

The CALL of CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER

2016

GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH

Christmas Letter



Over the last week my extended family have started making plans for Christmas. Organising the wider family for Christmas can take quite a deal of negotiation and patience. Last Friday I was sitting in a waiting room when I overheard someone complaining to the receptionist that Christmas music is already playing in the shopping centre. Then last night the television news told me that there are 61 days to Christmas. Of course, as a ministry team we are preparing for Christmas as well.

The ministry team this year have chosen to use the theme “The Call of Christmas” for Advent and for Christmas itself. It is easy for Christmas to become very commercial and a time of indulgence. But this theme has a sense of Calling something out of us – calling for a response on our part because of what Christmas is all about.

What is it that Christmas might require of us? At the heart of Christmas is the celebration of Emmanuel – God with us – God who came among us in a fresh and new way through Jesus. Jesus came among us as an act of love and compassion from God. Jesus was a further sign of God’s commitment to the whole world. Jesus embodied the values of the Kingdom of God. Jesus taught and lived love, compassion, inclusion, justice and peace. Jesus came for people of all ages and races.

We often say that Christmas is a time of giving. One simple way to give is to be generous with our time that we give to others. Jesus, and the Call of Christmas, is a Call to live and embrace the Kingdom values that Jesus lived and taught. Surely this is what it means to be counted as one of Jesus’ friends or followers. The call is to live out our faith on a daily basis. We live out those values among our family and friends, in the midst of our church congregation and in the wider community and world.

As we prepare for Christmas, and as we celebrate Christmas, let us be ready to be touched by God that we might move into the new year filled with hope and joy, and ready to embody our faith in all that we are and in all that we do.

The ministry team thanks you for your support throughout the year and wishes each of you a blessed and meaningful Christmas and much hope and expectation as we move together into 2017.

Prayers for you this Christmas from,
Neil, Alanee and Alison.



GLEN WAVERLEY
UNITING CHURCH

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LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF BOGONG AVENUE AND KINGSWAY, GLEN WAVERLEY

January

There will be one worship service each Sunday at 10am throughout January.



Yuróra 2017 has its roots in the National Christian Youth Convention (NCYC) which began in 1955.

NCYC is a 5-day youth event, which is an ongoing program held by the Uniting Church in Australia. Every two-three years, hundreds of youth between 16 and 25 and their leaders gather to experience Christian community. It was last held in Western Sydney in January 2014, and has previously rotated around Australia's capital cities & regional areas. It is not too late if you'd like to register to join our group for NCYC. Please pray for our young people in January as they travel together to and from NCYC.

Wesley Food for Families

We can respond to the Call of Christmas by donating non perishable food to this appeal so others can also enjoy Christmas and the New Year. Donation boxes can be found in the church foyer.

Empty Christmas Tree

A further way to respond is by donating Christmas gifts for children and adults and placing them under our Empty Christmas Tree in December. We can bring some joy to a struggling family's life.

Dates For Your Diary

27 November

10am - Combined Service

12pm - Christmas lunch

The CALL of CHRISTMAS

28, 29, 30 November

10am-12pm - Hub Children's

Christmas Nativity photos

6 December

7.30pm - Remembrance Service

8 December

10am -12pm - HUB Christmas Morning Tea

11 December

2.30pm - Seniors Carol Service

18 December

11am - Uniting Voices Carol Service

7.30pm - Carols on Kingsway

22 December

2- 4pm - Kids Christmas Event \$5

24 December Christmas Eve

7.30pm - Christmas Celebration

11pm - Come & creatively engage in the story of Christmas

25 December Christmas Day

8.30am - All age celebration of Christmas

10am - All age celebration of Christmas



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