



"Servant-hearted Chris"



Getting ready to say farewell, members of the morning congregation: Leigh and Don Flanagan with Chris, Alan Ambler and Rev. John McIntosh

Two years ago, **Chris Tompkins** joined us as a Student Minister. In that time, he has served both morning and evening congregations.

Paying tribute to him, Rector **Greg Webster** said: "We give heartfelt thanks for Chris and his servant-heartedness. He has always been willing to spot a task that needs to be tackled and just do it; we have especially enjoyed his warm and pastoral nature. We wish Chris every blessing in marriage and ministry."

Chris will wed **Naomi Utber** in January, both will start as student ministers at St Marks, Sadleir.



Christmas Celebrations begin with joyful singing in church at our traditional Christmas Lessons and Carols, on **Sunday December 17 at 7pm**.

Led by the choir, come and sing your heart out, then stay for fruit-mince pies and bubbles.

Sunday December 24th 5pm, join us for our Christmas Eve Service on the terrace and front lawn. Our most 'child-friendly' event will combine all congregations, pre-school and friends. BYO blanket or folding chair as well as a picnic tea to enjoy singing and hearing the Christmas story under the stars.

All are welcome on **Monday 25th December at 9am** for our **Christmas Service**. Please note, start time is 9am.

And please invite family, friends, neighbours to any of these events.

Rector's Message

Over the next month you will doubtless face some serious challenges to your health and physical safety. It's called Christmas shopping.

Every year, ordinary people like you and me put their bodies on the line to try and find that special gift for that special person. The gift that won't rust, rot, embarrass, offend or cause a nasty skin reaction.

This year as you walk the aisles, if you listen carefully, you will hear the most extraordinary news. You have to listen carefully though. Through the robotic, 'and how are you today?' Through the three-year-old tantrum in aisle four. Even past the songs of Rudolf, Santa, sleighs and elves.

It is the most extraordinary good news:

'Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.'

'Christ the Saviour is born!'

'For that child so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above.'

'Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.'

'Joy to the World! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!'

Don't let the sheer familiarity of these truths cause them to slip into the numbing background of 'white noise' we face each December. May the truly Good News of Jesus Christ bring you every joy, comfort and peace this Christmas season.

Greg Webster
Rector, Christ Church Lavender Bay

December Diary

Sun 3 10am Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 10 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Wed 13 1:30pm Hannah Barnett
and Shrey Somaiya

Sun 17 10am Holy Communion
7pm Traditional Lessons and
Carols in Church
(combined congregations)

Sun 24 10am Morning Prayer
5pm Christmas Eve Family
Service
(combined congregations)

Mon 25 9am Christmas Service
Note: service at 9am not 10
(no Gathering in evening)

Sun 31 10am Prayer, Praise and
Proclamation



Share the joy of Christmas and demonstrate God's love by providing food and gifts for those who would otherwise go without. Bring kids toys and food items (canned and dry) to church on Sundays and leave near the font. List of recommended gifts on the glass-topped table. Last date for leaving toys and tucker - Sunday 10th December.

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Sunday morning family service



October 29th we had our second family service this year. And it turned out to be another big success with some very young, young and "mature" joining in. Kids from the new Lavender Bay Preschool led by principal **Laura** and supported by "The Gathering" band and the morning choir sang Bible songs. And the whole congregation joined in. And there was a special children's morning tea. There will definitely be more family services in 2024! Snapped during practice: **Chris, Greg, Jessie, Cintia, Isabelle** and **Jo -Ann**.



Pre-school kitchen reno

Greg reports: "We are very pleased with the excellent kitchen renovation in the church hall, occupied by the Pre-school. The original kitchen looked like it was installed in the sixties! **Penny Morris** and **Rod Pearse**, who both oversaw the project were amazing.

"They managed to bring this quality renovation in under budget. And enormous praise for the professionalism and thoughtfulness of builder **Shane Kemp**." There are completely new work spaces, an island bench, new storage and white goods.



With Cath: Beth, Michael with baby Rafael, mum Isabelle, Alex, Jo, James, Jono, Ross, and Virginia

Rev. Cath Wynn Jones preaches

On 5th November, we showed our support for Anglican Defence Force chaplains. **Rev Cath Wynn Jones**, Lead Chaplain at the Defence Force Academy gave the Defence Sunday address. Cath, a current Naval chaplain, used a nautical analogy about weathering the head winds and taking hold of the outstretched hand of Jesus. Cath showed us a wonderful video about the Defence Chaplaincy and how chaplains have 50,000 pastoral interactions with ADF members each year. "Many personnel, while valuing counselling services, reach out to chaplains to share their challenges, regarding the chaplain as a friend," said Cath.

January Diary

Sat 6	Wedding of Ben Wheen and Neve Kemp.
Sun 7	10am Holy Communion 5pm The Gathering
Sun 14	10am Morning Prayer 5pm The Gathering
Sun 21	10am Holy Communion 5pm The Gathering
Sun 28	10am Morning Prayer 5pm The Gathering

The Bible in my Life

Helen Wheeler - morning



Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me, you can do nothing.

John 15: 4 and 5

Helen writes, 'There are so many inspiring quotes from our Lord Jesus that I love, but this seems very pertinent to my daily life.'

Offertories update

By the end of October, we had budgeted to receive \$175 000 and have actually received \$174 985.45. We are therefore 14 dollars and 55 cents behind budget.

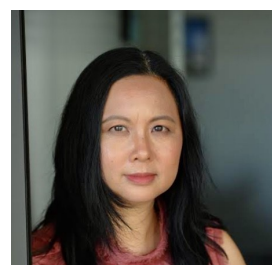


50 year milestone for our Liz

At a recent "Coffee with a Friend" session at Botanica at Waverton, one of the participants, **Liz Fountain**, mentioned that 2024 will mark 50 years since she arrived in Australia from the UK. "I came to Sydney by ship January 1974 with my Dad to re-join my husband-to-be, Keith. I joined Christ Church that year and it has been my church ever since." In the picture: Jennifer, Helen, Marianne, Virginia, visitor Jenny, Liz, Caroline, and Steve. "Coffee with a Friend" happens every Tuesday at 10.30am. Just turn up or contact **Helen Wheeler**.



Leo Cullum, The New Yorker, 2012



Always dreamt of being in movies? Be in a scene being shot in church!

Joy Hopwood: Writer/Director/Producer

This is a call-out for volunteer extras for **Joy Hopwood's** romantic comedy, "It's Our Time" filming at Christ Church 8th January for 9.30am-12.30pm. A fun funeral church scene. This will be Joy's fifth romantic comedy feature film. Her other feature films have successfully been distributed on Channel 9, Amazon Prime and Paramount Plus. Her films champion diversity and have themes of kindness, and deals with mental health in a nuanced way. To be in the cast, let Greg or Joy know and sign a volunteer form available at church.