

## Worship Details

### St. Peter's Church

8 & 9.30 am - Holy Communion Service  
7 pm - Remembrance Service



### St. Luke's Church-

9.30 am - Carol Service  
5 pm - Night Prayer



#### Readings:

Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

#### Sentence:

The angel said, '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'. (Matthew 1.20)

#### Collect:

God of our hopes and dreams,  
you came to Joseph in a dream  
and he trusted:  
you give us hopes and dreams too  
so grant us the courage to trust,  
and the imagination to live as you would have us live;  
through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Sermons are on  
the web

#### Post Communion Sentence:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look,  
the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and  
shall name him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7.14)

### Prayer Focus - Please Pray .....

- \* For all those who will have Christmas without their loved ones.
- \* For those who are lonely or unhappy this Christmas
- \* For all those affected by recent earthquakes - Kaikoura, Indonesia, Solomons.
- \* For those known to us who are sick or having an operation - Ryan Holley, Craig Anthony, Ashley Legat, June Woods, Keith Spragg, Michael Hawke, Phyllis Hay, Alec Nelson, Estelle Laugesen, Takeshi Hasegawa, June Flint, Sunita Rai, Bill Fleming, Leigh Craythorne.
- \* For support for all fundraising towards the restoration of St. Peter's Church.
- \* For Tikanga Maori - The Bishopric of Aotearoa, The Primate, Regional Bishops. Hui Amorangi o Te Waipounamu - Bishop, Vicar General, Priest Assistants. World Peace organisations.

### Christchurch City Mission

You may leave gifts under our Christmas tree at Church. They will be delivered to the City Mission to distribute on Christmas day. There is no need to wrap them.



# Welcome

To the Anglican Parish of Upper  
Riccarton-Yaldhurst

## St. Peter's & St. Luke's Churches

Sunday 18 December 2016  
THE YEAR OF GROWING

### Advent IV



#### From our Priest Assistant, Marcia

On this fourth and final Sunday of Advent we light the candle of love. Within this candle we find all the others because hope, peace, and joy are all part of love.

We often say (or sing) 'God is love'. When people tell me they don't believe in God my usual response is to ask if they believe in love. The answer is always 'yes'.

Today we hear of the name, given to Joseph by an angel, for the infant Jesus: 'Emmanuel, which means *God with us*'. The idea that God is with us may seem familiar to us, because we've heard it so many times, but for the ancient hearers of the Gospel, it must have sounded scandalous. It describes God's intense longing to be in relationship with us, and with all humanity.

It also reveals God's unfailing, unconditional love, which we hear in all this week's readings. Isaiah's prophecy offers a sign to the king of God's care and willingness to protect his people. Paul celebrates the Good News of God's kindness and the belonging we find in God through Christ. Finally, Matthew describes Joseph's love and care for Mary - a human demonstration of God's amazing love for us.

The Advent challenge this week is for us to follow Christ in becoming - individually and together - Emmanuel in our broken world. May Christ be born in us again.

*'Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas -  
Star and angels gave the sign'.*

(Christina Rossetti)

....Marcia



### Contact Us.....

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	stpeterschurch.nz		

www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchcorner

## News in the Parish

**Night Prayer at St. Luke's Church, 5 pm, today**

### **Remembrance Service**

Tonight at 7 pm we have our Remembrance Service. Everyone is welcome. It is a quiet time amid the bustle of the Christmas Season to remember loved ones who have died. Please bring a garden flower to the service.

### **The Rev. Marcia Hardy**

We give thanks for Marcia's time with us and pray for her and John as they make a move South. If you would like to give something towards a gift for Marcia please put this in an envelope, marked "Marcia's gift", and put in the offertory plate or hand into the office.

### **Correspondence - Care Bears**

"My sincere thanks to this wonderful group, and especially to Joe Motoi, the 'Care Bear' who kindly comes to see me. No longer able to get to church, I do appreciate this link.

