

Contact Us

Church of the Saviour
2 Heaphy St, Blockhouse Bay
Auckland 0600 Ph. 627 8779
office@cots.org.nz www.cots.org.nz

Vicar: Sarah Patten, sarah@cots.org.nz

Associate Vicar: Martyn Day
martyn@cots.org.nz

Chinese Church of the Saviour
Grace Fang, chinesechurch@cots.org.nz
Interdenominational Service

Audrey Cooper, audrey@cots.org.nz

Music: Tame Tuifua, tame@cots.org.nz

Seniors @ the Bay: Claire Wyeth
claire@cots.org.nz

Seniors Advocate: Lesley Robbins
advocate@cots.org.nz

Youth: Benjamin & Karlina Brock-Smith
benjamin@cots.org.nz, 021 110 5267
Kathryn Kennerley
k.n.kennerley@gmail.com

Children: Claire Wyeth
claire@cots.org.nz, 021 921552

Playgroup Ruth Meredith
ruth@cots.org.nz, 027 220 6650

Reception/Administration
office@cots.org.nz



COTS Youth

COTS Youth is for young people in school years 7 to 13,
we meet on **Friday** evenings 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm and
during the 9.00 am **Sunday** service in the Youth Basement.

Today, during the 9 am Church service, **COTS Youth** is meeting in the Youth Basement for their final Sunday session of the year! This is also the final Sunday for Joanne, Mary-Jane Karlina and Benjamin, before they move back to Mosgiel.

Verse of the Week: Romans 12:9-10 "Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other."

Friday 14th December, meet in the Youth Basement for **Chill**. 7:00pm to 9:00 pm. \$2 for Supper.



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.



Thank you to all those who were able to join us for the parade on Saturday. It was fun marching Mainstreet handing out our flyers for the sheep trail and Christmas at the beach. The Sheep trail starts on Monday the 10th until the 21st. So get ready to head out and collect all the names and choose your favourite one. This week is the last week of J team for the year. We are having a bit of a celebration. We will be doing faith5 and thinking of the best things in the whole year, the things we are grateful to God to have got us through and been with us in the joys. It is the time of year for thinking about highs and lows!

Next week we will have holiday J team at both 9am and 11am. Most of the team will be down the beach, so I am still looking for an adult volunteer to help with 11am. After the morning we will all see you at the beach from 5pm. Catch a shuttle down from church and we will see you there. The 23rd is also a holiday J team day. We have a lot of all age services in the following days, so we will have a bit of quiet before then, think about the best thing you are looking forward to over Christmas.

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,

We are now well into advent, the advent calendars are underway, and in the Patten household there is a sense that the end of term is coming and that right behind follows Christmas. Advent is best described as a time of waiting with expectation. Admittedly it's a bit artificial giving that we know we aren't waiting for Christ to come anymore, but as we wait to celebrate with our families, there is still something profound and amazing about celebrating Christmas every year. Even though we may have celebrated in the same way year in, year out.

It is in keeping the real meaning of Christmas front and centre of our celebrations that we avoid being sucked into the consumerist whirlpool that is Christmas shopping. Presents don't have to be big or expensive to be meaningful. They can be as simple as writing a voucher to spend time with someone.

That's what God did for us – He sent His son to spend time with us. To be part of our world, to understand our condition, and to go to the cross in our place. It is His presence with us that we celebrate at Christmas. So instead of rushing off to spend, spend, spend our money, how about making time with family and friends the priority this year.

Some family dynamics aren't always easy, but aiming to take out some of the stress by buying less, consuming less, and doing life better together, then I think that would be nearer the true Spirit of that first Christmas.

Of course the person we most need to spend time with is Christ, He came for this, He came for us. In Matthew we read 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means "God with us"). God is still with us, thanks to Jesus. As His birth draws near let's draw near to our Immanuel, and celebrate His coming with thankfulness.

Love and blessings

Sarah

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 in the hall

7pm—Informal service of worship, teaching and prayer

Wed: 9.30am—Communion service with morning tea afterwards

Coming Up

Christmas Services

24 December 5.30pm

Messy Christmas—sausage sizzle and crafts then at 6pm a creative re-telling of the Christmas story suitable for all ages.

24 December 11.00pm

Communion service with readings and carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

25 December 9.00am

Christmas Day Family Celebration Service.

Summer Sunday Movie Nights, starting 30th December and throughout January. 7pm at church. Starts with the animated Christmas movie “The Star”, suitable for all ages. Full programme available from next Sunday.

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 finished for the summer
Seniors @ the Bay Mon & Fri 9.30am
Mainly Music finished this week
Wednesday Service 9.30am
SPACE (parenting course) Wed 1-3pm
Bible in Schools finished this week
ESOL pre-intermediate finished this week
Youth Friday 7pm
Sunday Services—see front page

Follow us:



facebook.com/cotsnz



@cots_nz



@cots_nz

Christmas at the Beach

16th December starting 5pm. Family fun and Carol Service. Finish out the night with Shane and the Shazaam Band. The road will be closed so get a shuttle from COTS or Iona.

Check out the FB Event for up to date info.

Can you help?

We are expecting up to 3000 people and need help to keep it a safe event. We need set up people available in the morning with trailers. We need stewards to do various roles during the evening. We need clear up people including those with trailers. Sign up in the foyer.

Notices

Combined Advent Service: \$424.90 was collected at the Ecumenical Advent Service last week. This money will be given to support the Blockhouse Bay Baptist Church food bank.

Gift for Tame: Tame is leaving us on Christmas Day and getting married shortly after. If anyone would like to contribute towards a leaving/wedding gift please place in an envelope and leave at the office with his name on.

Word for Today. The latest edition of the Word for Today Bible reading notes is available from the cupboard in the church foyer. Gold coin donation appreciated.

Creche helpers urgently required. For the first and third Sundays of each month. If you could serve on this roster, to love and care for the youngest members of our church family, please speak to Ruth.

West Auckland Aglow is on Tues the 11th of December at Henderson Baptist Church, 325 Great North Road, from 9.30am -12.00pm. The speaker is Soraya Ludwig Green, who has called her message “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” Psalm 139. Personal ministry after. ph: Nan 820 3374.

Home-made Christmas cards by Audrey Cooper are available to be ordered. Samples of the different designs and an order form are available by the pigeon-holes in the church foyer. \$5 for a pack of 5.

Bob & Bev Edmiston are seeking one or more housesits from 22nd December to the end of January. Please text or phone Bob on 021 784 153 if you know of anything suitable.

Overflowing with Hope. This is the name of a special Christmas project run by Lea-Dev Langham to provide contextual Bible commentaries for Christian leaders in the developing nations. These commentaries equip leaders to learn from and preach God’s Word in ways relevant to their setting. A gift of \$60 will provide a commentary for a leader. Visit www.commentarychallenge.nz for full information.

COTS Counselling Team. If you would like to see a counsellor to discuss a life issue, please let the church office know. Male and female counsellors are part of the team.

Rent or Board available in Green Bay. Three bedroomed house. Double room rent \$170 and Board \$240. Furniture provided if you wish. Phone Joanna on 021 050 0025.

Could you spare some time to help bring order to an overgrown garden in Mt Roskill? Please call Trudi on 846 0337. You would need to bring your own garden tools with you.

