

## Weekly News

### **Singing Praises**

Good morning and welcome to Church. It's great to have you here especially if you're new or visiting. We'd love to meet you after church over a cup of tea.

After last weekend's uplifting Carols service at St John's, this weekend we will continue to sing! On Saturday night at Mt Wilson then Sunday morning at St Aidan's and across the road in the park on Sunday night.

But why do we sing? In some ways it's quite obvious, we sing because a baby was born and so there should be a great celebration. And yet, I suspect if you wandered down to the maternity unit at the hospital you will rarely find a birth celebrated in song. In modern Australian culture, communal singing is not a common occurrence.

In the scriptures, we find a different picture. The Old Testament is filled with musicians and songs praising God. When Paul and Silas were in prison (Acts 16) they sang praises to God. Singing was a normal part of Israel's worship and is immediately taken up by the early church.

More specifically, there was singing at the birth of Jesus. No singing from Mary or Joseph (though Mary did do some singing during her pregnancy). No singing from the Shepherds. It was the heavenly host of angels who sang. I suspect the reason that the angels sang was because they could see a fuller picture of what was going on. They knew who it was who had been born into the world. They knew how extraordinary it was that God Almighty had been born as a human baby.

And so they sang. We too have the privilege of now seeing that bigger picture, of knowing what this life would bring. And so we too shall sing.

Yours in Christ,

Tim.

### **Blackheath Parish Men's Coffee Morning—Friday 20th December.**

A Christmas get-together for any men from across the Parish. A cuppa and a chat at Hartley Fresh on the Great Western Highway in Hartley starting at 10am. All welcome.

**Blackheath Parish Ladies Coffee Morning**—The last get-together this year for any ladies from across the Parish. On Friday 20th December starting at 10am at the V & A Hotel in Mt Victoria. All welcome, bring a friend.

**St Peter's is still collecting stamps for Bush Church Aid.** Even though we receive so few stamps these days, even a small number is worth collecting and passing onto BCA, any you get for Christmas and beyond can be put in an envelope and left at the back of each church for collection. BCA has written to say they so appreciate our efforts, they raise thousands of dollars from the sale of used stamps and old stamp collections each year and are very grateful for our contributions.

### **Prayers before church services.**

**St Aidan's** invites anyone who would like to pray with others before the Sunday service each week at 10am in the small meeting room in the church hall. Any questions speak to - Ian Robinson who facilitates this time together.

**St Peter's** also has a prayer time each Sunday before the service at 8.15am in the vestry, anyone is welcome to come and either pray together with others or support silently.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December – St Aidan's Blackheath – Night Church** will join with the Community Carols at 6pm in the park opposite the church. Children's activities in the park will be on from 4.30pm.

## Notes

### THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BLACKHEATH

St. Aidan's Blackheath, St. Peter's Mt Victoria,

St. John's Hartley, St. George's Mt Wilson

#### CENTRED ON CHRIST

Building up One Another, Reaching Out to the World

**Sunday 15th December, 2024**

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**SERVICES FOR TODAY**

8.45am Mt Victoria —Morning Service

10.30am Blackheath— Children's Christmas Service

**First Reading—Isaiah 58:1-9**

**Second Reading— Matthew 2:1-12**

(Mt Victoria service only)

# Welcome

**Next Sunday 22nd December, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent—Traditional Carol Services**

Bible Readings

1st Reading—various

2nd Reading—various

Prayers

**St Peter's:** Geoff Brimley. **St Aidan's:** Stephen Williams.

**Night Church:** Andrew

Minister: Rev Tim Mclver

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