



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA



Christ Church
Lavender Bay

Christ Church Lavender Bay

Striving for personal maturity in Christ
Building the body of Christ
Providing hope through Christ

Newsletter

December 2020
January 2021

www.cclb.org.au

Christ Church presents live Christmas "radio play"



A quick photo shoot before socially distanced rehearsals: Play Director Jo Kadlecek (kneeling) with cast. L to R: Lachlan Edwards, Graeme Adam, Julian Lin, Conrad Chang, Peter Moll, Rowena McNichol, Ross McDonald, Beth Douglas, Alison Chambers, Barbara McDonald, Alex Richard, Jennifer Morgan-Nicholson, Helen Wheeler, and John McIntosh. Sound effects operator Emily Edwards is next to Jo. Absent: Hugh Ronald, Caroline Thornton.

"The Man Born to be King", by Dorothy L. Sayers

In a year you never expected comes a Christmas like never before!
Christ Church, Lavender Bay. 7.30pm Sat 19 Dec; 5pm Sun 20 Dec.

On Dec. 21, 1941- the week before Christmas - millions of families in England gathered around their upright radios, not for the latest news on the war, but to hear a dramatic program from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

It was the story of a particular baby in Bethlehem who had been born outside a 'shepherd's cottage.' Wise men celebrated his birth but a king (Herod) as evil as Hitler soon threatened everyone.

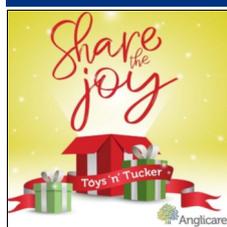
Against the backdrop of the war's darkness, the BBC wanted to offer a fresh perspective on the life of Christ. They commissioned British author and dramatist Dorothy L. Sayers to write the radio plays, and the programs changed the country.

This Christmas, a group of friends and actors from Christ Church and Church by the Bridge will perform 'Kings of Judea', the first in the BBC's 12-part radio play, 'The Man Born to Be King'.

You and your family/friends are invited to be a member of the radio studio audience, as we offer 'Kings of Judea' as a unique holiday gift to our neighbours.

Admission is a donation to Toys and Tucker, Anglicare's Christmas drive (see below). Seats limited to 65 and tickets required. Book at: www.cclb.org.au/bookings COVID protocols observed. The 55-minute play will also be live-streamed.

Toys and Tucker



Make Christmas special for those who will go without. Donations - from 6 December to 20 Dec can include new toys, hamper goods, and toiletries. Bring donations to church, including to the radio play. Note: goods, not money.

December Diary

Sun 6th Holy Communion/Carols
5pm The Gathering/Carols

Sun 13th 10am Morning Prayer/Carols
5pm The Gathering/Carols

Wed 16th 7am Parish Council
Sat 19th 7.30pm 'The Man Born to be King'

Sun 20th 10am Family Christmas Service/
Carols/Kids' Story
5pm 'The Man Born to be King'
(no Gathering service)

Thur 24th 11pm Christmas Eve Service
Carols and Readings

Fri 25th 9am Christmas Day Communion
Service. (Note: 9am not 10am)

Sun 27th 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Bible Study Groups

Monday nights (fortnightly) Bible Study Group (Contact Keith & Anne Mason)
Monday nights: Bible Study Group (Contact Geoff Kells)
Thursday mornings: Rectory Bible Study Group (contact Ann Kells)
Thursday nights: Bible Study Group (contact Jurgen and Diane Joester)
Thursday night: Bible Study Group (Lachlan)
Want to join a group? Contact Lachlan.

Christmas services

With regulations easing, and a sense of relative normality returning, this Christmas will be a special one coming out of a very testing time for everyone.

Lachlan Edwards: "On Sunday 10am, Sunday 20th December, we will have a family service with a kids' story presented by Bec & Emily. Encourage your family to bring little ones along. With the theme of 'The Christmas Promise', it should be a wonderful experience for all. Thursday 24th, there will be the Christmas Eve service at 11pm with carols and readings. And on Friday 25th at 9am, the Christmas Day Service. Remember - this service time will be 9am not 10am. All services will be live-streamed. COVID protocols will be in place."

Lachlan's Message

God uses imperfect (yet faithful) people to fulfil his perfect plan of saving imperfect people through his perfect son. Christmas is a chance for us to celebrate this great gospel news! What joy it is to personally know Jesus as our Lord, saviour and friend. It is incredible to think that he should possibly choose to enter into creation not only as God but also as creature.

