

*Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God, providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God's love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live*

The Vicar

WRITES

Welcome to Advent again everyone, I won't say the year has gone by fast because we all know it has! It is a great joy and privilege to be with you and be able to live through another Advent wherein we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord. We prepare our hearts by always remembering the Lord and never forgetting Him, by spending time alone with the Lord and by attending regular worship to remain enthused in our devotional lives. It is the Lord alone who can make our hearts simple and pure like the humble stable in Bethlehem where the Lord advented more than 2000 years ago. If we journey close to the Lord in Advent we may have the best chance to rejoice in Spirit at Christmas and to celebrate the infinite gift of God that Christmas represents - the gift of God's Self.

At Christmas even people who don't know Christ feel something special. They buy presents for others and express love and gratitude to each other, and remember the year with all its loss and gains. Christmas is a holy time and God's blessing goes out to all, but is especially appreciated by those who have responded to God and seek to live in His love. For those who seek God in their daily lives yearn to see others experience the same joy they do in loving God., who is the source of all joy and love, God is infinite love and joy, everything we seek in life exists in God.

Each year as we journey through life we see loved ones depart this world. We hear of sad and happy stories in the news and experience the love of family and friends. This life is like a caravan we are travelling in for a little while; if we are fortunate we shall seek the Owner of the caravan and He shall guide us safely to eternal life, the life that never ends. This world may be likened to a play where the actors come out and perform for a while and then go backstage. The body dies but the soul lives on in the heavenly world according to the direction of the supreme stage manager. We are all destined to become pillars of immortality in the temple of God's eternal existence.

By God's grace we may play our part well in this drama of life. We are fortunate to have like minded people of faith to journey with, a community of people who have accepted themselves as children of God and seek to do God's will.

Think back on what we have done since last Christmas. Have we come closer to God in our lives? Have our lives reflected the love of God in our dealings with others? Advent offers us the opportunity to again refine and increase our devotion, to prepare the way of the Lord into our hearts and lives. Our study groups and worship

(Continued on page 2)



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*We at Christ Church acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and in particular the Wathaurong people, as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which Christ Church and its buildings now stand; and we acknowledge our gratitude that we share this land today, our sorrow for the costs of that sharing, and our hope that we can move to a place of justice and partnership together.*





(Continued from page 1)

give each of us the opportunity to be encouraged and strengthened in our faith.

I pray that we all have a fruitful Advent and a happy Christmas. May the Lord protect us and our families through the festival season, and above all may we grow in the Lord's love and become better instruments of God's peace.

The Lord be with you.

*Fr Russell*

## THE PARISH WEB PAGE

...Have you looked at the parish Web Page recently? Just Google "Christ Church Geelong" and the page should come up! On the web page you'll find lots of details about what's happening in the Parish - services, celebrations, parish events, photos... and lots more!



**Have a look!**

## City Ministers Project



### ANGELS TO DECORATE -

help decorate giant angels and enjoy angel-craft and take them home - **FREE!** Come to the shop on the corner of Little Malop and Gherinhap Streets. From December 3, Thursday to Saturday each week (Thursdays 10 -2pm, Fridays 3-7pm, Saturday 10am to 2pm). In the Christmas week from December 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Monday to Wednesday 10am-2pm

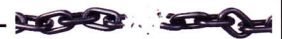
## Make the effort to read this.....

Many will have heard or read Waleed Ali's commentaries on matters of fairness, justice and rights, on radio and TV, and in a variety of newspapers including the Melbourne Age and the Sydney Morning Herald. Sue Wong and Revd. Jenny thought this article would be of interest to parishioners -

### Doctors' protest over asylum seekers shows us what real morality is all about

Waleed Ali, writing in the Sydney Morning Herald, 15th October, 2015

It is a great article - thought provoking, insightful, reasoned and compassionate... and we should all read it and ponder our own reactions to how we continue to treat refugees and asylum seekers in this country.



## CHRIST CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL - 2015-16

**The 2015-16 Parish Council** (as elected/nominated at the 2015 Parish AGM) is -

**Vicar's Warden** - Col Hastings

**Wardens** - David Peek,, David Osborne

**Vestry Members** - Evelyn Twaddell, Peter Dohnt, Pat Peacock, Mary Lewis,, Don Patterson, Jan McGowan, Sue Wong, Prue Fidge, & Joy Baxter (together with Fr Russell as Vicar)

(and see articles on the retiring members from the 2014-15 Parish Council, elsewhere in this edition

## Diary dates and reminders...

12th December - Women's Christmas Afternoon Tea - at 2.30pm in the School Room. Sign up sheets on the Crossing Table, or speak with Margaret Tembo. This will be a time of fellowship - bring a friend or come alone, and bring a plate of food to share if you wish. Show & Tell - do you have a special Tea cup & Saucer with Plate? Bring it along with its story & use for afternoon tea. There is no charge but a Gold Coin donation will be put towards the Christmas Bowl appeal.

