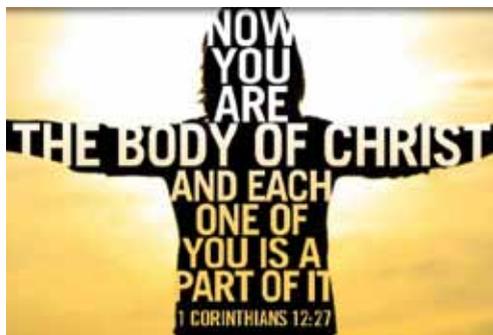


A People to Belong to

As a church family we are made up of all generations – *young* and old. We are gathered from all over and we represent different stages of life, and of faith.

We know this already. We also know that this sounds great in theory – but, from our experience, we know it can be messy at times. Being a church family can be ‘colourful’.

As we “learn to do church together”; as we worship and grow in faith, we cherish what draws us together, and navigate through what we need to help us at our particular stage of life, and faith. For example, we come together at the same time to celebrate Communion, and then at other times we break up into ministry programmes for children, youth, young adults, and small groups.



And whilst we have to work out the practicalities of being a church family together, what is the ‘big picture’ of who we are?

Do we see ourselves offering each other reflections of God’s goodness? Do we recognise when we are ministering God’s grace? Do we acknowledge how we are obliged to put up with each other’s nonsense and how we are given opportunities to learn how to forgive ...again and again?

There is nothing normal or obvious about being a family of all stages of life and faith. Our unity is never passive. We are the “priesthood of all believers” who work to foster interdependence, having been given the ministry of reconciliation (1 Corinthians 5:18).

So, let us be thankful and cherish the belonging we have together in Christ.

Allister

Allister is one of the ministers at St John's, since 2008. He is married to Naomi and they now have four children! His email is a.lane@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

EDITORIAL

The Apostle Paul's metaphor of a body to describe what the church is, to the believers at Corinth is apt.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot says because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body, that would not make it any less a part of the body.

(1 Corinthians 12)

In Christ the individual members of the church constitute a body -His body- in which we are individually members, each with a responsible part to play.

When I consider the individual members of the church located at the corner of Willis and Dixon Streets in Wellington, I believe that we are blessed by the 'many parts' that are represented. We have those with pastoral skills, those gifted musically and those with financial acumen. We also have among our number those who are creative, smart, hospitable and those with the ability to make visitors feel welcome and so much more.

Above all, each of us has the responsibility to care for each other for: *"if one member suffers all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together."*

Fundamental to our community is the support we offer to those in need of it. Our attitude should mirror that of Queen Elizabeth the First, who when addressing her judges, implored them to:

Have a care over my people. You have my people - do you that which I ought to do. They are my people...see unto them, for they are my charge. I charge you, even as God has charged me.

The recent passing of Alan Darroch is a reminder of this. Alan will not be known to many members of the congregation as he has been unable to attend church for many years. A stroke seriously debilitated him, necessitating full time nursing care. As a manager, elder and session clerk Alan's service to St John's of many decades, along with his wife Joyce, was marked by loyalty, wisdom, affability and gentle humour. Although 'out of sight' Alan certainly wasn't forgotten. A dedicated group within the congregation regularly visited and cared for Alan. This is a wonderful testament to the way members quietly make sure that none of our parts is neglected.

We can also celebrate our successes and joys. A review of the Messenger a couple of years ago suggested that we include a section on 'congratulations.' This has been a welcome addition. Margaret Gilkison gathers and shares information about births, birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, and those who have achieved academic and other success. It's always an uplifting read.

For, just as Paul suggests, when one suffers, we are all diminished. When one is honoured we are all inspired.

Robert Anderson
Editor



*Detail from:
The Wedding at Cana
by Paolo Veronese, 1571 - 72*

Hi I'm Brett Reid

My name is Brett Reid, I am 24 years old, and I am one of your new Youth Ministry Workers. My connection to St John's dates back to when I started at Scots College in 1995. We would have regular services at Saint John's, and seeing as I attended Scots for 12 years I attended many services and found great comfort in this community! More recently, I began attending the Evening Service, and subsequently the Men's Breakfast group. And the rest is history.

I graduated last year from Victoria University with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, French, and Theatre Studies and I graduated again this year, with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in French. During my studies at Victoria University, I was President of the Victoria University French Society and I have directed three theatre productions for the French Society. Directing is something that I am truly passionate about, as I find it truly rewarding, and *amazeballs*, to encourage people to unleash their God given gifts in such a creative way.

I see so much potential for encouraging intentional prayer in the Saint John's Youth Ministry, which I'd love to explore during my time with Saint John's.

