



St Andrew's Welcomes You

DESERTED WILDERNESS?

Several years ago I spent a week camping in the Nevada desert with a friend. He was a geology student doing field work for a masters degree, studying the aptly named sharp and rough “tear-pants rock”. Our camp sight was in a barren valley, 40 minutes off the road, 40 minutes out of the city of Bolder. You could see the lights of Vegas on the horizon but only one vehicle came by in the whole time we were there. It was an isolated, deserted, wilderness place.

My friend Luke would hike up the hills each day to record the geology of the area in minute detail. Most days I remained at our camp and read or wrote, slept or prayed. When we arrived I thought the area was bare, barren and lifeless. The lack of rain, hot days and cold nights created harsh conditions in which only the hardiest of plants would grow. There were no animals to be seen.

As the days went by and I spent more time in quietness and reflection I noticed more and more about the ecosystem which surrounded me. Tiny insects and ingenious plants which had adapted to even the harshest of conditions and worked together to sustain life. Some moments I felt irritation and fear. Others I felt extreme calm and peace. Some moments I felt completely abandoned by God. In others God felt closer than my breath. When the cold wind came over the hills at sunset each night we would climb into our sleeping bags and brace ourselves against the cold. It was as though we had joined the powerful rhythm of life in that isolated place, with our creator and the creation.

Many people have commented on the ways in which 2020 has invited us to slow down. And that as we have, we have noticed things about our selves, our neighbours and our environment. Some people have felt held by God, others abandoned, fearful and uncertain. What was a novelty in March and April has now become a struggle and a frustration. I pray that we will continue to have eyes to see and hearts to explore ever more deeply what God is inviting us to in the unfamiliar, unprecedented, wilderness space.

The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross



20th SEPTEMBER 2020

Season of Creation - Desert and Wilderness

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS

Monday 21st September

Psalm 15 / Proverbs 3:27-34

Luke 8:16-18

Light of the world, empower us to be your beacons of hope in our age. Help us to pay real attention to our neighbours' needs. In the manner of Jesus, may we wisely, compassionately and humbly serve them in your name. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Tuesday 22nd September

Psalm 119:1-8 / Proverbs 21:1-6,10-13

Luke 8:19-21

Living Word, you call us to leave all we know to follow your way of justice and peace. Open our ears to the cries of the poor. Open our hearts, that we may lovingly serve you and our neighbours, who, Jesus reminds us, are our real brothers and sisters. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Wednesday 23rd September

Psalm 119:105-112 / Proverbs 30:5-9

Luke 9:1-6

God our refuge, in you alone do we find safety and truth. You then send us forth in your name to proclaim your living word. When we find ourselves on inhospitable ground, give us courage to leave, knowing that you remain there after us, and that your commonwealth of peace will come. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Thursday 24th September

Psalm 90:1-6 / Ecclesiastes 1:2-11

Luke 9:7-9

Trustworthy God, we place our hope in you. You are the only constant in our world. When we lose hope, help us remember Jesus. May we find in him new life, renewed hope, and a new-found way of loving and being loved, remembering that in you all is possible. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Friday 25th September

Psalm 144:1-4 / Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Luke 9:18-22

God of all ages, when we try to confine you to one way of being, you remind us anew of your inevitable grace, and your relentless love. Open our eyes to the way of Jesus: more than martyr; more than prophet. Through him, may we recognise your call to love passionately. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Saturday 26th September

Psalm 90:1-2,12-end / Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:8 / Luke 9:43b-45

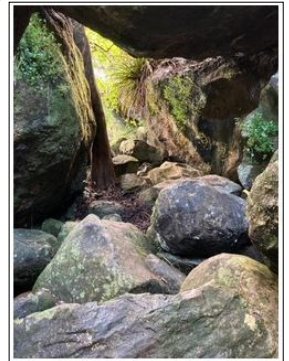
Steadfast God, when all that gives us life seems frail and failing, remind us of your supportive presence. Speak to us your word of hope, that we are born anew in Jesus. Let your words go beyond our ears into our hearts, that we may proclaim your grace for all. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

Our Daily Bread Jenny Harrison and John McAlpine

Thanks to all those who sent through their favourite Wilderness photos this week.

