



March 2024

St. John's News

A news publication from the
Anglican Parish of St. John's, Bentleigh

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The Sanctuary Candle. The initials 'IHS' refers to Jesus and is made up of the first three letters of the name Jesus when written in the Greek alphabet.. Photo A. Lyons

From the Vicar

Welcome to the first issue of St. John's News for 2024! Christmas 2023 and the start of 2024 is now in the distant past. As a reminder, there are a few photographs about Christmas 2023 in this issue. However, before we enjoyed Christmas, St. John's had the first annual Stewardship campaign in the parish after a long time. During the COVID years, it was not possible to realistically engage in a Parish Stewardship Campaign. I am thankful to those who have reconsidered their Stewardship of time, talents and treasure and had given their revised commitments to the Stewardship Coordinator. All three aspects of stewardship are in difficulty at St. John's. For St. John's to grow and flourish, all aspects of our stewardship are essential. If you still haven't renewed your stewardship commitments, please do so urgently.

Your revised commitments will be helpful for St. John's to fulfil our vision "To be a centre of God's love and hope," and, our mission, "To love God, love people, grow disciples of Christ!"

As many may recall, the Packianathans left for a long holiday soon after Christmas. I am thankful to the Revd. Dr. Ian Savage who graciously accepted my invitation as the Locum at St. John's for an extended period. Dr. Savage has provided some reflections on his ministry at St. John's.

As you read this St. John's News, we are at the tail-end of the Lenten season. We are journeying towards Holy Week and Easter (which isn't far away). During Lent, we have been exploring **PRAYER** using the Psalms. Topics included, prayers for *Guidance & Protection* (Psalm 25); prayer for *Deliverance* (Psalm 60); and prayer of *Thanksgiving* (Psalm 30). As I write this reflection, I am looking forward to considering the prayer for

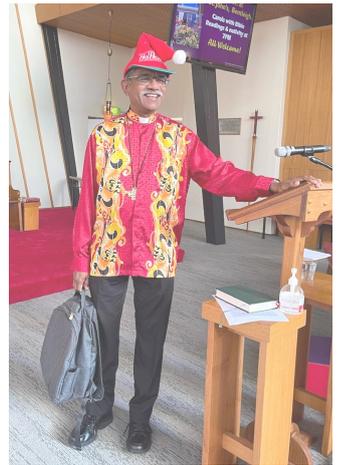
Understanding (Psalm 119). In addition, we have also been having group studies to further enhance our Discipleship discipline. I know of two groups who meet to consider these six studies and I hope that parishioners have also been exploring these studies on their own.

During Lent, the parish was delighted to have a pastoral visit by Bishop Genieve Blackwell (Bishop of the Marningatha episcopate and assistant Bishop in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne) on 25 February. After presiding and preaching at the combined 10AM Holy Communion service, Bishop Genieve had a pastoral conversation with the Parish Council.

Being my second Holy Week/Easter at St. John's, one would think that it would be similar to the previous one. Would it, I wonder? In some ways, it would be, but in other ways, those who know me well, should expect something different. Only time will tell. For you, the readers, my advice is, "Come and see!"

The basic plan for Holy Week and Easter is provided on the following page. Please invite others and bring them along for this special time of the church year. During Easter, we will have the opportunity to renew our Baptismal promises. After the service, there will be the added opportunity to share a pot-luck meal in the Narthex!

As a parish, we are continuing in the "Leading St. John's into Growth" programme.



The Vicar during the 2023 St John's Carols service!

(Continued on page 3)

The Anglican Parish of St. John's Bentleigh is seeking to appoint a Parish musician and a children/families minister. If you're interested in exploring using your gifts to serve God in the Anglican Parish of St. John's Bentleigh, and to obtain a copy of the position description, please contact the parish office on 03 9557 2226 or email: bentleighanglican@bigpond.com.

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As a reminder, the seven key principles of this movement are provided on the right. Please be supportive of this initiative as it is essential for St. John's Bentleigh during this period of many challenges.

If you are unsure of how to participate or to assist, please speak to me and/or any parish councillor. There is always room for more parishioner participation at St. John's. To assist, the proposed Parish Calendar is also provided in this St. John's News.

The Parish Councillors, Wardens and I, together with our families, wish you and yours a very joyous, blessed, holy & safe Easter 2024!

**Christ is risen. [Alleluia.]
He is risen indeed. [Alleluia.]**

“God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship & Power to our witness. Help our church of St. John's to grow in our spiritual commitment to you, in numbers and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Soli Deo Gloria, Santa ☺
10 March 2024, Lent 4

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

(from: http://jokes.christiansunite.com/Church/The_Army_of_the_Lord.shtml)

- 1** Create a prayerful culture of Growth: Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31)
- 2** Implement the 4Ps: Prayer, Presence, Proclamation, and Persuasion: Kingdom Come (Matt. 6:10)
- 3** Practise fruitful evangelism: Catching Fish (Mark 1:17)
- 4** Develop Engaging Worship: Holy Ground (Exodus 3:5)
- 5** Become an inviting and welcoming church: Banquet (Luke 14:21)
- 6** Make a pathway for seekers to become disciples: Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)
- 7** Begin a planned journey of growth: Early Church (Acts 5:14)

HOLY WEEK (all welcome)	
24 March, 8.30AM & 10AM	Palm Sunday - "The Saving Son: Through Cross to Crown" Rev. Adrian Lane (Bush Church Aid)
25/26 March 7:30AM	Holy Monday / Tuesday Holy Week Prayers
27 March 10.30AM	Holy Wednesday - Bible Readings, with Communion - 'a strange opportunity'
27 March from 7PM	Maundy Thursday, 7PM (simple meal, washing in Narthex), 7.30PM - Communion in the church
29 March 10AM	Good Friday - "Messiah in the Passover", Barry Buirski, Celebrate Messiah Australia
31 March 10AM	Easter - Renewal of Baptismal promises, Communion, shared potluck lunch, "He is not here"

Leading your Church into Growth - Movement by Robin Gamble

Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) is a movement of leaders, disciples and churches that are earnestly seeking to work with God as He moves in our communities.

