



18 December  
2011

Including St Peter's, Sutton  
and St Andrew's, Wamboin

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Invite your family, friends and neighbours to our Christmas Eve Community Carol Singing and Pageant at 6.30 pm in our St John's grounds. We will meet in the Hall if it is raining, and you are invited to bring a picnic tea to enjoy from 5.30 pm.

*Our vision is to be a vibrant Christ-centred community that engages and transforms the heart and soul of Canberra.*



## *From the Rector*

Christianity grows by offering a word of invitation

As followers of Jesus we are charged with sharing the good news of Jesus and inviting others to come to faith. We are called to help others discover a life that is full and rich, both now in the present and eternally. Studies have shown that there are three main influences when it comes to people coming to faith:

The **first**, most common way for people to find faith is through the influence of someone in their family. For many it was their parents, the influence of growing up in a Christian household, attending worship and Children's Church.

The **second** most important influence in bringing people to faith is Christian friends. Joe, for instance, was going through a hard patch, and a Christian friend supported and encouraged him.

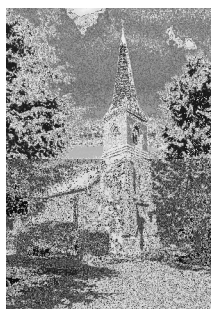
The **third** most important factor is the influence of an ordained minister or pastor, where perhaps they conducted a wedding or a funeral, and the minister was helpful and human.

That's how people come to faith. It's done over the breakfast table and over the washing up. It's done over the garden fence or while drinking a cup of coffee over morning tea at the office. It is done in situations all of us find ourselves in many times a day.

Christianity grows by offering a word of invitation. It's about sensitively telling others about Jesus and asking them to come. You don't have to be a gourmet cook to recommend a restaurant to a friend. You only have to know that the food tastes good. You don't have to have a degree in botany to like a vase of flowers. And you don't have to have gone to theological college to invite someone to church.

At Christmas people are open to invitations to come. Please remember to invite your family, friends and neighbours to our Christmas Eve Community Carols and Pageant in our grounds or one of our worship services.

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## PREACHERS at ST JOHN'S

Morning Services: The Rev'd Margaret Campbell

### Celebrants / Officiants

7.00 am	<b>EUCCHARIST (BCP)</b>	Canon Geoffrey Sibly
8.00 am	<b>SUNG EUCCHARIST</b>	The Rev'd Paul Black
9.30 am	<b>CHURCH FAMILY EUCCHARIST</b>	The Rev'd Margaret Campbell
11.15 am	<b>CHORAL EUCCHARIST (BCP)</b>	The Rev'd Paul Black
2.30 pm	<b>BAPTISMS</b>	The Rev'd Paul Black
7.00 pm	<b>NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS</b>	The Rev'd Paul Black

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, WAMBOIN

9.00 am Eucharist

**Preacher and Celebrant:** The Rev'd Susan Bridge

### Morning scripture readings

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16; Song of Mary (APBA, page 31)

Luke 1.26-38

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Loving and gracious God, for you we wait, for you we listen. Upon hearing your voice may we, like Mary, embrace your will and become a dwelling fit for your Word. Grant this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**





## **CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH**

The St John's Care Christmas Community Lunch, in the Church Hall, is a lunch for anyone and everyone. It is a lunch to make sure that no one has to spend Christmas Day alone. If you are alone on Christmas Day, please come. If you know of a neighbour or a friend who may be alone, please tell them about the lunch. For more information, please ring St John's Care on 6248 7771.

## **POSITION VACANT – FAMILY WORKER**

St John's wishes to appoint a new Family Worker in 2012 for up to 20 hours per week to complement the current ministry of our Children's and Youth Worker, Michael. The position would entail coordinating and teaching Children's Church, networking, integrating new people, follow-up and pastoral care, especially within the 9.30 am congregation. In your prayers please ask that God would raise up a Children's Minister for our parish. Please direct all enquiries to the Rector, the Rev'd Paul Black.

## **CHURCH FLOWER ROSTER**

We desperately need more parishioners to join our flower roster from January 2012. Current members are willing to assist anyone who enjoys flowers to join our team. Please contact Sanya as soon as possible on 6282 7118 or [sanya.ritchie@gmail.com](mailto:sanya.ritchie@gmail.com).

## **PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office will close on Friday 23 December at noon and re-open at 9am on Tuesday 3 January 2012.

Feel like a new start in 2012? Please let Philip Allnutt know if you would like to work for a half day or day per week helping out in the office.

## **SHELVING AND GARDENING EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

In January we will be replacing the small garden storage shed at the back of the hall with a larger version to hold the equipment our volunteers use to maintain the church grounds. We need additional storage shelving and gardening equipment in good condition. Should you have any surplus material, Property and Maintenance Committee members would be pleased to call to your homes and, if it is appropriate, to accept it. Should you be able to assist please contact Helen Wilson (6282 1052, [rgwhmw@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rgwhmw@bigpond.net.au)).

