



THE PILOT

Newsletter of
Holy Trinity
Anglican Church
Williamstown

December 2017 & January 2018

From the Vicar

Excitement!

Could you think of a better time to be at Holy Trinity, Williamstown? I have always felt that anything new is exciting. That is the thrill we feel as we unwrap presents round the Christmas tree. Something new is about to come into my life! How exciting!

Our Christmas present as a parish this year is our shiny new Parish Centre. So many things have been put on hold for years while we have waited for our efforts to come to fruition, when a place for it all to happen became ours. The dream of a completed Parish Centre has now become the dream of all we will be able to do with it.

Our morning tea after church will no longer be on a rickety folding table at the back of the church. Our Community Meal and Emergency Relief services will come home to Holy Trinity. Toilets are no longer a temporary tin box shared by all! The bliss! Community Groups calling our centre home and showing the local people around us that the Christian Church has something to offer and a part to play in our community.

It is so good we are opening it on the Sunday that begins Advent, the season where we prepare ourselves to celebrate God's greatest gift. This gift of his Son gave humanity a new understanding of itself. We are no longer mere mortals at the mercy of a distant God, but we are now loved beings accompanied by God's own Son back into the embrace of a caring, forgiving and merciful Creator.

So put up your Christmas tree and cover it with lights. I know both those things emanate from Germanic and Roman festivities that celebrated the forest and the Sun and that both symbolised life coming into the world. I would guess that is why Christians adopted them from earlier religions, to mark the celebration of the true life God offers us coming into the world. To proclaim that the God who "emptied himself of all but love" and joined us here in the world to fulfill God's purpose of winning us back.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

The Venerable Bill Beagley
Vicar



All Done!

The Vicar, Wardens and the Parish Council are pleased to confirm that after over 20 years of continued effort our Parish Centre is now completed! This beautiful building will provide a wonderful venue for the many and varied pastoral and mission activities carried out by the congregation and will also allow us to again open our doors to a broad cross section of the community who will be able to hire the venue.

The whole congregation is looking forward to marking this very special occasion on 3 December when the Centre is dedicated to the service of God by The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne.

Thanks go to all those who have worked so hard to bring this building to fruition. Particular thanks go to our builders, Bourakis Industries Pty Ltd and specifically to Con Bourakis who has overseen the work on our site, to David Brideson who has made a significant contribution to the planning and management of the construction, to our wardens Scott Phillips, Sally Burt and Sandra Lewin who have had a very active role in the oversight of the construction and in fundraising and fitout of the Centre and to the Vicar, the Venerable William Beagley, who has led and guided the congregation towards the completion of the Centre over the past 6 years.

We look forward to linking even more broadly with our community through the events and functions that will happen in this venue from 2018.

Why not join us for the **Advent Bible Studies** 7.30pm, Tuesday 5, 12 and 19 December in the Vicarage

Pastoral Care

For many years Ann Hodges has done a wonderful job managing the Pastoral Care Program of the Parish. Most of us have benefited from the care and concern she has shown both in the everyday matters of life and in our times of special need. Ann has recently resigned from the role and we thank her for the wonderful work she has done and wish her well in the new directions she will pursue.

Janice Schmidt has agreed to take over the role of Pastoral Care Co-ordinator. Many in the Parish have appreciated her care for them in the past and she will bring her generous heart and caring spirit to this role. The Vicar and the Parish Council thank her for taking on this important role.

Should you have any Pastoral Care concerns please contact Janice on 0409 180 144 or call the Vicar on 0408 349 315.



Our Curates: The King is Come!

Dear friends we are fast approaching the most beautiful time of the year, Christmas.

Everywhere you go you can see lights, beautiful decorations and colours, you can hear music and smell the sweet aroma of chocolate cinnamon and peppermint. The sound of Christmas Carols bring joy to all hearts and although no one can really describe it we all know that there is magic in the air.

I have always loved and admired Christmas time even when I was living in Iran and I did not know our precious Lord Jesus. I still remember the first time that I had a real Christmas tree, the smell of fresh pine was so delightful! I placed my little tree on the balcony and a very heavy snow later covered it - yes I can still remember how pretty was that snow covered Christmas tree, with all the colourful decorations.

