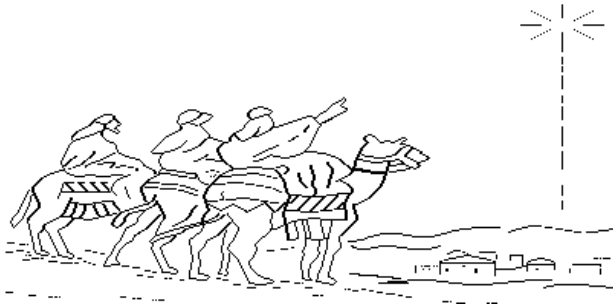


GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH



Advent - Christmas

2010

*Follow the star to the
One True light.*

"I can't believe that it is nearly Christmas again, this year has just flown."

That is a comment I have heard over recent days, one which seems to be more common every year as we lead ever busier lives.

What does a comment like "Christmas again," mean for us, as we celebrate this season year after year. Has it become so familiar to us - the busyness, the parties, the rush, the shopping, cooking and eating - that we are almost glad when it is all over?

For many it is a time of grief, and loneliness, for others it is a season they can't afford. Yet it continues to be one of the most special times of the church year, a time of celebration which is only made possible because of Easter. A looking back at how this special event of the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, was made possible by God.

We are familiar with the birth story told in Matthew's Gospel which tells of a bright star that led those wise three to the One true light, but are often puzzled by the reading from John's Gospel about a man named John witnessing to the light that was to come.

Have you ever felt as though you were being kept in the dark?

It's a popular saying, and it can be upsetting and annoying if you are the one who is being "kept in the dark".

Over 2000 years ago the One who was "the light of the world," came among us.

Our Advent and Christmas theme this year is Follow the Star, and Christmas Alight's theme is "Follow the star to where the real things are." [See details about Christmas Alight on page 2.]

You are like the wise ones who followed the star, you are like John, who witnessed to the light. I had a candle on one of my birthday cakes that my family made for me. Every time I thought I had blown it out, it would light up again. That's the kind of light I am speaking about.

Let that light dawn upon us this Christmas, let that light once again light up the world in all its darkness and not seem as though it is for ever under a bushel. May your experience of Christmas this year be for you as though you were coming out of a dark room needing your eyes to be adjusted to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, a light which allows us this Christmas to celebrate once again the good news of the Gospel that at Christmas the Word became flesh and lived among us.

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This will be my last Christmas with you, and I take this opportunity to say how much of a blessing you have all been to me, I give thanks to God for having been able to minister among you all.

May this Christmas be a blessing to you and may you light up the lives of others as you witness to the one who is the true light to all. May you follow the star to where the real things are.

May this be your prayer this Christmas.

"I see a twinkle in your eye, so this shall be my Christmas star
and I will travel to your heart:
the manger where the real things are.
And I will find a mother there who holds you gently to her breast,
a father to protect your peace, and by these things you shall be blessed.
And you will always be reborn and I will always see the star
and make the journey to your heart:
the manger where the real things are." Amen.



Love and blessings from Ineke
and on behalf of the team
Greg, Alanee, Alison, Debbie, Wendy
I wish you all a very blessed Christmas.

Church Family Christmas Lunch

An invitation to all members of the Church Family, young and old, to a sit down Christmas meal together in the hall.

**Sunday 12th December 2010
12.30pm to 2.00pm**

The meal will consist of chicken (1/4 for adults and 1/8 for children) with potato, vegetables, gravy, dessert, soft drink, tea or coffee.



Bookings are essential as seating is limited.

Registration forms available from the church office - [9560 3580].

Registrations **MUST** be returned to the church office by Sunday 5th December.

Any queries please call 9803 8373

Cost Adults \$10 & Children (Primary School) \$5

CHRISTMAS ALIGHT -Monday 21st & Tuesday 22nd December

10.00am-12.00noon:.....A fun program for preschool and primary children telling the true meaning of Christmas through drama, craft, games and songs.

Tuesday 22nd December will conclude with a BBQ lunch for all the family.

Registration forms available from the Church Office 9560 3580.

More information from Gail Irvine 9801 1030, or Belinda Chung 9802 7263.





*You are warmly invited to share in
Advent and Christmas services
at Glen Waverley Uniting Church*

November 28 Advent One	10.00am	One service only on this date - followed by 'Ready, setChristmas' <i>[see more details on page 5].</i>
November 30	7.30pm	Annual Remembrance Service A service to remember those who are not with us this Christmas. Followed by supper
December 5 Advent Two	11.00am	One morning service only on this date Celebrating the visit of The Moderator Isobel Thomas-Dobson. - Holy Communion <i>[see more details on page 4].</i>
	4.30pm	Worship & Kid's Church - Rev. Greg Fry
	7.00pm	Youth & Young Adults, with The Moderator
December 12 Advent Three	8.00am	Morning Worship-Rev. Ineke Gyles-Holy Communion
	10.00am	'Lessons & Carols' with the Choir, Deo Volente, and Free Spirit - this service will be followed by the Church Christmas Lunch <i>[see details on page 2]</i>
	4.30pm	Worship & Kid's Church - Rev. Ineke Gyles
	7.00pm	Youth & Young Adults
December 19	8.00am	Morning Worship-Ross Mackinnon-Holy Communion
	10.00am	Worship - Rev. Greg Fry
	7.30-9.00pm	All Age Carol Service - Rev. Ineke Gyles
December 24 Christmas Eve	7.00pm	Family Worship - with Debbie Davey
	11.00pm	Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Ineke Gyles
December 25 Christmas Day	8.30am	Family Worship - Rev. Greg Fry
	10.00am	Family Worship - Rev. Ineke Gyles
December 26 Christmas One	10.00am	Morning Worship - Rev. Greg Fry



Please note:

During January there will be only ONE service each Sunday at 10.00am.