Time and Time Again

By Robin Gamble

Just one word for us:

We observe its endless flow
Using a watch, a diary or a calendar
All our hopes, plans and expectations
Are marked out, as the river of time
Slowly flows onward.

But two words in the Bible.

Chronos

Time with a past, present and future
Chronos rolls out like a great long carpet
Every day another step
We look back to yesterday
And place most of our hope in tomorrow.

Kairos

Now time
Today
Like the short-lived light of a match striking
How shall I live?
What shall I do?
Who shall I meet
Today?



(Continued on page 5)

I wonder if it is possible to think of church growth primarily in the '**Chronos**' zone and things such as evangelism and healing as living and thriving in the '**Now Time**'.

Simplistic, I know.

There is always growth in the 'Kairos' and encounters in the 'Chronos' but as a general guide I think it works. We draw up plans with goals and built in processes as part of the gradual rolling out of our vision. What will it look like twelve months from now and, to help it on its way, what does it need to be like six and three months from now.



Yesterday I had a one-off moment talking to a woman who has just started attending church and of her need for prayer in a time of illness. 'See you on Sunday' she said at the end of our conversation. Later today I shall be on the phone to a couple who I have rather lost contact with, finding out how they are and inviting them back to church. This is ministry and life in the 'Kairos' moment, the striking of a single match in the darkness.



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Jesus lived in both the **Chronos** and the **Kairos**. He looked back to the prophets and forward to his glorification; and his use of the phrases 'my time has not yet come' and 'we are going up to Jerusalem' are all set in the gradual unrolling of Chronos.

But his continually stopping the **Chronos** journey to have an encounter along the way is pure **Kairos** ministry.

It is about this time of year that I do quite a lot of work with our curates in Leeds diocese around the work of evangelism. I am regularly disappointed at the way many of them put everything into a vaguely Chronos future.

"It is all about building long-term relationships."

"We are scattering seeds today which may only flower years from now."

"Time and spirituality move slowly, we have to be patient."

All true yes, but only partially.

They are in danger of losing the fire and light of the Kairos moment in the slow river-like drift of Chronos. They need the same sense of urgency that Jesus showed in his dealing with people. I encourage them all to keep a list of five 'now relationships' and to work in the Kairos with these folks and to plan now for their next gospel proclamation.



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So, two big questions for us all.



Where do we want our church, project or life to be eighteen months from now?

Who can I touch, contact or make an impact on today?

I ask both questions of myself all the time

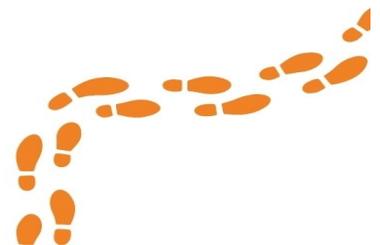
They keep me on track

They keep me focussed on people.



*As he went along, he saw a man
blind from birth*

John 9:1



Leading your **Evangelism**
Into Growth



***All of us have a role to play in the
ministry of Evangelism in the
Local Church***

A few words from the Revd. Dr. Ian Savage

Being temporary Vicar at St. John's, Bentleigh.



Being a temporary vicar is like being a foster parent. Just because you are temporary, it doesn't mean that you are not a real parent. Just because you are a temporary vicar, it doesn't mean that you are not a real vicar.

'Whilst in the parish you will have the responsibilities of a vicar, but you will need to exercise this responsibility with due care due to the interim nature of the appointment and thus not initiate major change in the parish without specific consultation with your bishop.'

Being a temporary vicar rather than a permanent vicar means that your focus is different. You are not concerned with long term strategy. (Hopefully), you will not be concerned with compliance because the systems for safe ministry, OHS and so on have been set up before you arrive. You will probably focus on your relationship with the congregation. How may they be feeling at seeing (another) unfamiliar face leading worship on Sunday morning? And how do you feel? Because that will probably communicate to the congregation. What are some realistic goals that you and the congregation can achieve in your time together?

Looking after St. John's while Santa was on holiday was different to being temporary vicar while a church is without a permanent vicar. Nevertheless, five Sundays is a decent slab of time. Two Sundays, blink and you will miss it. Five Sundays is long enough for a sermon series, perhaps. The issues about how is everyone feeling? - including me - and realistic goals, still apply.

This is what I tried to do and you can judge for yourselves how well I succeeded. First, my overall goal was not to make life difficult for Santa on his return. Second, Terry is licensed Lay reader and Anthony is parish secretary. They are committed to St. John's and know what is going on. I tried to support them in their roles and fit in with the way that they do things. As for the Sunday services, I tried to adapt myself to what I found, rather than doing anything new. As for preaching, I tried to consider how the Gospel reading related to St. John's now - rather than to some hypothetical person walking down Centre Road. After the service, I stayed for morning tea and tried to get to know some of the people around the table. I tried to give pastoral support where I could and was delighted to share communion with Bishop Gerald and Lyn Beaumont.

Now I have written these goals down, I am pretty sure that I didn't always fulfil them. However, I don't think you took offence. I really enjoyed my time at St John's and hope to be your temporary vicar again some time in the future.

