing your items for the basket. Thank you so much your help. Donations are so gratefully received.

CHURCH PHONE BOOK The new phone book is available today. Thank you for all the updates.

“Caring for our World” PresCare Art and Writing Competition. Further details are on the column in the foyer with entry forms if your children would be interested.

Inspirational/Anglican TV:- “It's great to have vaulting ambition. As long as it aspires to the right things. This week on www.inspirationaltv.net: Billy's life changing event, what the Gospels have to say about ambition and Matthew 11:25-30 come to me and rest

OUR HOUSE: This Monday 6 July from 9.30am for approximately 1 hour, followed by morning tea. Let's work on keeping our house clean together.

TRADE AID STALL OPEN THIS SUNDAY: After church today, there will be a stall selling a range of Trade Aid's products including coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, dried fruits and greeting cards.

LUNG SURVEY: Are you a non-smoker aged 50-100 and interested in taking part in a study looking at the effect of age on our lungs?

Auckland Hospital together with the Department of Bioengineering at Auckland University is looking to develop a model of the lung as it ages. They need volunteers who are prepared to undergo one day of lung tests at the Green Lane Medical Centre. They would like to hear from volunteers who

- are aged 50-100 with no known lung disease
- are able to lie flat for a CT scan
- have never smoked

Please contact **Dr Clair King** on 021 943 271 or Clairk@adhb.govt.nz for more information.

John Copping, a 90 year old member of our congregation, recently participated in this survey. He wants to encourage anyone 50 and over and *who has never smoked* to go for this assessment. It is well worthwhile. John found Dr King a very caring and considerate doctor. She was very patient and took time to answer any questions he asked her about health matters affecting the lungs.

The large scale Auckland-wide survey will study how our lungs change with age. It will cover 100 people over a 2 year period. The findings from the survey are to be used to build a mathematical model of the ageing lung. It is hoped that this will enable doctors to better distinguish between normal ageing lungs and diseased lungs. By taking part in the survey you will be supporting valuable research that could ultimately benefit all New Zealanders. More than that: if you are 50 and over, want to keep fit and are nearing retirement, or actually retired, this is a golden opportunity to have your lung function evaluated by a very experienced respiratory physician. Talk to John if you want to hear about his experience of the survey. Better still, phone or email Dr King.