

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

18 November 2018
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

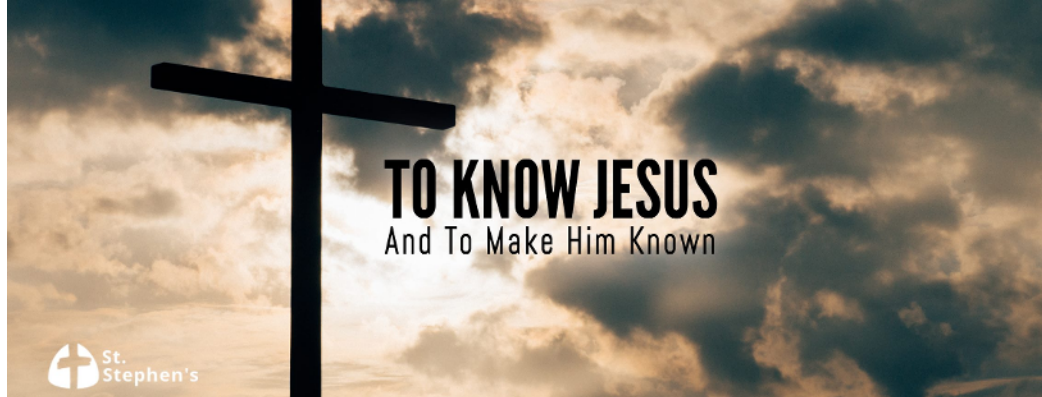
We welcome you to
St. Stephen's Anglican
Church in Shirley
meeting at the Shirley
Intermediate School Hall
each Sunday
@ 10.30am

TODAY'S SERMON

Standing Firm in the Lord
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
James Ballinger

FOCUS VERSE

Night and day we pray
most earnestly that we
may see you again and
supply what is lacking in
your faith.
1 Thessalonians 3:10



Weekly Word by Jaden Stokes ...

"The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb."
Psalm 19: 9-10

What a blessing it is for us to have the Word of God; the very words of God himself, written down by many authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and preserved for us today in the library of books that we call the Bible.

It is alive and active, sharper than any double edged sword (Hebrews 4:12); it is able to make us wise for salvation; it is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:15-16); it refreshes the soul, makes wise the simple, gives joy to the heart, and gives light to the eyes (Psalm 19:7-8).

How important it is, then, that we are able to handle it rightly.

The EQUIP conference is aimed at equipping us to do just that. Five days in early January spent immersed in God's Word, hearing Bible talks from faithful and gifted speakers, sharing great food and fellowship with other Christians, and learning to better handle God's Word ourselves.

That last part is what makes EQUIP unique among any

conference that I've been to – the particular focus that it has on training people to read the Bible rightly, and to be able to teach from it.

This training is broken up across four 'strands'. Strand 1 is what you will do if it's your first time coming. It will teach you to look at a New Testament passage in its surrounding context, examine the content to find the 'big idea' of the passage, and then apply it. Strand 2 is for people who are participating for the second time, and it will teach you to look at an Old Testament passage in the context of the whole Bible, seeing how it fits in with the big picture, and then understanding and applying your passage in light of that. Strand 3 is for people attending for the third time, and in it you will learn how to study what the whole Bible says about a particular doctrinal topic of your choice. Strand 4 is for fourth year participants, in which you learn how to study an ethical topic from the Bible.

I highly recommend EQUIP for anyone who wants to learn how to read the Bible better. As well as training you to teach from the Bible, it will also enrich your personal reading; it has done so for me. What better way is there to invest our time than that?

Sign up at
www.equipconference.org.nz

HELPFUL INFO...

We're delighted to have you with us today, especially if you're visiting and we look forward to making you 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 our WELCOMERS (Orange nametags) 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 financially today.

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

PRAYER MINISTRY

You are very welcome to join us in a corporate time of prayer at 10am every Sunday before the service - exit from the rear of the hall, turn right then it's down the corridor in an office on the left.

If you would like prayer for anything after the service, look out for the people at the back of the hall wearing BLUE nametags - they would love to pray with you.

MIDWEEK SERVICE

On the 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays of the month we hold a Communion Service @ WindsorCare @ 10am. All welcome.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

We have a range of 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.

YOUTH GROUPS

JYz (Junior Youth school years 7-9) meet on Friday evenings 7-9pm @ Berwick Street
Senior Youth (school years 10-13) meet on Sunday evenings 7-9pm @ Berwick Street

For more information please contact: Miriam Crowther 027 206 2824

GIVING ELECTRONICALLY

Please see details on flyer on table at back of the hall or phone the office 980 0929 for more information.

PRAYER

TODAY'S Prayer Team: Rae Allpress & Sheryn Sharp

SUNDAY: We pray for Latimer Church as they meet together today, giving thanks for all that God has provided them up to this point and asking that as they abide in God's love, He would give them strength to be faithful witnesses to His Word and that they would bear much fruit. We ask that God would give His wisdom and guidance to Costa as he leads this fellowship.

