

## Contact Us

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Elevate Youth is for students in school years 7 through 13 (11 - 18 years old). Elevate Youth Ministry's purpose is to enable youth to encounter and experience a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through social events, worship, teaching, and interactive discussions and through support from our Anchor groups. During the school term we have two weekly gatherings, Friday nights from 7-9pm and Sunday mornings during the 9am service. Over the Summer Holidays our regular gatherings take a break but there are a whole lot of different activities planned to keep you connected. If you or your parents are on Facebook check us out at Elevate Youth - Youth Ministry of Church of the Saviour.

### Upcoming Events

Elevate Youth @ New Wine Warkworth, January 25th - 29th  
\$140 + catering

If you are keen to join the Elevate youth crew at New Wine please let Pip know as soon as possible. Pip will help with arranging tenting and catering for any youth coming without parents.

You will need to register for the festival at [https://newwinenz.formstack.com/forms/warkworth\\_2018](https://newwinenz.formstack.com/forms/warkworth_2018)

**WHAT IS J TEAM? J Team is for ages 3 to Yr 6 at 9am & 11am services during term time. We have two age groups at J Team at both our services 9am-10.15am and 11am-12.20pm.**

How is your summer going? Have you had a great time with your family? Do you have a favourite thing you have done? Have you been doing your faith 5 at home? Don't forget they are... Share highs and lows, Read a verse, How do they relate, Pray and your favourite Bless.

Today Holiday J team starts and will be on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of January. Holiday J team is when we start in church but go out for a catch up, prayer and DVD during the sermon time. We will need adult volunteers to cover this. Let me know if you can help on [claire@cots.org.nz](mailto:claire@cots.org.nz)

Planning is started for the 2018 year. So many cool things to think about and do. **J team term will start on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018.**



## Church of the Saviour

# Welcome

*At Church of the Saviour we welcome all people as we seek to love God and love others more*



**Our Vision: To call into relationship with God the people of Blockhouse Bay and beyond!**

### Message from our Vicar Revd Sarah Patten

Dear church family,

I recently became a Grandma. I vividly remember as a kid being very frustrated with my own grandmother when she couldn't understand what I was saying because I was talking so quickly. Then my nephew came to stay, and I found myself saying, can you repeat that more slowly please, more than once. Not only my hearing but also my eyesight is suffering! My near sight is packing up and I will soon need two sets of glasses.

Yet my ailments are minor compared to many others. Getting old is not for the weak. It's a slow and almost imperceptible slide into a series of things we used to be able to do, but now can't! Whether it's taking the lids off jam jars, or keeping up with technology.

Yet whilst the physical side of us declines, the spiritual side of us is being renewed every day. That's what 2 Corinthians 4.16 says: 'Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.' Older means wiser, it means a longer faith history with God, it means having seen more people come to Christ because we invited them. It means we have had longer for the mind and character of Christ to have been formed in us. It means we should be bearing

more of the fruits of the Spirit like good trees that bear abundant fruit every season.

Not that we are perfect, but God uses our life experience and our God-experience to change us for the better. In Galatians 4.19 Paul writes that he labours like a mother in childbirth, for Christ to be formed in the people of the church. Every day when we wake and seek God in the morning we are being renewed spiritually. Every day He has mercies for us that are new and fresh.

Whilst dealing with our physical limitations, at the same time we have access to a God who has no spiritual limitations, and so getting older, means a deepening walk with God, and a spiritual self that just keeps getting better. Growing older definitely has its perks!

### Services this week

**9am**—Praise and worship service with teaching, prayer and communion

**11am**—Café-style service

**1.30pm**—Chinese Church (in Mandarin)

**4pm**—Interdenominational Service and Bible Study

**7pm**—Movie Night, bring food to share

**Wed: 9.30am**—Worship Service with Communion and morning tea

## All Welcome

**14 & 21 January 2018. Newsletter No: 2**

Let's give thanks to the God who renews us daily.

