

December 2020

IS JESUS WELCOME?



The challenge for us today is whether we have room in our hearts and in our lives for Jesus.

There is even a question whether there is still room for Jesus in our celebration of Christmas.

One of the commentators writing about John the Baptist and his call to repentance in preparation for the coming of the Messiah even suggested that we have much to repent for in the way in which we celebrate Jesus' birth.

Certainly, if what you see in the shops and in the media is any guide, there is very little mention of Jesus in the contemporary celebration of Christmas.

But how far is our own celebration centred upon Jesus the Messiah. Are we too busy to recognise who Jesus is and say "no room" or do we take him in—into our worship and by our acts of love, into our hearts?

The Church of St John the Evangelist

St John's Church, Langhorne Creek was opened in 1929, the culmination of a great deal of fund-raising while services were being held in the Oddfellows' Hall.

The land was purchased in 1913 for £30 but it was not until 1924 that steps were taken raise enough money to pay for a suitable building.

At last on Saturday 8 June 1929 the foundation stone was laid by Sir Lance- lot Stirling in the presence of a large crowd.

Five months later, on the 2 November 1929 the completed building was dedicated by the Bishop of Adelaide, the Right Reverend A. N. Thomas. The Rector at the time was the Reverend H. Woolnough. The Architect was Mr C. E. Boyce from Trammere.



Now ninety-one years later the congregation has declined in numbers and this has led to the decision to suspend regular services in the church.

Our thanks go to Mrs Marlene Potts who as Churchwarden and Organist has been responsible for the care of the church in recent years as well as providing a welcome cuppa after the service.

Beryl Celebrates One Hundred Years

Beryl Jean Ackroyd was born on the 31 December 1920 in the Sydney suburb of South Kensington. Her parents were Percy and Adelina Ackroyd and she was sister to Jack.

While her mother was in hospital Percy bought a hotel in Shellharbour, south of Sydney, and in the next seven years she lived in seven different hotels.

The family finally settled in Woonona on the NSW south coast where Percy owned a Billiard Room and an SP Betting Shop.

Beryl attended the local primary school and won a scholarship to go to High school, after which she went to the Wollongong TAFE to study Needlework. This led to her career as a teacher of Needlework in both primary and high schools.

Beryl married Edwin Merrick in September 1942 and they moved to Corrimal to live in the large family house of Eddie's grandmother, "Harbinger Hall" while they built their own home. They moved there in 1949, along with their five year old daughter, Diane.

This was home until they decided to downsize in 1997. Eddie died in 1998 so three years later Beryl made another move to be near Diane in Stathalbyn.



Her life has been full since then, joining Probus, Mothers' Union, Garden Club and U3A.

In her words, "Looking back I can say I had a very happy childhood. We were never very short of money. I was very spoilt and was given many wonderful privileges which I didn't always take advantage of.

"Since moving to Strathalbyn my life has been full. I have 1 daughter, 2 grandsons, 4 great-grandchildren, 3 step-great-grandchildren and now 2 partners to great-grandchildren. So my life is full and never dull."

Meet the Care Angels



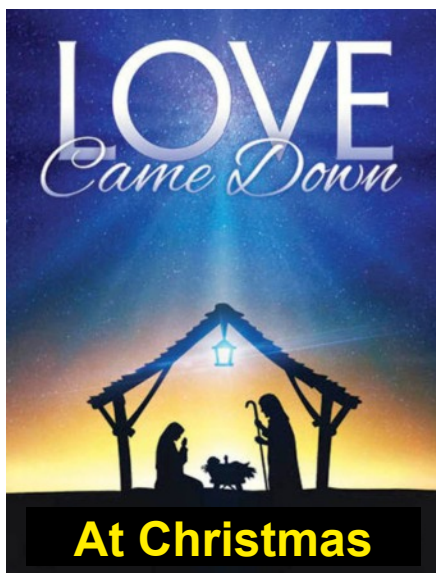
Knitting by Mothers' Union members continues to produce wonderful items, mainly beanies for Mission to Seafarers, rugs for the needy and now this year we have commenced with Care Angels.

Mt Barker branch hung angels on the rectory fence for the community to take, others have been handed out in hospitals, who knows where they will go in future.

Mary, Joseph and the donkey have also been knitted by many branches. These items travel from home to home each day throughout the district during Advent and end their journey at the Christmas services. This gives people a reason to visit someone they may not have otherwise visited spreading a little cheer and love.

The knitted figures have also travelled to other places while in the care of the family, such as the playground, shopping trolley, hospital visiting trolley, picnics—all places where their appearance creates conversation regarding "The Christmas Story".

Jocelyn Williamson



An Australian Advent Calendar
Available in book form or as an App on your mobile phone.

Scripture readings, quotes, photos, poems, cartoons and songs take you from Advent to Epiphany with a particular emphasis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christianity, the Australian landscape and Creation theology.

Author, Celia Kemp writes:

This Advent, consider a pilgrimage to where you already are. Set aside time each day from December through to January 6; the Feast of the Epiphany, which marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas.

Find a quiet place close by with some sort of nature component (a pot plant, a tree, a park bench, a beach, a backyard). If you can, place yourself where the sky meets the land.

Take a bible, a journal, a pen and this book or App. Read. Watch. Listen. Stay awake. And see what happens.

Click on "Resources" in the ABM website, <https://www.abmission.org/> to download the App.



Celebrating Christmas



Sun 20 December - Advent 4

8.15 am Holy Communion,
St Mary's Milang

10.00 am Holy Communion,
Christ Church Strathalbyn
6.00 pm Readings & Carols,
Christ Church Strathalbyn

Wednesday 23 December

9.30 am Holy Communion,
Christ Church Strathalbyn

Thu 24 Dec - Christmas Eve

4.30 pm Crib Service,
Christ Church Strathalbyn
7.30 pm Holy Communion,
St George's Meadows
7.30 pm Holy Communion,
St Mary's Milang

Fri 25 Dec - Christmas Day

9.30 am Holy Communion,
Christ Church, Strathalbyn

Sun 27 Dec - Christmas 1

10.00 am Holy Communion,
St John's Langhorne Creek
Followed by a BYO Picnic Lunch.
*This will be the last service held at
St John's for the time being.*

The Anglican Parish of Strathalbyn

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