



# St James's Church

## The Anglican Parish of Lower Hutt

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Lower Hutt

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7 August, 2016

Dear parishioners

Earlier this year the parish Vestry, staff and congregational leaders met to discuss the ways that we, as a parish, can continue to grow in our journey with Christ.

Following on from our parish review in 2012 and looking to the future, a recurring theme was that St James's is at a crossroads where there are a number of exciting opportunities for us to:

- Build on our youth and family ministry
- Reflect on the liturgical aspects of our worship
- Embrace opportunities to share food and fellowship
- Become more missional in our outlook.

The appetite for such change was unanimous. We considered that it would be helpful to have the large part of our worshipping community meeting together as a family. As a result we have decided to combine the 9am and 10.30am congregations into a new service, worshipping at 10.30am. We intend the 8am service to continue in its current format. Also the All Saints congregation in our parish will continue to worship at 9am.

Vestry decided that the combined service should be held at 10.30am. This time allows for extended fellowship opportunities directly after the service over a meal. We are convinced that for our church to grow and be more relevant to the needs of the community around us, our congregations need to be more active in hospitality beyond the doors of the church.

Many parishioners have appreciated the experience of worshipping together in the combined services we have held on feast days. These services give a picture of where we will start in our combined worship at 10.30am. We aim to provide an even more family-friendly service over time as we combine elements of both the current 9am and 10.30am services, including both styles of music and worship.

These changes will take place from November, 2016.

The members of Vestry are excited about the opportunities for us to build an active and engaged community and would be happy to discuss the opportunities that these changes will bring as we embark upon this discipleship journey together. We realise that some parishioners may find the prospect of change hard and we are available to talk with you about this also. Feel free to approach any member of Vestry (identified by blue vestry name badges): Lois Holmes, Tim Housel, Kathy Ingram, Richard Lamb, Mark Stone, Fiona Strachan, Nancy Sunia, Allen Sutton, John Warren and Paul Western.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Peter Bengé  
(Vicar)  
on behalf of Vestry