Arohanui,
Yours in Christ,

Brett Reid
Youth Ministry Director
Saint John's in the City



Hi I'm Brett Reid



Hi I'm Richard Hpa

My name is Richard Hpa. I'm 22 years old and one of the Youth Ministry workers at St John's. I am originally from England but moved to New Zealand aged 3 and New Zealand has become my home. My connection with St John's started when I was a student at Scots College and my friend invited me to join the Youth Group. Since then I have gone from 'youthie', to volunteer youth leader and now my current role. Since leaving Scots I have been to Victoria University where I studied Media Design. This year I'm starting a Diploma in Web Development. Coming into this role has been an amazing opportunity and I can't wait to see how the Youth Group grows, not just in numbers but in their faith journeys. I am looking



Hi I'm Richard Hpa

Congratulations

For the Baptism of Miri Duffield

For the 90th birthday of Denzil Brown

For the birth of Freddie Shaw - another grandson for Lesley and Malcolm Shaw

For the Graduations of:
Brett Reid
Connor Driver – Burgess
Jonathon Ensor

For the publication of "Zeal and Honour - the Life and Times of Bernard Freyberg" by Wyn Beasley.

For the induction of Jay Waters as a Justice of the Peace

For the recognition of Petra Malcolm as a recipient of a Teacher Education Excellence Award from the Faculty of Education, Victoria University. Petra is now in her first year teaching at Avondale College, Auckland.

forward to bringing in all my knowledge from leading Leadership courses, Easter Camps and from my own experience in order for the group to thrive.

Richard Hpa

A People to Belong to

We all like to belong to something, which I believe highlights our God given desire to be in relationship with others. God didn't create us to be isolated from other human beings but rather made us to commune with other people. However a recent Time magazine article I read emphasized the fact that loneliness may be the next big public health issue. More and more people are becoming lonely. One of the most wonderful ways the church community can speak into this issue is by being a people to belong to. A people who recognise, even in their imperfection, that nothing will cause them to be ever again be separated from God.

Within St John's there are many groups people can belong to. One such group is the Men's Breakfast, which has now been going for around five years. It started quite

small but now has between 15 to 20 men each breakfast. Not only do we have some wonderful food, but the time has also been spent discussing particular topic, such as 'challenges to our faith', praying for each other and building strong relationships. If you are interested to know more about Men's Breakfast then don't hesitate to contact me. If you are interested in joining another group then have a look at the notices in the bulletin or the St John's website <http://www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz>.

Yours in Christ

Stuart

Stuart is one of the ministers at St John's, since 2009. He is married to Lala and they have three children.

His email is

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Belonging to the Universal Church

Our Editor's setting the theme for this "Messenger" to "A people to belong to" led me to ask the question, "Why should we belong at St John's?"

There are of course a lot of good reasons – there is fellowship, an organisation of diverse ages and contacts, great music, congenial forms of worship, and the chance to join in exciting outreach projects which can make a difference to people's lives. We have groups that cover people of every age and multiple ethnicities. You might also have better access to the facilities, join a small group with others with common special interests or even be able to get one of the yellow parking stickers for your car for when you have business at the Church. Membership is free too!

But there is a better reason that trumps all of these. That is quite simply the core of the gospel – that Christ died for us and was resurrected by the Father. St John's forms part of the Universal Church that celebrates God's greatest deed and spreads the word about it to others. Everything we do points in the direction of Christ crucified and risen.

Christ crucified and risen is what really distinguishes us from other groups in the community. It doesn't distinguish us from other Churches – but there's a lot to celebrate in having a diversity of Churches in the community that get the good news to a much wider cross section of society than St John's can do by itself. Isn't that a great reason to belong and celebrate with others in the Universal Church?

David Galt



He aha te mea nui o te ao?

He tangata, He tangata, He tangata

What is the most important thing in the world?

It is people, it is people, it is people



What's Happening at St John's?

June

1	Queen's Birthday
3	Session
10	Communication Committee
14	Quarterly Communion
17	Council
23	Fellowship Group, Outreach
28	All Age Worship

July

1	Session
8	Communication Committee
12	Monthly Communion
15	Council
28	Fellowship Group AGM, Outreach

August

2	Visiting Scholar David Gushee preaching in morning service
5	Visiting Scholar David Gushee Public Lecture in Church
6	Visiting Scholar David Gushee Public Lecture in Church
9	Monthly Communion
12	Session
12	Communication Committee
19	Council
23	Founders Service for Scots and Queen Margaret Colleges
25	Fellowship Group, Outreach

September

2	Session
6	Father's Day
9	Communication Committee
13	Quarterly Communion
16	Council
22	Fellowship Group, Outreach
23	Prof Tom McLeish Public Lecture