Ian Savage

— BELIEVE —



- Believe the Bible, it is the Word of God.**
- Believe in Jesus, He is the Son of God.**
- Believe in Miracles, they are the work of God.**
- Believe in Salvation, it is the Grace of God.**
- Believe in the Trinity, it is the secret of God.**
- Believe in Prayers, they are the weapon of God.**
- Believe in the Holy Spirit, it is the power of God.**
- Believe in Creation, it is the wonder of God.**
- Believe in the Resurrection, it is the Glory of God.**
- Believe in Heaven, it is the Throne of God.**
- Believe in Angels, they are the messengers of God.**
- Believe in Love, it is the gift from God.**

J. Packianathan

A few words from Jean Phibbs

2024 has arrived and it's lovely to be back on Sunday February 4 at 8:30am. The service was held in the Chapel, which made it welcoming and intimate.

The Community Garden – lovely to go past on a very hot morning and see two people out working, weeding and watering.

Kids Hope is on the go after the school holidays. Valkestone primary School really appreciate the volunteers from St. John's. I love the kind and caring atmosphere throughout the school. I have been with this programme for many years and love it. My special child will graduate this year and I will really miss her, as she started in grade 2 with me. It is a really good programme and the school really support it and the volunteers.

To Beatrice McDonald, thank you for introducing me to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. It is a fantastic programme and you did a great job coordinating the programme.

Jean Phibbs, February 2024

A blast from the past! Pt. 1

What is wrong with white lies?

It would be true to say from time to time we are all guilty of distorting the truth in order to avoid confrontation or an embarrassing situation. In this article the Student Christian Movement looks at 'White Lies'.

This question often crops up in life. It needs honest thinking to reach an honest answer. The questions printed below are intended to help you work out your own answer! If you want to know what The Church Mouse has heard – there are some further comments following these questions – but **DO NOT READ UNTIL YOU HAVE SORTED OUT YOUR OWN IDEAS!**

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO TELL THE TRUTH?

Look at *Exodus, ch. 20, verse 16; Psalm 15, verses 1-3; Colossians, ch. 3, verse 9; Matthew ch. 5, verses 33-37*. (This means, "Don't say 'I swear by this or that' to show that you are telling the truth. Just mean what you say.")

WHEN DO WE WANT TO TELL THE TRUTH?

Or, to put that another way, when do we tell white lies? Is it at times like these?

- (a) When your wife says, "Where have you been?", and you don't want to tell her because you know she'll be angry.
- (b) When your friend says, "What do you think of my singing?", and you think it's awful. Times when we don't want to hurt people's feelings.
- (c) When someone asks you, "Why doesn't so and so like me?" Times when we feel that the other person could not bear to know the truth. (A special and very difficult case like this is when a sick person with a very serious disease asks the doctor to tell him what is wrong with him).
- (d) When you tell a lie to cover up for a friend?

Is it right in all these cases (and the others you may think of) not to tell the truth? In case (a) aren't you telling a lie just to save getting into trouble? In case (b) and (c) aren't you telling a lie to save yourself the trouble of thinking up a helpful and kind way of putting the truth?

Is case (d) different from the others? Is it part of friendship to cover up for your friend? Are there limits to this? Are most white lies told to help other people, or to save ourselves trouble? **DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH?**

Would you like it if you felt that your friends were telling you white lies, or keeping the truth from you? If you try on a new suit and ask your wife, "Does she like it?", do you expect her to tell you what she really thinks; do you want your friend to tell the truth? Would you go on trusting your wife or friend if you felt that they would not tell you the truth, or were keeping something back from you?

DOES IT MATTER HOW WE TELL THE TRUTH?

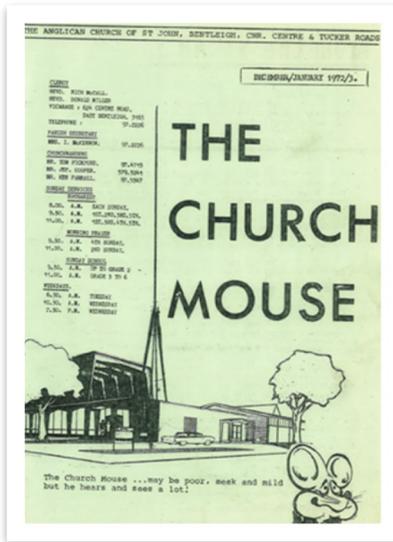
Some people are proud of being frank in speaking. Is 'being frank' always a good thing? Can we have a bad reason for being frank? If we feel that the truth is going to hurt people is it right to think up a kind way to put the truth to them? Is that dishonest?

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THE OPINION OF THE 'STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT' IS: -

We should tell the truth. That is what Christians believe. The Bible says that God is a 'God of Truth', (see *Psalm 31:5*). The word 'truth' in the Old Testament means 'reliability'. God is reliable. You can depend upon Him, and so we should be reliable, dependable. We call some lies, 'white lies' when we feel that they do not harm



anyone and that they save unpleasantness. We tell most white lies to save ourselves trouble. Covering up for a friend seems different to us from other lies because we feel that we are telling the lie for somebody else, to help them, not just to save ourselves trouble.

But before you can say that any like this is excused, you must be very sure:-

That the lie cannot do any harm. If you cover up for your friend, is somebody else going to get the blame? If you spin a tale to your wife, husband or mother, what effect will it have on her if she later finds out the truth?

That you really are doing the best thing for your friend. If your friend does wrong and you help him get away with it, he may think it is always easy to get away with doing wrong.

That there really is no other way out. Why is it impossible for your friend to tell the truth himself? Are you sure he is not trading on your friendship.