Love and blessings

Sarah

## Coming up

**Movie Nights, 31st Dec to 28th Jan, 7pm at church.** Pick up a leaflet from the foyer.

14th Jan "Fly Away Home". Please bring chips or chocolate to share

21st Jan: "The Case for Christ". Please bring some popcorn to share.

**New Wine Warkworth 2018.** Thursday 25th—Sunday 28th January. Activities for all the family. Worship, teaching, ministry. See brochures in the foyer or [newwine.org.nz](http://newwine.org.nz) for full details and booking.

**NZ & Beyond Conference 19-21 April 2018** at the Trusts Arena, Henderson. Speakers: Alan Scott, Mike Pilavachi, Joel Holm, Tak Bhana, Jodi Tolley. We still have a small number of early bird tickets at \$40. Please contact the office. From December tickets are \$85 each.

**2018 bookings calendar.** Please ensure that you contact the church office if you wish to book any of the rooms in the church centre during the year.

**You can contribute to the work here at COTS:** Deposit donation directly to the church bank account (for donations only) 12 3049 0264019 52 with your name or donor number as reference, contact the office for a donor number to get a tax receipt. This can be an ongoing automatic payment or a one-off donation. An EFTPOS machine is available in the church foyer for donations.

## On this week

**Playgroup** on summer break  
**4 Seniors @ the Bay** Mon & Fri 9.30am  
**Mainly Music** on summer break  
**ESOL pre-intermediate** on summer break  
**COTS Care** on summer break  
**Wednesday Service** 9.30am  
**Chinese Church Bible Study** Wed 1.30pm  
**Bible in Schools** on summer break  
**ESOL beginners** on summer break  
**Youth** on summer break  
**Sunday Services**—see front page  
**Resthome services**— none this week

Follow us:



## Notices

**Church office hours during January.** During January the holiday hours will be 9-12pm. If you are normally rostered to help in services during the holiday time in January and are going to be away, please let the office know.

**Spiritual gifts questionnaires.** If you missed hearing our guest speaker Bob Eckhard on 7th January, spare copies of the questionnaire he used to help discover your spiritual gifts are available from the church office.

**Morning tea during the summer.** We give Life Groups a break from running morning tea over the summer. If you could offer to serve morning tea on any of the Sundays from 31st December to 28th January, please let the office know. Thanks to Helen Walsh's life group who have offered to serve morning tea on the 21st January.

**Foodbank**— please continue to bring food items as per usual. We give about 2 food parcels per week as well as our donations to the Baptist food pantry.

**Got questions about life and faith?** The Alpha Course is a great place to ask those questions and explore big issues. Each session involves watching a video then discussion in small groups. Plus we offer delicious desserts! Our next course starts Wednesday 21st February 2018 and runs during school term 1. Pick up a leaflet from the Welcome Desk in the church foyer and book in via the church office.

**New Year, new opportunities.** There are lots of opportunities to get more involved at COTS, by serving in different ministry areas and helping out in our weekly services. From Bible readings to welcoming people at the door, from mowing the lawns to helping serve communion, there are so many ways to get involved, using the unique strengths God has given you. Please see Martyn if you'd like to explore being involved in a new way in 2018.

**Join a Life Group in 2018.** Our Life Groups are small groups who meet midweek to build community and encourage us in our journeys with God. They are great places to get to know others in the church and to be encouraged in faith. There are many different groups, meeting daytime or evening on different days of the week. Life Groups will start meeting again in February. Please speak to Martyn if you'd like to join a group this year.

**New Prayer Plan.** Copies of the new Parish Prayer Plan are available. Named copies for regular users are in the pigeonholes. Additional copies are in the foyer. If you would like to have a named copy of the Prayer Plan each quarter, please let the office know. It's a great resource for praying for the church and the local community.

**Sewing machine spare?** If you have a sewing machine that you would be happy to sell to a young Afghan woman, please contact Helen Walsh ph. 818 6349.

