

# ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

30 September 2018  
26th 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

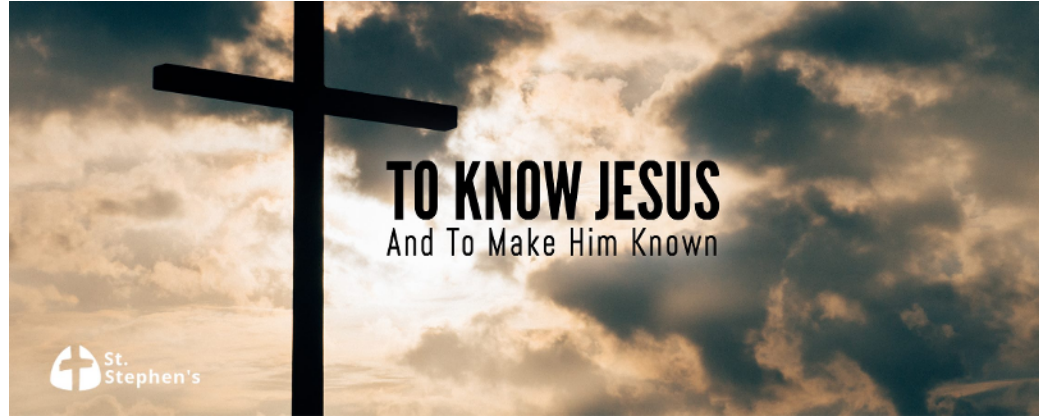
## TODAY'S SERMON

The First Christians  
Acts 11:19-30  
Jay Behan

## FOCUS VERSE

... and when he found him,  
he brought him to Antioch.  
So for a whole year  
Barnabas and Saul met  
with the church and taught  
great numbers of people.  
The disciples were called  
Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 11:26



## Weekly Word by Geoff Robson ...

Locations in the Bible are often really important. We're sometimes tempted to skim over them as mere factual descriptions, but it's common for locations to carry a deeper meaning, pointing to something theologically significant.

I loved last week's sermon from Jay, in which he taught us from Acts 10-11 and, among other things, encouraged us to consider who we're praying for and evangelizing. I found it a great challenge from God's word.

As I listened, I noticed the mention of Joppa – the town where Peter was situated when he had his vision and heard God's word about salvation being for Jew and Gentile alike. I remembered reading of Joppa elsewhere in the Bible, so I went home and did some research. And where is Joppa mentioned? In the book of Jonah.

In the opening words of the book, the Lord tells Jonah to go to Nineveh and "call out against it". But Jonah flees – because, as we later learn (Jonah 4:3), he knew it was in God's character to show mercy, and he wanted the godless Ninevites (i.e. Gentiles!) to get what they deserved, not to receive forgiveness. So what did Jonah do? Instead of going to Nineveh, "he went **down to Joppa** and found a ship going to Tarshish" (1:3), which just happens to be in the exact opposite direction from Nineveh.

Jonah and Peter both had their 'Joppa moment', and both moments had clear similarities.

In both cases, the 'Joppa moment' revealed men who were happy to receive God's mercy for themselves, but remained highly skeptical and resentful of God's mercy being extended to others. The 'Joppa credo' seemed to be "Mercy for me and my team; justice for everyone else". It was left to God to open their eyes and show them that his mercy is available to Jew and Gentile alike, and indeed is *needed* by Jew and Gentile alike.

I'm more like Jonah than I like to admit. In theory, I'm all in favour of God's mercy being shown to anyone and everyone. Until I realise I'm not. I still catch myself holding judgmental attitudes in my heart, considering myself better than others, maybe even resenting the idea that certain people (who are too far beyond the pale) could come into God's kingdom.

But how utterly stupid! For where would I be without God's mercy? Where would any of us be? How could I want God to withhold his mercy from someone else? As Jay encouraged us last week, how could I fail to make sharing God's merciful offer of forgiveness a central part of my life?

## 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 service.

### 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 enclosed or phone the office 980 0929



### TODAY'S Prayer Team: Margaret Butterfield & Shane Hollis

**SUNDAY:** We pray that our hearts may be forever thankful for God's gracious provision and loving kindness towards us and may we grow in grace and come to know Him more and more in the days that lie ahead.

**MONDAY:** We pray for everything and anything to do with the Holiday Club this week - that God would go before, give the leaders energy and the right words to say at the right time and that the children will have open and receptive hearts as they hear the gospel message during the week.

**TUESDAY:** We give thanks for the commitment of the Transition Team over the last 3 months and for God's guidance and help in going before them along this journey.

**WEDNESDAY:** Neill & Rebekah Dunbar (language learning in Melbourne) ask for prayer for good relationships with their initial contacts with the church in Cambodia and in particular for clarity and wisdom in the leaders as they figure out where they can best place Neill & Rebekah.

**THURSDAY:** Please pray that God would lay on our hearts who we could invite to our next Christianity Explored course starting 18 October and give us the confidence to ask them!

**FRIDAY:** Katie Bennett (working in Spain) asks us to join with her and her church in prayer for an awakening and receptiveness to the gospel amongst their community - that they can know and experience the all sufficiency of God in their hearts.

