

# St. Stephen's Church

To know Jesus and to make him known

11 February 2018  
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Weekly Word ... by Geoff Robson

In his kindness, God gives us so many good gifts to enable us to live the Christian life. Perhaps we'd put the indwelling Holy Spirit and the inspired Scriptures at the very top of the list. But it's sometimes easy to overlook another of God's most important gifts: other people.

First Corinthians 12 paints a beautiful picture of the church as a body, where every single part of the body contributes to the health and welfare of the whole. Every Christian has been given "the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Cor 12:7). God has not designed the Christian life to be lived alone. None of us can ever say, "I don't need other people". Equally, none of us can ever say, "Other people don't need me". That person sitting next to you right now is, quite literally, God's gift to you. And you are God's gift to them.

Gathering on Sunday mornings is one of the best ways to give expression to this reality. But it would be a shame to limit our expression of love and fellowship to one morning of the week. We should seek as many opportunities as possible to use our gifts to love and serve others and to benefit from the gifts God gives to others.

One of the best ways for this to happen is through small Bible study groups. Our church is blessed to have a strong network of small groups where people meet in homes during the week to study the Bible, pray, and share life with one another (and usually to drink coffee and eat dessert!). Groups like these are a fantastic way to grow in our knowledge of the Bible and to enjoy some in-depth theological discussion, but they also become a wonderful place for us to share our lives with one another—to receive all the blessings that God intends for us by using our gifts to serve one another in love.

If you're part of a small group at St Stephen's, make the most of this opportunity in 2018. By his Spirit, God *has* gifted you and *will* gift you to love and serve others. Your group needs you, and you need your group. If you're not part of a group but would like to be, we have a range of groups meeting throughout the week. We'd love to help you find a group that works for you and helps you to grow in your Christian life and feel even more connected into the body of Christ here at St Stephen's.

*Geoff Robson*

**We welcome  
you to  
St. Stephen's  
Anglican Church  
Shirley**

meeting at Shirley  
Intermediate School  
each Sunday  
@ 10.30am

### TODAY'S SERMON

The Privilege &  
Priority of Prayer  
1 Kings 18:20-40  
Geoff Robson

### FOCUS VERSE

At the time of  
sacrifice, the  
prophet Elijah  
stepped forward and  
prayed: "O LORD,  
God of Abraham,  
Isaac and Israel,  
let it be known  
today that you are  
God in Israel and  
that I am your  
servant and have  
done all these  
things at your  
command."  
1 Kings 18:36

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# NEWCOMERS

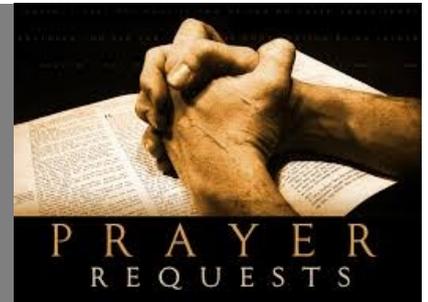
We're delighted to have you with us today, especially if you're visiting and we look forward to making you feel very welcome!

If you'd like any information about the children's programmes today, or about any of our midweek ministries, please speak to one of the *WELCOMERS (ORANGE NAMETAG)* and if you haven't already received a WELCOME PACK please ask for one.

If you're visiting, please don't feel obligated to give today.

We hope you can join us for morning tea at the back of the main hall after the meeting.

You are very welcome to join us in a *corporate time of prayer* at 10am every Sunday before the service - exit from rear of the hall, turn right then it's in the office on the left past the Vice Principals Office. If you would like prayer for anything after the service, look out for the people at the back of the hall wearing a *BLUE NAMETAG* - they would love to pray with you.



## TODAY'S Prayer Team: Heather Rush & Margaret Naismith

**SUNDAY:** Give thanks to God for those baptised in January. Pray that their hope can be sure and steadfast in the grace of God.

**MONDAY:** Give thanks for Michael and Kimberly Hewat for ministering to us over camp. Pray that their ministry in West Hamilton can continue to be fruitful through the power of our Lord.

**TUESDAY:** With youth group studies starting up this week, pray for the new and returning leaders that they seek to please God in all they do. For the children pray that they can find hope and salvation in the gospel as we look at the final days of Jesus.

**WEDNESDAY:** Pray for Logan & Sherilyn Walker as they co-ordinate Bible Study Groups this year. In particular we ask that they are given strength to manage the increased workload. We give thanks for their faith in Jesus.

**THURSDAY:** For Leigh and the children's ministry team, pray for a knowledge that their work is not in vain. Thank God that he shows his people grace and we ask that through the children's programmes our kids can come to know Jesus.

**FRIDAY:** Pray that the 'Dinners for 8' can be an opportunity for both new and veteran parishioners to love and care for each other. That bonds can be made that continue far beyond the weekend.

**SATURDAY:** Please pray for a supernatural wisdom for the Anglican church in New Zealand as it decides how to faithfully respond to the Motion 29 report.

# PRAYER



Feb 11 - Philip and the Ethiopian  
- Acts 8:26-40.

**Make sure you register your children** this year for their programmes! You can find the form online at [ststephens.org.nz/children/](http://ststephens.org.nz/children/)

**The Motion 29 Report** can be viewed on the following website: [http://www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/news/common\\_life/m29](http://www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/news/common_life/m29) - **If you need a hard copy** to look at there is a sign-up clipboard at the back of the hall.



