

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

11 November 2018
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

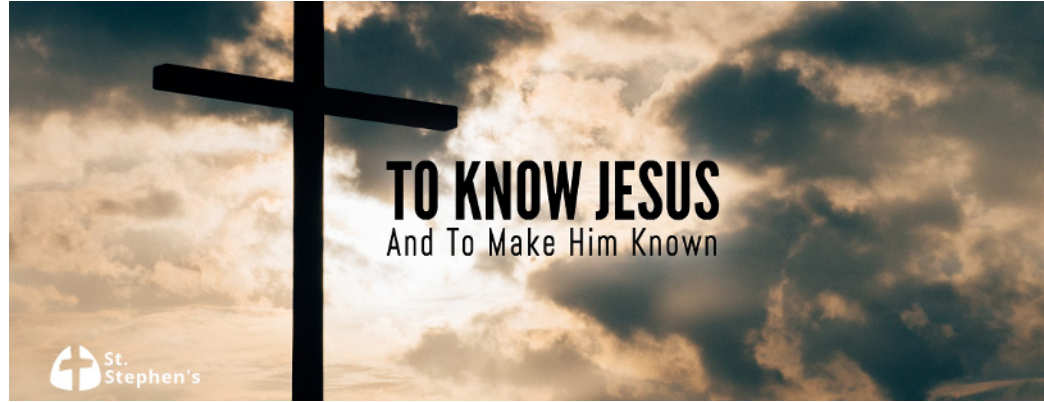
We welcome you to
St. Stephen's Anglican
Church in Shirley
meeting at the Shirley
Intermediate School Hall
each Sunday
@ 10.30am

TODAY'S SERMON

Faithful Follow-up
1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5
Jay Behan

FOCUS VERSE

For this reason, when I
could stand it no longer,
I sent to find out about
your faith. I was afraid that
in some way the tempter
might have tempted you
and our efforts might have
been useless.
1 Thessalonians 3:5



Weekly Word by Geoff Robson ...

Today is Armistice Day, 100 years to the very day since World War 1 ended. Even a century later, it remains a defining event in New Zealand's history. Around 100,000 New Zealanders (ten percent of the population at the time) served overseas, and an estimated 18,000 people lost their lives.

Growing up, Armistice Day (or Remembrance Day as we called it in Australia) was a big deal in my house. Dad made sure of that. He was born in 1932, and his brother served on the front lines in WW2. War has never felt close to home for me, but that wasn't the case for Dad. He knew first-hand the fear and danger that it posed, and he knew the joy of hearing that war had ended. So he made sure that we remembered. For him, 'Lest We Forget' was more than a slogan. I still recall feeling terribly guilty the first time I forgot to pause and observe a moment's silence at 11am on November 11th.

'The Great War' turned the world upside-down in many ways. As the 20th century began, the Scientific Revolution had led onto the Enlightenment and Modernism, leaving the Western world with a feeling of optimism. Surely the intelligence, reason and brilliance of humanity would make the 20th century the best one yet. Onward and upward, nothing but growth and progress from this point forward, was the hope and expectation of many.

Then along came World War 1, not to mention World War 2. The myth of unfettered progress was destroyed. Experts have worked out that not fewer than 100 million people died violently in that bloodiest of all centuries – more than in every other century combined. Humans had indeed learned so much, but how did we use that learning? To kill each other and rip ourselves apart.

With the promises of the Enlightenment and Modernism in tatters, the intellectual climate of the West turned to Postmodernism, leaving us in today's 'Post-Truth' world of radical skepticism and doubt. Unable to achieve 'Heaven on Earth', our society has (bizarrely) decided that there's no such thing as evil; it's all 'culturally defined'.

I don't say any of this simply to make us upset (although it should). I say it as a reminder that, for Christians, 'Lest We Forget' has an even deeper meaning. Of course, we remember above all the one true sacrifice that has really changed the world: the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins. But we also remember with thankfulness that Jesus saves us both from the vain hope of human brilliance and progress, and from the emptiness of a skeptical world that has lost any notion of objective truth.

Lest We Forget.

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

PRAYER

TODAY'S Prayer Team: Heather Rush & Margaret Naismith

SUNDAY: Today being Armistice Day, we thank God for the men and women in our armed forces and pray for His protection over each one as they carry out their various duties in defense of our country. Wherever they are in the world, we pray that God would lead and protect them from all the forces of evil.

MONDAY: We rejoice and praise God alongside Phil & Chris Carr (Bible translators in PNG) that the Bamu airstrip has opened at long last! Please pray that those responsible for cutting the grass runway will keep it cut so that the translator team can fly in and fly out as necessary.

TUESDAY: We give thanks that Jolene was able to meet with many of us last week and for the fun time had last Saturday. We pray that she may have a time of good rest before she embarks on wherever she will be ministering in NZ.

WEDNESDAY: We thank God for the family of Christ into which He has placed us and for the loving fellowship that we enjoy together. We pray that as we study His Word and seek to encourage each other in our little gatherings, that the Word of Christ would dwell in us richly.

THURSDAY: Katie Bennett (Church planting in Spain) asks us to please pray for the Spirit to be at work at the launch day, today, in that both Leaders and Missionaries would be at ease in each other's company and catch the vision of La Plaza, Asturias.

FRIDAY: The Youth Group are doing tricky passages in the Bible at the moment - please pray for them as they unpack the studies - that they would understand it and find relevance and guidance in their lives as they grow in their faith.

SATURDAY: We pray for those in our midst studying for end of year exams and ask that God would help keep their minds focused on what's important and that they would manage their time in a wise manner.



JAM CLUB

Luke 2:22-38

Foretold by prophecy: Meet Anna and Simeon

JAM DROPS

Mathew 27:11-28

Barrabas

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





**Our Family Camp
Registration Forms
are now out.**

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

**When completed, please
place in the camp box also
sitting on the table at the
back of the hall.**

Key Dates...

**SUNDAY 18 NOV
NEWCOMERS LUNCH**

**THUR 6 DECEMBER
PARISH PRAYER
MEETING**

**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.

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)

Tim McKenzie is looking for a place to board or flat with fellow Christians for university next year.

His contact details are:

Tim McKenzie - phone: 027 375 0005

email: gumble_in_all_of_us@hotmail.com



Wednesday 14 November, 10am SCT are holding their **AGM at the Park Centre, 19A Acheson Ave.** Guest speaker Mary Hussey, morning tea provided. Do join us to learn more about the Trust and its work in Shirley community.



SERMON NOTES...

Faithful Follow-up
1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5
Jay Behan

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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

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

REPLAY SERMONS:
oli@ststephens.org.nz or
www.ststephens.org.nz

WEEKLY NEWSSHEET is also available
via email and on our website.
Please send requests to:
admin@ststephens.org.nz