20th December 7pm - Christ Church Carol Service (see more details on p3)

## and some dates & early reminders for 2016

January changes ! - From Christmas Day until 14th Feb 2016 there will some service changes - as every January. There will be no Sunday 5.15pm service, Meditation Service, Healing Services or Morning Prayer services. The Choir will also be in recess during this period - again, until Sunday 14th February.

7th February - Start Up Sunday (and this is the date for the first CAFS service for 2016 too)

20 March - Palm Sunday

25th March - Good Friday

Sunday March 27th - Easter Day





## Christmas at Christ Church

*Sunday 20th December  
at 7pm - Service of Nine  
Lessons and Carols - sing  
the old favourite carols,  
hear new ones and listen  
to the Christmas story  
through the scriptures*



*Thurs 24th December - Christmas Eve  
7pm Crib Service for children and  
families  
10.30pm Midnight Mass*

*Fri 25th December - Christmas Day  
8am Holy Communion  
9.30am Sung Eucharist  
(note there is NO 5pm service on  
Christmas Day)*

PEACE  ON  EARTH

### Why was Jesus born in a barn?

Our pretty Christmas cards do not do it justice – the stable that Jesus was born in would have been smelly, dirty, and full of mess. So why did God not provide something better for his beloved Son? Why let Joseph and Mary scrounge around until they ended up in a smelly stable?

Perhaps because the King of Kings being born in a foul stable is a perfect picture of redemption. Jesus came from glory into a world filled with the dirt, filth and darkness of sin – of all the ways in which we have fallen short of the glory of God. And Jesus was not put off by darkness in the least – instead, He came to be the Light of the World. Thank God for his unspeakable gift. No wonder the angels sang “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)



### MY FRIEND RUTH

In 2011 I was happily engaged in the Lord's service in Bangalow (NSW) when Bishop Philip rang me and asked if I would be interested in coming to Christ Church Geelong. He gave me the contact details of one Ruth Christian and instructed me to contact her. I rang Ruth and heard her enthusiastic voice that sounded like a dynamo on the other end of the phone. I wasn't sure if God was calling me to Geelong but this voice on the other end of the phone seemed to think that was the case; in fact she wouldn't take no for an answer.

I remember saying to this enthusiastic voice one time that we were very happy in Bangalow and that it would be sad for the parish there if we left. Ruth replied... “Their loss our gain”. One time I spoke with a gentle fellow named Laurie and he spoke to me of Saint Paul and the way the scriptures were presented in story form at the children's service. I thought, what a nice fellow this Laurie is! (I still think that). Somehow it was arranged that Syama and I would fly down to meet with Ruth, Shurlee Swain, Judy Munro and the Archdeacon, Fr Neil Hicks. I felt very at home with all of these kind folk and that made me feel all the more drawn to this parish.

In the last four and a bit years Ruth has been my Vicar's Warden and she has done a wonderful job. Ruth is a person who is intensely dedicated to God and His service and so she has a way of bringing out the best in you. Christ Church is a busy parish and the work flies at you, as Ruth told me it would. Ruth has always been there to guide my steps and to remind me of where I was meant to be. When important things arose she helped me understand how to proceed. With the help of Ruth, David Peek and Gai Scully I have been able to be focused on God and my duties here at Christ Church.

Ruth has retired now from being Vicar's Warden but not from serving God, and she has made a deep impression on my heart and life. I could not have served here as well without her. She and Laurie have helped Syama and I in many ways. She has been a part of a great team of wardens (with David and Gai) and I thank them all for the many things they have done. Gai Scully has also been a wonderful friend and continues to be so. Despite suffering serious illness that forced her to retire, Gai took the brave step of becoming a warden and has consistently served alongside Ruth and David to help get things done so that I might focus on my ministry here.

Thank you Ruth, Gai and David and everyone here at Christ Church. May the Lord bless you. I pray I will always remember your friendship and love.

Fr Russell





## The new minister

The new minister was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Finally he took out a card, wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, 'Genesis 3:10'.

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

## Have you heard....????

Baby **Isabella Swain-Tran** (daughter of Mai and Chris, and granddaughter of Shurlee and Phillip) was baptized at the 9.30am service on 25th October 2015.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

After 15 years, **Andrew Peek** has given up his weekly Wednesday morning breakfast duty at the Meals' programme. Fatherhood (Bentley, born August 6th) is the reason!!!

... and on 17th November **Peter Dohnt** turned just over 59... and he still doesn't look a day over 30!

## Helping with our flowers



If you would like to help with the flowers why not think about -

- joining the Flower Guild roster;
- Offering flowers from your garden for the Church;
- making a donation to purchase flowers for a special occasion, or for some other remembrance of a family member or other loved one.