Service times from February 1
8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 4.30pm, & 7.00pm



SUNDAY DECEMBER 5 – 11.00am

Advent Two – ‘God is in us’

You are invited to join us for breakfast, morning tea and combined morning worship at 11.00am with the Moderator of the Victorian Synod, Isobel Thomas-Dobson

Breakfast will be available from 8.30am, followed by a morning tea for those who cannot make the early start. This will then give you an opportunity to hear and worship with Isobel.

This is a combined SENIOR'S SERVICE

Celebrating the visit of The Moderator

You are invited to bring a plate of finger food to share for lunch

OUR EMPTY CHRISTMAS TREE will be in the church foyer waiting for your donations of gifts. Toys, toiletries, gifts for teenage boys and girls, etc - all gratefully received. Your gifts will be given to some members of our own church family and also to Orana Family Services for distribution to families in need.

Last year our gift boxes were boosted by the students from Wesley College in High Street Road, who gave so generously.

Please have your donations to the church by December 19th, so that we have time to distribute them before Christmas.



INTRODUCING REV. ROSEMARY CARTER

At the meeting of the Congregation on November 8, one hundred members met and agreed unanimously to invite Rev. Rosemary Carter to join the ministry team at Glen Waverley.

Rosemary will conclude her chaplaincy at Uniting Care Moreland Hall shortly and will begin ministry with us on February 1st, 2011.

Rosemary's husband Rev. David Carter ministers at Glen Iris Uniting Church. They have two adult children.

Rosemary has degrees in Theology and Social Work and is a registered nurse. Rosemary was ordained in 1996, after which she had two team ministry placements in Adelaide, South Australia.



We welcome Rosemary as she joins Greg, Alanee and Alison in team ministry here at Glen Waverley.

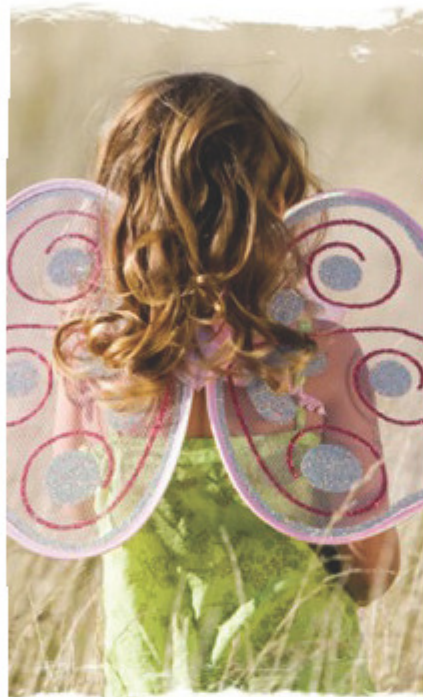
Sunday 28th November 11am-2pm



Ready, Set...Christmas

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

Come along & help us start the Christmas countdown to Christmas!



**Sunday 28th Nov
11am - 2pm**

**AT: Glen Waverley
Uniting Church
Cnr Bogong Ave and
Kingsway Glen
Waverley.**

**FREE:
Sausage sizzle
Tea, coffee, cordial,
cakes
Jumping Castle
Face painting
Games and activities
Live music**



Sausage
sizzle



**Special appearances by A1 & A2 our
Christmas angels.....
Under 5's come dressed as an angel & receive
a special prize!**

For more information Contact

Debbie Davey 0409 798 496

Share Christmas!



GIVE to the Christmas Bowl

Free Call: 1800 025 101 www.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas Bowl is a program of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 64 493 941 795

act for peace

Your donation to the **CHRISTMAS BOWL** can be placed in the offering bowl at any of our Advent and Christmas services, or left at the church office.



RETIREMENT OF REV. INEKE GYLES

The time has come! Our loss is Tom's gain. We will say farewell to Ineke at her final service on January 30th, 2011. This service will be at 10.00am followed by some 'Farewell Fun'.

MEMORY BOOK - as is the tradition at GWUC we will make a memory book for Ineke, and your contribution to this book is welcomed. Please take a page [or 2] from the box on the office counter - and return it to Faye Wagon, Graeme Frecker [or the church office] when completed.

There will be other things happening - watch the Bulletin for further details.

GIFT - We want to recognise and thank Ineke for all that she has given to our church family, and welcome your contribution to a gift for her. Please leave with Faye Wagon, Graeme Frecker, [or the church office].

