

St David's Union Church, Allenton, Ashburton

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Parish Office Hours: Tuesdays to Fridays 10.00 am to 12.30 pm,

Email: office@st-davids.org.nz

Website: www.stdavidsashburton.org

All staff members can be contacted through the church office, Phone 3085174 or a message can be left on the answerphone.

Pastoral: The minister is available for pastoral care needs. Please call the office 308 5174 to make an appointment, or talk to Henry after the Sunday worship services to make an appointment. If you know

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairperson David Henson

Secretary Alison Early

Treasurer David Fisher

Envelope Secretary Peter Yates



**Closing date for the next
newsletter will be**

19 August 2022

St David's Union Church Allenton, Ashburton

Parish Newsletter AUGUST 2022



FROM OUR MINISTER

The joy of gathering with God's people

One of the Psalms that is used in worship service for the call to worship is Psalm 122. Many people agree that this Psalm of David which is a psalm of ascents was meant to help the pilgrims on their journey to Jerusalem to worship. The opening verse says- "I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Joining together with others in worship services is a good thing for various reasons.

Going to Jerusalem was a joyous thing in the Jewish faith because people's burdens might be lifted there, restitutions made, and justice done. This must be true for the church too. When we gather together, we come with various burdens which may be lifted from us as we worship God and hear from God's Word, read and proclaimed.

Going to Jerusalem showed the people of Israel that they were one people in Yahweh's household. For the church today, gathering together must be a celebration of our unity in Christ to whom we belong in life and beyond.

For the pilgrims who went up to Jerusalem, that place was a place of refuge, safety, and sanctuary. Gathering together in church for worship is beneficial for all God's people as we declare together that God is our refuge and in God our lives are secure.

Your Parish Visitor



The last few months have been challenging for many people when it comes to attending worship. With Covid cases going up and down, many people find it challenging to be out and about and so some choose to be at home. I do understand that response to the uncertain times we live in, but at the same time, may I encourage you to find joy in meeting with others for worship on Sundays. As a parish we try to make the environment as safe as possible so that it can be a joy for all to attend worship as much as they can.

When we gather together, we gather not only to rejoice together, we gather also to pray together for peace as it is stated in verse 6 and 7.

***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May those who love you be secure.
May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.”***

Our world and country needs peace today. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together; let us meet and pray for peace in New Zealand communities.

If it has been a while since you last join the pilgrims at St. David’s, may I invite you to come and join others and you will be glad that you joined to worship God.

Blessings,

Henry Mbambo



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES ACTIVITIES

FIT KIDZ

Every Thursday 10.00 am—in the fellowship room—

A music and movement programme for
0–5 year olds and their parents/caregivers.

Cost: \$2 per child and a piece of fruit
for a shared morning tea.



YOUTH GROUP

Meet weekly on Wednesdays 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm
in the Youth Room.

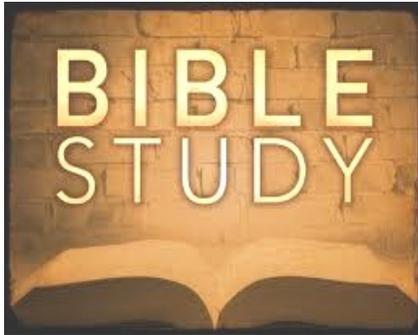
Contact the church office for more details.



(These group activities are run throughout the school terms).

Prayer Gatherings and Growth Groups

Bible Study Group: Every Thursday from 7.00pm. (*Venue advertised in the weekly bulletin*).



Prayer Meeting: Come and join in for a time of Prayer every Friday at 10:30 am in the Minister's office.



Called, Equipped and Sent

Report on the work in Malawi. August 2022

The Main Focus of the Work of STUM at this Time

We have reported how STUM is taking the lead and sponsoring in bringing together churches and Christian organisations to develop the work of children. By the time you receive this report they would have had 4 meetings in different parts of the country to form a central committee and 2 regional committees of CCD (Children's Christian Development). The aims of this initiative is to –

- Give churches access to organisations (including STUM) for help with their children's work in the whole of the country. At present STUM has only access through its district committees to approx. 60% of Malawi.