Speak to **Jan McGowan** if you would like more details!

## THE 5c APPEAL



Keep saving those annoying 5c pieces! The Parish is continuing to collect them - and this is now part of our Advent Appeal. Bring your 5c collections along to church - there's a collection tin at the main entry to the Church.

## ... the next Chronicle....

... is due in early **March 2016** and contributions are welcome - send them to Phillip Swain by email to - [spswain@westnet.com.au](mailto:spswain@westnet.com.au) ...don't wait - do it **NOW !!**

## From the Parish Registers - September to November 2015

### Baptisms

- 15th August 2015 - Alexis Grace Lansbury  
Imogen Louise Sutherland
- 5th September 2015 - Eleanor Agnes Jenkinson
- 29th September 2015 - Jessica Elizabeth Green  
Jackson Morgan William Keech
- 21st October 2015 - Kerri Lee Green  
& Austin Joseph Green
- 25th October - Isabella Huong Shurlee Swain-Tran  
(parents - Mai and Chris)
- 31st October - Nyah Grace McBain



### Marriages

- 3rd October 2015 - Jayde Di Santo and Hayden Bevan
- 12th October 2015 - Enzo and Kristine Cito



"I'm sorry Michael - even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"







## Some farewells from Vestry/ Parish Council

The AGM on November 15th saw a large number of parishioners offering themselves as either Wardens or Council members (the 2016 Council is listed on p.2) - which is great as it augurs well for the future of the Council with a mixture of new and older members to serve in the coming year, but also as the newish Diocesan rules require that both Wardens and Council members serve no more than 6 consecutive years on Parish Council after which a break of no less than a year must be served before any return to Council membership, in any capacity.

Elections were necessary for both the 2 warden positions available (the Vicar nominates the third), and for the 6 Council members (the Vicar nominates up to three others). With the numbers of nominations inevitably there were some who were not successful - thank you for nominating and being prepared to serve the Parish in this way. There will be other opportunities!

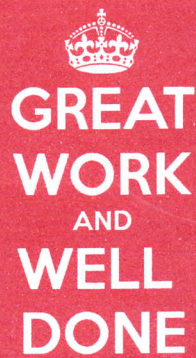
As a result of the election process, and through resignations of long serving members, several significant Council members will be absent from the new Council when it convenes. It is important to acknowledge their incredible commitment to Christ Church over many years-

**Ruth Christian** - Ruth joined the Vestry (as it then was) about 2 years into the time of Archdeacon Hugh Girvan, and has been a member ever since - that is, since about 1969... over 45 years!. In that time she has served as Secretary to Vestry, Warden, Vicar's Warden since mid way through Fr Derek's term



as Vicar, and during the interregnum between Fr Derek and Fr Russell's arrival. As well, Ruth has been one of our Parochial Representatives at Synod, for many years, and has had two extended periods on the Parish Incumbency Committee - perhaps one of the most important roles in the Parish. Ruth has also for many years carried some unseen but vital roles in the Parish, including arranging for banking each week, purchasing supplies for the Parish Office, and arranging bookings for the Hall and Schoolroom.

**Gai Scully** - became a member of Vestry/Council in the early 1990s, not long after her arrival in the

  
GREAT  
WORK  
AND  
WELL  
DONE



Parish, and has served since then, (for over 25 years!) including a lengthy period as Secretary to Vestry and membership of various sub-committees.



**John Aldridge** - has been on Vestry/Council under every Vicar at Christ Church, since he reached adulthood! With one or two gaps of a year here or there, he has been a Vestry member under Archdeacons Hugh Girvan, Barry Smith, and Andrew Oddy, then Fr Derek Jones, and of course with Fr Russell over recent years. John has also served as Vestry Secretary and continues to be one of Christ Church's representatives at Synod.-

Words really aren't enough to convey our thanks for the immense service to the Parish from these three wonderful people - much of it unseen, behind the scenes, unnoticed by most. **Thank you - from every one of us.**

