



Light in the Hills

In Christ – growing – caring – sharing

A publication of the Anglican Parish of Mt Dandenong December/January 2011/12

The EMPTY Christmas Tree!



The Empty Christmas Tree in St Matthew's porch already has a generous selection of gifts underneath it, supplied by members of the Crazy Whist Group that meets in the hall on Wednesday afternoons.

Please support Anglicare's Christmas Appeal for food and gifts for needy families in the Yarra Ranges area. Your gift could be the one that ensures that a child receives a gift and a family is able to enjoy a special meal on Christmas Day. If each member of our congregation brings a gift and food item, our tree will bring so much joy to many!

Gifts are sought for children of all ages, teenagers and adults and will be delivered to Anglicare in Lilydale on 19th December.

St Michael's: Gifts of food and toys may also be left in St Michael's porch and will be distributed by Monbulk Care Shop. Please be generous in your response!



Our link missionaries, John and Jill Morshead are serving with CMS in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Dar es Salaam is east Africa's largest city, with a population of over 5 million, growing by about 10% annually through migration from rural areas.

John, a radiographer, and Jill, a nurse, both teach at Muhimbili University of Health Sciences and St Mark's Theological College. Their holistic ministry aims to reveal the relevance of Jesus and the gospel.

Please pray for them over the Christmas season as they celebrate the birth of our Lord with the African people they love, but separated from their own family.

Light in the Hills

Celebrating Christmas!

Sunday 18th December

SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION 9.30 am at St Matthew's, followed by a Family BBQ at Ferny Creek Reserve – meat and bread provided



Saturday 24th December:

Carols by Candlelight 8.00 pm in the grounds of St Michael's



11.30 pm St Michael's, Holy Communion

Sunday 25th December:

8.30am St Matthew's, Family Communion

10.00am St Michael's, Holy Communion



HERE & THERE

with *Carolyn Clark*



The shops have been telling us for some time now that Christmas is coming. But as I saw the brightly wrapped gifts for the 'Steps' Christmas Party and Christmas groceries arriving at Church this morning and we entered the season of Advent, there was a real sense of anticipation that indeed Christmas is just around the corner. Thank you all for supporting 'Steps', the Monbulk Care Shop (with groceries) and Lilydale Anglicare (with groceries and toys) so generously and in so doing reaching out to help others. The Care Shop and Anglicare have asked me to pass on their thanks to everyone for the support we give with groceries throughout the whole year, thank you.

No sooner are VCE exams over than those leaving school are looking to the future of work/study options. We wish Gabrielle Hamilton well as she recovers from the rigors of her VCE year and plans for her Architectural studies. At the other end of the scale we extend best wishes to Eamon Laughton, Natasha Rowe, Jamieson Schmidt and Rianne Fraser as they prepare to start Primary School next year. What a joy it is to see the growth in the number of children attending Sunday School at St. Matthew's!

There can be much sadness associated with losing contact with a family member for whatever reason and this had been the case for Lorna and Bruce Clark who 18 years ago

lost touch with a much loved 3 year old Grandson, David. They spoke of him often and through various means tried to find him. But to no avail – until recently when they embraced the new technology of 'Face Book' to find that he also was trying to find them via the same means! There has been much rejoicing and catching up by David with his father, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins and he is looking forward to a real family Christmas and a future with his extended family to love and support him.

I enjoyed this amazing photo illustrating Psalm 91:4 recently. I hope you do too!

"He will cover you with his pinions and under his wings you will find refuge"



th

Draw

Breathe in the quiet purpose of this place;
Through outer stillness seek a calm within.
Here we can find forgiveness and forgive;
Here feel the healing miracle begin.

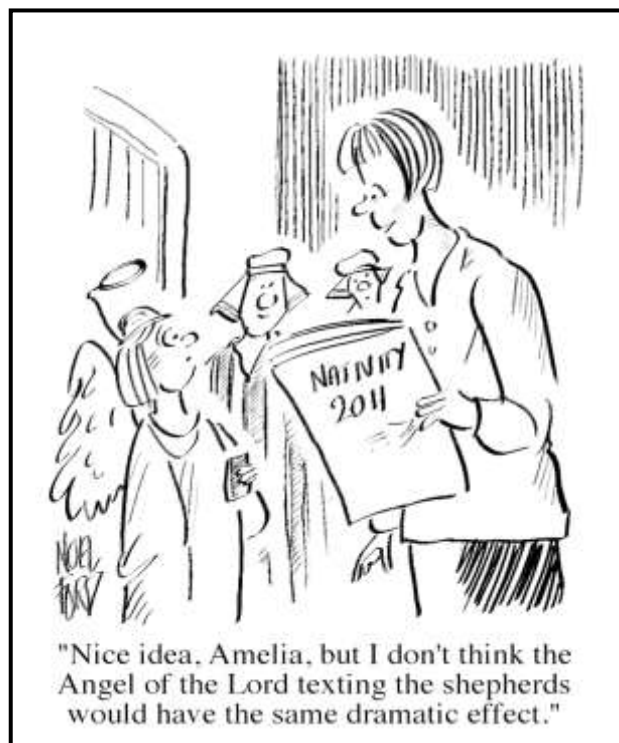
Breathe out the busy world, the teeming mind,
The follies, fears and failures of the week;
Breathe out contention, pettiness and pride,
And wait in trust for 'that of God' to speak.

