

Refresh 2013 – A gathering of women to worship, pray and engage with God's Word. Saturday, 2 November 9.30am - 3.30pm at St Stephens, Tahunanui. Cost: \$10 (includes lunch). Guest Speaker is Bron Tait. Come along to hear Bron and be 'refreshed'. Register online: www.ststephenstahunanui.co.nz/refresh or Ph 546 4051, or email: office@ststephenstahunanui.co.nz. Information is on the noticeboard and registration forms at back of church.

Honey for Sale - New Building Fundraiser. 500gm \$6.00, 1kg \$11.00, 2kg \$20.00. Anne Askin Ph 544 9059

Food Bank - The food bank needs replenishing! Can you help by donating non-perishable goods or supermarket vouchers? Phone Alice Burroughs 544 5390.



Messy Church - A big thank you to all those who came to Messy church last Sunday. We had a great time!

The theme was – *Phone line to God*. The kids made prayer notebooks to record answers to prayer, hands were traced around to teach children how to pray for people, children made “telephones” out of pottles and string, they recorded how they were feeling (because God likes to hear from us when we are sad and grumpy, not only when we are happy or needy). They squirmed through tunnels (I'm not sure if they knew why), but the reason for that was to create a scary

situation so they could empathise with Samuel as he walked in the dark to Eli.

Kay gave us a wonderful talk on Hannah and how she cried out to God to give her a child. We know how God answered her plea and the message for us was to do the same.

After Susan prayed over the Christmas shoe-boxes, the children put them in Brenda's car- this was the first stage of their journey. Then we had our scrumptious meal.

It was lovely to see grandparents, church parents, a great aunt and people from the community joining in, having fun and learning how to develop their relationship with God.

Next Messy church is on Sunday 8 December at 4.00pm with a Christmas theme. Why not consider coming and think about inviting a family who don't go to church? After all, Messy Church is fun for all ages. - *Ingrid Blackbeard*

Friday Fun - Friday 8 November after school until 5.00pm.

This is an event for our church children. They have been asked to perform a song, tell a funny story, recite a poem, dance, play an instrument and more... We need an audience so if you'd like to come, you're welcome. Donations accepted.



Reflection questions:

- Read the words of the Shema together. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) How would NZ society be different if we adhered to this?

- Mark out of 10, your relationship with:
 - God
 - Others
 - SelfHow will you take each one up a notch?

- Reflect on how a relationship finally flourished, following hard times.

- In groups of 3, pray for the 3 relationships to flourish in each of your lives. (You may want to share a struggle as well and pray over that.).