- To develop partnerships with some the largest denominations like the Presbyterian church. This has been a challenge in the past and is still not an easy task opening them to receive help. We really appreciate your prayers for this.

-In the future for STUM to be focussed on two main aims- to print lesson books and be invited by churches to give their Sunday school teachers training. At present in the STUM districts STUM is burdened with paying for the training events which it cannot afford long term to do.

We appreciate your prayers for John Msowoya in his leadership of both STUM and CCD.

The challenges countries like Malawi are facing today.

Most countries like Malawi in Africa have not been affected by many covid deaths but it cannot escape from the worldwide economic ramifications that been brought on by Covid. Then in the last 4 months the Ukraine war has led to even more devastating problems. For example Malawi to counteract the affects from the Ukraine war have devalved their currency by 20%.

We have reported before and asked for your prayers for the Government which seems to have a genuine desire to tackle the level of corruption in the country. Recent events have highlighted the challenges they face in curbing corruption. 84 people have been charged with taking bribes from a businessmen and one of those people is the Vice President of Malawi. We appreciate your ongoing prayers for President Chakwera as his government faces the worldwide economic and corruption problems.

From Jim Young

WITH THE REFUGEES IN SOUTH SUDAN

SIM's clinic in Doro, South Sudan, serves thousands of refugees who have fled war from over the borders, some lately even from Tigray in Ethiopia. Rumours are that there will be many more as things continue to get worse in the North.

Due to the clinic's good reputation amongst the refugees, we see many of these people," says our nurse at the clinic, **Erica Aarsen**. "Some come with stories of atrocious things that have happened to them in their homelands. We thank God that they have come to us and pray that they find him here as well. Outpatient numbers keep growing. There are many followers of Islam as well as people who practice traditional beliefs. We often see patients at the clinic with charms and amulets that they believe will protect them from illness and evil.

"The work at the clinic has been going well," Erica reports. "I recently treated a severely malnourished little girl who also had malaria, pneumonia, intestinal worms and scabies! It was sad to see, however after a few weeks of treatment she has returned looking healthy and eating well, praise God. The clinic staff were also praying for her and her mother and continue to do so, it is great to see the power of prayer."

A big need, Erica says, is for more training for the South Sudan staff who continue working well, despite having their own challenges living in the refugee camps. They need training in both clinical skills and in reaching out as Christians to the patients.

Perhaps your skills fit here? "Anyone willing to come alongside and encourage and teach either of the above would really help us. We love the staff at the clinic and we are here to serve them as well, and help them to be the best that they can be. When we take care of them, they are better equipped to take care of the patients, which benefits us all." To ask about the training roles, contact nzletstalk@sim.org.

FITNESS AND EXERCISE GROUPS

**Every Monday at 6.00 am and 6.00 pm
and Wednesday and Friday at 6.00 am—
Circuit Training**

Sweaty Bettys Exercise Group meets in the hall



Every Wednesday at 9.30 am

Steady As You Go Exercise Group
Meet in the Fellowship Room

Every Tuesday at 9.30 am

Walking Group meets at the church

EVERYONE WELCOME



Meetings of Parish Council, Work Groups and Committees

Parish Council

1st Wednesday of the month

Parish Council Executive—meets occasionally as required

Christian Education

Christian Education Team meet monthly.

Worship Committee

3rd Thursday most months at 2.00 pm in the Lounge

Pastoral Committee

—occasional meetings

Finance Committee

—occasional meetings

Property Committee

—occasional meetings

Worship Services August 2022

Wednesday 3 August Rev Henry Mbambo	11:30am	Mid-week Service, Communion & Lunch
Sunday 7 August Rev Henry Mbambo	9:30am	Worship & Communion
Wednesday 10 August Rev Henry Mbambo	10:45am	Worship Terrace View
Sunday 14 August Rev Henry Mbambo	9:30am 11:15am	Worship Worship Greenstreet
Tuesday 16 August Rev Henry Mbambo	11:00am	Worship Radius Millstream
Wednesday 17 August Rev Henry Mbambo	11:30am	Mid-week Service & Lunch
Sunday 21 August Rev Jim Young	9:30am	Worship.
Sunday 28 August Rev Henry Mbambo	9:30am	Worship

PLEASE NOTE: All gatherings are subject to any COVID 19 restrictions applying at the time.