### *Punnology - from Russell Devlin*

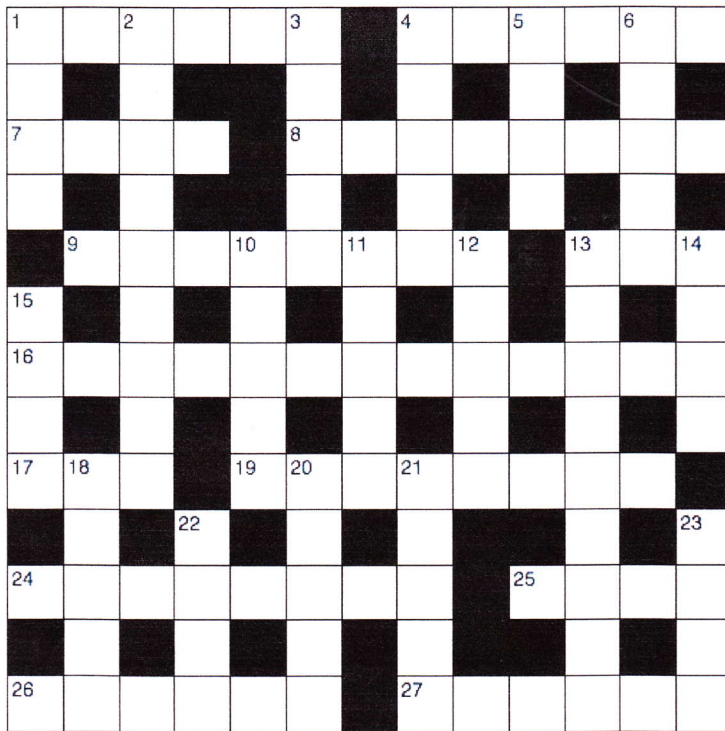
- ♦ · I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
- ♦ · When chemists die, they barium.
- ♦ · Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- ♦ · I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
- ♦ · How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- ♦ · I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- ♦ · This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- ♦ · They told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.
- ♦ · I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- ♦ · A cross-eyed teacher lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils.
- ♦ · What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.
- ♦ · I wondered why the cricket ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!
- ♦ · Broken pencils are pointless.
- ♦ · I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
- ♦ · I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- ♦ · Velcro? - what a rip off!
- ♦ · Cartoonist found dead in home. Details are sketchy.

(Ed. Note - I don't find 'em; I just print ;'em!)





## Biblical Crossword ... see how you go !!!



### Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)  
 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)  
 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)  
 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)  
 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)  
 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)  
 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)  
 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)  
 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)  
 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)  
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)  
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)  
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

### Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)  
 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)  
 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)  
 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)  
 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)  
 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)

10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)

11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)

12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)

13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)

14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)

15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)

18 Narnia's Lion (5)

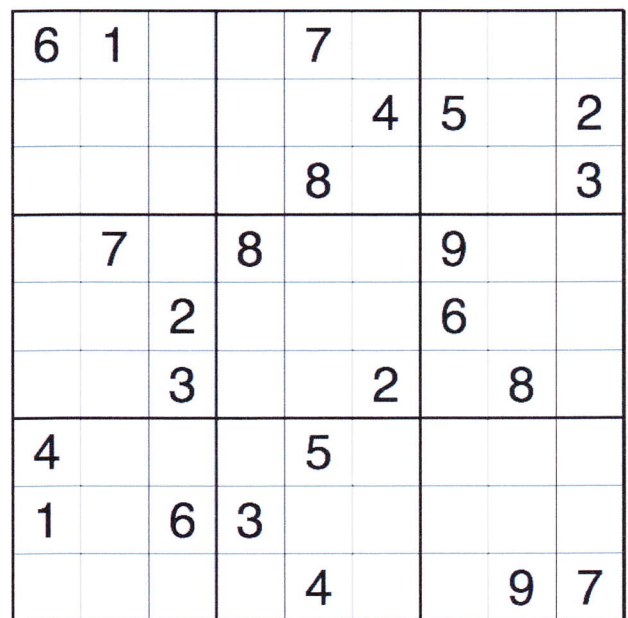
20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)

21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)

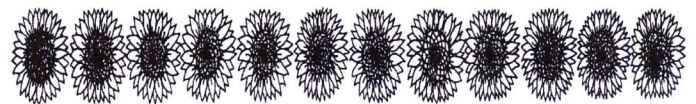
22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)

23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

## Christ Church Sudoku!



© 2013 KrazyDad.com



## Bookings Calendar

The Parish Office has a booking diary for the year covering **ALL** bookings of Parish Facilities (Hall, Schoolroom, grounds, & the Church itself), for both Parish functions and outside events. Please check with the Office **before** you plan your activity, to make sure the space you need is available!





## CHRIST CHURCH SATURDAY CLUB - Events & Activities 2015

**Saturday 5th  
December**

Christmas Dinner (6pm onwards)

At Rae and Jim's home in East Geelong  
(\$20 per head)

**Year Coordinators:** Jan/Barbara/David  
**Meetings:** Nominally on the first Saturday of each month

\*\* and watch the Parish  
Press for 2016 plans!



## GOD AND THE ARTS

*Editor: Michael Burgess (Parish Pump, UK) continues his look at great works of art. You can see the image described by googling [‘wall paintings of Pompeii’](#)*

### ‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Wall painting of Pompeii

In recent editions we have explored how art celebrates the wonder of our world – the seasons, the elements, animals and fish, flowers and fruit. They manifest the glory of God the creator. Irenaeus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> century theologian, went further and wrote that ‘the glory of God is a living person.’ He was echoing Psalm 8: ‘What are human beings that you are mindful of them...you have crowned them and put all things under their feet.’ Yes, the universe teaches of God the creator, but in becoming one of us, the Son of God has put human beings above all creation.