We want our friends to tell us the truth, (in a kind way, if possible). They want the same from us. We all have a right to know the truth. We need to know the truth about ourselves if we are to live properly.

If we are spoiling our appearance by wearing clothes that do not suit us or getting on other people's nerves by 'showing off' too much, it is far better for us to be told.

We don't always like facing the truth about ourselves. Some of the most common 'white lies' are those we tell ourselves - the excuses we make for some of our actions.

When a sick person who is seriously ill asks the doctor what is wrong, the doctor must decide how it will affect the sick person if he knows the truth. People are different. Some people would be helped if they knew, but others would lose the will to live and give up hope – even when there was plenty of hope. If the doctor keeps back the truth he does it to help the sick person, not to save himself trouble. But if doctors always told 'white lies' to sick people, no one would ever believe anything they said.

It matters a lot HOW you tell the truth, the way you put it. St. Paul says that Christians should, 'speak the truth in love' (*Ephesians 4:15*). If we really care for other people, we should try to find the best way of telling them the truth. If we hurt their feelings too much we may make it more difficult for them to accept the truth. 'Being frank' can be cruel and can show a lack of care for other people.

To finish up: white lies – like any other lies – do harm. They destroy trust between people and make it harder for real friendship to grow. That is why they are wrong.

FROM:

The Church Mouse, Dec./Jan. 1972/73, The Anglican Church of St. John, Bentleigh, p3-4.

Christmas 2023



The Nativity in front of the Lord's Table

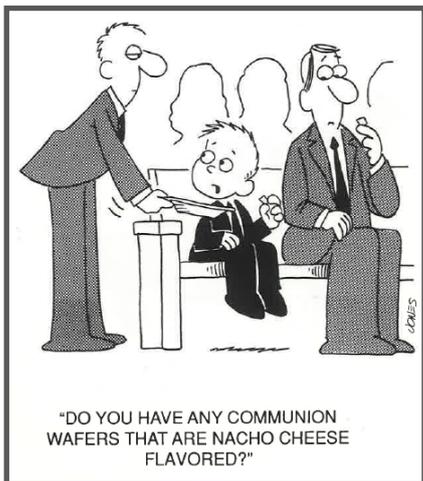
Shirley Nisbet's flower arrangement on display



Daniel and Peter presenting figures of the Nativity



Lucas conducting one of the Bible readings



A blast from the past! Pt. 2

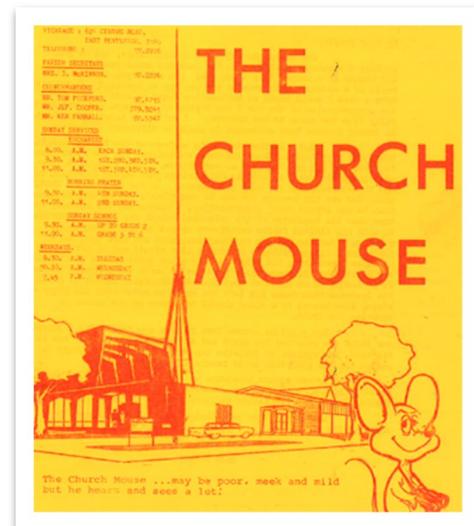
God and I together

One day a man came to Jesus with a question: "What is the most important law of all?" Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God...."

If loving God is the most important thing in the world, then we need to know what it means. Loving God means knowing He loves you, even when you don't like yourself very much. Loving God means knowing that you are not alone, because He is with you. Instead of thinking "I", "I", "I" you begin to think "We – God and I together."

Loving God means finding out what He wants you to do. You think more about Jesus because He came to show us God's way. You begin to do the things that Jesus taught:-

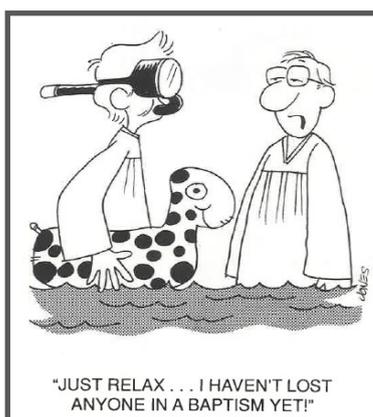
1. Being a friend,
2. Helping,
3. Forgiving
4. And loving



You try to choose what you think He would choose. It doesn't matter so much what other children say or do. But it does matter what God wants you to do.

Loving God means talking with Him anytime and anywhere. Sometimes you just say, "Thank you" for His loving care. Sometimes you tell Him about the things that have hurt you. Sometimes you ask Him to forgive you when you have not done what He wanted you to do. Often you ask Him to help you live His way. And often you talk to Him about other people who need help.

Loving God is all these things. It takes practice, but it is the most important thing you can do.



"DO YOU KNOW HOW ST. JOHN'S IS REACHING OUT TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY VIA ADVERTISING?"

Outreach to the community is a vital part of the life of any parish church in this day and age of social media use by all sections and ages of people out there.

St. John's has a very active Facebook page and it may surprise many to know how widely "followed" we are! All our news and events and Services are posted regularly with photos. Next time you are using Facebook please "check in" and see just what is going on.

As well, St. John's posts its activities such as Messy Church, Kids & Craft Market, Tutoring, St. John's Garden Club, special event Services etc on five local community groups and our posts receive much approval and support. The membership of these Facebook groups would number in the many thousands.

Our Craft Chat & Cuppa group has drawn several members from this involvement. As well, support has come for our Asylum Seeker Resource Centre project. In fact, as soon as this was advertised this month, a lady from the community went out to buy a large bag of tuna and delivered it in person to my home. She is not a parishioner but a "follower".

