



S T J U D E ' S  
B O W R A L

Sunday 22 December 2019

### **The Meaning of Christmas (according to Charles Wesley)**

One of the finest Carols sung frequently at this time of year is Charles Wesley's *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. Of course, familiarity can sometimes mean the words wash over us rather than sinking in.

The opening line reminds us of the angelic chorus in Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace."

We ought to be glad that several years after Wesley penned these verses, his friend, the great preacher and evangelist George Whitefield, altered the opening line to its current form. Wesley's hymn had originally begun, "Hark how all the welkin rings!" – 'welkin' being an archaic English word for the highest heavens. Praise God for the hands of good and clear editors!

The other change to the hymn occurred when it was matched 100 years later to Mendelssohn's cantata *Festgesang*, which musically demanded the glorious repetition of the opening two lines as a refrain after each double verse.

The congregation is called to join in the angelic chorus in proclaiming glory to Christ, in particular we are called to praise him for his chief purpose in coming – "God and sinners reconciled". Only God can reconcile sinners to himself, and so it was central in the saving plan of God that God himself must come "veiled in flesh" and "lay his glory by."

The third verse includes the beautiful lines, "Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings." The imagery is straight from the prophet Malachi (Mal. 4:2). The incarnate and resurrected Son is now the Sun from whom light and life now fans out (that is what 'wings' means here) to bring spiritual resurrection second birth to human beings. Charles Wesley wrote this hymn in 1739 shortly after his own conversion and spiritual new birth, and he sees here the source of his own new life, the risen and victorious Son who is the light of the world.

As we read in John 1, "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ...to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Let us be in prayer that the light of Christ might bring second birth to many this Christmas season.

In Christian Fellowship

Gavin

# St Jude's Events and News

## From the Staff

As 2019 comes to a close, we are thankful to God for all those who have given so generously of your time, energy, gifts and support and we look forward to celebrating Christmas with you all.

With our gratitude and love,

Gav, Graham, Matt, Jaryd, Kate, Allan and Felicity.



## Summer School Jan 2020

Please contact Pat Low if you are going, to arrange a possible catch up with Pedro & Joy. Pat Low 0407 412 017.

## Anglicare Toys and Tucker



Thanks to your generosity and that of others in the community over **seventy families** received hampers and toys to brighten their Christmas and to experience God's love through His people. On

Tuesday, at St Jude's, we provided a sausage sizzle, drinks and an opportunity to talk while they collected their goodies. It was a privilege to witness the relief and joy of the recipients. Parents now had presents to give their children and Christmas goodies to help celebrate, which otherwise would not have been possible.

A big thankyou to the volunteers who over the last two and a half months have collected, sorted and boxed donations, cooked sausages and given their time to make this happen.

## Financial Update as of end NOV 2019

Actual offertories and mission giving for November	\$50,845
Needed to meet budget	\$55,000
Actual offertories below budget by 8%	
Actual offertories year to date	\$613,803
Needed to meet budget	\$622,000
Actual offertories below budget by 1%	



A huge thank you those that donated towards assisting Jack Harradine in helping families in great need. Over \$1300 has been raised for their special needs that they had over Christmas.

If you would like to receive emails with a summary of prayer points for our 6 Link Missionaries, please write your name and email address on the list on the reception desk. The emails will be sent out starting Feb 2020.

## Diary Dates

### Early 2020 Church Events

Wed 22 Jan - Sun 26 Jan	LIT - youth leaders training .
Sun 02 Feb	<u>Launch Sunday 1.</u> sign up for Connect groups, Christian Care & Ministry Groups
Wed 05 Feb	Evangelism Training with Sandy Grant
Fri 07 Feb	Arvo club starts (years 5 & 6) Youth starts (years 7 up)
Sun 09 Feb	<u>Launch Sunday 2.</u> sign up for Connect groups, Christian Care & Ministry Groups
Sun 23	Belonging Course (2 sessions Sunday afternoons)
Mon 24 Feb	Belonging Course (2 sessions Monday nights)
Wed 04 Mar	Church Prayer Meeting
Sat 29 Feb	Marriage Course Starts (5 sessions)
Sun 08 Mar	AGM
Sun 15 Mar - Mon 13 Apr	“Jesus is...” Mission
Wed 06 May	Church Prayer Meeting Personal Evangelism Training 4 Sundays in May
Mon 11 May	Christianity Explored Starts 6 sessions
Sun 17 May	Divorce Care Starts 8 sessions

## Music at St Jude's

[www.stjudesmusicassociation.com](http://www.stjudesmusicassociation.com)

### Bowral Autumn Music Festival 2020

Friday 27 March to Sunday 29 March .

**Note the dates in your 2020 dairies.**

**9 Superb Concerts in 3 days**

[www.bamf.org.au](http://www.bamf.org.au)

bowral  
autumn  
music  
festival.

### Midweek Lunchtime Recitals

Resume in 2020 on

**Wednesday 22 January at 1.15pm**

*Allan Beavis (Organ)*



### Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols

**Today 22 December  
at 7.30pm**

*St Jude's Singers*

## Staff Contact Details

### SENIOR MINISTER

The Rev Gavin Perkins  
0425 287 249    gavin@bowralanglican.org.au  
(Friday day off)

### ASSISTANT MINISTER

The Rev Graham Schultz  
0439 298 518    graham@bowralanglican.org.au  
(Tuesday day off)

### YOUTH MINISTER

The Rev Matt Jacobs  
0422 084 571    matt@bowralanglican.org.au  
(Thursday Day off)

### CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Jaryd Hoffman  
4862 4383    jaryd@bowralanglican.org.au

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Kate Pearse  
4862 4383    kate@bowralanglican.org.au

### ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF CLASSICAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Dr Allan Beavis  
0448 009 434    organist@bowralanglican.org.au

### SAFE MINISTRY CO-ORDINATOR

Alinda Sheerman  
0421 699 342    safeministry@bowralanglican.org.au

### OFFICE

Felicity Ray  
4862 4383    office@bowralanglican.org.au  
Normal Office hours. 9-4pm (Dec Jan pls see below)

## Sunday Services

**8.00am**

Holy Communion  
*Traditional Church Building*

**9.30am**

Contemporary Service  
*New Church Building*

**11.00am**

Service of Word & Prayer  
alternating with  
Holy Communion  
*Traditional Church Building*

**5.30pm**

Contemporary Service  
*New Church Building*

## Electronic Giving

### Account name:

St Simon and St Jude's Anglican Church

### 8 am service

BSB: 082-476 A/N: 84-659-6063

### 9:30 am service

BSB: 082-476 A/N: 84-659-6194

### 10 am service

BSB: 082-476 A/N: 84-659-6127

### 5:30 pm service

BSB: 082-476 A/N: 84-647-9289

2 Corinthians 8: 7 *But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you - see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

## Church Office Hours (Dec & Jan)

25 Dec 2019 - Fri 03 Jan 2020

Closed

Mon 06 Jan - Fri 10 Jan 2020

Open 9am—1pm

Mon 13 Jan - 17 Jan

Open 9am—1pm

Mon 20 Jan - 24 Jan

Open 9am—1pm

Mon 27 Jan

Closed Public Holiday

Tues 28 Jan

9am - 4pm (Returns to regular office hours)