The nobility of that vision is captured in this 1<sup>st</sup> century wall painting from Pompeii showing Neo and his wife. They lived at a time when St Paul was preaching and the gospels were being written. We don’t know if those events made an impact on their lives. But we do know that St Paul was executed around AD67, and just twelve years later this couple were victims of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Their almond-shaped eyes are like windows into their souls. We sense the beauty, but also the fragility. They tell us that life is a gift to be cherished precisely because it is so easily taken from us. Neo’s intense eyes look at us, while his wife looks beyond into the distance. She has the eyes of hopes and dreams that were cruelly shattered by the volcano.

Living men and women, like this couple, are tokens of the wonder of creation, but they also tell us of the transience of that very gift of life. ‘Where can we place our hope?’ we ask ourselves. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls (in November) tell us that

the end of life here is a door opening into a greater glory and a brighter light. There is wonder and beauty in life here, and with the eyes of faith we can look beyond to glimpse the wonder of eternity.



## ANGELS IN THE CITY – GEELONG CITY NATIVITY 2015

This year the Geelong City Nativity theme is "Angels in the City", and it will involve several especially for families and kids!

### The Nativity Stable Photo Booth on 5th and 12th December (10am to 3pm)

On these two Saturdays of Advent volunteers from across Geelong’s churches (including Margaret Tembo from Christ Church) will help shoppers in Market Square dress up and pose in the nativity stable scene. The photos last year were brilliant - funny, touching and sweet; a favourite were the young couples who suggested putting their own babies into the crib. This is a great opportunity for a family Christmas photo!

### Children's Christmas Service in the City -

Saturday 19th December, at Wesley Church in Yarra Street, at 3pm.

All are welcome to join in this interactive and most joyful service.









## St James the Least of All

Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness (Parish Pump, UK) continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...



### On the perils of brides in churches

*The Rectory*

*St. James the Least of All*

*My dear Nephew Darren*

Our final wedding of the year was perhaps a little more memorable than any of us had anticipated. It was a charming scene, with everywhere covered in snow - although a good job the bride had a bouquet of red roses, otherwise no one would have been able to find her.

As the photographer, bridesmaids and I stood at the gate, the bridal car arrived, braked - and carried on, sliding down the lane sideways and into the neighbouring farmyard. Fortunately, Mr Jones was there to use his tractor to pull it out of the mud.

Our verger, having attended the Diocesan verger's guild Christmas party the night before, arrived late and did not have time to clear the church path. The path, being on an incline and bridal pumps not being equal to the task, the bride made a dramatic entrance into church backwards and on her bottom, demolishing the flower pedestal by the door in the process. Fortunately the petals stuck to the large patch of mud on her behind, making the congregation speculate throughout the service why she had a large floral cushion attached to her dress?

Our organist did not please the bride's mother by changing the wedding

march to the skater's waltz as her daughter reeled up the aisle. He is still under a cloud from last week's funeral for our local butcher, when he played at the end of the service Bach's: "Sheep may safely graze".

At St James the Least, the best man stands over a large heating grid. The poor soul, unaccustomed to our ecclesiastical arctic climate, was shivering so violently, he dropped the rings down the grid. There had to be a half-hour pause while the grating was removed and the groom, holding the best man's legs, lowered him into the hole to fish for them, lost among choirmen's peppermints and the organ tuner's cigarette ends.

In future, I have decided that wedding rehearsals should be full dress rehearsals. The bride, in a hooped dress, was 4 feet wide; the vestry door is 3 feet wide. Getting in to sign the registers was fairly easy, as the bride, a game girl, took a run up along the chancel and so built up enough momentum. Her exit was more difficult, but with the combined pushing of groom and bridesmaids, she re-emerged into church like a cork out of a bottle - and demolishing the second pedestal of flowers in the chancel.

Married life, they say, is not always a bed of roses, but hers has certainly begun that way.

Your loving uncle,

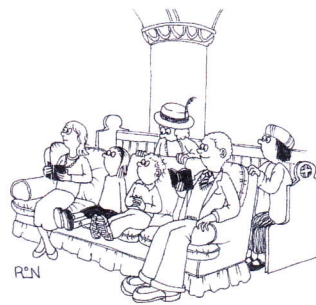
Eustace





# puzzle solutions... (from p6)

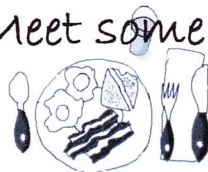
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	U		U		U		R			E		E
Y		C	A	N	O	P		D	E	P	E	D



Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class

7	9	3	1	4	6	8	5	2
8	5	4	7	2	3	6	9	1
6	1	2	8	5	9	7	3	4
5	8	7	2	1	4	3	6	9
1	3	6	5	9	7	2	4	8
4	2	9	6	3	8	1	7	5
3	6	1	9	8	5	4	2	7
2	7	5	4	6	1	9	8	3
9	4	8	3	7	2	5	1	6

## The Meals Program. Meet some of the volunteers



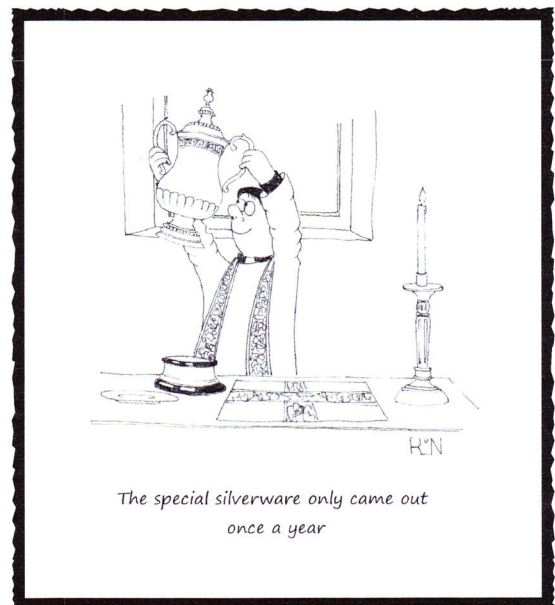
### Jacki Dridan.

Jacki, who started volunteering in November last year lives in East Geelong. She and her husband run their own business but Jacki still finds time to help out every Monday night. She knew about the program because she had noticed the sign out the front when taking her daughter to music lessons at The Music Den. Eventually she rang Jan to volunteer her help and she has now become a regular. On her first night she washed dishes for four hours! Surprisingly this did not put her off! Jacki now does a bit of everything, whether it be cooking, serving on the tables or helping to pack food boxes. Jacki said, "The people are really nice. I felt it was really welcoming...a nice feeling."

### Jeanette Perrott

Jeanette, from St Paul's, has been a volunteer for about 25 years. She belongs to one of the two groups of women who cook beef casseroles for the fourth Wednesday of every month. The others in Jeanette's team are Jan Cullen, Desiree Schaper and Claire Pratt, with a bit of help from others as required. The team meets on a Monday afternoon or evening, makes the casseroles and has a coffee and chat while cooking. "We do a lot of chatting!" Jeanette says!

After so many years of being reliable and committed volunteers, this team is handing over the reins to a new group at the end of this year. Jeanette is also a bell-ringer at St Pauls so she might have a bit more time for that, although she said she will still be available to help out if necessary. Many thanks to Jeanette and all those involved in this team.



The special silverware only came out once a year

## VARIOUS COLLECTIONS



Thank you to everyone who continues to bring along items for the various collections from Christ Church. There are baskets in the Children's Area for the following -

**STAMPS**—to support ABM;

**GLASSES & GLASSES CASES**—which are forwarded for use in Third World countries;

**CORKS**—to support research into MS;

**SHOE BOX GIFTS**—gifts are included in the boxes forwarded to OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD through MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

.... and please watch the weekly Parish Press for monthly special donations items that are being sought..





Saturday Club Lunch at [Leura Park Winery](#), on 7th November



The stunning stained glass in the lounge window in the Vicarage

## Footy Parking for 2016



The 2016 Footy Season is still a few months away - but the months will fly past! - and it's not too early to mark your calendars with the dates of the 2016 home games for the mighty Cats.

The scheduled home games for 2016 are -

Round 3 - Sunday April 10th at 4.40pm - Brisbane Lions  
 Round 6 - Saturday April 30th at 7.45pm - Gold Coast  
 Round 7 - Saturday May 7th at 2.10pm - West Coast  
 Round 11 - Saturday June 4th at 7.25pm - GWS Giants  
 Round 16 - Friday July 8th at 7.50pm - Sydney Swans  
 Round 18 - Saturday July 23rd at 7.25pm - Adelaide  
 Round 19 - Friday July 29th at 7.50pm - Western Bulldogs  
 Round 23 - Saturday August 27th (time tba) - Melbourne

There is one more home game than in 2015 - and the date/timing of the final round will be announced later in the 2016 season.

Ideally we need 4-5 people to help with Footy Parking for each home game - to welcome footy fans, tell them why the Cats will win, take their parking fees, and help park their cars - what could be easier? Plus it's a lot of fun and easy fundraising for our Parish.

Why not come along and help with Footy Parking? For more information contact Peter Dohnt (52214704) or Phillip Swain (52219956). **GO CATS!!!**

Sue Wong introducing the film 'The Good Lie' to the audience on 23rd November, in support of the newly established Refugee and Asylum Seeker Working Group - and see the Insert letter from Adn. Hicks



## Parking at Christ Church

Most parking spots in the Church grounds are leased out during the week.....

