

Stars, glitter, Jesus: it must be Christmas

Eliza (5) and Seiko (6) are seen "in a happy place" at the St Francis Christmas story gathering yesterday (Saturday Dec 1).

About 55 people took part -- children and their parents. These included quite a few newcomers.

A large band of church members figured out the programme and activities, setting up, catering, looking after visitors and taking it all apart afterwards.



Children of the resurrection

OUR ANGLICAN liturgy and prayer book say lots about Jesus' second coming -- all of it drawn from the New Testament.

Notably, it teaches that Christ will return as Lord of all, bringing human history to its proper finale.

So we 'children of the resurrection' (see Luke 20:27-38) have an outlook and a hope vastly different from the view prevailing in an increasingly secular society.

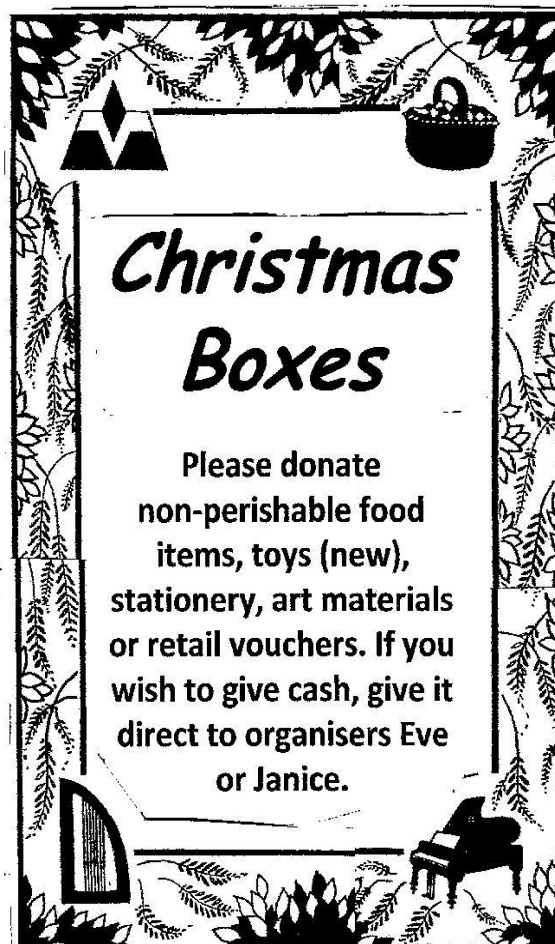
There's good news for you, worthy of a shout-out as

Christmas approaches.

Meanwhile, our church's advent reflections -- 'Watch and Pray' -- are worthy of your quiet attention. The collects and readings are taken from the prayer book pages for the four weeks of advent.

All are welcome

We will gather on Saturday December 8, from 3 - 5pm, first sharing our discoveries in the readings so far, then listening to music for Advent or Christmas. Bring a favourite CD with a track you'd really like to play.



Christmas Boxes

Please donate
non-perishable food
items, toys (new),
stationery, art materials
or retail vouchers. If you
wish to give cash, give it
direct to organisers Eve
or Janice.

Briefly **NOTED**

Library sorted, tidied

FOUR SHELVES of books now await readers in the church library, says Judy.

And it's all sorted and tidy.

"I have sorted the stock and there are now four shelves to browse.

"There is an A4 exercise book for borrowers to record their names in: write the book title and your name, then cross out your name when you return the book."

Monday night group

THE FOLKS meeting at Freda's home on Monday evenings (7.30 - 9pm) are enjoying reading/reflecting on a book chosen by Wayne titled *Discernment*, by the acclaimed writer Henri Nouwen.

Nouwen writes discerningly about viewing the world with an eye for the Kingdom of God.

Kitchen helpers: yes please!

THANKS TO the folks who've rallied. We also need helpers to set up cups, etc and to clear away after morning tea.

December Sunday Bible readings

December Sunday
Bible readings

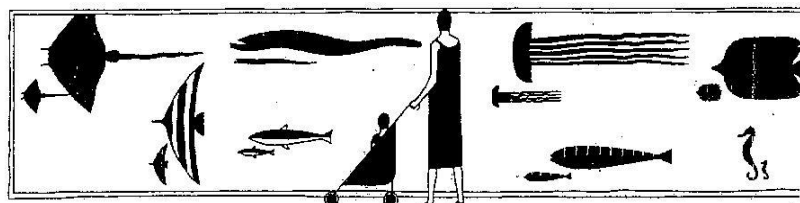
Dec 28 -- Jer 33:14-16. Ps 25:1-10. 1 Thess 3:9-13. Luke 21:25-36.

Dec 9 -- Malachi 3:1-4. *For the Psalm* Luke 1:68-79. Phil 1:3-11. Luke 3:1-6.

Dec 16 -- Zeph 3:14-20. *For the Psalm* Isa 12:2-6. Phil 4:4-7. Luke 3:7-18.

Dec 23 -- Micah 5:2-5a. *For the Psalm* Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7. Heb 10:5-10. Luke 1:39-55.

Dec 30 -- 1 Sam 2:18-20, 26. Ps 148. Col 3:12-17. Luke 2:41-52.



Advent online, courtesy of the bishops

ADVENT SPECIAL: courtesy of the diocese of Auckland, says Sarah Park, Auckland Anglican diocese ministry educator.

The bishops' office will host an online calendar for the season, a complement to Lent and Resurrection calendars.

The calendar web page, now under construction, will go live a couple of days before Advent 1 (December 2). The address is www.advent-anglican.nz

Next Sunday we visit Iona, Blockhouse Bay

NO SERVICE at St Francis next Sunday (December 9).

Instead we will join with the Presbyterians at Iona Church, 38 Donovan Street, Blockhouse Bay.

Service starts at 10.00am.

Garden update

IF THE garden and grounds appear tidier -- very tidy -- you're right, says Pam.

The driveway was cleaned, swept and leaf-blown a couple of weeks ago. And the garden was sprayed with a natural, effective, spray.

Once the weeds die down in a few days, weather depending, mulch can be laid.

Christine knows someone with free mulch for the asking.

Christmas cakes

ORDER YOURS today from the Anglican Trust for Women and Children. Cost \$59 incl GST.

Pay by credit card or online bank transfer. Email inquiries to friends@atwc.org.nz or call Maylene on 09 276 3729 extn 9013.

(See order form on the noticeboard.)

Children's gift idea

'The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name'. This has been around ten years (comes as a DVD) and seems well thought-of. See it online at www.bookdepository.com. Their price is NZ\$22.51.

Services: Christmas and New Year

Dec 16, 10:00am - Community Christmas Readings and Carols
Sunday 23rd Dec 9:30am - Holy Communion
Monday 24th Dec (Christmas Eve) 11:30pm: - Holy Communion
Tuesday 25th Dec (Christmas Day) 9:30am, holy communion.



"I found it down the back of the church garage."