

A Family that Serves – Growth Group Study
23 August 2020 – John Malcolm

John mentioned the actions of the staff of the Beirut Baptist School who being 3.5km from the recent explosion offered their hostel accommodation to first responders and then to house people who had lost their homes in the blast.

What do you think of this act of Christian service?

How do Christians respond in times of need? (Perhaps think of the Christchurch earthquakes or other examples you are aware of).

What examples of service stand out for you when you think of the people of the Old and New Testaments? Who in the bible epitomises service for you?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:28

What do you think the gift of “helping” is?

How might such a gift be useful in the life of the church?

Read Isaiah 58.6-7 James 2:15–17

What key point is James stressing?

What does the bible teach about the relationship between our faith and our actions?

Read Luke 22:27 & Philippians 2:6–7

How does Jesus model service for us and what can we learn from his example?

Read Isaiah 26.12

John shared a list of highlights from our church life this year. Which events/activities from our church life inspire you most?

What service/help is given by people to enable these activities to happen?

Read Galatians 5:13–14, Ephesians 2:10 & 1 Peter 4:10–11

What do these verses teach us about service?

What is God’s role in our serving?

Read Revelation 20.12

John said, Luke wrote the book of Acts 2000 years ago, recording the actions of the early Christians, and suggested the acts of Christians continue to be written in the annals of God’s book of life.

If this is the case, and you are to be judged according to what you have done, what might the sentence, paragraph or chapter on your life say about your service as a Christian?

If we were starting a new page in the life of Greyfriars, similar to the letters to the churches in Rev 2-3, what would you hope would be recorded about our church and what might we do to make that happen?

Take a moment to pray for each other, our service and the ministries of Greyfriars Church

Greyfriars Eden-Epsom Presbyterian Church

... all that we have accomplished you have done for us. (Isa 26.12)

Many good things happened in our church in 2020, Among them we give thanks to God for:

Children & ZED

1. Welcoming children and families to mainly music and playgroup as year begins
2. Kidzone at Mt Eden & Epsom beginning with a visit from Rosie's dogs
3. Holiday programmes with children making friends and learning about Jesus
4. Kidzone Palm Sunday online with activities from Rosie
5. Visiting children online and seeing their Easter scenes and colouring.
6. ZED online – games and fun with Hannah and Rosie
7. ZED sleepover – fun, food and photo frames
8. Blast off holiday programme travelling to bible times, eight children coming to faith



Youth Group

9. Hannah organising youth group events, ice-skating, pool parties and mid-winter fun
10. Youth group journey to the cross online for Good Friday

Adult ministries

11. *Global missions' lunch* – prayerfully supporting our overseas missionaries
12. *Growth Group kick start* with 35 people focusing on Redemptive Family studies
13. *Men's Tea* – Encouraging faith and friendship among men with challenges and guest speakers to inspire us
14. Growth Groups going online meetings with Zoom and gathering in homes when possible
15. Coffee mornings on Zoom – catching up with friends
16. ESOL class connecting with the wider community

General

17. Praying for Matthew and Alison Raymond as they returned to Zambia
18. Epsom started for the year with 49 people enjoying breakfast together
19. Judith Jackson visiting the Global Prayer lunch.
20. *BBQ Church*, enjoying warm summer evenings, making friends, enjoying a meal together and connecting with new people in the community
21. Beginning the Redemptive Family course to start the decade.
22. The joy of meeting guests who come to our church, sometimes joining our fellowship.
23. *Café services with various guests*
24. *8-2-8 Prayer Day* with 16 people lifting prayers for our church to God.
25. Our *Prison team* taking services and connecting with men at Mt Eden
26. Combined communion and posh morning tea at Epsom 90+ attending.
27. Rapid response to the COVID-19 lockdown beginning March 26, the help and cooperation of many as we adjusted to these unusual and difficult circumstances.
28. Our response to COVID -19 with Mike and Diana helping us to connect remotely to the church database and update pastoral care lists more easily.
29. Pastoral Care team working through how we connect and care for people while in isolation.
30. Council shepherd groups making contact with parishioners.
31. Learning to use Zoom
32. Having so many people adapting to our services online with around 57 connecting to our first online service (29 March) and enjoying Rosie's science experiment.
33. Zoom growth group meetings, connecting with people for fellowship and bible study.
34. Online meetings for staff, Council and teams overseeing church life.
35. Seeing friends who haven't been able to get out to church connecting via internet.
36. Dedication of MinYoung and choir members in the face of COVID setbacks
37. Good Friday service with 64 connections
38. Easter Sunday with communion shared online (69 connections)
39. June 7 return to on-site services with a mix of 55 adults onsite and others on Zoom
40. June 14 resumption of communion, seats in a horseshoe with elements in the middle
41. Community food collection (from Greyfriars 537 cans plus noodles, weetbix)
42. *Pasifika café service with Petia Willson*
43. Welcome lunch with 23 people new to Greyfriars
44. Soup and rolls, gathering in people's homes for food and friendship