So although there will usually be a small number of spaces available for parishioners coming to Parish activities on weekdays, the spaces will be limited, and please display -

**a copy of a recent 2015/16 Parish Press or Chronicle**



## BREKKY @ CHRIST CHURCH

(from Laurie Christian, & Jenny & Les Harrison)  
 Parish breakfasts continue monthly, with various cereals and toast, fruit, coffee and tea - It's a great opportunity to get together and enjoy breakfast - come after the 8am or before the 9.30am service !!

In most months brekky is on the **3rd Sunday**, but watch the Parish Press for details of dates!





Even new grandparents  
can dance the tango!



## Situations Vacant

here's some volunteer opportunities....

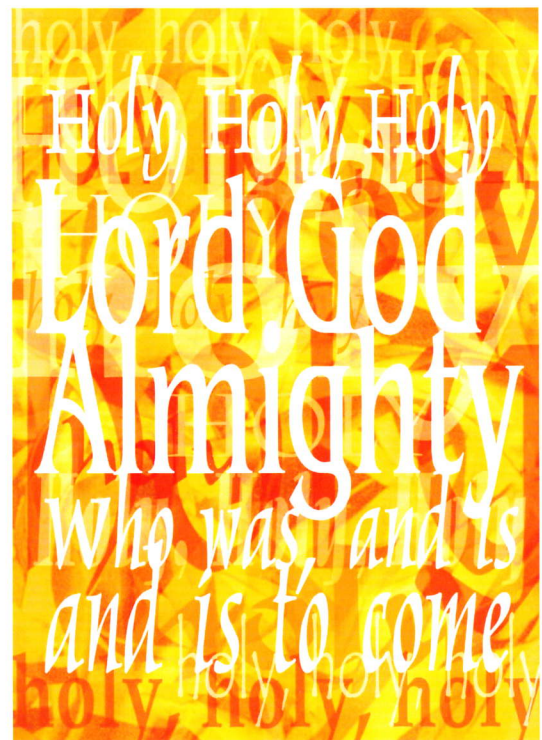
- **Church sitting** - weekdays 12-2pm
- **Sides persons and welcomers** for all services
- **Readers/Intercessors** (Lessons & Intercessions)
- Assisting with **flower arranging** in Church
- help with **maintenance** (.
- collating the weekly **Parish Press**
- **Helping with the Community Meals Program** (breakfast/evening meals)
- joining the **Parish Council** (or a sub-committees.
- ..talk to the **Parish Clergy** or a **Council member** if any of the above interest you...



A good crowd of  
parishioners  
attended the Parish  
AGM  
on 15th November



**PARISH AGM** - was held on **15th November**  
(see **pix p.12**) - if you would like a copy of the reports presented to the meeting (Incumbent, Wardens, Parish Council, Finances, Resource Centre, Archives, Meal Program and Choir), they are available through the Parish Office



## Morning tea !!

After the 9.30am Sunday Service there is morning tea in the North Transept Coffee area... Come and catch up with your fellow parishioners !!

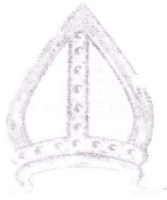


(R) Cutting the cake to celebrate Peg Powell's 90th birthday (Peg turned 90 in September - see the announcement in the September 2015 edition)

(below) Display of Archival Photographs and Etchings in the North Transept - with thanks to our Archivist Jonathan







ANGELICAN  
DIOCESE OF  
MELBOURNE

12 MCNICOL STREET  
GEELONG WEST VIC 3218  
PHONE 03 5229 5698  
MOBILE 0427 584 624  
EMAIL [vicar@stpaulsgeelong.org.au](mailto:vicar@stpaulsgeelong.org.au)

THE VENERABLE NEIL HICKS  
ARCHDEACON OF GEELONG

*Report from the "GASON in Transition" group  
to the Anglican parishes of the Geelong Archdeaconry*

**THANK YOU for your generosity to the Refugee ministry through St Andrew's**

Thank you to the many parishes who responded with a donation towards the costs of the refugee ministry at St Andrew's, a GASON backed ministry. \$1412.90 has come in to date, with the additional generous response from a parish to ensure the shortfall is met. So thank you. I apologise if I misled parishes with the comment about rental; all monies raised will be to cover the costs of the goods distribution ministry. New plastic storage bins are needed urgently and that with the skip will cost \$1585.00.

Also, to let you know that St Andrew's has also recently instigated the replacement of computers for the refugee Homework Club that meets there twice a week (partnership with Anglicare). \$3 100 has been raised, with \$1000 from the Karen people themselves, and \$1000 from the local rotary. The total need is \$5 000, so well on the way and Anglicare will also be assisting.