Breathe in communion, friend with quiet friend,
Each drawing closer in this timeless hour;
As all our different needs and gifts are drawn
To the one source of comfort, love and power.

Breathe out at last, to God, the heart's full thanks
That we have seen this vision, known this grace;
Renewed through love, let us that love extend
Through all our daily life beyond this place.

Geoffrey Weeden

Light in the Hills



From the Vicar

The Rightful King of our lives

Two thousand years ago, a young boy was born in a stable to unmarried parents in a small town in Judah Israel called Bethlehem. There were some star watchers from the east who told the local King (Herod by name), that a new King had been born. The ruler being the tyrant he was, went about systematically killing all the young boys in Bethlehem two years and younger in an attempt to get rid of the rival king.

This year has seen great unrest in the Middle East. One of the great modern world tyrants, Colonel Gadaffi, was overthrown by a rebel army finally tired of his regime which brutalised the ordinary person. In Egypt another unjust leader, Hosni Mubarak, was forced to resign by a persistent peaceful rebellion from primarily young people tired of a government.

Similar stories have occurred in other Middle Eastern countries. It seems those in power never change. In Greece and Italy, leaders have been forced to resign because they have not handled their country's finances well during the Global Financial Crisis.

How easily it is for brutal leaders to rise to power and then create incredible injustice! How wonderful in contrast is the rise of the King Jesus who though he never held any position of political power, is still the one ruler who is worthy of total and utter obedience!

Throughout his life, Jesus showed to the world incredible power that was always yielded for the good of his fellow human beings. He also showed incredible trustworthiness and reliability.

We may doubt the value and credibility of our political leaders, but the child whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas need never be doubted and can be relied upon totally. Christmas never really arrives in the lives of people until King Jesus is allowed to arrive in their hearts as the ruler of their lives.

The joy of Christmas is the joy of knowing He has control of our future, knows what is best for us and will bring it about.

May you all have a safe and Spirit-filled Christmas as you offer your worship to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Stephen



The Cup Day Fair at St Michael's.

Despite indifferent weather, many people turned out to patronise the stalls and enjoy a fun day. As well as providing an enjoyable social occasion, the day netted a profit of over \$12000 for Parish funds. Many thanks to all who worked hard to make it a success,



The Annual Meeting

St Michael's was crowded for the combined service that preceded the Annual Meetings on Sunday 20th November. Churchwardens for the coming year are: **St Michael's:** David Spencer and Alan Alexander. **St Matthew's:** John Roodenburg and Glenys Taylor

Our Vicar, Stephen, outlined major parish achievements of the past year:

- The increase in the number of Bible Study Groups
- The inauguration of a monthly Healing Service
- Our growing relationship with the other churches on the Ridge
- The refurbishment of St Michael's Hall, which is already enhancing parish life.
- Our community involvement, with initiatives such as the Prayer for the Hills Service, praying together for safety in the fire season.

The Community Breakfast

on 26th November took place in the newly refurbished St Michael's Hall. Breakfasters were treated to a cooked breakfast and a lively address by the Rev'd Ken Holt, from St Paul's, Bonaia. Our thanks to all who helped cook and serve the meal.



You have probably noticed this symbol on the front of the Communion Table. It is an **Advent symbol of Jesus** from Rev 1:8 and 22:13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (see also Isaiah 44:6).

The first symbol is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, Alpha, and the second is the last letter of the Greek alphabet, Omega. Not only does this symbolize the One who has come and will come again, it also emphasizes the continuity of God's work throughout history.

BATH SALTS for the BABY *by David Winter*

I suppose in a way you've got to blame those 'Wise Men'. Their gifts to the infant Jesus - gold, frankincense and myrrh - have probably got something to do with the fact that we give gifts at Christmas.