We also advertise our events on Golden Days Radio and news of our events is delivered on air in the weeks beforehand. The Parish pays a very small membership fee annually, to support GDR and they in turn advertise every event we request all through the year with no restriction on the number.

Don't forget our Book Exchange which is near our Community Garden in Centre Rd, near the bus stop. Recently a member of one of the Facebook groups asked if anyone knew of a book exchange near her. This was immediately followed by "St. John's Benteigh has a good one!"

As well there is our Community Garden - another great outreach project. And also, our Parish Website and our electronic advertising board in our entry area. I think it is fair to say - St. John's has a good name in our local community."

Eleanor Newcombe

February 2024



Food Security Champion for refugees

St. John's is proud to become a Food Security Champion for refugees by partnering with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC).

ASRC feeds more than 1,600 people each fortnight. Most are families living with no income, right to work or access to health care. Each month we will collect one foodbank item that is in high demand and our donations taken to the ASRC in Dandenong.

For the month of April vegetable oil would be appreciated. Please keep this much needed item in mind when you do your weekly shop and bring them to the donation box in the narthex for distribution.

Enquiries to Susan McDermott



Buzzing with excitement!

The Kids Hope team is abuzz with excitement as we assist programs restarting the school year. Many have been sharing stories and reflections of their time so far in the program - especially with the anticipation of a special anniversary this year (more about that shortly)! So, please take a moment to share our excitement with these wonderful good news stories.

Some encouraging stories to begin the new school year with!



20 years of kids lives transformed!

2024 marks 20 years of Kids Hope in Australia! We're now starting to hear stories from Kids Hope alumni - kids who were mentored, now thriving as adults! Sharon, a mentor recently shared that she still meets up with Janie, now 26 years old, who she mentored 15 years ago! Janie told Sharon that she developed her love of baking from their time cooking together in their mentor sessions. Not only that, but Janie also has a small business baking cakes and sweet treats to order. **What a 'sweet' story!**

And so many of you have been part of our 20 year journey! With this incredible milestone at our doorstep, please take a moment to recall something you could share with us. We are collecting stories, particularly alumni stories, to share with our wider community during our celebrations later this year. Please email or call the office for a chat - we would love to hear from you!

(Continued on page 16)

Be encouraged!

Bev, one of our dedicated mentors, recently recalled that she really didn't know whether mentoring was helping her grade 6 mentor child, Siena. Siena was often overflowing with energy and wanted to play energetic games all of the time. So they did! They played on the monkey bars, on the basketball court, always keeping active. After a couple of terms, Siena opened up about how the changes in her family life had been a huge weight and that she felt pressure to hold it together. She said that Bev offered her a safe space for her to laugh and cry as she processed her feelings.

By the end of the year, Siena's weight had lifted and she felt confident and ready for high school. All it took was a faithful mentor, one hour a week to show this child that someone cared for her.

This is Camilla, one of our new mentors. She recently shared why she wanted to sign up as a mentor:



"I am doing Kids Hope because I wish that I had a mentor in boarding school."

Camilla's parents lived too far to take her and her sister to and from school every day so they went to boarding school during the week. She had learning difficulties so was teased and bullied by the other kids. But she was able to confide in the school counsellor and had a couple of good friends who helped her with her learning. The school counsellor gave her projects to do such as making floral arrangements to display around the school, and she encouraged her to listen to music in the library and spend time doing her hobbies. She says that if it wasn't for the counsellor and her good friends she doesn't know where she would be today. Her parents didn't realise how tough life was until much later. It was 38 years ago since she was in school but she still remembers it clearly.

She says with resounding conviction, ***"I don't want a kid to have to go through what I went through."*** Camilla knows she can help a child who might be bullied because she knows what it felt like.

Camilla, you are going make such a wonderful difference to your new mentor child's life!

(Shared with permission from Camilla.)

(Continued from page 16)

All the little things

Tracey, a mentor who still meets with her former mentor child, told us about a breakfast they shared recently. Denise, now a young lady, brought with her a very full shopping bag with her to the cafe. Curious, Tracey asked if Denise had been doing some early morning grocery shopping. Denise smiled and said 'no.' She then went on to explain that the bag



was actually full of every little thing they ever worked on together in their mentoring sessions!

Denise had kept them all in this bag because they had meant so much to her! Tracey was of course overwhelmed with encouragement. She had no idea that these 'little things' had been the big thing that Denise had looked forward to each week.

Isn't it amazing how seemingly 'little things' can have such a big impact?! Thanks Tracey.

That's all from us now! May you be encouraged and inspired by these heartfelt stories. Let's continue to empower Aussie kids to thrive in school and in their future lives as well.

FROM THE PARISH ARCHIVE—IN COLOUR *

(L) The original Lord's Table which now resides in the Pioneers Chapel, and lectern which is now in the Narthex. (R) the original stained glass windows.