MONDAY: We give thanks for Liz O'Callaghan who has opened her home on a Monday evening every month for a long time and provided interesting topics and films for discussion. We pray that God would be at work in the lives of the ladies who attend and that they would be a reflection of God's grace to any who they come into contact with as they go about their daily lives.

TUESDAY: As the St Stephen's Women's Fellowship group meet together over lunch today, we pray they may be a help, a support and an encouragement to each other. We give thanks for this faithful group of women and for the great friendships over many years and ask that God would bless each one.

WEDNESDAY: We are very thankful to WindsorCare for providing the Recreation Room for our mid-week Communion Services. May those who attend and partake of the bread and wine be in grateful remembrance of what the Lord Jesus did for each one of them, on Calvary's cross.

THURSDAY: We thank God for blessing us with Jay and James and their families. We pray that as they faithfully deliver His Word to us all week by week, Jay & James will be encouraged to know that they are fulfilling God's commission to go into all the world and teach the gospel, in a very special way.

FRIDAY: The Shirley Community Trust ask us to pray for planning for the Holiday Programme in January, and for more leaders. The funding criteria changed so they have had to apply to a different fund. Please pray they are successful with their application. The SCT see this as a very valuable programme for our community, providing wonderful experiences for many children whose families cannot afford holidays.

SATURDAY: We ask that God would protect and provide for each member of His Church and provide His support, encouragement and strength to all that are facing increasing trials, tribulations and persecutions that are so prevalent in our world today and that He would draw us together in love, unite us in fellowship and sustain and strengthen each one of us in our Christian walk.



JAM CLUB

Luke 1:46-56

Foretold by prophecy: Meet Mary

JAM DROPS

Mathew 27:11-28

Barrabas

We all deserve to be punished but Jesus was punished instead of us.





FAMILY CAMP **Registration is now open**

Please pick up your copy from the table at the back of the hall or register using the link on our church website.

Key Dates...

**NEWCOMERS LUNCH
POSTPONED TO THE
NEW YEAR**

**THUR 6 DECEMBER
PARISH PRAYER MEETING**

**SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER
LESSONS & CAROLS**

**Mainly Music meet on
Tuesdays at 10am
during term time at
Rutland St Chapel.
For more info Contact
Vicki Music 383 6448**

Mums n' Muffins
meet for a time of
fellowship & Bible
Study every Thursday
during term time
9:45-11:30am
at our Admin Centre
(6 Emmett Street)
Creche provided
For Info Contact:
Hannah Tasker
383 8229

MORNING PRAYER
A little group meets on
Friday mornings to pray
for our parish and our
nation
**7:45-8:15am
at the Admin Centre**
Please feel free to drop in
for some or all of that
time before your day
begins.

Our apologies to any new people who hoped to attend our Newcomers Lunch today! We will have invitations available early 2019.
Please see our Welcomers (Orange badges)

The St Stephen's AAW Group held their Annual Meeting on Tuesday 6th and at the meeting members voted to resign their membership of the Association of Anglican Women NZ and become independant under the name **'St Stephen's Women's Fellowship'**. Members will continue to care for each other and pray and worship together. New members always welcome.

Our next meeting will be a Luncheon held at noon on Tuesday 20 November at Noeline Friedberg's home, 87 Fairway Drive. Please bring a plate of finger-food to share and enjoy a time of friendship and catching up together.

The next MEGs meeting is **Monday 19th November at 7:30pm** at 26 St Paul's Place and is open to all women. We will be watching the recently made true story DVD called "A United Kingdom" set in the late 1940s; the love story that began in London between the King of Botswana and an English office worker. They fought for their love against incredible odds and united the African Kingdom. Bring a friend if you can, and a plate if it suits, for a time of fellowship afterwards. (Liz O'Callaghan 3834 809)



A large number of us valued Jolene's contribution last week. The week climaxed with an extremely lovely evening on Saturday night. *Thank you to all who helped in the organisation.*

If you would like to keep up with Jolene's work the best way is through her newsletter. For sensitive reasons we cannot put this on the website. If you would like to receive her newsletter, please put your name and email address on the form at the back of the hall.

There is also some up-to-date NZCMS material there for you to take, plus bookmarks and cards if you would like them.



Our 'Cook 'n Eat' group meet this Friday, 12.30-1.30pm, to cook and eat nutritious and delicious food together at the Park Centre. [19A Acheson Ave.](#)

SERMON NOTES...

Standing Firm in the Lord
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
James Ballinger

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INTERN & YOUTH GROUP
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MIRIAM CROWTHER
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SHIRLEY COMMUNITY TRUST OFFICE
Cnr Briggs Rd & Clearbrook St
Jane, Ann & Ian
981 5521
office@shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON
Sex, Love & Work that Please God
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Jay Behan
REPLAY SERMONS:
oli@ststephens.org.nz or
www.ststephens.org.nz
WEEKLY NEWSHEET is also available
via email and on our website.
Please send requests to:
admin@ststephens.org.nz

