

THE 'CHRONICLE'

The next edition of the *Chronicle* will be available at services in early March – so now is the time to submit any items of interest to parishioners, updates about Parish celebrations or special events, fund-raising activities and the like, just send your contribution to: spswain@westnet.com.au and if possible it will be fitted in. The deadline for contributions for this edition is Sunday, 21st February. The March *Chronicle* will also be on the Parish web page from early March onwards.

COMING EVENTS/FESTIVALS

Next Sunday, 14th February – Darwin Defenders
A Memorial Service commemorating the 74th Anniversary
of the Bombing of Darwin on 19th February 1942

Monday, 15th February – Film Night
Woman in Gold – starring Helen Mirren
Tickets available from Jan today!!

WINTER WOOLIES & OTHER WONDERS MARKET

Saturday, 28th May



If you have items to offer you can check with Gai or Ruth – Craft; Barbara – Preserves; Sue – Cakes; Syama or Laurie – Plants; Jan – Food.

Thank you to Anne Howarth for the Quilt as the major raffle prize.

New feature this year – pruning demonstrations!

If you have ideas please let us know.

Many jobs on offer as time gets closer!

Contact: Ruth – 0425 785 694

We acknowledge the Wathaurong people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Christ Church and its buildings now stand.



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



"A community of faith in service to others"

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

Vicar:	The Reverend Russell Trickey	M: 0433 933738
	Email: trickeyrussell13@gmail.com	
Associate Priest:	The Reverend John St Q Howells	5244 0649
Organist:	Mr Winton Barry	
Office:	Email: chchurch@coable.net.au	5221 8055
Office Administrator:	Mrs Patricia Cowling	

Mission Statement

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY/'START-UP SUNDAY'

7th February 2016

Liturgical Colour: Green

9.30am: Holy Eucharist (Sung); Children's & Family Service (CAFS)

Sentence

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and was buried, and was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and appeared to many.

Prayer of the Day *

Most holy God,
in whose presence angels serve in awe,
and whose glory fills all heaven and earth:
cleanse our unclean lips
and transform us by your grace
so that your word spoken through us
may bring many to your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen



* You are invited to join in this Prayer immediately before today's readings

Service Setting: Christ Church Service

Hymns: 9.30am: 69 (see Insert); 597; 560; 158

Psalm Response:



I will give thanks to you O Lord with all my heart.

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The Vicar Writes



The vision of Isaiah reveals many deep truths about God that can inspire us into deep contemplation. To begin with, the Lord is never alone but is surrounded by the heavenly host. The basis of a Trinitarian understanding of God is that the Supreme One exists in community. Father (source of being), Son (the Christ, King and guide of creation) and Holy Spirit (all-pervading Spirit and Truth who is equally present everywhere in whom everything is sustained and who is the substance of existence).

According to the understanding of God as Trinity, everything in creation has its relationship with the Lord and everyone has their rightful dignity as a child of God (the whole earth is full of His Glory). A second lesson is revealed where we see Isaiah feeling unworthy and unclean. An angel flew over to him and touched Isaiah's mouth with a burning coal saying your sin is forgiven. Here we see how the angel acts as an agent of the Lord, one who personifies the Lord's will. God empowers Isaiah through the angel to act as His representative on earth. With his sins forgiven, Isaiah is able to hear and understand, to see and perceive God. What does it mean to be forgiven? It means to be allowed to enter a new phase of understanding and status of life that keeps God in the centre.

How often do we cut God out of our lives because we forget that we are a part of God? As God's children we cannot possibly be separated from Him, and yet our feeling of unworthiness, like Isaiah's hold us back. It often takes the touch of an angel either earthly or heavenly to put a coal to our mouth and awaken our realisation that we belong to God and God belongs to us. Paul had a similar realisation that led him to say that by the grace of God I am what I am and that the grace of God at work in him made his efforts successful.

For the first disciple Simon Peter the Lord gave special grace in the form of miracles to encourage the future head of the Church in his own spiritual development and self-understanding. Today we hear how the Lord asked Peter to take his boat out again and try one more time for a catch of fish. Peter had been disappointed and had past the point of giving up. The Lord encouraged him to take the boat out one more time. Peter trusted the Lord's judgement, he had faith enough in Christ that he was a true master, a divine emissary of God. Peter followed the instruction of Christ and it bore fruit. All though his time with the Lord Peter saw that whenever he followed what the Lord said things worked out. That is the basis of faith, to have the courage to follow the instructions of the Lord and enough belief in the Lord and in yourself that you can do it.

If we fall short it's because we have been unable to see Christ in our journey. We have to develop the understanding that God is in every part of our journey, not just at the end. The end time is now, it has always been now. God exists in eternity and that is now and forever. If our minds and hearts are open we may see the Lord is with us always, the Lord accepts us always. God shares our journey, our sufferings and our joys and His invitation is to enter deeply into His infinite joys and everlasting life. It is the birthright of everyone to have this, only our self-doubt stands in the way, so let's be bold enough to drop it and live in faith and love.

The Lord be with you,

Fr Russell



Today's Flowers have been donated by Jan and Trish, in loving memory of Jan's mother, Thelma and Trish's husband, Gary who shared a birthday on 16th January.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Peace and harmony in the world; those affected by natural disasters.

THE CHURCH: Anglican Church of Canada; Diocese of Sydney; Spiritual Health Victoria Council; St Augustine's Moreland; Christ Church Hawthorn; Whittlesea-Kinglake Parish; St John's Healesville.

THE COMMUNITY: Our Lenten Study groups – leaders and participants.

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED: Those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

THE DEPARTED: Our own dear departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Pam Firth; Lois Hustwaite)

The Week Ahead

Monday, 8th	2.00pm	Home Lenten Group
Shrove Tuesday, 9th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
	1.30pm & 3.30pm	Bible Explorers in the School Room
Ash Wednesday, 10th	7.00pm	Meditation in the Chapel
	8.00am	Meditation in the Chapel
	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
	11.00am	Lenten Group in the Church
	6.30pm	Holy Eucharist
Thursday, 11th	7.30pm	Healing Service
	8.00pm	Home Lenten Group
	8.00am	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
	10.00am	Pastoral Care Meeting in the Vicarage
Friday, 12th	7.30pm	Choir Practice *
	7.00pm	Home Lenten Group
Saturday, 13th	9.00am	Working Bee

NEXT SUNDAY: 14TH FEBRUARY -DARWIN DEFENDERS SERVICE

Readings: Eccles 44.1-15; Ps 46; Hebrews 10.32-39; John 15.9-17

THE 2015 CHRISTMAS SERVICES – if you missed the Carol Service or special Christmas celebrations, there are pictures and some audio files (of Readings, Fr Russell's Christmas Eve message, some choral and organ works) available from the "Recent Celebrations" section of the Parish Web page.

WESLEY CHURCH presents '*Learning Luke*' on **Tuesday, 9th February at 7.00pm** (over four weeks). Led by Dr Keith Dyer, Whitley College Melbourne. Cost: \$10; and '*Luke's Story*' **next Sunday, 14th February at 5.00pm**. Told by Biblical Storyteller, Philip Liebelt. Gold coin donation, including supper (please see fliers for both events in coffee area)