



# Light in the

# Hills

*In Christ – growing – caring – sharing*

A publication of the Anglican Parish of Mt Dandenong

December 2010

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Sunday Dec 19<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am St Matthew's  
Sunday School Celebration

**Friday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

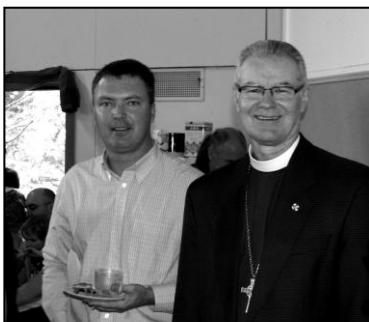
8.00pm St Michael's  
*Carols by Candlelight*  
11.30pm St Michael's  
Holy Communion

**Saturday December 25<sup>th</sup>**

8.30am St Matthew's  
Holy Communion  
10.00am St Michael's  
Holy Communion

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

**One Service Only**  
9.30am St Matthew's



## Commemorating

70 Years since the opening of St Michael & All Angels' Church, Kalorama and the launch of Henry Speagle's updated history of the Parish — *A Light in the Hills*, the Parish was honoured by a visit by Archbishop Freier, who preached at both churches, joined us for a celebration lunch and later spoke at the booklaunch in Farndon's Hall. It was a day of rejoicing and renewing old friendships as many former parishioners returned for the day. The Parish is indebted to Henry, a member of the Parish since 1955, for the scholarly and detailed history he has written.

COPIES OF THE BOOK ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL OR FROM HENRY

### PICTURES:

Top – Archbishop Freier with Stephen Menadue at the luncheon  
Middle – The Archbishop speaking at the booklaunch in Farndon's Hall. Henry Speagle OAM, author of the Parish history "A Light in the Hills" is seated on the stage.  
Bottom – Henry Speagle signing books.

*Celebrating  
25  
Years  
of ordained  
ministry*



Parishioners joined our vicar, Archdeacon Stephen May, his wife Kathryn and daughters Rachel and Kirsty at "The Soda Tree" Montrose, on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November (St Andrew's Day), to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination as a deacon

# HERE & THERE

with *Carolyn Clark*



- After many months of planning, talks and meetings, the “new kitchen and hall refurbishment” at St. Michael’s is about to become a reality. Building materials will be arriving very soon, to be stored in the hall in preparation for the commencement of work in February. Thanks to all those who have made donations towards making this work possible, including several recent ones. We are creeping ever closer to our target.
- As the year draws to a close the term “school holidays” will start to take on some meaning for three of our young people preparing for their first year at school. Jene Barnard and Eden Roberts are off to Mt. Dandenong Primary School and Hamish Fraser commences at Olinda. We wish them well in this big event in their young lives.
- It’s great to have the Bendigo Bank so active in our Community and we congratulate Iain Fraser on his election as a Board Member of the

recently opened new Bendigo Community Bank in Montrose.

Some years ago I came across the following item and I wished I had read it when my children were young. It came to mind recently as I watch today’s parents (including my own children) with young children and I thought others might appreciate it also.

## Children Learn What They Live

- If a child lives with criticism, He learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility, He learns to fight.
- If a child lives with ridicule, He learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with shame, He learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with tolerance, He learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with encouragement, He learns confidence.
- If a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate.
- If a child lives with fairness, He learns justice.
- If a child lives with security, He learns to have faith.
- If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself.
- If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, He learns to find love in the world.

*Author Unknown*



## CRAFT GROUP

The first meeting of the Parish Craft Group took place at St Matthew’s hall on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November. With Hilary Mellis presiding, the seven new members enthusiastically discussed a wide range of craft ideas. A joint project for the Autumn Fair has begun and members are also working on projects of their own, sharing skills where that is appropriate.

It was agreed that we would meet monthly on the second Monday of each month at 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm in St Matthew’s hall, giving mothers time to pick up school children. The next meeting is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30 pm. New members will be warmly welcomed.

*EsmaJob*



## *From the Vicar —* **A Christmas Message**

Once again as the celebration of Christmas draws near we have the debate in our country as to the appropriateness of groups in secular society mentioning the birth of Jesus.



