

Newsletter

25th November

2018

epsom
baptist church

Leading: **Margaret Whittaker**

Preaching: **Jeff Whittaker**

Theme: **Advent 1 Waiting and hoping for...**

The Next Deacons' Meeting will be held on Tuesday
18th December 2018 at Epsom Baptist Church.

The church season of advent is not just about celebrating the imminent birth of Jesus. It's also about the second coming of Jesus. The fact that this latter aspect is largely ignored speaks to us about the power of the retail lobby who are able to exploit the birth of Jesus for profit.



Epsom Baptist Church, 4 Inverary Avenue, Epsom, AUCKLAND 1023

Phone: (09) 630-6010 epsombaptist@gmail.com

Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning Chinese Congregations:
Pastor Daniel Choi

Sunday Morning English Congregation: Pastor Jeff Whittaker

epsombaptistchurch.org.nz Check out **Epsom Baptist Church** on Facebook

From Pastor Jeff

I recently celebrated my birthday. One of the gifts I received was a book entitled 'Around the World in Eighty Trees.' (The title is clearly a play on Jules Verne's 'Around the World in 80 Days.') The book describes 80 trees from different parts of the world. As I have been reading this book - I am about half-way through - I am struck by the differences that exist even in this tiny sample of the world's trees. (By the way, the only New Zealand tree to make it into the book is the Kauri.) Some of the trees described grow single trunks, others sucker out from the original to cover vast areas of land, while yet others start their lives embedded in some crevice of a different tree which supports them until the host dies. And the variety of ways that reproduction is achieved is huge. As mentioned above, some send out suckers. Others scatter seeds on the wind. Still others employ birds or animals to scatter seeds that have been eaten either directly or from fruit. Some trees, such as the Cork Tree, have strategies for surviving hot climates and periodic fires. Others, like the Larches that thrive in -40°C in Siberian winters, die if exposed to too much heat. But these ones can change their internal chemistry so that their sap functions like anti-freeze. What amazing variety; what amazing differences. I sincerely hope that climate change and global warming don't reduce this incredible diversity before trees can adapt to the changes. There is something very sad about the prospect of a world full of people but with few trees and few animals, birds, and fish. (I'm not worried about insects; these will survive.) Let's bless this amazing world with serious engagement with the stewardship of God's good creation with which we have been charged.

Shalom, Jeff



December 2018 Sunday morning rosters...

Flowers: 2, 9 Margaret Whittaker, 16, 23 Helen Evans, 30 Ann Guan

Morning tea: Ian & Dawn de Stigter

Communion preparation: Ian & Dawn de Stigter

Door and Offering: Olwyn Halder

Scripture reading & Communion: Linda McBurney

Offering counting: Helen Evans and Ann Guan

Lawns: Jeff Whittaker

Christmas / New Year services 2018



- Sunday December 23rd: All three congregations combined service 10am
- Monday Christmas Eve: English service 11pm.
- Tuesday Christmas Day: English only service 9:30am
- Saturday December 29th and Sunday December 30th: Normal service times.

Craig Henderson has asked me to include this on behalf of the local branch of Christian Fellowship For the Disabled.



AUCKLAND
CFFD

Christmas Lunch

Where: The Alex

Time: 12pm Saturday

When: December 15th

Cost: \$25.00

Please let us know you are coming

so we can advise of numbers.

Ph: **Viv** 0212940320 .Or put your name
down on the register for coming when
you go into the drop in centre.