**GASON DISSOLVED – new group formed**

I had communicated last month that a task group had formed - "GASON in Transition" - to consider the future of this network. Below are the notes from the October meeting:

"It was agreed that GASON dissolve/cease, and that a Geelong Anglican group form named Geelong Refugee Assistance Group, with the by-line : Anglicans in Action."

This decision was based on the many reasons why we had formed a group "in Transition". Principally, (1) that the original aims of formation of GASON in 2001 are not being met; and (2) there is passion and need for serving refugees, noting that the main activity at present is the gathering and distribution of goods monthly, at the St Andrew's site.

This group made the decision to reform as a refugee assistance group, affirming that the need will continue for this ministry, and, importantly, to create a group that can continue to gather people with this interest from all the Greater Geelong parishes. It is intended also that the Agenda of the group is for refugee assistance in as broad a scope that is possible.

It was noted also that we need to acknowledge with gratitude the foundation and story of GASON, and that the newly formed group is really an evolution of that story. It was agreed that a Service of Thanksgiving be organised for early in 2016. "

**It was also agreed** that Guidelines for the new group be decided, with facilitation by Archdeacon of Geelong, Neil Hicks, and the Archdeacon for Parish Partnerships, Jan Crombie. That meeting will take place on 27 November – any feedback and responses would be appreciated before that date. Please send to Jan Crombie [jcrombie@melbourneanglican.org.au](mailto:jcrombie@melbourneanglican.org.au)

We very much hope that the new group, G-RAP, will continue the networking for social justice by Anglican parishes in the Greater Geelong area. We give thanks to God for all those who formed and worked so hard for GASON, and look forward to the new energy and focus of the Geelong Refugee Assistance Group: Anglicans in Action.





## ... A DISCUSSION WITH BRUCE THOMPSON



(Parishioner Bruce Thompson spoke with David Wetherall, who summarized their discussions as below)

Born in 1926 at Newtown, Bruce was a student at Geelong College 1937-1943. His lifelong interest in music was initially sparked by his piano studies with George Logie Smith. Bruce returned to Geelong College after being trained at Melbourne Teachers' College and teaching in various rural state schools. For eight years from 1954 Bruce was in England in public relations work and teaching music at Boarzell Preparatory School in East Sussex, where he was chapel choir master and organist. After returning to Australia he married Mona Ainslie, a Queenslander of Presbyterian background with experience in office administration, who lived at Tambourine Mountain in the far south east of that State. After resuming music teaching with the Victorian Education Department he retired in 1986. Among churches where Bruce has been organist are the Presbyterian churches at Canterbury, Prahran and St George's Geelong; also St Andrew's Uniting Church East Geelong, and St Paul's and All Saints' parishes in Geelong. He has been occasional organist at Aberdeen Street Baptist Church, where the choir master, incidentally, is father of the present COGG Mayor Darryn Lyons.

DW Bruce, who had the largest musical influence on you?

BT George Logie Smith in Geelong and Frank Lafitte in London. Lafitte's mother had been taught to play the piano by Clara, wife of Robert Schumann. Clara's playing, as imparted to me by Lafitte, is called the *Clara Schumann* method, which means playing the piano *all the way down* from the shoulder and easing into the notes.

DW You have been organist in many churches. Among your fellow organists who was the most colourful character?

BT Dr A.E.Floyd, organist of St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne. He was of course a national celebrity over many years. Once when we were out driving, he stopped to buy ice creams without pulling over and parked the car in the middle of the road! On another drive the engine failed and he told the RACV it was 'making the sound of B Flat'. Son of a Methodist minister, he was decidedly anti clerical, which must have made him something of a gadfly in a cathedral.

DW Beyond musicians, do you have any favourite writers?

BT John Betjeman, Britain's poet laureate.

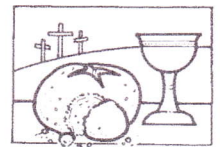


DW - Our discussion ended with Bruce reciting a few favourite lines from Betjeman.

(with thanks to Bruce, and to David Wetherall)



## Home Communion



The Parish Clergy are always very happy to bring Holy Communion at home to those unable to come to church for services.

**Please speak with Fr Russell or one of the Clergy team to arrange a time.....**

## Regular Services at Christ Church

**Eucharist - Sundays** at 8am, 9.30 am (sung) & 5.15pm (Family Mass)

and during the week- **Eucharist on Wednesdays at 8am & 10am.**

**Meditation** every Tuesday from 7-8 pm (Chapel)

**Morning Prayer** - Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8.30am

**Healing Services - 2nd & 4th Wednesday** of each month, at 7.30pm

**Children's & Families Service (CAFS)** - first Sunday of each month, commencing at 9.30am (in the Parish Hall), **NOTE** - these CAFS services are NOT held in January each year.

...and note the various service changes in January - see p.2 of this edition.