



**St Johns**  
*Being the Gospel to all People*

Sunday  
18-Dec-2022

A very warm welcome is extended to all visitors to St Johns. Morning tea is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy.

Do not be afraid

**Scripture reading: Matthew 1:18-25 New International Version**



### **Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son**

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**Saturday: 24-Dec-2022**

**Theme: Nativity of Our Lord**

**Scripture readings: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]**

**Prayer points:** for Judy McDonald and family  
For Brenda and for peace to be restored in Ukraine.  
For Joan Rutherford to have wisdom to weigh heavy decisions.

### Message from Minister

Greetings my friends. Welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Our watchword for this Sunday is Love. Joseph is the figure attached to our last Sunday as we edge towards Christmas celebrations.

We are told that the angel appears to Joseph in a dream and he says to him, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the Child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." We read that during the time of his engagement to Mary, Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant. Joseph decides to dismiss Mary quietly, in a way that would reduce public inquiry into what happened.

Joseph was within his rights to hand Mary over, but he chooses to partner with God, and he gave up his rights to be right. We are told It is in the night, way past the daylight of the law, past even the late-in-the-day tempering impulse of mercy and compassion into the courts of love, which is the alternative explanation of what was about to happen. And it's through this dream that God reaches out and takes a hold of this good and righteous man, this one who was the best that the tried-and-true tradition could offer.

This is the most striking moment in Joseph's life; all of what he knows – his life, his religion, and his ethics – is being questioned by an angel in a dream, and that angel is inviting him to empty himself of all the knowledge and understanding so as to participate in this larger story that is about to emerge.

What about us? What rights are we prepared to let go this Christmas so that that we could participate in the larger narrative that God incarnate is invite us to as a community?

### THIS WEEK

**From: 18-Dec-2022**

**To: 25-Dec-2022**

**Sunday 18-Dec-2022**

9.30 am Commion Service in English/ Mandarin

**Friday 23-Dec-2022**

9.30 am – noon Knitting Group (gallery)

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Youth Group (upstairs hall)

**Saturday 24-Dec-2022**

7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service

**Sunday 25-Dec-2022**

9.30 am Christmas Service in English/ Mandarin



# THANKSGIVING 2022

This year our thanksgiving offerings will go towards the repairs of the roof and 10% to a Breakfast Club.

Thanksgiving offerings via direct credit to Bucklands Beach Cooperating Parish 03-0166-0135407-25 - please ensure you reference 'Thanksgiving.'

If giving by envelopes, please check to ensure your Giving Number is on the outside of the envelope.



## Finance Report for November 2022

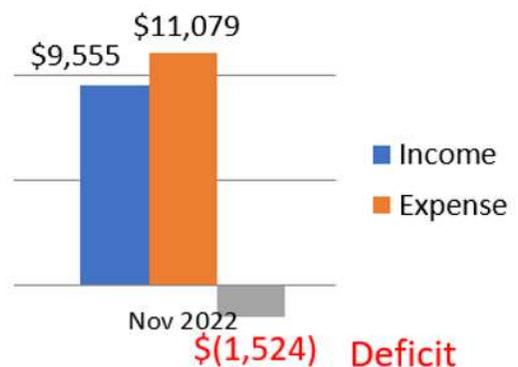
### Regular Income

Offering Income \$4,531.97;

Rental and interest Income \$5023.14;