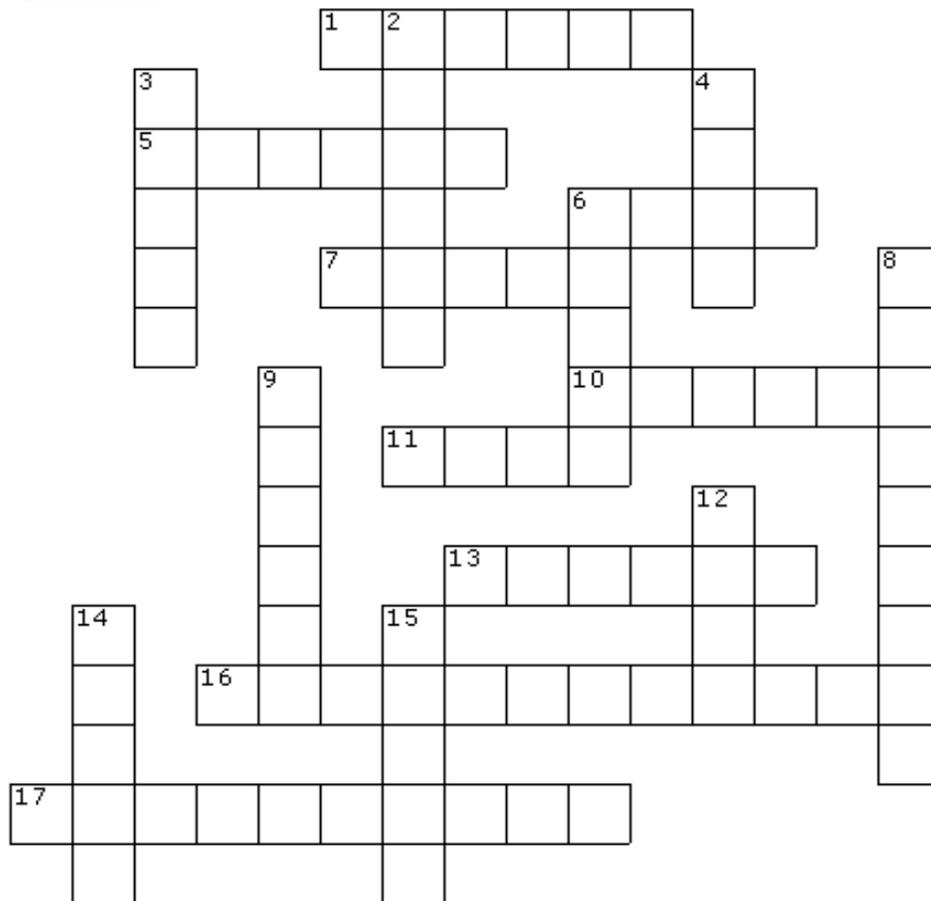
The original building—a shot taken from the other side of the intersection. The early model Holden and the Union Jack flag are a sign of the times!

**Please let us know if you know when these photos were taken.*

Bible Crossword Puzzle—EASTER

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters in the correct order to form the mystery answer. To work the puzzle on paper instead: Print this page and circle each letter of the words you find.

(from: https://www.christianbiblereference.org/Crossword/cw_Easter.htm)



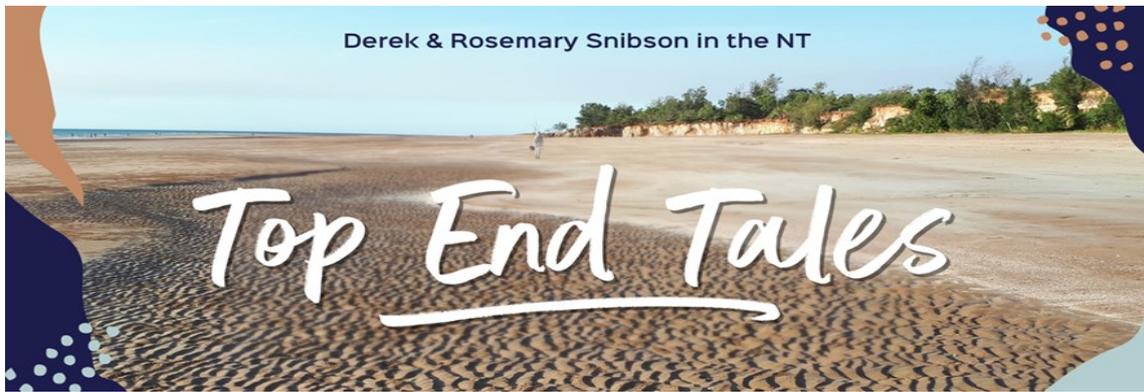
ACROSS

- 1 Jesus
- 5 Doubting ___
- 6 Jesus rode a ___ into Jerusalem
- 7 Disciple who denied knowing Jesus
- 10 Easter season
- 11 Colored Easter ___
- 13 ___ of Gethsemane
- 16 Easter celebrates the ___ of Jesus
- 17 Sunday before Easter

DOWN

- 2 After 40 days, Jesus ascended to ___
- 3 An angel rolled away the ___ covering the tomb
- 4 People greeted

- Jesus with ___ branches
- 6 where Jesus died
- 8 Mary ___ discovered Jesus had risen
- 9 ___ sentenced Jesus to die
- 12 Season before Easter
- 14 ___ betrayed Jesus
- 15 Easter animal?



Pic: Casuarina Beach Darwin...

... a renewing journey on a pathway with many textures and adventures.



The Snibsons' January Update 2024

*Supporting and Equipping
Aboriginal Christians and Leaders in Darwin*

A New Year, new connections

Let us thank God for those who pray care, give and go.

Although January is a down-time for most people, we have been busy making connections, and preparing for 'Summer Under the Son': the annual conference held in Melbourne. It was a time of promoting the work of CMS, hearing good teaching, presenting workshops and catching up with colleagues and CMS friends.

Visiting churches that support us

It has been a pleasure to visit churches who faithfully continue to pray for and give generously to the work amongst Indigenous people. So far, we have visited and spoken at St John's Diamond Creek, St Augustine's Mentone and All Saints Clayton.

There have also been opportunities to engage and explore issues with Reconciliation Groups at St Alfreds' Blackburn and South Croydon Anglican Church.

We are very happy that people are wanting to become more aware of the culture and plight of our First Nations people. Some also want to have meaningful contact with the church in the Top End and are exploring appropriate ways of doing this.