We can't give them to Jesus on his birthday, because even Amazon can't deliver to heaven, so we give them to . . . well, Auntie Jo, grandson Reuben and the nice woman next door who takes in our parcels when we're not there. And then there's the nephews and nieces, the brothers and sisters, friends at church and of course the beloved, who always poses the biggest dilemma. 'In as much as you do it for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you do it for me', said Jesus. But as I look at my presents list it doesn't honestly look like 'the least'. My nephew works for a merchant bank and his annual bonus would probably pay off my mortgage. What do you give to the young man who's got everything?

Which brings me back to those Wise Men, who weren't all that wise, in fact - pedlars of spells and high class fortune tellers, really. But their gifts were clever. What do you give to the child who is 'born king', as they described him (rather unwisely) to Herod? Their answer was gold (because he was royal), frankincense (because he would be our great high priest) and myrrh (because he had been born in order to die). Their gifts

may seem strange at first sight - and must have completely baffled poor Mary and Joseph - but they were absolutely right for the recipient: king and priest and sacrifice, as the carol says. When it comes to getting the presents exactly right, they're top drawer.

Which probably won't help much as we try to fathom out our presents list this Christmas. Do you remember John Betjeman's list of goofy gifts - 'bath salts and inexpensive scent, and hideous tie so kindly meant'? His lines make me wince every time I read them because it sounds exactly like my last minute Christmas shopping.

But his wry list of inappropriate gifts is to be found in a poem about the Nativity. And in it the pathetic presents we buy and wrap up and hand over at Christmas are contrasted with God's greatest gift - 'the Maker of the sky and sea, become a child on earth for me'.



'It isn't the gift - it's the spirit in which it's given', we say. True. True, too, of that greatest gift of all, 'the baby in the manger stall'. And true, too, for the Wise Men, who got their gifts so exactly right. I reckon they'd thought hard and long about them, which suggests a truly wise approach to choosing presents. But on the whole I'd still avoid the myrrh for great-aunt Beryl (or the inexpensive scent).



Opening their treasure chests they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Watch BIKE FOR BIBLES this Christmas *Suzanne Schokman*

It's a story waiting to be told, and Channel Seven has very kindly given us the opportunity on Christmas Day. In a half-hour documentary, viewers will hear about the people, purpose and passion behind Bike for Bibles (BFB). At the outset of filming, I was focussed on the "work", as we filmed the group riding through country NSW. But within two days I had to blink away tears as we filmed them riding together into a small town. BFB is a gem, as much about big hearts as it is about strong muscles. Over 27 years, many thousands of cyclists, road crew, volunteers, supporters and donors have raised \$12million for Bible Society projects worldwide involving literacy, social development, and, most of all, the provision of Bibles. This goal keeps each rider on a bike-seat

for endless kilometres, and has volunteers helping out in every way they can. But it is also a commitment to one another on the ride that makes Bike for Bibles different. Every participant would slow down or stop to encourage a less-experienced rider, and is happy to talk and share a light moment both on and off the bike. Team members describe their time together doing the ride as "a wonderful time of family." On Dec 25th, come share the journey with the riders and crew, as they "bike for Bibles" so that others can get to the "finish line" along with them. See "Bike For



Bibles" on Channel 7, 11.30am on Christmas Day.

Our Assisi trip

by *Garry Barker*

Last May Jenny and I joined a guided tour, the first in our quite long history of overseas travel. It was organised by Mission Travel, which specialises in tours of, for want of better description, a religious nature. Ours was to Assisi by way of Rome, guided by an Anglican Franciscan, Father John Davis, formerly of St Peters Church in Eastern Hill, Melbourne, and now of Wangaratta. He was a wonderful, knowledgeable and caring guide.

Rome was, as always, jammed with tourists, but we had a great local guide, Patrizia, a history teacher from one of the local universities, who combined great knowledge of Roman history with a healthy dose of practicality. For example, we were in one of many churches we visited where the principal relic was "a fragment of the true cross upon which Jesus died." To which Patrizia added "...according to tradition."

Our first day in Rome took us to St Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel and St Mary's Trastevere – on a Wednesday, when the crowds are smaller because on Wednesdays the Pope appears on the balcony of his palace and everyone wants to be there. So they aren't in the Sistine Chapel and the Vatican Museum, where we went!

Day Two took us to the Roman forums, the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain (hideously crowded), the Pantheon and the Spanish Steps. We also visited one of the many catacombs outside Rome; a little eerie but well worth doing.

Our very pleasant hotel was within walking distance of St Peter's and close to the Castel St Angelo, a vast castle commissioned by Hadrian and built between 135 and 139AD, one of Rome's more modern buildings!. Hadrian, who died in 138AD, his wife Sabina and his adopted son, Lucius Aelius, are buried there.

