

# DUC Grapevine

DEC 2018 / JAN 2019

## "Why do we celebrate Christmas?"

**Answer:** Christians the world over celebrate Christmas in honour of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. Various Christmas traditions have been associated with the celebration of Christmas, and different cultures celebrate different ways. The unifying factor is the historical fact that Jesus was born, c. 5 BC. The angel who appeared to the shepherds the night of Jesus' birth said, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" ([Luke 2:10-11](#)).

We celebrate Christmas because, as the angel said, the birth of Jesus Christ is "good news." Good news is meant to be celebrated.

We celebrate Christmas because, as the angel said, "A Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." The three titles the angel applies to Jesus are important. Jesus is the *Saviour* who delivers us from sin and death ([Matthew 1:21](#)). He is the human *Messiah* (or Christ) who fulfills the Law and the Prophets, showing that God is faithful (see [Matthew 5:17](#)). And He is the divine *Lord* who has entered our world: the Almighty has taken on human flesh; God and man have been fused together in an indivisible, eternal bond; God is truly with us (see [Matthew 1:23](#)).

We celebrate Christmas with gift-giving because of the "indescribable gift" that God gave to us .

We wish you the joy of this important celebration—we hope to share with you are our various services:

Christmas Eve service—11.30 pm

Christmas Day service—8.00 am

Knock, knock.  
Who's there?  
Mary.  
Mary who?  
Merry Christmas.



## Two months' services

2 Dec —	9.00 am Jenni's Team
	10.45 am Jenni's Team
9 Dec —	9.00 am Rev Temukisa & HC with Graeme's Team
	10.45 am Rev Temukisa HC
16 Dec —	9.00 am Denise's Team
	10.45 am Rev Temukisa
23 Dec —	9.00 am Rev Temukisa (Jenni's Team assisting)
	10.45 am Rev Temukisa
24 Dec—	11.30 pm—Rev Temukisa
25 Dec—	8.00 am—Rev Temukisa
30 Dec—	10.15 am Combined by lay teams
6 Jan—	9.00 am Wayne's Team
	10.45 am Wayne's Team
13 Jan—	9.00 am Rev Temukisa HC (Wayne's Team assisting)
	10.45 am Rev Temukisa HC
20 Jan—	9.00 am Graeme's Team
	10.45 Graeme's Team
27 Jan—	9.00 am Rev Helen Robinson (Denise's Team assisting)
	10.45 am Rev Helen Robinson

## LOOSE CHANGE

Our total loose change offering for the Nepal chicken project has reached \$664. Our final offering for the chicken farm in Nepal on 9 December will allow us to surpass our target which is wonderful.



## MESSY CHURCH

The 9 December service has the theme of “Bells and Whistles”. It will be interesting to see the discussion questions and biblical links. The themes for 2019 will be announced at this service.



## SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

In January Phil Spivey celebrates his 70th birthday. We know that God will continue to bless his life.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Don't spend New Year's Eve home alone, come along to the church for a fun night of games (not too active) and of course food. We will start at 7.00 pm and celebrate new year at 9.00 pm—which part of the world will be celebrating at that time? - and be all finished by 9.30 pm. There will be a sheet in the foyer in the middle of December to indicate your attendance. A small plate of food is the cost! Transport can be provided.



Happy birthday!

### DECEMBER

Jenni Nickelson  
Beryl Stanley  
Norma Taylor  
Kelly Lestrangle  
Indiana Colley  
Gerald Edgar  
Carol Lascelles  
Liara George  
William Morrish

### JANUARY

Phil Spivey  
Debbie Frank  
Kelvin Benney  
Tracey Myers  
Melva Stringer  
Hazel James  
Colleen Diamond



10.45	KITCHEN	WELCOME	READING	ELDER/PRAYERS
DEC 2	Irene & Bob	Wilma	Jenni's Team	Ken / Jenni's Team
9	Glenice & Kelvin	Wilma	Margaret	John
16	Win & Andrea	Kelvin & Glenice	Marguerite	Bob
23	Brenda & Melva	Kelvin & Glenice	Pat	Ken
30	W@9	Carol		
JAN 6	Audrey	Carol	Wayne's Team	Bob / Wayne's
13	Alma	Ken	Kelvin	John
20	Irene & Bob	Ken	Graeme's Team	Pat / Graeme's
27	Glenice & Kelvin	Brenda	Harvey	Ken

Happy birthday!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



28 Nov — 1.00 pm Communal Prayer Time  
12 Dec — 1.00 pm Communal Prayer Time  
31 Dec — 7.00 pm New Year's Eve Games  
6 Feb — 1.00 pm Communal Prayer Time  
9 Feb — 9.30 am — Pilgrimage

W@9	KITCHEN	COUNTING	FLOWERS
DEC 2	Graeme's Team	Colleen	Irene Stevenson
9	Jenni's Team	Lynda	Jonnie Mander
16	Wayne's Team	Val	Andrea Lindsay
23	Denise's Team	Margo	Audrey Shepherd
30	W@9	Jonnie	Wayne Myers
JAN 6	Graeme's Team	Glenda	-
13	Jenni's Team	Jonnie	-
20	Wayne's Team	Ian	Edna Peel
27	Denise's Team	Sue	Denise McLaverty

Web site: <http://drysdalesunitingchurch.org.au>

***Our Vision—Reaching out with God's love and care***

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

Last Sunday we identified barriers to building communities and were asked to think about something we could do during the coming week to break down some barriers.

Some of the barriers identified included:

Not accepting others for who they are, be it different faiths, cultural differences, racism, or just not like me

Lack of time, too busy

Anxiety

Hatred

Trust

Varying educational levels, class distinctions, differences in financial situations

Self-centeredness

Feelings of inadequacy, afraid of saying the wrong thing, shyness

Health of our ageing church community

Historical distrust of 'the church', bad reputation because of institutional abuse

Church closed most days

Ageing buildings

Gender equality



Lack of cultural awareness was one of the most common barriers and it has been suggested we have an evening where we look at a few different cultures in a fun way; food and dress from the country and more. **Do you think this is a good idea?** If so please have a chat to Val Lestrangle.

## PILGRIMAGE

Our 2019 Pilgrimage will be on Saturday 9 February — delayed so that hopefully it will not be too hot. Starting at 9.30 am we will walk about 5 kilometres in 5 easy sections with a liturgy at each break point. The theme is “Living History” so we are going to start at Coriyule and finish at the Clifton Springs boat harbor with lunch at about 12.30 pm. There is no cost. Transport will be available for those unable to walk the full way.



## NATIVITY SCENE

- Francis of Assisi instituted the custom of the nativity scene.
- Nativity scenes have become popular throughout the christian world.
- The nativity scene has been used to tell the Christmas story for centuries.
- The crib represents the manger that baby Jesus was laid in after his birth.



## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thank you to those who bought Uniting Christmas cards. We contributed \$261 to their fundraising.

## STAMPS

Please save the stamps that you receive on cards for the Sammy Stamp appeal. This happens all year round but this is a good time to get a few. Just drop them in the box in the foyer.



What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

[Claustrophobic.]