As I have been reflecting on my journey of faith during the few days before my priesthood ordination, I was thinking that as the Lord Jesus is the light of the World (John 8:12), Christmas is so full of joy, music, light and everything that is magical and wonderful that even for those who do not know Jesus yet, the season is still beautiful! But when you know Jesus all these good feelings makes perfect sense.

God became human and came among us, He chose to leave behind His glory and become one of us so that we may have life and may have it abundantly.

The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life - indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest. John 10:10

The King has come, the glorious Son of God has come in a very humble way. Let us be excited exactly like little children who can't wait for Christmas Day, and in the midst of our busy lives, let us take some silent time, to reflect on the coming of the King!

May we be able to hear angels singing hallelujah from heaven, as we look at the shiny star at the top of Christmas tree, and be as excited as little children to welcome the king of kings Jesus Christ, and invite Him again and again to our hearts to our homes as our special Christmas guest!

May He be pleased by what He will see in our hearts, as we decorate not only our homes and trees but also our lives, with more love, kindness, compassion and passion to serve Him. May the lights in our hearts be shiny for the Lord Jesus not only on Christmas time but all year round. And as we celebrate this wonderful time let us also remember that He will come again in His glory and let us be ready to welcome Him!

Amen and Merry Christmas to you all.

Yours in Christ,
Valentina Emmanuel



Christmas Fare

This year the Christmas Fare was a great success with many parishioners helping to bake cake and make shortbread in the Meals on Wheels Kitchen at the back of the Town Hall and in private homes where we made and decorated Christmas Balls and Mince Tarts.

With Sally Burt project managing and Janice buying products and managing the preparation, the cooking began in early November. This was a little later than in past years, but we still managed to produce 165 packs of shortbread, 112 fruit cakes, 78 Mince Tarts, and 100 Christmas Balls as well as producing 1 large fruit cake for a hamper. Packing is now completed too. We have all enjoyed the opportunity to cook together and share times of great fellowship and friendship.



We hope all those who have ordered our festive fare enjoy all the items made so happily by our own hands.

Thank you all.

Janice Schmidt
Christmas Fare Baking Co-ordinator

Volunteering

Our Church relies on volunteers to fill a wide variety of positions both during the services each Sunday and at other times during the week. It may be that you have been thinking about what you can do around the church or watching others and wondering how to get more involved.

If you would like to be part of the services by **reading a lesson**, being a **welcomer** (handing out the pew sheet and giving people their name badges), acting as a **sidesperson** (helping with the collection, ensuring the kneelers are in place for the Eucharist, helping to put away some items at the end of the service), **arranging the flowers**, leading the intercessory prayers or organising the **morning tea** at the 10am service on Sundays please act now. You could also become a member of the **Curate's Field Committee**, providing them with support, feedback and guidance in these early years of their ministry.

If **gardening** is more to your taste, you may wish to join the Gardening Group which maintains the ground of the Church and Vicarage. Maybe you would prefer to work with the **Community Lunch team** on a Monday or a Friday. Perhaps you have other areas of interest and skill and would prefer to serve God and our congregation using them.

Whatever your interest or skill please contact us. Volunteering for any of these groups or becoming involved in another way not only benefits others, it also provides you with new opportunities to get to know others in the congregation. Add your name to the lists at the rear of the church at each service or call or email the Parish Office (telephone 9397 5330 or email office@htw.org.au) and tell us how you would like to be involved.





December

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| 1 | Men's Pub Night |
| 3 | Parish Centre Opening |
| 5 | Advent Bible Study, 7.30pm, Vicarage |
| 9 | Men's Breakfast |
| | Parish Council Planning Day |
| 10 | Curates' Field Committee Meeting 12 noon |
| | Contemplative Eucharist, 6.00pm |
| 12 | Advent Bible Study, 7.30pm, Vicarage |
| 19 | Advent Bible Study, 7.30pm, Vicarage |
| 24 | Children's Service, 6.00pm |
| | Midnight Eucharist, 11.30pm |
| 25 | Christmas Day Eucharist, 9.00am |

*Further details for all these events are available from the Parish Office
or on the weekly Pew Sheet.*

*Most group will be in recess during December and January. We hope you will consider
joining some of these groups in the new year.*

Christmas Services 2017

Sunday 24 December
8.00am Eucharist
10.00am Sung Eucharist
6.00pm Children's Service
11.30pm Midnight Service

Monday 25 December
9.00am Eucharist

TO BE OR NOT TO BE: OR JUST TO BE?