Expenses \$11,078.94

**Deficit in Nov: \$1,523.83**



Note: Special Income and Expenditure in Nov 2022

Thanksgiving Offering Income: \$4,320.00

Auditor's fee (once a year): \$2,712.45

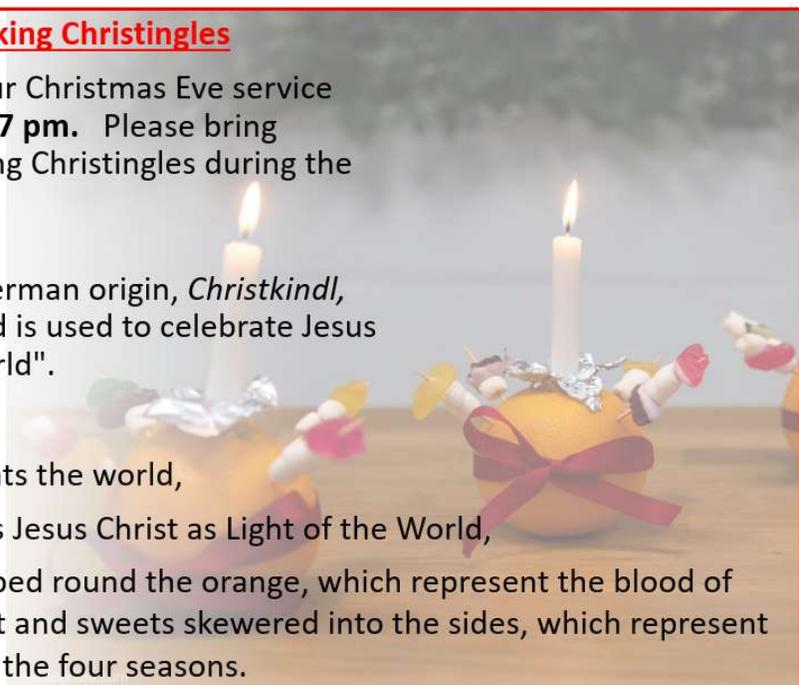
### **Christmas Eve -We will be making Christingles**

We hope you will join us at our Christmas Eve service on **Saturday 24 December at 7 pm.** Please bring an **orange** as we will be making Christingles during the service.

Christingle, from a word of German origin, *Christkindl*, means "Little Christ Child" and is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as the "Light of the World".

A Christingle consists of:

- an orange, which represents the world,
- a candle, which represents Jesus Christ as Light of the World,
- a red ribbon or tape wrapped round the orange, which represent the blood of Christ and some dried fruit and sweets skewered into the sides, which represent the fruits of the earth and the four seasons.



## Friday night Youth Group

Friday 7 pm at St Johns

Schedules can be found on notice board and hard copies available on front desk.

Sunday Services:	English 9:30a.m.	
Office Hours:	Tues - Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon	
Phone: 534 2305	Email: <a href="mailto:office@stjohnsbb.org.nz">office@stjohnsbb.org.nz</a>	
Website:	<a href="https://stjohnsbb.org.nz">https://stjohnsbb.org.nz</a>	
Minister	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	022 674 0044
Administrator	Winnie Wong	534 2305
Property Manager	Charles de Vilder	027 325 6097
People's Warden	Julie Dickey	535 5814
Minister's Warden	TBA	
Pastoral Care	Judy McDonald	274 8534
Prayer Chain	Judy McDonald	274 8534

**Youth Group:** Contact Jeff 022 674 0044 [minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz](mailto:minister@stjohnsbb.org.nz)

	This Week's Helpers 18-Dec-2022	Christmas Eve Helpers 24-Dec-2022
Preacher	Rev Jeff Odhiambo	Rev Jeff Odhiambo
Musician/s	Joan Williamson	Allyce C, Jeanette L Winnie W, Albert I
Projector	Alicia Odhiambo	Alison Stanton
Sound Desk	Alicia Odhiambo	Alicia Odhiambo
Reader	Trevor Haigh	Alison Stanton
Intercessor	Mavis Haigh	Alicia Odhiambo
HC set up	Winnie Wong	N/A
HC Serving team	Bob Williamson	N/A
Prayer ministry	Joan Jones	Could this be you?
Welcome Desk	Could this be you?	Could this be you?
Usher	Trevor & Mavis Haigh	Alison Stanton
Counters	Trevor Haigh Albert Ip	Jeanette Li Bob Williamson
Morning Tea	Uraiwan Jolly Nessie Crawford	N/A N/A