## ST JOHN'S CARE



This week we had a lady and her adult disabled son visit us for some help with food. They don't ask for help very often, maybe twice a year, when the bills get on top of them. This time the lady brought in some of her bills showing that she had been trying, and after making payments on her last utilities account she had nothing left to feed the family.

The food was not a problem, we would definitely help her with that, and as she was showing me the accounts, I noticed that she had a Telstra account, so I offered to give her some Telstra vouchers, to relieve the burden a little. The next moment she was in tears. No one had ever been that kind to her before. So besides writing up all the vouchers, getting a food parcel ready, we had to make her a strong cup of tea to settle her down a little. Besides the tears, there were lots of hugs and thanks. I am sure that the family will now have a much happier Christmas.

On Monday we opened the Christmas Present Room. What a day it was, we are still trying to recover. I can assure you that it was worse than the Boxing Day Sales. On the first day, in four and a half hours we saw fifty clients in the present room and forty six clients needed assistance with food. Only a small percentage of those that visited the Present Room also wanted assistance with 'normal' food, as they had all received a Christmas Hamper as well as the presents. As you can imagine, at the end of the day the cupboards were bare, and the Volunteers, in both rooms were exhausted. They were muttering things about being paid double time, so I generously thanked them twice.

In just two days, we have seen seventy nine clients and provided one main toy, two stocking fillers and a book for more than two hundred children. The majority of the clients have been single mothers, but we have also seen a lot of families. I think families are finding it very hard to manage on their fixed income. The universal response from the clients was genuine gratitude that their children would be able to receive a visit from Santa this year. As one young Mum said to me "This has relieved all the pressure of Christmas for me, it has stopped me feeling bad that I would not be able to give my kids something on Christmas Day, thank you".

For a small organisation we do remarkable work, but of course without your incredible support we could not do what we do. From all the families you have helped, thank you and I hope that you have a Happy and Safe Christmas. My wish list for this week: Poppers, healthy snacks for the children, and of course Peace on Earth.

Many Thanks, Sue

Weekday worship  
at St John's Church  
(No services on Public Holidays)

Monday 8 am Morning Prayer  
Tuesday 8 am Morning Prayer  
Wednesday: 8 am Morning Prayer  
10 am Eucharist (BCP)  
Thursday: 8 am Eucharist  
Friday: 9 am Morning Prayer

## PARISH REGISTER

### Rector

The Rev'd Paul Black 0416 159 814  
rector@stjohnscanberra.org

### Associate Priest

The Rev'd Margaret Campbell 0417 423 472  
margaret.campbell@stjohnscanberra.org

### Assistant Priest

The Rev'd Susan Bridge 0414 274 343  
susan.bridge@hotmail.com

### Children and Youth Worker

Michael Richards 0432 649 650  
michael.richards@stjohnscanberra.org

### Honorary Priests in the Parish

The Rev'd Ken Batterham; The Rev'd Vicky Cullen;  
The Rev'd David Hill; Canon Geoff Sibly.

### PARISH OFFICE Ph 6248 8399

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am—3 pm

**Parish Administrator** Philip Allnutt  
admin@stjohnscanberra.org

### Sacristan

Margaret Rodgers 6231 2169 (H)

### Director of Music & St John's Choristers

Sheila Thompson 6281 3433 (H)

### Wardens

John Lawson 6230 2101 (H)  
Colin Lendon 0431 198 260  
Peter Thwaites 6278 4117

### PARISH COUNCIL

**Chair:** Peter Veness 0419 626 877  
**Secretary:** Allan Overton 0428 486 462

### ST PETER'S CHURCH, SUTTON

#### Rector's Warden

Peter Cartwright 6230 3202(H)

#### People's Warden

Alan Rope 6238 3224

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, WAMBOIN

#### Rector's Warden

Robyn Robertson 6238 3202 (H)

#### People's Warden

Bronwyn Elliott 6238 3359 (H)

### ST JOHN'S CARE

**Director:** Sue Jordan 6248 7771  
stjohnscare@velocitynet.com.au

### SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

**President:** Diana Body 6295 8732 (H)  
schoolhouse@stjohnscanberra.org

### FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S

**Chairman:** Canon Geoffrey Sibly 6249 1170 (H)

## **SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY** **SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER 2011** **THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD:** **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Isaiah 62.6-12; Psalm 97  
Titus 3.4-8a; Luke 2.8-20

### Preachers

#### **Morning services:**

The Rev'd Paul Black

### Services

**8.00 am Sung Eucharist**

**9.30 am Church Family Eucharist**

**11.15 am Sung Eucharist (BCP)**

**ST PETER'S CHURCH, SUTTON**

**9.00 am Eucharist**

*For information on other Christmas services in the parish, please see enclosed flyer and website.*

Personal information in this newsletter  
is provided for parish use only  
6248 8399  
www.stjohnscanberra.org  
45 Constitution Avenue, Reid  
GPO Box 219 Canberra ACT 2601

## **CHOIR PRACTICE**

**St John's Choir: Thursday at 6.00 pm**  
**St John's Choristers: Thursday at**  
**8.00 pm**