We have teachers in schools mentioning various Christmas celebration traditions but leaving out the story of the birth of Jesus. We have local councils having bland non-specific decorations in the streets and parks, and making decisions about what can or cannot be said at Community Carols events. We have people talking about the meaning and spirit of Christmas and focusing on the spirit of giving; the importance of family; and the spread of goodwill.

People sing carols in various places but think little about the meaning of the words and if they do, place the story in the category of a nice fairy tale.

How wrong it is that Christians cannot publicly celebrate this one, of our two most important festivals. Surely we have a right to speak of the meaning and message of the birth of Jesus. Apart from explaining an important element of our heritage as a nation, it also does give time honoured truths of a God who becomes one of us; of a truly humble king who lives the life of the common person; of the rich bringing gifts to the poor. There is much more to Christmas of course but this is a start.

Let us proudly and openly celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Let us be confident in its truth as an event in history. Let us listen to God through Jesus for this is the Son of God speaking and living. Let us give our celebrations their true meaning.

As we eat at table may we remember that Jesus is with us. As we give and receive gifts may we think about the generosity and sacrifice of God in giving us His Son. As we gather as family let us celebrate that Jesus is a central member of our family.

Finally when Jesus was born, he was in a quiet place with very few other people while the hustle and bustle of the busy town surrounded them. Let us try to find some space and solitude amid the business of our lives to be alone with God to quietly celebrate this time with him

**May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a safe and joyful New Year.**

*Stephen*

## **Muster of the Innocents**



No need to send the soldiers, Herod

There's an easier way  
to do it

Throw a party,  
hang up the Chrissy lights,  
dust off the plastic tree,  
lay on the lollies and lemonade,  
and while you're at it  
feed them some fantasy.

Tell them  
that a fat man can  
slide down a chimney,  
that guns are just toys,  
that they can have what they like,  
that this is all about them, and  
reindeers might fly.

That way

They'll never know  
the heart of it  
the reason for it —

that the least are the greatest,  
the last shall be first,  
that giving beats getting  
loving beats winning,  
that this planet is holy ground  
and every soul sacred.

No need  
to kill the Jesus kid —

Just hide him.

That should do the trick.

*David Connolly*

## **WARDENS & VESTRY for 2011**

At the Parish Annual Meeting in November, the following officeholders were appointed:

### **Wardens**

St. Michael's — Ian Hartley, Carolyn Clark,

St. Matthews — John Roodenburg, Glenys Taylor

### **Vestry members**

St. Michael's — Alan Alexander, Wendy Berry, David Spencer

St. Matthew's — Erika Barnard, Katrina Burge, Janet Rowe



David Winter, former head of Religious Broadcasting for the BBC, thinks back to a certain Christmas past...

## Glory to God in the High Street

Many years ago in north London there was a local Methodist Church which would offer various inspirational messages in illuminated lights to the passers-by on the main road. Their Christmas one, very appropriately, was the song of the angels: 'Glory to God in the highest'.

Unfortunately some inclement weather or a simple technical failure put out one of the lights. Just as appropriately, however, it now read, 'Glory to God in the high st'. An electrical fault, perhaps – but how wonderfully true it was. In fact, nothing could better sum up the deep meaning of Christmas than that splendidly distorted message.

Those same angels told the shepherds in the fields that the 'sign' to identify the special baby to be born that night in Bethlehem would be that they would find him 'lying in a manger'. Well, 'manger' is a fancy word for a simple thing. The truth is that they would find the infant Son of God lying in a feeding trough.

At Bethlehem the Creator entered the Creation. 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us' - and the 'Word', John's Gospel tells us, 'was God'. In Jesus the divine became human. 'In him (Jesus) all the fullness of deity dwells bodily', St Paul tells us (Colossians 2:9). 'Hail the incarnate deity', we sing - but it's hard sometimes to recognise his identity in the bonny baby in the traditional crib scene. It's a pity that the Christmas story can so easily be sentimentalised, because in fact this was the most radical and revolutionary action of God since the creation itself. God, in Jesus his Son, actually came among us - not as a super-being, not even as a fully grown adult, but as a baby.

'You will find the baby lying in a feeding trough.' Exactly. Right where we are, in all the mess and muddle of ordinary life, in the fun and tears, in the feasting and the poverty, the glory of God was seen in a tiny scrap of human flesh. In that helpless baby God showed how far he was prepared to go to bring us back to himself. When God took flesh he did it properly. **GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGH STREET!**

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## REMEMBER how to play?