Warmest Christmas wishes to this generous group."

...*David Kent*

### **Gateway Magazine**

Magazines are ready for delivery. If you are not on a delivery list - do take a copy from the table.

A very big 'Thank You' to Academy Funeral Services, 65 Main South Road, who have very kindly printed this in colour for us.

### **Christmas Card Flyer**

Also for delivery are our red Christmas card flyers. Please take a bundle and have a stroll. Mark the list with the streets you deliver to. Thank you.

### **Church Restoration Fundraiser**

As Christmas approaches it is a good time to remind you of the ideal gifts associated with John Brasell's print of St. Peter's. A2 print (\$75), A4 print (\$30) and cards (pack of 5 \$10). For orders or further information speak to David or Jo Winfield, Heather Cox or Pamela in the Office. ....*David Winfield (Convenor)*

### **Bowden Hall**

The Bowden Hall is now available for hire. It is a cosier and smaller hall than the Parish Hall and it has heat pumps to keep you warm. It is \$14 per hour plus GST. Please phone the office if you would like to hold a function or meeting there.

### **Baptisms - During the Christmas Season we will welcome to Jesus family through baptism.....**

On Christmas Day at St. Luke's Church - **Sally Ann Youngman**; and at St. Peter's Church on Wednesday 28 December, **Lily Corkin**.

All are welcome to these services.

### **Church Readings and Intercessions During January 2017**

If you are rostered on reading or intercessions during January, please see the insert in the Bulletin today. This has all the readings and the versicle and response for the prayers. Thank you all.

## News Beyond the Parish

### **Bible Reading Marathon - Transitional Cathedral**

Beginning 28 December at 10 am through to Sunday 31 December. It will begin with the book of Genesis through to the book of Revelation - reading day and night.

*All welcome. There is online booking at [www.shekinah.org.nz](http://www.shekinah.org.nz) and individuals/groups can sign up for one or more 'blocks' of 15 minutes each.*

*Contact Samuel & Victoria on [matt18-0@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:matt18-0@maxnet.co.nz).*

### **Carols at Crosbie Park - tonight - 6.30 - 8 pm.**

## This Week's Diary

### **Tuesday 20 December**

Morning Prayer - 8.30 am, York Room.

Staff Meeting - 9 am, York Room.

Maples Service - 11 am.

### **Wednesday 21 December**

Morning Prayer - 8.30 am, York Room.

Holy Communion - 10 am, Parish Hall.

### **Thursday 22 December**

Morning Prayer - 8.30 am, York Room.

### **Friday 23 December**

Morning Prayer - 8.30 am.

**Please note there will be no morning prayer in the week 27-30 December.**

## Christmas Services

### **At St. Peter's Church**

#### **Christmas Eve - 24 December**

11.15 pm - Candle Lit Carol Singing & Holy Communion

#### **Christmas Day - 25 December**

8.00 am - Holy Communion & Carols

9.30 am - Holy Communion & Carols

### **At St. Luke's Church**

#### **Christmas Eve - 24 December**

5.00 pm - Children's Service - dress-ups provided.

#### **Christmas Day - 25 December**

9.30 am Holy Communion, Carols, Baptism.

### **Website**

A new website has been established - the old one will be active until the end of January. The new one will enable people to donate to the Restoration Fund.

To access this please enter....[stpeterschurch.nz](http://stpeterschurch.nz).

Children's  
Christmas  
Eve  
Service  
24th  
December  
5 pm,  
St. Luke's  
Church  
Dress ups  
provided.  
*Come along  
and sing  
carols with  
the children.  
All welcome*



### **Readings:**

#### **Christmas**

#### **Midnight**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7;

Titus 2: 11-14;

John 1: 1, 3a,3c,

4-9, 14

#### **Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52: 7-10, Titus

3: 4-7; Luke 2: 8-20



Our choir have  
been carol singing  
in Rest Homes  
round the district  
and Rakaia Parish.