So, about 6 am on Friday May 13, I wandered out to look at Castel St Angelo by morning light and discovered a re-enactment of the Mille Miglia, after LeMans possibly the most famous road race in automotive history.

There assembled was the most extraordinary collection of vintage sports cars, including what I was told was the Bentley Speed Six that won Le Mans in 1929 driven by Woolf Barnato and Henry Birkin. It was but one of half a dozen Bentleys of similar vintage, Mercedes, Alfa Romeos, Amilcars, OMs, Fiats, Bugattis, and many others – several hundred million dollars' worth of vintage cars out for a fun run.



Next day we set off by coach for Assisi, an easy 3 hours along the autostrada, and then spent the afternoon tuning our calf muscles on Assisi's hills, getting our bearings in the lovely town. Next day, mass at St Leonard's, a small church not far from the Papal Basilica of St Francis of Assisi, built over a crypt where St Francis is buried.

St Leonard's is where the Anglican Franciscans domiciled in Assisi hold their weekly services. It's very well organised. After mass everyone crosses the street to a restaurant for a long and convivial lunch; a whole 15 euros, including wine.

For the next week we toured Umbria and a little of Tuscany, visiting Franciscan sites in Rivertorto, Rieti, Poggio Bustone, Greccio, Perugia, Gubbio, Spoleto and the big Franciscan centre at La Verna where we had lunch in a commissary that, we were told, could handle as many as 500 diners at a sitting – spaghetti, roast chicken, vegetables and glasses of good Umbrian red wine. The week ended with mass at St Leonard's, and another great lunch, and lastly Vespers at the church of St Chiara.

All of this was done while we stayed at St Anthony's Guest House, a former convent, run by Franciscan sisters led by Sister Sue, a Canadian nun. It is a bed and breakfast place, very comfortable, very friendly and just the most relaxing place to be in a wonderful town. One of the great pleasures of our visit was wandering down the hill to a little delicatessen about 100 metres from the guesthouse to buy a supper of cheeses, cold meats, antipasto, salads and Umbrian wine (3 euros a bottle!). These goodies we carried back to share in the olive grove that was the back garden of the guesthouse and there we feasted while the sun set across the great plain of Umbria laid out before us. Unforgettable!

The visit over, we left for Rome from where most of the group flew home to Melbourne while Jenny and I took the train through the Brenner Pass to Paris for a week and then the Eurostar train through the Channel Tunnel to England for another couple of weeks where we did what I called our Antiques Roadshow steeplechase – visiting a series of cathedrals, including Ely, Norwich, Lincoln and Chester before spending a couple of nights in Oxford, and then home.

Light in the Hills

Christmas Wordfind



December again! The days are getting longer and brighter, and Christmas decorations are appearing everywhere, and throughout the month anticipation grows: Christmas is coming! December is never dull: there are Christmas cards to write, Christmas presents to be bought and wrapped, Christmas trees to drag home and decorate, Christmas parties to attend, Christmas puddings and cakes to make, Christmas concerts and carols to enjoy. All to celebrate the coming of the most precious gift of all: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah, God's present to us.

Can you find the following words: December, Cold, Cards, Presents, Mistletoe, Trees, Concerts, Carols, Pudding, Cake, Messiah, Manger. Bethlehem, Angels, Shepherds, Birth, Busy, Joyful, Celebrate, Gift, Son, Magi?



Knowing

I know I'm not bossy. I just know what you should be doing.

Short-staffed

Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means? The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

Breakable

There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country... "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

Morning prayer

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," And there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

Gone to Queensland Droving . . .

Chaplains in regional and rural Queensland received a huge show of support and funds from the charity cattle drove, 'Stock up for Hope'. Over 400 cattle were donated by generous cattle producers from around Queensland. Over 26 days, they were herded 215kms on the stock route from Bauhinia to Emerald. The cattle were sold on October 27 to raise \$300,000 for SU Qld school chaplaincy. SU Qld is the largest provider of state school chaplains in Australia, with more than 500 chaplains in over 600 schools. More than 50 "city slickers" from as far as Melbourne joined the drove. John Anderson, former Deputy Prime Minister, participated too. He said, "As a country, we were established on our Judeo-Christian values; chaplaincy leans on that heritage and what it means for us in our values today."



(with acknowledgement to *Eternity*.)

