

News from the Minister...

Our old friend Rev Lloyd Vidler used to gently rebuke us sometimes for forgetting that faith is a joyful thing. We rightly focus especially on the needs of the world, the sick, the hungry, the suffering, and seek to bring our prayers and love to bear in order to bring comfort. Yet perhaps too often we forget that we are also to know and share the joy that faith brings to life. Jesus regularly used children as examples of faithfulness, primarily as they were of lowly and humble status in the world. Another reason children give us an insight into faith is the way they un-cynically approach the world. To see a child's face light up at the sight of a Christmas tree decorated in stars and lights is to see the joy and wonder we receive as a gift when we look into the face of Christ. We are always to see Christ in the face of the poor and continue to serve as we are called to bring his balm to a hurting world, but lose the joy and we shrivel up inside. There is no better time to know and live the joy of faith than at Christmas. Joy is not the same as happiness, it doesn't ignore the hard things of life, or take them away. Rather, it is the presence and light of God seeping through amid the turmoil of life. May the joy of the birth of Christ be with you all. **Blessings Michael**



BUC LENTEN STUDIES 2018 *Companion Devotional Book*

We would like 40 members to prepare a devotion to accompany the booklet.

Write 300 words on your favourite bible reading, include a hymn and a prayer.

Closing date for your contribution is 15 December, 2017 Please speak to either Michael Earl, Liz Pattinson, Sandra House, or Laurie

Christmas at Moss Vale UC...

Wednesday December 13 at 10am... 'Christmas in Song'

Sunday December 17... 9.30am... Nativity Service

Christmas Day Service... 8.00am

Material for **WEEKLY NEWS** needs to be provided by noon each Wednesday to Rev Michael Earl or Sharon Hoogland, 48711583 or hooglandsj46@gmail.com. Photos, information or notices promoting the work of the church for our **Website** (bkuc.com.au) should be sent to lucyear179@gmail.com

Bowral Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."

Sunday 10 December 2017 (Advent 2)

Our ministry focus areas are:

Worship & Discipleship

Children & Families

Seniors

Community engagement

You are most welcome at worship today, particularly if you are a visitor or a new resident of the area.

We would love to get to know you, and help you feel at home.

Please make yourself known.

Join us for coffee after the service!



For matters concerning the life of the congregation, contact:
Reverend Michael Earl, on
(Mobile 0422 433 569).

Office: 28 Bendooley Street
Telephone: (02) 4862 1350
Internet: bkuc.com.au

Church Council Chairperson

Mrs Kathryn Searle 4872.1002

Church Council Secretary

Mrs Sharon Hoogland 4871 1583

Church Council Treasurer

Mr. Bruce Tredinnick 4861 6990

Elders' Convenor

Mr Jim Layton 4862 4623

Readings:

Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

A Hearing Loop is in place in the Church and Hall.

To access it, switch your hearing aid to the "T" position.

It is advisable not to sit right against the wall

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

Monday 11 December

5.30pm Uniting Voices

Tuesday 12 December

9.30am Playgroup

9.30am Pieces & Yarns

7.00pm Bible Study @ Netta

McKay's, Mittagong IN RECESS

7.30pm Bible Study @ the Dinning's,

Mittagong IN RECESS

7.30pm Young Women's Bible Study

@ Lucy Earl's IN RECESS

Wednesday 13 December

12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH

12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!

Thursday 14 December

2.00pm CAMEO @ the Stumps

2.00pm Grey Gardeners meet at the Hoogland's to potter around...

3.30pm Kids Connect

6.30pm Elders' Meeting

7.30pm Church Council Meeting

Friday 8 December

Bell Ringing practice

TODAY'S SERVICES 10 December (Advent 2)

9.00am Service of Holy Communion (Rev Michael Earl)

11.30am Uniting Connect Christmas Nativity Play followed by lunch in the Gallery

6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

NEXT SUNDAY 17 December (Advent 3)

9.00am Service of Carols & Lessons (Rev Michael Earl)

There is no evening service today.

Readings Next Week:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8 – 11; Ps 126; 1 Thess 5: 16 – 24; John 1: 6-8, 19 - 28

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 10 Dec	NEXT WEEK: 17 Dec
Organ	Ann Clipsham	Heather Tredinnick
PowerPoint	Sharon Hoogland	Sharon Hoogland
Video	Jon Hoogland	Jenny O'Regan
Elder	Sue Henshall: Bruce/Lucy	Jim Layton
Stewards	Barry/Ruth Roberts	Narelle Harwood/Ena Bell
Flowers	N Harwood, L Pattinson	JanHamilton, Jenny O'Regan
Kids Church	11.30am Nativity Play	See Lucy
Morning Tea	Lorraine R & Robyn S	VOLUNTEERS PLEASE



Christmas Appeal...

As usual, we are sponsoring the 'Target/Uniting Christmas Appeal' again this year. Gifts may be left at Target or under our Church Christmas Tree

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along, that while we need to be reassured of God's arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home. While we wait, we have to trust, to have faith, but it is God's grace that gives us that faith. As with all spiritual knowledge, two things are true, and equally true, at once. The mind can't grasp paradox; it is the knowledge of the soul."

Michelle Blake, Author of 'The Tentmaker'



COMING EVENTS

Mon 18 Dec 5.00pm Carols & Cake @ Kangaloon

Sun 17 Dec **SERVICE OF CAROLS & LESSONS @ 9.00am**

Sun 24 Dec **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE @ 9.00am**

Sun 25 Dec **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE @ 9.00am**

TODAY AT 11.30AM

BUC CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY

Please join us in the Hall @ **11.30am**.

A script written by a renowned children's author, a cast of dozens of our own children, singing, laughing and lunch to follow! All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

An amazing thank you to everyone who participated in our final market day for 2017.

Stall Co-ordinators – you are awesome!! AND very much appreciated!



BYO cheese & wine if you wish.

CAROLS & CAKE AT KANGALOOON

The new owners of the (previous) Uniting Church @ Kangaloon invite members to Christmas Carols & traditional songs with professional musicians and singers, with Christmas cake & tea to follow.

Monday Dec 18, From 5.00pm till 6.30pm

FREE admission!

The U3A Choir will be presenting a Christmas Concert in BUC Hall next Tuesday 12th December at 2.00 pm.

All welcome.