**This Christmas you have a great opportunity to relearn something you may have forgotten: how to simply play with your children.**

It seems that one in five parents has 'forgotten' how to play with their own children, according to recent research. Constant lack of time and a shortage of inspiration were given as the main reasons. But one in three parents admitted they found playtime 'boring'. Sadly, more than half of the children surveyed said they would like to spend more time playing with their parents.

The survey, commissioned by Disneyland Paris, concluded that play is in dangers of becoming a 'lost art' for British families. Prof Tanya Byron, a clinical psychologist and television presenter, stresses that play is crucial to a child's development, and advises parents to hark back to simple games from their own childhoods such as dressing up, drawing, and 'let's pretend'.

The survey also found there is a generation gap in how to have fun. Children say they want to play computer games on their own, but they also want to play board and outdoor games with their parents.



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### This was the moment

This was the moment when Before  
Turned into After...  
When ... three  
Members of an obscure Persian sect  
Walked haphazard by starlight straight  
Into the kingdom of heaven.

ht in the

by U A Fanthorpe

# OUR "LINK" CMS MISSIONARIES

John and Jill Morshead, visited the Parish in November

**E**ngaged in medical and theological teaching in the coastal city of Dar es Salaam, the large commercial hub of Tanzania, John and Jill are currently on leave.

Dar es Salaam, the largest city in East Africa, is where John, a radiographer who has also completed a BTh at Ridley College, Melbourne, and Jill, a nurse (trained at The Royal Melbourne), teach at the national university hospital called Muhimbili. They also teach within the Theological Faculty at St Mark's Training Centre, a branch of St John's University of Tanzania.

Poverty is an ever present reality, and in the hot, crowded and dusty city of Dar es Salaam, violence and corruption abound. The community is 45% Christian, 45% Muslim plus native religions and Hindus. Most live close to the edge of survival. Jill and John choose to live among the locals where they have made firm friends rather than in the white section of the city – their house is in the Indian sector.

John and Jill are fluent in Swahili, having served as CMS missionaries years ago when their two children were small. After a stint back in Australia for the children's education, they are back serving the African people they love.

## Muhimbili Hospital

At Muhimbili Hospital John teaches Diagnostic Ultrasound. After basic X-ray services, ultrasound is the most suitable diagnostic tool for countries like Tanzania, having the potential to greatly improve obstetric management and the diagnosis of many other common diseases. Aid agencies have distributed a number of ultrasound units throughout Tanzania, but there are few trained operators. John's aim is to set up an accredited postgraduate ultrasound course. He also teaches English to first-year students to better equip them for their studies, as most textbooks are in English.

Jill teaches English Communication Skills within the School of Radiography, including aspects of anatomy,

physiology and medical terminology. She also teaches specialty areas of Hospital Practice.

The hospital has 1400 beds and patients are often two to a bed with relatives nearby to provide food.

Acutely aware of the need for sex education, Jill has introduced this into her teaching as well. Despite the aids epidemic, most students have had no instruction in reproductive health and sexuality, and bizarre traditional beliefs abound. Jill also works to dispel the myths and misunderstandings arising from traditional African medicine and witchcraft. What students learn from Jill will be passed on to many others and educate whole communities of people.

## St Mark's Teaching Centre

At St Mark's, John uses his theological training to teach Systematic Theology, Missiology and English to diploma students. The church has grown very rapidly in Tanzania and there is a pressing need for ongoing theological education.

Jill teaches English Communication Skills, and, as at Muhimbili, has introduced sex education into the curriculum.

The people whom John and Jill are teaching at St Mark's will be leaders in the Tanzanian Church and society of the future. John and Jill seek to use every available opportunity for sharing Christ's love. This is mirrored by a transparent lifestyle and life of service to all their students.

Remember  
them often in  
your prayers!





## A LIGHT to WELCOME

Not long ago all people had at Christmas were decorated trees and a few paper-chains, but now we have wreaths on the front door, outdoor lights in gardens; and coloured lights in our windows.

