

# St Johns Presbyterian Church

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## **Papatoetoe Hunters Corner**

St Johns Presbyterian Church on the Great South Road. Hunters Corner is centrally situated and at the cross roads of major arterial roads and motorway. Hunters Corner is a retail and business hub surrounded by residential areas. It is close to Auckland International and Domestic Airports and Middlemore hospital. It is a location that is close to various services and employment opportunities with primary, intermediate and secondary schools which are within walking distance. The manse is situated behind the church but is private and has entry off a different street. The second manse is located in Otara.

## **Our History**

The first Presbyterian Church service in the Papatoetoe area was by the Rev. John Macky on 27 August 1854 at Baird's storage shed near the Tāmaki River. The present St Johns Presbyterian Church is the third church on the site. The original was built in 1855 - first known as the Otahuhu Presbyterian Church, then as the Otara Presbyterian Church, and from about 1907 as the Papatoetoe Presbyterian Church.

In 2005 The Session affirmed – St Johns Church’s future was in Papatoetoe; as did the Congregation affirm that we continue in Papatoetoe. In 2006 the congregational meeting requested the Session move on the practical outcomes.

In 2008 began a building project which updated the church and the halls. The upgrade was done despite the church building being of Historical Significance for the community. The re-configuration of the building - joining the church and community centre with a central meeting place has been very successful. In January 2011 the church and community centre were rededicated.

## **Our Church and its Mission**

St Johns Presbyterian Church is a group of people who are members of the body of Christ at Hunters Corner Papatoetoe. We are called by God to be part of His Mission in Papatoetoe and surrounding areas.

## **Our Beliefs**

- St Johns Presbyterian Church holds that the Word of God as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the supreme rule of faith
- We acknowledge the authority of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- We accept the Statements of faith of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand as outlining our fundamental Christian beliefs.

## **Our Vision**

To be a visible sign of God’s presence in the world among mosques, temples and other diverse cultures of our community.

## **Our Mission**

Our Statement of welcome is that we are an open and inclusive multicultural congregation, where all people, men, women and children, can come together seeking God as revealed in Jesus and his life and teaching. We affirm the central beliefs of the Christian faith while respecting diversity of opinion in individual understanding. Jesus welcomed all people especially those whom others pushed to the edges of society and were considered unacceptable by that society and offered them hope and love for living. Therefore all people are welcome to participate fully in the life of our congregation in whatever way is appropriate for them. We welcome all people as being within the love of God

## **Our Values**

- We will be faithful to the Word of God, through our Saviour, Jesus Christ and to the leading of the Holy Spirit
- People really matter to us and in our relationships we seek to love others unconditionally
- We will support people as they search for their purpose in life allowing and encouraging people to develop and exercise their God given gifts.
- We will seek to provide a living and supportive environment where people feel safe and accepted for who they are.
- We will seek to bring people closer to God through our words and actions

## **What we do at St Johns**

St Johns Presbyterian Church is a mission focused, community facing group of people.

Christian teaching and personal development through regular Christian worship.

- Develop gifts and skills to help serve Christ better for children and their families through camps, activities and events so that they develop love of Jesus as their Saviour.
- We have a Mission Fund supporting overseas mission primarily lead by our young people. We encourage our congregation to support them in their mission.
- As a Church we continue to connect with the communities through the people of St Johns our daily work places, and through the work in the Community Centre.
- We take an active part in the multicultural and extremely diverse community of ours. Our Minister represents the parish as a member on the executive of the local Business Society of Hunter's Corner Town Centre. This has shown that our church is not just a building in which to hold their meetings but a connection to be part of the hub for people from all over the world- especially all things Indian.

## **We are Kids Friendly**

The Faithbuilders – our children of all ages, - has grown in numbers, strength and faith, ably lead by our Youth Leader and her team. As well as Sunday activities, there are Friday evening Bible study sessions for children and for youth. The term programme of other activities is well supported. A highlight is the annual family camp. The families also enjoy representing the church at the Papatoetoe Christmas Santa Parade, as well as in sports teams that take part in local sports competitions.

- Children are celebrated, they belong to the congregation, they participate in worship, and learn and experience the love of Jesus Christ
- Children create opportunities for people of all ages to learn from, and are valued for the immense love and life they bring to the whole church

## **Community Centre**

The Community Centre was established in 1985 as an outreach ministry is well used each term. All the Courses which Session has approved and directed must have an emphasis on assisting the most vulnerable in our community.

Community Classes are tutor funded through Aorere College Adult Community Education (ACE). A Ministry of Education accredited and funded Play group brings children from the community to St Johns and they know they are part of our church family too.

## **Services of Worship**

- 9.30am Sunday multicultural main service –traditional and modern music and singing is a very important part of who we are and in our worship. All ages from Children upwards participate as soloists and groups. We are fortunate to have a fine pipe organ and resident organist.
- 12md Cook Island Language Service – singing is also enjoyed and an important part of this service
- 10am Wednesday Bible Study – St Johns and community members
- 6.30 and 7.30pm alternate Friday Youth Bible Study

Communion is celebrated quarterly at 9.30am and on the first Sunday monthly Cook Island Language Communion service. Services conclude with a time of fellowship with morning tea.

## **Our Church Congregation**

St Johns Presbyterian Church has a membership of around 150 with an average attendance ranging from 80-200 depending on the Sunday.

## **Parish Structure**

- St Johns Presbyterian Church is governed by a Session whose members are elected by the congregation as Elders and who are responsible for the governance of the church.

- The Board of Managers is constituted as the management body for the Parish of St Johns

### **St Johns Presbyterian Church has every expectation that**

- Our church family will continue to grow in numbers and in faith.
- Our leadership will continue the things we enjoy and have achieved and we expect to be challenged to grow as a church family in the preaching of the word of God in the community of Papatoetoe.
- Our Board of Managers ensure that the finances will be used wisely and with good stewardship for the routine maintenance of our buildings and projects.
- Our Session will continue to ensure that the worship of our church and the connection with our parishioners and the community remains strong.