**SATURDAY:** Please pray for our Guest Service tomorrow - a chance that parents can come along and see what their children have been doing at our Holiday Club during the week and join with us for a BBQ fellowship lunch after.

**RE M I N D E R...**  
**TO PLEASE TO CANCEL YOUR GIVING TO OUR**  
**ASB BANK ACCOUNT (51 SUFFIX)**  
**THIS ACCOUNT HAS NOW BEEN CLOSED.**



**JAM CLUB** John 5:1-15  
The Man at the Pool

**JAM DROPS** Gen 2:18-25,3  
Sin Ruins Everything

Saying no to God makes us hurt and sad and work is hard.





**NEXT SUNDAY 7th OCT  
JOIN US FOR A  
BBQ FELLOWSHIP LUNCH  
AFTER OUR GUEST SERVICE  
GOLD COIN DONATION PLEASE**

## Key Dates...

**SUNDAY 7 OCT  
GUEST SERVICE  
FOLLOWED BY A  
BBQ LUNCH**

**THURSDAY 18 OCT  
CHRISTIANITY  
EXPLORED COURSE  
BEGINS**

**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.



**Tuesday 2nd October - St Stephen's AAW Group**  
is meeting at 1.30 pm at All Saints, Burwood.  
The speaker will be Jane Goodwin, C.D.H. Advance  
Care Planning Facilitator. This meeting is open to  
husbands or anyone interested.

**OUR NEXT MID-WEEK COMMUNION SERVICE  
WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD  
OCTOBER STARTING AT 10AM  
AT WINDSORCARE.  
ALL WELCOME TO COME ALONG.**



Our next 6 week Christianity Explored Course begins  
on Thursday evening 18th October. Please pray  
about who you could invite along to this excellent  
course and why not invite them to come to our  
GUEST SERVICE on 7th October at the same time!



## DUNBAR'S DIARY

*If you'd like to be on the Dunbar's mailing list for  
their updates please contact:  
[neilldunbar@gmail.com](mailto:neilldunbar@gmail.com) - AND/OR join their family  
Facebook page "Dunbars Abroad"*

## Card's and Supper Night Sat 13 Oct at 7pm

An old favourite with the return of the  
card's flag 500 night run by Vic Sykes.  
Expect a fun time with a bit of a  
competitive edge!  
A couple of men will also be talking a  
bit about themselves as we share a  
supper together.

Please bring a plate of food for supper.

To be held at 12 Berwick Street  
Please contact Andrew Watt  
(027 646 5028) for more details.



**MENS  
EVENT!!  
FLAG 500**



**Social Touch Rugby in MacFarlane Park** starts  
up again **24th October, 6-7pm on Wednesdays**,  
mixed grade - high school aged up. A fun, friendly  
competition. Visit the Shirley Social Touch Rugby  
Facebook Page for more info and to register, or  
contact Sam on 022 322 5924.

## SERMON NOTES...

### The First Christians

**Acts 11:19-30**

**Jay Behan**

### CONTACT DETAILS

6 Emmett Street, Shirley, 8013

P O Box 27016, Shirley 8640

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9am-12pm

Ph: 980 0929

(e) [admin@ststephens.org.nz](mailto:admin@ststephens.org.nz)



### JAY BEHAN - MINISTER

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### JAMES BALLINGER

ASSISTANT MINISTER

(h) 930 8347

(m) 028 414 5947

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### LOGAN WALKER

VICAR'S WARDEN

(h) 383 2032

(e) [logan.walker@otago.ac.nz](mailto:logan.walker@otago.ac.nz)



### LYNLEY PRESTON

PEOPLE'S WARDEN

(h) 960 7115

(e) [ilpreston@icloud.com](mailto:ilpreston@icloud.com)



### KRIS FARR

ADMINISTRATOR

(o) 980 0929

(e) [admin@ststephens.org.nz](mailto:admin@ststephens.org.nz)

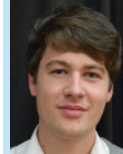


### LEIGH GREYLING

CHILDREN'S WORKER

(m) 021 952 499

(e) [leigh@ststephens.org.nz](mailto:leigh@ststephens.org.nz)



### OLIVER PRESTON

INTERN & YOUTH GROUP

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### MIRIAM CROWTHER

INTERN & YOUTH GROUP

(e) [miriam@ststephens.org.nz](mailto:miriam@ststephens.org.nz)



### GLENYS FALLOON

SENIOR CARE

(h) 385 2118

(e) [glenys.falloon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:glenys.falloon@xtra.co.nz)



**SHIRLEY COMMUNITY TRUST OFFICE**  
Cnr Briggs Rd & Clearbrook St  
Jane, Ann & Ian  
981 5521  
[office@shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz](mailto:office@shirleycommunitytrust.org.nz)

### NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

Who are the Champions?

Luke 12:13-21

Wally Behan

### REPLAY SERMONS:

[oli@ststephens.org.nz](mailto:oli@ststephens.org.nz) or

[www.ststephens.org.nz](http://www.ststephens.org.nz)

WEEKLY NEWSHEET is also available  
via email and on our website.

*Please send requests to:*

[admin@ststephens.org.nz](mailto:admin@ststephens.org.nz)