This custom came to us from Scandinavia. The story is that in the weeks before Christmas, like that first Christmas nearly 2,000 years ago, Mary and Joseph wander the world looking for a place where they will be safe. They look for a welcome light in the window. And that is why we put the lights in our window: to invite the Holy Family into our homes. The lights and candles say that Christ is welcome in our homes, to be born in our hearts and that we invite him to stay with us - not just for Christmas but for all time.



### Christmas present for dad?

December is the month when the children begin to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some insist on a shirt; others a pair of socks — and the agreement always ends in a tie!

### Christmas pudding

BILL: "Can you tell me what are the best things to put into a Christmas pudding?"

WILL: "Well, I should say your teeth, old chap."



### Some tips for your relationships in the year ahead...

- It is what we do with our solitude that makes us fit for company. *CS Lewis*
- Friendship flourishes at the fountain of forgiveness. *William A Ward*
- There is nothing stronger than gentleness.
- Love your neighbour, yet pull not down your hedge. *George Herbert*
- Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our heart rather than a piece of our mind.
- Speak your kind words soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.



## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

What's the expression on an auctioneer's face?  
FOR BIDDING

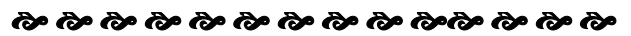
Why is it dangerous to have a nap in a railway carriage?  
BECAUSE THE TRAIN RUNS OVER SLEEPERS

When is longhand quicker than shorthand?  
WHEN IT'S ON A CLOCK.

What do bees do with all their honey?  
THEY CELL IT.

What happens when a horse gets to the bottom of his nose-bag?  
IT'S THE LAST STRAW

When does a sailor take up least room in his ship?  
WHEN HE SLEEPS ON HIS 'WATCH'.



### DECEMBER WORD SEARCH



It's Advent, with Christmas fast approaching...

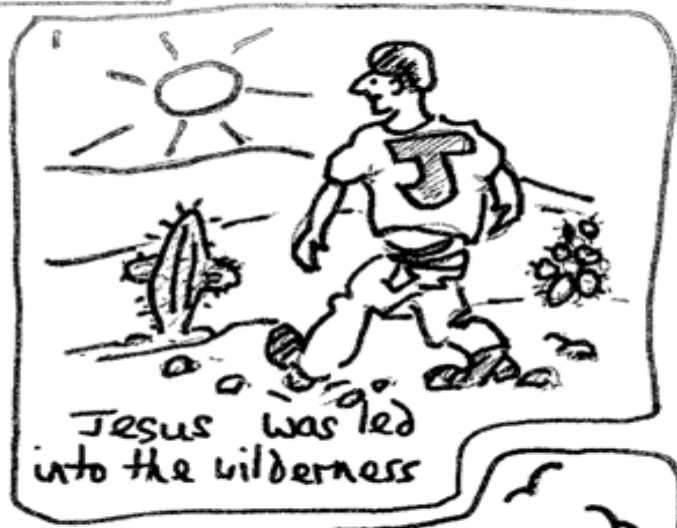
Can you find the following words?

Jesus, Emmanuel, Christmas, Carol, ivy, holly, mistletoe, presents, cards, crackers, tinsel, wrapping, tree, decoration, stocking, nativity, play, excitement, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, baby