Readings and Sermons from worship services each Sunday are available to listen to on the church website—www.stdavidsashburton.org



Called, Equipped and Sent

Pray :

–for Sudan. For many of Erica’s and colleagues this is their home. It is very discouraging for them to see their country slip further into military rule and poverty.
–for peace. Again there has been fighting in Doro with some people being killed in tribal conflicts. Pray for God’s hand of mercy and

Update—Erica Aarsen. South Sudan

This has been a very challenging time for Erica. She became very sick with Malaria 4 weeks ago and was airlifted out to Kenya. Thank you for your prayers for Erica as she made a good recovery. She returns to South Sudan to resume her nursing at the refugee camp on Thursday 28th July. She appreciates your ongoing prayers for her demanding work dealing with all types of sicknesses.

News from Daniel and Anita Muir, Lusaka, Zambia.

It has been a great few months of ministry. The weekly times of fellowship - like a university church service - at UNZA (University of Zambia) are going really well and number of attendees range between 20 and 30. The small discipleship group at this same university also continues to thrive, with around 7 students faithfully joining weekly. There are various other male students who meet with Daniel one on one for discipleship/mentoring which is amazing.

We have been praying and seeking to get into other Uni's which has proved challenging. This month however we were granted permission to begin ministry at a Uni called Levy Mwanawasa which is incredibly exciting. Immediately getting a time of fellowship started (attended by 6 at the first meeting) we are now trying to start small discipleship groups there. Praise God for this new open door and pray for a good start with this ministry. There is one more Uni we are praying about and hope to begin ministry there in the next few months God willing. Things do seem quite busy already so we need lots of wisdom.

From Jim Young

HOPE

Hope looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst in them.

Hope opens doors where despair closes them.

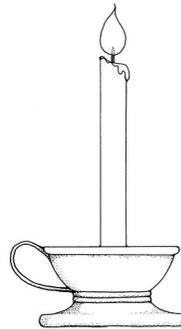
Hope discovers what can be done instead of grumbling about what can't be done.

Hope draws its power from a deep trust in God and the basic goodness of people.

Hope "lights a candle" instead of "cursing the darkness".

Hope regards problems, small or large as opportunities.

Hope cherishes no illusions, nor does it yield to cynicism.



CRAFT 'N' CHAT

Join us on the first and third Friday.

1.30pm—4pm in the Fellowship Centre

Bring your own craft projects or just call in for a cuppa.

Everyone welcome. Enquiries to Philippa phone 3087644



Called, Equipped and Sent

The Core values below are what will support the vision of our church, shaping our culture, and reflect what our church values.

The Centrality of the Gospel

The gospel is the message of hope for the world and grace for the sinner. It is not just a collection of the words of truth spoken by Jesus over 2000 years ago, but the very power of God which transforms, grows, changes, and shapes everything today.

Worship

Encourage and facilitate the worship of God in spirit and truth in order that God would be glorified and His people would find complete satisfaction in Him.

Discipleship

It is God's desire for those who have put their faith in Christ that they become lifelong disciples deepening their faith as God's people who are being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to be Christ like. Discipleship will provide followers of Jesus a safe place and resources to develop a deeper relationship with God.

Prayer

Maintaining a humble posture of prayer both corporately and individually in order to experience the presence and power of God in all aspects of our ministry and life.

Mission and Outreach

Being obedient to Christ's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, we will seek to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ with integrity and in love in the city and to the ends of the world.

Fellowship

Encourage small fellowship Groups in order to strength relationships as brothers and sister in Christ, encouraging one another for spiritual nourishment.

Stewardship

Honoring God with our lives by understanding what it means to manage responsibly and giving generously, cheerfully, and sacrificially of our talents, treasures, and time.