11 & 18 Feb - Genesis 12, 15  
God's Amazing Promises: Abraham  
We can believe every promise God makes

## YOUTH GROUP COMBINED SOCIAL (Fun? Excite? Food? Yes.)

This Sunday night (11th Feb) we're going to be having a combined social start to the year for both groups. To make the most of the sun and warmth. We're going to head along to Waimairi beach (right by the surf club at the end of Beach Road) from 5pm with some BYO fish and chips. From 7:30pm we'll then head 44 Eastwood Rise and spend some time enjoying some fine company, having hot drinks and playing some games.

Families are more than welcome to come along and join in - me and the other leaders would love to see you and get to know you more too . - *Neill Dunbar*

The next Board Games evening will be on **Monday 19 Feb starting at 7pm** at the Admin Centre. Please feel free to bring along friends, family, your own games and maybe snacks or a drink... or just yourself! Please contact Andrew Irwin if you want to know more details. [a.s.irwin@gmail.com](mailto:a.s.irwin@gmail.com)



Our next **AAW Group** luncheon will be at **12 noon Tuesday 20 February** at the home of Anne Barclay - 14a Baltimore Garden. Please bring a plate of finger food.

The next **MEGs Ladies group** will be held a week late, on **Monday 19th February at 26 St Paul's Place at 7:30pm**. We will watch the NZ flockumentary called "Pecking Order." It is very local, about the goings on behind the scenes of the 148 year old Christchurch Poultry, Bantam and Pigeon Club in the lead up to the NZ national Show. It has all the ingredients of a great movie: intrigue, conspiracy, subterfuge, heroes, and villains, and lots and lots of chickens! All ladies welcome for an evening of friendship and laughter. Bring a supper plate, and a friend. (Liz O'C 3834 809)

### CARE CONNECT



Thank you to all those who have been so generous with meals for our church family. Lynley Preston has stood down from co-ordinating this ministry and Jess O'Callaghan is the new co-ordinator. We would love to have new people help with providing meals for those in need in 2018. If you feel you could help, please contact Jess on 022 662 570

Please pick up your copy of the latest **AnglicanLife** from the table at the back of the hall.

**HOUSEMATE WANTED** to share home in Parklands. Contact Aimee 021-203-0911

Our next mid-week **Communion Service** will be held on **Wed 21 February at 10.00am** at WindsorCare. All are welcome to come along.



SCT's programmes are up and running again for the year!

Come along to the café on Friday, 9.30am-12noon.

Watch church and community members play social touch in the park

Wednesday evenings from 6.15pm to 7.15pm.

Book into the Foot Clinic on a Tuesday (3-weekly, next clinic on 20 Feb)

We love seeing you there.

Contact **office on 981 5521** for more information

**DINNERS FOR 8** - 16, 17, 18 February and 10, 11, 12 August - contact Miriam Crowther: [miriamcrowther@hotmail.com](mailto:miriamcrowther@hotmail.com) for more info

**Parish AGM** - Thursday 26th April, 7:30pm @ St Paul's Lutheran Church

**Parish Prayer Meetings** - Thursday 7:30pm @ St Paul's Lutheran Church

12th April, 5th July, 27th September, 6th December

**Dates**  
for your Diary

# NEWS

**HELPFUL INFORMATION**

**CONTACT DETAILS** 6 EMMETT STREET, SHIRLEY  
OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 9AM-12PM  
☎ 980 0929

MINISTER: Jay Behan (h) 385 1327  
(e) vicar@ststephens.org.nz

ADMINISTRATOR: Kris Farr (o) 980 0929  
(e) admin@ststephens.org.nz

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS WORKER: Neill Dunbar (m) 027 329 4444  
(e) neilldunbar@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S WORKER: Leigh Greyling (h) 358 6196  
(e) leighgull@xtra.co.nz

INTERNS: Oliver Preston & Miriam Crowther  
(e) oliverpreston234@gmail.com  
(e) miriamcrowther@hotmail.com

VICAR'S WARDEN: Andrew Page (h) 383 9558  
(e) ajpage@slingshot.co.nz

PEOPLE'S WARDEN: Lynley Preston (h) 960 7115  
(e) ilpreston@icloud.com

SENIOR CARE: Glenys Falloon (h) 385 2118  
(e) glenys.falloon@xtra.co.nz

**SHIRLEY COMMUNITY TRUST OFFICE**  
Corner Briggs Road & Clearbrook Street  
Jane, Ian & Ann (o) 981 5521  
(e) office@shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz

**BIBLE STUDY GROUPS**

We have a range of home Bible study groups meeting during the week (day and evening) for all ages. Please contact Logan & Sherilyn Walker if you are interested in joining a group - sherilyn.walker@gmail.com or phone the office. ☎ 980 0929

**YOUTH GROUPS**

JYz (Junior Youth school years 7-9) meet on Friday evening 7-9 pm @ Berwick Street  
Senior Youth (school years 10-13) meet on Sunday evenings from 7-8.45pm @ Berwick Street  
For more information please contact Neill Dunbar 027 329 4444

**WED COMMUNION** @ Windsor House - 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays of the month

**NEXT WEEK'S SERMON - Jay Behan**

Acts 6:8-8:3 The sad story of Stephen  
**REPLAY SERMONS:** (e) oliverpreston234@gmail.com or **www.ststephens.org.nz**  
**WEEKLY NEWSHEET** is also available via email: admin@ststephens.org.nz

**GIVING ELECTRONICALLY**

ASB Bank 12 3240 0159049 51  
Ref for our bank statement please - INITIAL & SURNAME

**If there's anything else you need to ask or find out about, please ask us or check out our website.**