# Bible Sketchbook

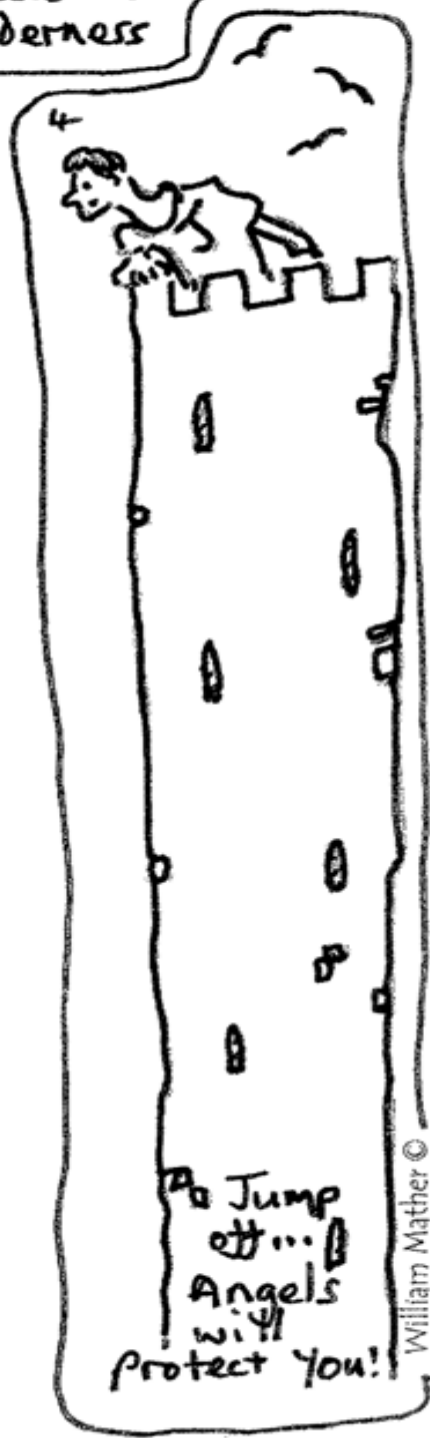
Resist it!!



Led by the Spirit?  
Easy?  
Not for Jesus...  
Into the wilderness...  
A devilish place,  
Tempted, tempted...  
Tempted to feast,  
To seek power,  
To gain huge wealth...  
To jump from a  
Great height...  
"The angels will  
Protect you..."  
The voice said.  
Jesus resisted  
And so must we...  
Temptation  
Is real,  
The devil active.  
But Jesus is  
More powerful...  
Resistance with him  
Gives strength  
And power...



...To bring  
GOOD News to  
the poor!  
LIBERTY to the  
captives!  
SIGHT to the  
blind!  
And ... to SAVE  
his people!



Read more in Luke 4: 1-22 and James 4: 7-10

## The Anglican Parish of Mt Dandenong, Diocese of Melbourne

We meet for Prayer & Praise at

**St Michael & All Angels', Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd., Kalorama**

**Sundays:** 8.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am : 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – Morning Service  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> – Holy Communion

**St Matthew's, Monash Ave., Olinda**

**Sundays:** 9.30am : 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – Morning Service & Sunday School  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays – Holy Communion & Sunday school

**Tuesdays:** 5.30pm – 6.00pm Prayer for the Hills

**Wednesdays:** 10.00am Holy Communion

Vicar: Archdeacon Stephen May, BSc, Dip Ed, Bth. DipMin.

Vicarage: Tel 9728 6353 Mobile 0407468251 E-mail : [sj\\_may3@bigpond.com](mailto:sj_may3@bigpond.com)

Postal Address: PO Box 148, Kalorama 3766

[www.lightinthehills.com](http://www.lightinthehills.com)

*You will be warmly welcomed at any of the following:*

**TABLE TENNIS** in St Michael's Hall, 8.00pm Mondays

**MARMADUKES** - Playgroup for pre-school children, friendship for mums — at St Matthew's Hall 10.00am Tuesdays

**CRAZY WHIST** at St Matthew's Hall – 1.00pm Wednesdays

**BIBLE STUDY HOME GROUP** led by Dick Wallace –7.45pm Thursdays, 1/1502 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Olinda

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** — Wednesdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm at St Michael's, led by Valerie Barras



**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – St Matthew's, 9.30am Sundays

Supervisor: Mrs Yo Heading Tel 9751 1639

Children are welcome at all services



**Light in the Hills** – Contributions welcome

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## Don't struggle in the dark

Have you ever tried to open a door in the dark? You first grope to find the keys in your pocket or purse, and then you fumble around, trying to decide which is the right key for this door. Even once you've found the right key, it is still a struggle – because now you can't find the lock!

The Bible describes the birth of Jesus as a light coming into the world. The prophet Isaiah wrote; 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.' (Isa 9:2) This offers great hope to us all. We don't have to stumble through life in darkness, trying to unlock its mysteries. In John's gospel, Jesus offers to lead us. He is 'the light of the world' (John 8:12).

Sadly, the danger is that we may be too used to living without Jesus, and the guidance he offers. We may

prefer to stumble about and fall, and only ever cope, rather than succeed. It is better by far to see life in the light of Jesus, the light of the world, and to accept his help. We can then, as the old gospel song says, 'walk in the light'.