Here is an abstract conundrum to consider. At what point is an issue we consider to be right worth fighting a war over? Of course we want what is right for our society, our nation, even our world. But when we engage in war over an issue, how much damage is done? How many lives are injured or lost. War itself is a bad thing. It hurts. Yet humanity has been resorting to it for thousands of years to sort out its disagreements.

It is certainly my belief that every individual, community and nation that has engaged in war has not done so to be evil to their opponent. They have gone to war to defend what they believe in, what they believe they must preserve. Their disagreement, anger and hatred of their enemy arises from their difference of conscience about what must be defended and preserved.

Such historical horrors as the Holocaust, Apartheid, the Irish ‘Troubles’, today’s terrorism movements and even the Crusades of the 11th to the 13th centuries all grew out of nations or religions or races developing beliefs so extreme and entrenched that to those who held them. They grossly outweighed the prospect of death and destruction that fighting a war would involve. In the minds of those who committed these gargantuan acts of violence, they were defending the right. In every war, both sides believe themselves to be the defending party.

Now this is pretty heavy stuff to be opening with, considering that what I want to write about is the recent movement towards Marriage Equality in our nation. I am not inferring that I expect we will end up at war on this issue. However, in the conflict arising in promotion of the ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ cases in the recent mail poll, many of the processes I described above have slipped out into the arena. All the arguments have been about “I hold a belief (about human rights, moral values, human traditions, etc), and your different beliefs threaten mine, so you must be wrong, so I must fight to defend mine.”



The question I have wanted to ask throughout the debate, and ask of both sides, is this: Does somebody holding a different view to yours threaten the views you hold? Because if you think they do, you need to ask if you looked in a mirror, whether your views equally threaten theirs? Are we opposed, or are we just different?

In my time as an ordained minister in the Anglican Church, I have had people refuse to take Communion from me because I have long hair. They believed that only a man can take up the priestly office of the church, and objected to and refused to accept the ordination of women. A significant minority of Anglicans worldwide still hold this view. The people I encountered, however, believed that because I had long hair, I was identifying as a woman and thus making myself unfit to hold the order of Priest. Was I angry? To me it hardly seemed worth it. I found their view to be incorrect to the point of the bizarre. I do not for a minute think I need to give physical proof of my gender, nor do I accept their argument that if I were a woman, I could not minister as a Priest, anyway. But since I believed they held their beliefs in all sincerity, so I could respect that, move on, and give Communion to the next person. The points of difference in the Marriage Equality debate seem to me to arise from the definition of marriage. My personal views about this really revolve around the fact that most of the definitions I have heard put forward have been phrased to suit one view or the other, and neither side's are fully water-tight.

Here are some examples:

Marriage has always been the ultimate commitment of love between two people. Actually, if you look at most weddings in the Bible, and in the ancient world, and even in many societies around the world today, couples are married who had no choice in it all. In most biblical weddings, the couple met at the wedding ceremony. Their fathers, the Patriarchs, contracted with each other to marry their offspring for socio-political purposes. Slaves and servants are told who their spouses would be. Have a look at 1 Kings 11:1-6. King Solomon sealed every international treaty or deal he made by marrying one of his counterpart's daughters.

A marriage is solely about having children. Every family needs a mother and a father. So let me ask you this: If I, as a marriage celebrant, know a couple to be infertile, or even simply do not plan to have children, or are elderly and

clearly past childbearing, should I refuse to marry them? If a father or mother walks out on their family, leaving the other to parent alone, should those children then be removed from the single parent? Since social research has shown that children of same sex couples do not measure less than any other children on all developmental or emotional scales, I feel this argument falls before it even gets out of the stalls.

If marriage is redefined, our children will lose any sense of their sexual identity. This is the “my son was told he could wear a dress to school” argument that graced our TV screens over the debate. Putting aside the fact that it was shown that this never actually happened, there have been people who are same sex attracted, or have questioned their gender identity throughout human history. Even the Bible attests to this. We are back at the question, does somebody being different to me constitute an attack on me? Like the me/hair/woman/priest story I told earlier, if I am confident in my own identity, then no, anybody else’s identity, no matter how divergent, different or remote from mine, has no affect on my own. Children have growing up fine in a myriad of diverse social settings and assumptions for centuries, within every society.