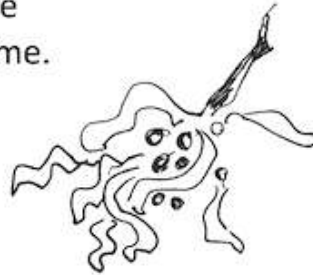
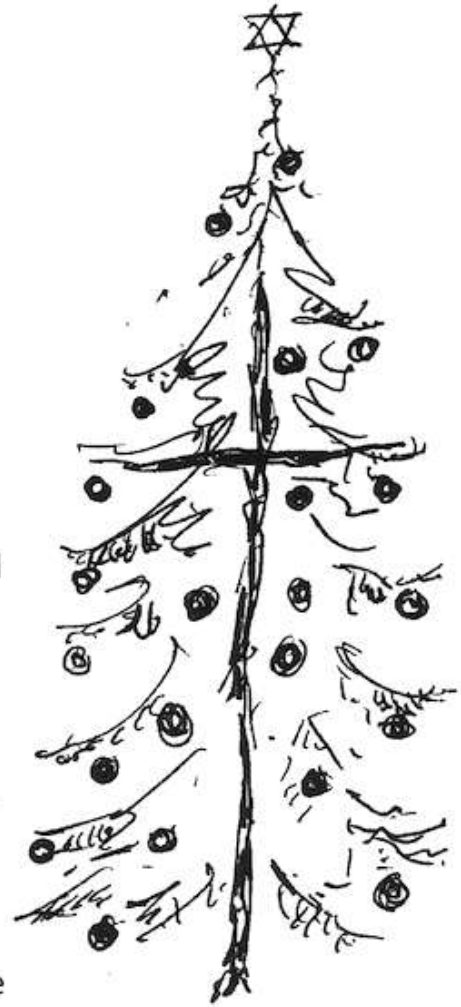
Bible Sketchbook

Precious Symbols



Find out more at church
this Christmas!

Christmas tree
Symbol of Jesus,
Dying on that
Glorious Cross.
So celebrate with
Bright lights, tinsel
And living colour.
A crown of holly,
Sharp thorns,
Victory wreath,
Berries blood-red.
Presents from
His death
And life.
Gifted in mistletoe
Forgiving love
For you, for me.



William Mather ©

★ Christmas Poem

Some people think that
Christmas time is
gifts and grub and booze
but the best bit is
that Jesus came —
Gods son in human shoes
(From the Youth Group,
St Peter's, Littleover, Derby)

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF MT DANDENONG, Diocese of Melbourne

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

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

Healing Service: 1st Sunday of the month at 6.00pm

St Matthew's, Monash Ave., Olinda

Sundays: 9.30am : 1st Sunday of the month – Morning Service & Sunday School
2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th 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

Postal Address: PO Box 148, Kalorama 3766

www.lightinthehills.com

Children are welcome at all services



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



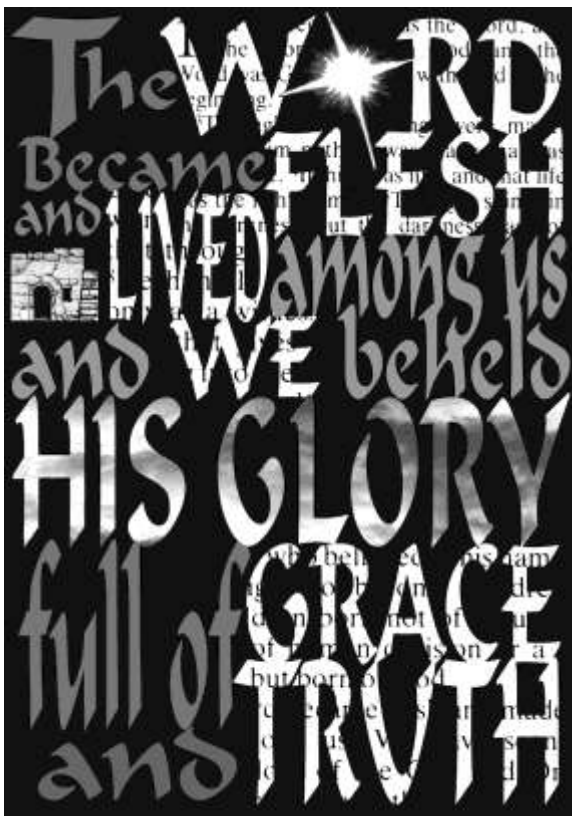
SUNDAY SCHOOL – St Matthew's, 9.30am Sundays

Supervisor: Mrs Yo Heading Tel 9751 1639

Children are welcome at all services

Light in the Hills – Contributions welcome

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“The Maker of the sky and sea, become a child on earth for me.”