Each week we will ask for submissions on each upcoming theme:

*Rivers and Seas,
and Creatures.*



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- * Church services remain online via Zoom and we will update the Parish regarding the church and office reopening after the next Govt announcement on Monday 21st Sept.
- * You can still phone the office (phone diverted to vicarage) or email office@standrewsepsom.org.nz if you need anything at all.
- * Please sign in using the QR codes or the contact tracing forms at the church, hall and office, and vicarage each time you visit.
- * Covid Tracer booklets have arrived and will be available to collect when the church and office re-opens. You need any help with the Tracer App call Brian Tracey: 021 661 573.
- * The Cannabis Referendum Forum will now be held on Zoom, see advert below.

ZOOM MEETING IDs Phone 884 6780 from a landline or go to www.zoom.us

Sunday Service 9.30am Meeting ID # 664-003-107

Wednesday Prayer 12 noon Meeting ID # 260 154 652

**This event will require Auckland to move to Alert Level 2.0.
An email will be sent confirming on Tuesday 22nd.**

**GINGER 'N BREAD CIRCLE
THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 1.30-3PM
PARISH CENTRE**



This month we welcome Carolyn Wellm from the Diocese to speak about SPACE.

Everyone is welcome! Please feel free to wear your mask.

We will be sitting at tables, observing social distancing.

Thanks to a willing committee, we will have the novelty of waitress-assisted afternoon tea!

Space for you and your baby provides a place of welcome and support for those beginning their parenting journey. Come along and learn all about how St Andrew's Epsom is meeting the needs of families in the community through this fun, interactive programme for parents and their babies.

ZOOM REFERENDUM EDUCATION FORUM CANNABIS LEGALISATION AND CONTROL

St Andrew's Epsom presents an evening of information and education on Zoom, designed to help you make an informed vote in this referendum on election day.

Speakers: Associate Professor Chris Wilkins and Dr Marta Rychert, Massey University College of Health



Monday 5th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting ID: 812 9553 4330 Passcode: 277779

The Zoom Invitation with an easy link will be sent closer to the time.

Any queries please email: office@standrewsepsom.org.nz or Phone (09)638 8264

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Mailing Address: 100 St Andrews Road, Epsom, 1023

Parish Office: Karen Ross (09) 638 8264

office@standrewsepsom.org.nz

Tuesday to Friday 9:30am - 2:30pm

www.standrewsepsom.org.nz

Vicar: The Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross

Vicarage (09) 623 2290 Mobile 021 921 080

vicar@standrewsepsom.org.nz Please note Monday is Sarah's day off.

Deacon Assistant: The Reverend Julian Morris (09) 638 8264

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Lucy Best (09) 520 0093 Mobile 021 350 480

Services: Sunday 8am and 9:30am, Wednesday 10am

If you would like to give via Automatic Payment or Direct Credit
The Parish bank account is: 06 0103 0780441 00



Those helping on Zoom today:

Liturgist: Sarah Stevens-Cross

Reading : Derek Ion

Reflection: Rod Oram

Intercessor: Chris Allan

Music Co-Ord: Stephen Hamilton

Responses: Robyn and Stephen Hamilton

Song of Praise:

Reading:

Affirmation of Faith:

Zoom Host:

Soojin Morris

Jane McNamara

Susan Gaddis

Brian Tracey



Do you want to be more environmentally sustainable and get to know your neighbours at the same time?

Eco-Neighbourhoods is an Albert-Eden Local Board initiative.

The project connects like-minded neighbours across local suburbs, so you can find fun ways to make a real difference. You get supported to think globally while acting locally.

It's an opportunity for people to learn different ways to live lightly - you could learn how to grow and buy local food, keep chickens, improve your home's energy efficiency, set up pest control in your hood, minimise waste, harvest rain water or composting.

Groups are supported by a community facilitator and there is funding so that you can try out what interests you to make a difference in your neighbourhood.

Join the Eco-Neighbourhood journey

Contact Heather at econeighbourhoods@gmail.com
or check us out online livelightly.nz/econeighbourhoods



CHURCH SERVICES

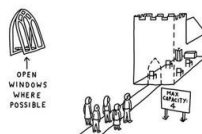
WAYS TO HOLD THEM DURING A PANDEMIC



ONLINE (RECORDED)



ONLINE (LIVE)



IN THE BUILDING



OUTDOORS

Join us for great conversation and great coffee...

Tuesday Coffee at 11am

HOLLYWOOD BAKERY

2/100 Pah Road Royal Oak

Everyone is welcome!

HOLLYWOOD
BAKERY ESPRESSO