All I hope for is that this humanity of which I am a member, and which I actually think is a pretty amazing thing, realise that no matter how different we might be, we are all in it together. Our existence is a shared existence. By respecting one another, by listening to the views and beliefs of each other, by striving to understand each other, we could make that existence a fabulous thing!

The Venerable Bill Beagley
Vicar

CALLING ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS!

We have had a faithful band of parishioners who do flowers each week to add to our worship. We number just seven and would welcome anyone who would like to join this group. Many parishioners and others are very generous with flowers from their gardens when available.

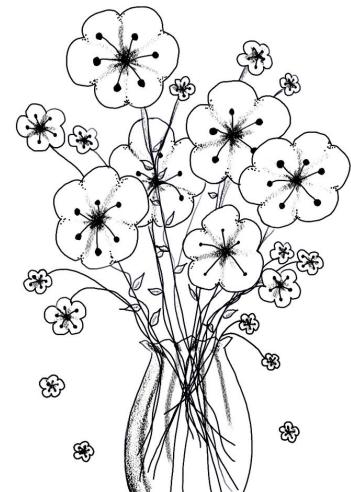
We don't always need to spend large amounts of money but, due to the generosity of parishioners who may think flower arranging is not their particular gift, we do have money available when choice of flowers is limited.

Our present team is Laurie English, Leonie Dobinson, Pamela McFaydyen, Sue Searls, Holly Hser, Judy Whelan and Wilma Robarts. I think those on the roster currently get great joy from beautifying our church with fresh flowers for worship.

Please speak to Wilma if you would be interested in becoming part of our team. The team will be pleased to offer an assistance advice or encouragement you may need to get used to arranging flowers in a large space.

I hope you'll join us soon.

Wilma Robarts
Flower Roster Co-ordinator



January Services

**Please note that during January there will be one morning service
on Sundays, held at 9.00am.**

**Contemplative Eucharist will also not be held during January.
Normal services will resume from the first week of February.**

Book Review - Ada Cambridge Book Club

This month's book *The Rules of Backyard Cricket* by Jock Serong looked, at first glance, to be a story that would appeal to those who love the game and maybe less so to others. We couldn't have been more wrong.....`Don't judge a book by its cover`.

From Page 1, we were all in agreement that it was a 'page turner'. The main protagonist, Darren Keefe, began his story bound and gagged in the boot of a car. He remained in this position for the majority of the story as he replayed in his mind the early days of playing cricket with his brother Wally in their backyard and how their relationship developed during this time. Their mother, who was raising them on her own, was gutsy and hard-working and a big character, who remained a constant influence throughout. Her feistiness and belief in her sons helped facilitate their career in top class cricket, and this is where the story began to have its darker edge. The world of match fixing and celebrity status took its toll on Darren and Wally in different, and sometimes similar ways.

We felt that it is first and foremost a story about family bonds, and of their fragility and strength, when tested. The portrayal of the underbelly of corruption in the sporting world and the effects of celebrity status on individuals and relationships, gave the story momentum and excitement which we all enjoyed.

We all agreed that the characters were very believable and that this added to the suspense. We really wanted to know why Darren was in his predicament and how, and if, he would survive. The ending surprised us all, and we were pleased that it was complete and hadn't left us wondering.

We didn't take a vote but I would hazard a guess that this has been our best read this year.

Jill Ringrose

New Parish Council

At the recent Annual General Meeting and the ensuing meeting of the New Council the following representatives of the congregation were elected to the Parish Council and other positions of responsibility in the Parish:

Vicar's Warden	Scott Phillips
Wardens	Sally Burt Sandra Lewin
Treasurer	Laurence Gray
Parish Secretary	Judith White
Parish Councillors	Janice Schmidt Christine Hurwood Chris Ringrose Pat Drake
Auditor	Ms Ife Awonusi BSc (Hons) Acc, MScFin, CPA
Parish Inc incumbency Committee	Alison Brideson (Lay representative) Sandra Lewin (Warden)

The Parish Council has met once since the AGM and is holding a Planning Day for 2018 on Saturday 9 December. A report from this Planning Day will appear in the next edition of the Pilot.