And still even more amazing that he chose to step into judgement on our behalf and take the penalty that was due us. A double blessing for us indeed! One that brings us to our knees in repentance and worship. May the joy of knowing Jesus ring our from our lives (if not from our lips) this Christmas!

Rev Lachlan Edwards, Senior Minister, Christ Church, Lavender Bay

Sundays of Christmas Carols: invite your friends



Above left: basses and tenors, John Owen, Liz Fountain, Annette Hodgkinson, Robyn Wood, Peter Moll, David Ross; Middle: sopranos and alto, Helen Wheeler, Caroline Thornton, Philippa Armfield; Right: Alto and sopranos Penny Morris, Helen Cox and Olivia Johnson.



Additional choir items were recorded earlier by David Wood and Anne Cooke (above), with John Owen and Penny Morris (in main photos)

In lieu of a live carol service, due to COVID restrictions, on each Sunday morning service up to Christmas, we will have Carols on the big screens from members of our choir. Supported by Choir Coordinator **Helen Wheeler**, four groups including basses, tenors, altos and sopranos, have each video-recorded much-loved Christmas Carols and special items. Using video-mixing software, **Lachlan Edwards** has digitally blended the recordings for a glorious result. Invite family and friends on any of these Sundays: 6th, 13th, 20th December to enjoy Carols in a different way!



Our morning congregation is smiling!

As COVID restrictions eased, there was good news on a Sunday morning in late November

Morning teas are back! And our morning congregation has other reasons to smile: More and more are seeing each other in person again and encouraging one another. Not only are old friends able to reconnect again, but many new friends have been attending church both in person and live-streamed. Our choir continues to record a good repertoire of our favourite hymns and songs, and during the Christmas season we may even see a few choristers able to sing live for us! Prayerful and heartfelt thanks should go to the COVID committee and the team of hard-working volunteers who are keeping us safe, month after month.



Our Rev Di Nicolios commissioned artist Libby Byrne to produce art for a series on the women when Di was rector at Diamond Creek, Victoria in 2010. This is one of them

Pre-Christmas and Christmas sermon series

Having started from 15th November, we are exploring each Sunday up to 13th December the lives of the women who were mentioned by Gospel writer Matthew in his genealogy of Jesus. In "Godmothers of the King", we look at what these special women brought to the salvation story as we lead into the Christmas season. We explore how God invites and includes the vulnerable and the marginalised to fulfil his purposes.

At Christmas, we will celebrate how God's promises, kept through these faithful ladies, are fulfilled in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus.

News from THE GATHERING



In January, we will do a big letterbox drop of a postcard to promote The Gathering .

Reflecting on the our mission goals, **Lachlan Edwards** says: "By God's grace, The Gathering continues to grow as we welcome newcomers each week. There is a warmth and excitement at every service. The Q and A sessions have also proved popular. Our Gathering Focus Group meets periodically to brainstorm ideas to develop our contemporary service. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement of this new weekly service. We pray that The Gathering continues to draw from our community, that more (especially young adults and teens) might come to meet Jesus in this way. We start with fellowship, BYO drinks and nibbles on the deck at 4.30 followed by the service at 5pm. Afterwards, for those who wish to, we head out for pizza/pasta at a local cafe.

January Diary

Sun 3rd 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 10th 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Sun 17th 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 2th 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Sun 31st 10am Prayer, Praise and Proclamation
5pm The Gathering

Buzz from the Bay

Interview with Paul Barnett

Southern Cross on-line carries a heart-warming four page story about our own Paul Barnett. Jump onto our website, go to Resources page, click on Southern Cross cover and scroll down to page 38. And thanks to our industrious Leisa Davidson for an email alerting us to this story.

Stanhope Gardens Church

Stanhope Anglican is our mission partner as part of Sydney Diocese "New Churches for New Communities" project. Delighted to hear that a brand new Ministry Centre was opened on 17th October. Full story in Southern Cross on-line.

More on Christmas choristers

Choir member Liz Fountain has asked if we could make special mention of Christ Church member Penny Corballis. Penny went out of her way to provide special help with Carols parts rehearsals for Liz, Peter Moll and David Ross. Thank you, Penny.

Engagement, confirmation and baptism

On 15th November, Lachlan and Bec were delighted to reveal the engagement of son Tim to Petra Sluyter. Tim and Petra have been friends since school days and the Christ Church family wish them all the best with prayers for a blessed future. At The Gathering of 6th December, Bishop Paul Barnett will perform the Confirmation of Emily Edwards. And Lachlan will be baptising Emmanuel, Jed and America Haslam in the harbour at Lavender Bay at 4pm.

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