

## Contact Us

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# 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** and **J Team** are having their combined **Christmas Party!**

**Verse of the Week:** Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you should answer everyone."

If you need to contact the youth ministry team, please email youth@cots.org.nz or text Benjamin's mobile 021 110 5267.

The proposed youth camp is cancelled, instead we have a weekend full of activities.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** December, for our **mini-COSCARS** meet in COTS Carpark at 5:30 pm. Dinner is included. Pickup back at church from 9:00 pm.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>**, EITHER meet at Blockhouse Bay Community Church at 10:00 am for **Face Painting Training** OR join the COTS **Christmas Parade Float**, meet in the COTS Community Hall at 9:30 am, costumes provided!

THEN regroup for **COTS Youth Lunch** at 1:00 pm, meet in the COTS Youth Basement.



**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.**



Our Star Wars theme is now finished and we are onto celebrating the end of the year.

We have a couple of people graduating to youth next year and a few youth graduating there. These kids have journeyed with us for many years, and we will miss them as they move to youth next year. Today was our end of year party to celebrate. As youth is only at 9am, we were only at 9am and there is no children's programme at 11am.

**Coming up this week is the parade on Saturday 8th.** We need all hands on deck to join the combined churches float in the parade. You can wear either an angel or a shepherd costume or our Jesus is the reason shirts. We need to give out the advertising for the Christmas at the Beach and Sheep hunt, so need plenty of people. Meet in the hall at 9.30 to get into our supplied costumes.

Anyone able to staple lollies onto flyers, please let me know. Couple of thousand to do.

# 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,

As we enter the season of advent (the time of waiting for the coming of Jesus) in our morning services we are looking at the coming of the light. In a world where darkness, violence and inhumanity are normal, we need the light of Christ to shine on in the darkness, and be reminded that the darkness has not put it out.

The sheer amount of natural disasters, combined with the largest amount of refugees and displaced people in the world, added to the increase of terror attacks, means that the edge has somewhat been taken off Christmas, because the darkness seems somehow greater right now. Yet the darkness will always be with us and has always been us. Shortly after Jesus' time Christians faced terrible persecutions at the hands of the Romans. The disciples almost all lost their lives simply because they followed Christ.

Darkness is always with us, and it is even in our own hearts, when we fail to love God or others the way we should. Sometimes the darkness gets the upper hand in us, and sometimes in those around us. Yet we are not without help. The light of Jesus shines in the darkness and keeps on shining.

At the cross Jesus promised the greatest healing for all of us – healing of our souls from all the sin and darkness we allow into our lives. The Angels told the shepherds that Good News had come to them in the form of a baby,

That Good News meant forgiveness, love and acceptance, it meant a permanent way home to God who loves us, even though we drifted a long way away.

What's so important about Christmas? It's like the sunrise casting brilliant rays across the dark sky. It's the beginning of a light that can never be extinguished or diminished. It burns brightly for all who need it, for all who acknowledge the darkness around and within. That we cannot overcome in our own strength.

### 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

Christmas is the dawn of light in our lives, so let's celebrate the love and light in our lives that comes from knowing Jesus. You may like to light a candle or put a star up in your home or on your Christmas tree to remind you of Jesus, the light of the world.

'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not put it out'.

Love and blessings

Sarah

## On this week

**Playgroup** Mon, Weds and Thurs 9am  
**Seniors @ the Bay** Mon & Fri 9.30am  
**Mainly Music** Tues 10am  
**Wednesday Service** 9.30am  
**SPACE (parenting course)** Wed 1-3pm  
**Bible in Schools** BHB Prim Thursday 8.50am  
**ESOL pre-intermediate** Thursday 10am  
**Youth** Friday 7pm  
**Sunday Services**—see front page

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## Coming Up

**Blockhouse Bay Christmas Parade.** Saturday 8 Dec. 9.30am. Meet in the hall to dress in nativity costumes or Jesus is the reason shirts. Will be walking in a combined churches float. We need all hands on deck.

**Face painting training.** If you'd like to help doing face painting at Christmas at the Beach on Sunday 16th December, there will be a training session on Saturday 8th December at 10am at BHB Community Church.

## 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

**Word for Today.** The new edition of the Word for Today Bible reading notes is now available from the church foyer. Gold coin donation appreciated.

**Mission Prayer meeting on Monday** - please note change of venue ! We will meet at 2 Osman St., Glen Eden .For any problems with this , please phone Helen . 818-6349 .

**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.

**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.

**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](http://www.commentarychallenge.nz) for full information.

**New Wine Warkworth Festival has had to be cancelled,** but the Kapiti Festival is still running 17-21st January. Special half-price rates are available for those living in Auckland to attend at Kapiti. See their website [www.newwine.org.nz](http://www.newwine.org.nz) for details.

**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.

**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.

## 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



**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.