Judith White
Parish Secretary

Reminiscences from the Parish Office

Thank you so much to the parish for *The Art of the Bible - Illuminated Manuscripts from the Medieval World* - the beautiful book you gave me to mark my retirement from the Parish Office. The pages are turned regularly and give me much enjoyment. The illuminated manuscripts bring me into the beauty of all the cathedrals and holy places visited over many years and into the richness of an inner life that has evolved over those years.

Warden Hans Paas invited me to be the Parish Secretary in 1994 in the last months of Philip Huggins' time as Vicar of Holy Trinity, as Ann Burgin, the previous secretary, had become too ill to continue.



I began my duties in the little kindergarten Sunday school building. My first Vestry Meeting was also the first for Ron Browning, the new vicar. My main memories of those early days are of the activities in the hall - a drama school inhabited the big hall all week, the students rehearsed their drama in the church grounds. Murders, comedies, fist fights, screaming and yelling - it was hard to get on with the work sometimes.

Along with the office duties there was Thursday night choir practice, and attending the 10.00am service on Sundays along with monthly 1662 Evensong services. The choir was very active socially and initiated activities such as weekends away, concerts, dinners and musical evenings at which we all enjoyed the musical talents of the parish as a whole.

When John Tung Yep became organist the choir's repertoire became more extensive, to the enjoyment of all. My greatest memories are of singing the *Hodie Christus Natus Est* at the back of the church to mark the commencement of the midnight service to welcome the Christ child, prior to *Once in Royal David City*, and processing down the aisle of a church packed with people. My other great joy was when we sang the unaccompanied God so loved the world during Communion.

Much water has flowed under the bridge since those days, many pew bulletins produced and photocopiers contended with! I have enjoyed working along with so many in the parish and have appreciated the strengths of our vicars in helping us on our way in this changing world. Conversations with Bill on a wide range of topics have enriched my spiritual journey, in gardening terms, 'a bit of blood and bone'! Wilma Robarts and I still see Ron Browning from time to time and a small group of us have lunched with Philip Newman 4 or 5 times a year for the 11 years since he was our interregnum. We're '*The Willi Mob*'.

It has been such a privilege to have been so closely involved in the life of the church for so long. I'm thankful for the unchanging steadiness of our spiritual home and the beauty of all who have endeavoured to make it so. Being of service at Holy Trinity has been a very enriching experience.

Judy Whelan
Parish Administrator 1994-2017

Parish Rosters for December and January

MONTH	DAY	TIME	INTER - CESSION	EUCH ASSIST	READERS	SIDES PERSON	WELCOME	FLOWERS	TEA & COFFEE
Dec Advent 1	3	8 am 10am	Ven Bill	Ven Bill	Judy White Scott Phillips	Wilma R David B	B Matty W Robarts	Holly Hser	Join us in the Parish Centre
Dec Advent 2	10	8 am 10am	Wilma R Anne M	Val D Pat D	Wilma R M. Swane J Schmidt	James M	Bryan M Anne M	Wilma Robarts	Barb Hingston
Dec Advent 3	17	8 am 10am	Ven Bill Ven Bill	Val D Warren	Marie C. P Drake W Madsen	W Madsen	Bryan M Jeannine M	Sue Searls	Carol Willis
Dec Advent 4	24	8 am 10am	Sue W Joan H	Kate S James M	V Dripps J Mulholland L Gray	Wilma R L Gray	Bryan M James M	P McF	P McF
Dec Children's Service	24	6pm	Christmas Pageant						
Dec Midnight Eucharist	24	11.30pm	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	N/A	N/A
Dec Christmas Eucharist	25	9.00am	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	N/A	N/A
Dec 1 st Sunday after Advent	31	9.30am	Please add your name to the back of the church if you are available to assist with any role from 31 December to 28 January						
January	2	9.30am							

Contact Holy Trinity Williamstown

Parish Office

The Parish Office will attend
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am - 4pm from February 2018
Telephone 9397 5330 or email office@htw.org.au

Vicar

The Vicar, Rev'd Bill Beagley is not available on Mondays
Telephone 0408 349 315 or email vicar@htw.org.au

Parish Secretary

Judy White email: office@htw.org.au

For more information please visit our website: <http://www.htw.org.au>

The Pilot

To submit information for The Pilot please email the Editor, Judy White: comms@htw.org.au