**'Summer Under the Son', presentation to speaker,
Archbishop Kanishka Raffel**

(Continued on page 20)



**Derek and Darren Armstrong,
discussing things with Edwin Rami -
minister at Numbulwar at the St Alf's
Reconciliation Group.**

It was so good to meet up with Edwin Rami at 'Summer Under the Son'. He came to Melbourne for some Professional Development and to connect with St Alfreds' Blackburn, who are supporting CMS Missionaries, Josh and Steph McKenzie - also living at Numbulwar. It was a pleasure to attend the Reconciliation Group and hear from Edwin about the joys and challenges of working and ministering in that community. He was very relieved to be able to speak Kriol to us during this time!

***"Yu si? God nomo bin pikimat ola sabibala pipul en ola strongbala pipul.
Imbin pikimatdetlot pipul hu nomo abum enijing en detlot pipul hu nomo
garram pawa. En imbin pikimat olobat blanga meigim detlot sabibala pipul
en detlot stongbala pipul sheim miselp."
1 Cor 1:27 Kriol Baibul***

'But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong'

Please, give thanks for ..

- Great conversations with people at 'Summer under the Son' particularly on possibilities for serving amongst Aboriginal people in the Top End.
- Our visits to share with three different churches in Melbourne: St Johns Diamond Creek, St Augustine's Mentone and All Saints Clayton
- For times of relaxation with our family and quality time to spend over holidays.
Less trouble in the community at Ngukurr, but keep praying that peace will prevail.

... and ask with us for..

- Continuing guidance as we visit other partners and link churches in February, March; to helpfully communicate the joys and challenges of life and faith for Christians in the NT.
- Stronger prayer in all churches for the needs of our Aboriginal sisters and brothers.
The raising up of more individuals and families to serve in different ways in the Northern Territory.

Thank you:

We have greatly appreciated your ongoing encouragement and partnership with us through your generous care, prayer and giving over the past year.

We hope to see many of you during our Home Assignment visits.

If you would like to contribute to CMS supporting us financially,
please ring CMS Victoria, (03) 9894 4722.

*(Postscript: The Snibsons have arrived safely in Melbourne and
will be visiting St John's Bentleigh on 14 April 2023.)*

Bible Word Search: 'Forty Days'

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters in the correct order to form the mystery answer. To work the puzzle on paper instead: Print this page and circle each letter of the words you find.

(from: https://www.christianbiblereference.org/ws_FortyDays_0.htm)



Answer, Because, Begin, Being, Blessed,
Brethren, Can, Childless, Constantly,
Daniel, Days, Destroy, Dream,
Experience, Faith, Forsakes those, Forty,
Happiness, He never, Him, in God, Keep,
Lasting, Mind, Nights, Of trauma,
Powerful, Restless, Revisiting, Start,
Strong tower, Subdues, That, The,
Uncertainty, Victory over, Who seek

St John's Bentleigh, 624 Centre Road, Bentleigh, VIC3204
 Church Office: + 61 3 9557 2226 | www.stjohnsbentleigh.org
 Church Office e-mail: bentleighanglican@bigpond.com
 Sunday @ 8.30AM (Holy Communion)
 Sunday @ 10.00AM (Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sunday);
 Sunday @ 10.00AM (Prayer, Praise & Proclamation
 (2nd & 4th Sunday)
 3rd Sunday @ 4PM - 6PM Messy Church
 5th Sunday @ 10AM Combined all age Holy Communion service
 & shared lunch
 Wednesday @ 10.30AM Holy Communion in the Chapel



2024 CALENDAR

DETAILS in the weekly pew-sheet!

