21 December 2014

Celebrating 150 years since the first Church of England service in Trentham (April 27) and the 150th year of the bluestone Church in Woodend (November 9)

*Our chief end is to desire God above all else*
Israel shall come... Rejoice.
What’s Happening and When?

**Wednesday 24 December:** Crib Service 6pm; children are welcome to dress as angels, shepherds, or any other character in the Christmas Nativity scene.

**Sunday 18 January:** our Cluster Ministry Leader Fr Ian Howarth will lead services at St Mary’s and St George’s.

**Sunday 15 February:** the Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 11.45am in The Norma Richardson Hall.

**St Mary’s Cards:** featuring photographs of the beautiful stained glass windows; $2.50 each or $10 for 5; excellent for Christmas.

**The Australian Church Calendar 2015:** is now available from Derek Shepherd; this fundraiser is an excellent Christmas gift and costs only $15; please see or call Derek on 0417 252 22 to obtain a copy.

**2015 Giving Envelopes** are now available from Norma Richardson at St Mary’s and Bob White at St George’s; this is an excellent way to commit to a regular donation to the life and work of our parish; however, **our preferred method of giving is through a regular bank transfer direct to the parish account BSB 633 000 A/c no. 1498 24906.**

**The Melbourne Anglican** subscriptions for 2015 are now being accepted by Norma Richardson; please contact her on 5427 2315 if you would like to receive a copy of this publication.

**St Mary’s Roster** for Christmas/New Year/January is on the porch door; please enter your name if you would like to participate in any way; please advise Sylvia Mathews dates you are unavailable for the February/March/April roster.

**Refugee and Asylum Seeker needs:** Please contact Heather 5424 8346 hpotter45@hotmail.com or Lila 0402 096 878 lilacd1@icloud.com to arrange collection of your donations. However, please note that clothing is no longer required.
The Norma Richardson Hall: Kelly Clune will be stepping down from her role as Hon. Hall Secretary at the Annual Parish Meeting in February; we are now seeking a replacement for Kelly to carry out this important role; please contact Kelly (0412 420 146) or Derek (0417 252 222) for further information.

Parish Communications Officer: Angela Van Dam will be stepping down from this honorary role at the Annual Parish Meeting in February; we are now seeking a replacement for Angela to continue this essential marketing and promotions role; please contact Angela (0409 373 010) or Derek (0417 252 222) for further information.

Birthdays: Peta Sherlock (Trentham) Tuesday

Intercessions – our prayers are asked for: John, Cameron, Les, Eddie & David, Morris, Neil, Jane, Judy, Lynn, Sam, Jean, Kirsten, Sybil, Mark, Nick.
A Christmas by-pass?

It has come again! Thank you dear Friend for Christmas morning.
I do not want to by-pass this!

The Word became flesh! Jesus Christ has come indeed!
To welcome the dawn and hear the singing of the birds with great gratitude;
To delight in carols on the radio or play a favourite CD;
To celebrate in church beside other mere mortals with love shining in their eyes;
To see the scriptures opened, to hear again the precious story and give praise in word and song;
To greet the weary but happy priest and exchange greetings, hugs with fellow lovers of Christ.
All these things and more, place all the other ballyhoo, and even the road tragedies in a greater perspective.
Thankyou, God, for not allowing me to by-pass Christmas!
God incarnate, in a Virgin’s son: the gulf is bridged, the first triumph won. Hallelujah!

*This piece is written by Bruce David Prewer: Australians at Prayer – personal and community prayers.*
## Christmas Service Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>St Mary’s, Woodend</th>
<th>St George’s, Trentham</th>
<th>St Mary Magdalen Trentham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday 21(^{st}) December</strong></td>
<td>Nine Lessons and Carols 7pm</td>
<td>Eucharist with Cool Harmony Choir 9am</td>
<td>TCCC Carol Service 7pm (Followed by supper)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Eve Wednesday 24(^{th}) December</strong></td>
<td>Crib Service 6pm</td>
<td>Christmas Communion 10pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christmas Communion 10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Day Thursday 25(^{th}) December</strong></td>
<td>Christmas Communion 10.30am</td>
<td>Christmas Communion 9am</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Christmas by John Betjeman

And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.
WELCOME! We extend a very warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us today, especially newcomers and visitors. Please join us for a “cuppa” and a chat after the service.
* Communicant members of other Churches are also welcome to join with us in receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

PARISH INFORMATION

VISITORS' BOOK: Visitors and Newcomers are invited to sign our Visitors’ Book at the back of the church, please.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES: Trentham: Sundays 9.00am; Woodend: Sundays 10.30am

ST MARY’S GUILD: 4th Wednesday monthly: Eucharist at 10.00am followed by monthly meeting. Enquiries: Norma Richardson 5427 2315.

ST GEORGE’S GUILD: Meets occasionally during the year. Enquiries: Anne Walker 5424 1309.

CHILDREN: Children’s area in St Mary’s Children’s Chapel

DIRECT DEBIT: We encourage you to support the Parish regularly in this way. Our bank account details are: Bendigo Bank, Trentham BSB 633 000 A/C No: 1498 24906.

ASYLUM SEEKER MATERIAL ASSISTANCE: Non-perishable food items are sought to assist these people in their need. Donations brought to the altar during the Offertory.

HANGING ROCK WINE: Order Forms available. 30% commission goes to the Parish.

PEW SHEET: If you have a notice you would like printed in the weekly Pew Sheet, please send details to Derek Shepherd 0417 252 222 or arbold@bigpond.net.au

The Diocese of Bendigo expects the highest standards of professional service from its Clergy and Lay Ministers.

IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT:
Please call (free) 1800 135 246
A phone call to the above number will mean that your complaint will be handled by the Director of Professional Standards. The Diocese is a full participant in the Victorian Anglican Provincial Abuse and Harassment Protocol. This is an independent, objective procedure adopted by the Diocese of Bendigo.