March & April	May & June	July & Aug.	Sept. & Oct.	Nov. & Dec.
<p>01 Mar - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</p> <p>10 Mar - Mothering Sunday</p> <p>12 Mar - Warden's meeting</p> <p>17 Mar - Messy Church, 4-6PM</p> <p>18 Mar - Blue Cross visit</p> <p>19 Mar - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>23 Mar - Kids & Craft Market</p> <p>24 Mar. - PALM SUNDAY (8:30AM & 10AM - Guest preacher - Revd Adrian Lane BCA)</p> <p>28 Mar. - Maundy Thursday with AGAPE meal (7.30pm)</p> <p>29 Mar - GOOD FRIDAY, 10am with Celebrate Messiah</p> <p>31 Mar. - EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE (Combined @ 10AM)</p> <p>*Lenten Prayer Walk*</p>	<p>09 May - ASCENSION</p> <p>14 May - Warden's meeting</p> <p>12 May - Mother's Day</p> <p>19 May - PENTECOST SUNDAY</p> <p>19 May - Messy Church 4-6pm</p> <p>20 May - Blue Cross visit</p> <p>21 May - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>25 May - Kids & Craft Market</p> <p>Ministry Conference (13-15 May)</p>	<p>09 July - Warden's meeting</p> <p>15 July - Blue Cross visit</p> <p>14 July - Winter Feast (Christmas in July) - lunch</p> <p>16 July - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>21 July - Messy Church, 4-6pm</p> <p>27 July - Kids & Craft Market</p> <p>Winter "Soup, bread & chat" after the 10AM service</p>	<p>01 Sept - Fathers' Day</p> <p>08 Sept - Harvest Festival</p> <p>10 Sept - Warden's meeting</p> <p>15 Sept - Messy Church, 4-6pm</p> <p>16 Sept - Blue Cross visit</p> <p>17 Sept - Parish Council meeting</p> <p>28 Sept - Kids & Craft Market</p> <p>29 Sept - 5th SUNDAY SERVICE (Combined @ 10AM)</p> <p>Mission month (AOA?)</p>	<p>01 Nov - ALL SAINTS DAY</p> <p>12 Nov - Warden's meeting</p> <p>11 Nov - Remembrance Day</p> <p>17 Nov - Messy Church 4-6pm</p> <p>18 Nov - Blue Cross visit</p> <p>19 Nov - Parish Council meeting</p> <p>23 Nov - Kids & Craft Market</p> <p>24 Nov - CHRIST THE KING & AGM @ 9:30AM</p> <p>30 Nov - Parish Council Planning/Prayer Day</p> <p>Annual Stewardship Campaign</p>
<p>07 Apr - DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS</p> <p>09 Apr - Warden's Meeting</p> <p>14 Apr - Derek & Rosemary Robinson (CMS) visit to St. John's</p> <p>15 Apr - Blue Cross visit</p> <p>16 Apr - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>21 Apr - ANZAC Commemoration Service</p> <p>21 Apr - Messy Church 4-6pm</p> <p>25 Apr - ANZAC DAY</p> <p>27 Apr - Kids & Craft Market</p> <p>Mission month (CMS)</p>	<p>11 June - Warden's meeting</p> <p>16 June - ST JOHN'S DAY & ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT @ 10AM with luncheon</p> <p>16 June - Messy Church, 4-6pm</p> <p>17 June - Blue Cross visit</p> <p>18 June - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>22 June - Kids and Craft Market</p> <p>30 June 5th SUNDAY SERVICE (Combined @ 10AM)</p> <p>Special ADOM Synod (1 June)</p> <p>Winter "Soup, bread & chat" after the 10AM service</p>	<p>13 Aug - Warden's meeting</p> <p>18 Aug - Messy Church, 4-6pm</p> <p>19 Aug - Blue Cross visit</p> <p>20 Aug - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>24 Aug - Kids & Craft Market</p> <p>Winter "Soup, bread & chat" after the 10AM service</p>	<p>06 Oct - DAYLIGHT SAVING STARTS</p> <p>08 Oct - Warden's meeting</p> <p>14 Oct - Blue Cross visit</p> <p>15 Oct - Parish Council meeting</p> <p>20 Oct - Messy Church 4-6pm</p> <p>26 Oct - Kids & Craft Market</p> <p>Annual Synod ADOM (TBA)</p>	<p>01 Dec - Advent Sunday & Council Commissioning & Stewardship Commitment Sunday.</p> <p>09 Dec - Blue Cross visit</p> <p>14 Dec - Kids & Craft Market</p> <p>15 Dec - Messy Church 4-6pm</p> <p>24 Dec - Christmas Eve @ 11PM</p> <p>25 Dec - Christmas Day @ 10AM only</p> <p>29 Dec - Christmas 1. 5th Sunday & New Year commemoration @ 10AM only</p> <p>01 Jan 2025 - New Year's Day</p> <p>**Advent Prayer Walk - 01 Dec to 24 Dec**</p>

School terms: Term 1—30 Jan to 28 March; **Term 2**—15 April to 28 June; **Term 3**—15 July to 20 September; **Term 4**—07 October to 20 December

Unless otherwise noted, **"Craft, Coffee & Chat"** meets every Monday (10AM-12Noon in the Narthex). During term time, a **Bible study group** meets on Wednesday (~11.30AM - Cooper Centre), **BREATH Ladies Fellowship** meets on Wednesday (fortnightly ~7.15PM in the Narthex), **ORANA Fellowship** meets monthly on 4th Wednesday (~ 1PM in the Narthex), **Tutoring** occurs (every Thursday ~ 4PM in the Narthex). Another **Bible Study Group** meets in the home of a parishioner — venue & other details provided on request. **Men's Munchers Luncheon Group** meet monthly (4th Thursday) for lunch or evening meal. For further details of all these programs, please see the weekly pew-sheet.

Version: 2 **Please note (e & o):** This calendar should be read in conjunction with the weekly pew-sheet. Date printed: 29/02/2024



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St. John's, Bentleigh

624 Centre Road, Bentleigh, VIC3204

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Church Office e-mail: bentleighanglican@bigpond.com

Sunday @ 8.30AM Holy Communion

Sunday @ 10.00AM Holy Communion

(1st and 3rd Sundays).

**Sunday @ 10.00AM (Prayer, Praise & Proclamation
(2nd & 4th Sundays).**

3rd Sunday @ 4PM - 6PM Messy Church (from March 2024).

**5th Sunday @ 10AM Combined all age Holy Communion service
& shared lunch.**

Wednesday @ 10.30AM Holy Communion in the Chapel

ALL WELCOME to attend & participate

On line services

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCwvuRjxqlX4njbrwZJBqNXQ/live> .

Ministers: All Parishioners

Vicar: The Reverend Santa Packianathan

Email: spackianathan@melbourneanglican.org.au

Phone: 9557 2226 or 0438 509 669

Office: Sun - Sat., except Thursdays.

Honorary Children & Families Minister: Heather Saba 9557 2226

Honorary Lay Minister (Healing ministry): Terry Nisbet 9557 2226

Parish Musician: Vacant (TBA) 9557 2226

Administrative Assistant: Anthony Lyons 9557 2226

Email: bentleighanglican@bigpond.com

Office hours: Tue, Thu & Fri 9.30am - 12:30pm, 1pm - 4pm

Online Giving

St John's Anglican Church Bentleigh

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**Thank you for supporting
the mission & ministry of St John's Bentleigh!**

Vision: To be a centre of God's love and hope

Mission: To love God, love people, grow disciples of Christ

The Anglican Parish of St. John's, Bentleigh, acknowledges the traditional custodians of the country on which St. John's is situated, the Bunurong People of the Kulin nation. We recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present