

Alstonville Anglicans

Sharing the Good Life

2nd December 2018

First Sunday of Advent

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land, on which we worship, work and meet, the Bundjalung people. We recognize the significant role the past and future Elders play in the life of the region. We are mindful that within and without the beautiful sandstone church, the Land always was and always will be Aboriginal Land.



Advent

Today marks the beginning of the Church's year, so happy new year everyone. The change is marked ritually with the colour changing from green to purple. Advent is similar to Lent in that it asks us to move into a time of reflection, emptiness and inner withdrawal. This withdrawal is also

assisted by our liturgy which removes flowers, removes the Gloria and if there are hymns they move into the minor key. We notice of course that the church's rhythm is different to that of the world we live in; while we are meant to be demure with slow music in the minor key and no decorations in our church; we are bombarded with Boney M and "Mary's Boy Child" every time we enter the stores.

As with Lent it is certainly helpful to take on some spiritual disciplines that help us to "watch and pray," that help us be "alert" (to use the words of the Gospel). A spiritual discipline is anything that will help us withdraw, help us reflect and pray, help us be awake: the spiritual disciplines open us to the influence of God's Spirit in our lives.

**Please note a hearing loop is installed on the right hand side of St Barts.
Please turn off your mobile phone during worship. Toilets are located in the front of the Hall.
First Aid Kits are located in the Church & the Hall.**

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-38

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." ³⁷ Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. ³⁸ And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

Annual Reports

Annual reports are due before Christmas. Please email reports to the parish office: office@alstonvilleanglicanchurch.org.au

"The Coming of the Light"

Saturday 8th December, 6-8pm at St. Bartholomew's Church. A special occasion to celebrate Advent. BBQ meal, desserts by Mothers Union (Ministry Centre), followed by "Three Lessons and Carols" in our Church, with a "Light Surprise". Families and friends are invited. Transport by arrangement. Please RSVP by 5th December, for catering purposes.



Bible Readings

2nd Dec	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Luke 21:25-38	
9th Dec	Malachi 3:1-4	Philippians 1:1-11	Luke 3:1-6

Farewell Gail Hagon

Celebrations of the ministry of Gail Hagon will take place 8th December 10.00am-1.00pm St Mary's, Ballina, 15th December 10.00am-12.00pm St John's, Coffs Harbour and 14th December 4.00pm service Christ Church Cathedral Grafton. Bring and share finger food. For more information contact Maree 02 66 42122 / pa@graftondiocese.org.au

Christmas Hampers

The Mental Health Support Group is once again providing provisions to make up Christmas Hampers for needy mental health clients. We are appealing for groceries and Christmas treats. If you are able to help please put your donation in the basket that is placed at the entrance to church.



Contemplative Church—Thursdays@6pm

A meditative service that energises and refreshes you for life.
This week Eucharist.

St Peter & St Paul's

The 2nd week in Advent 10.00am at St Peter & St Paul's Tregear, Rev John Kidson speaks and Michael Ward shares in conversation and music. Festive morning tea under the tree to follow.

Christmas on the Plateau

A free, fun celebration of Christmas for young and old is on at Elizabeth Brown Park Friday 14th December from 4pm-8pm. Children's activities, BBQ, Carols and more. Sponsored by The Churches on the Plateau. Volunteers are needed for the BBQ, setting up and cleaning up. Phone Paul Earner on 0416280140.

Sunday@6pm—2nd December

Asking questions, seeking answers. Join us Sunday@6 pm. Come for a cuppa and fellowship at 5.30pm. Everyone welcome!

Baptism

Please pray for our Baptism Families:

The Green Family, Ella and Harrison were baptised Sunday 4th November,
Catherine Ryan who was baptised Sunday 18th November,

The Beavis Family, Anna will be baptised 1st December

The Lusk Family, Amelia and Joshua will be baptised Sunday 9th December,

The Ainsworth Family, George will be baptised Sunday 23rd December

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers	all the baptised!	
Rector	The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman	0402 764 969
	rector@alstonvilleanglicanchurch.org.au	
Associate	The Reverend John Kidson	0411 394 213
	The Reverend Geoff Vidal	0447 645 456
Parish Office:	The Ministry Centre, 8 The Avenue, Alstonville	
Telephone:	6628 0231	
Postal:	PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477	
e-mail:	office@alstonvilleanglicanchurch.org.au	
website:	www.alstonvilleanglicanchurch.org.au	

The Anglican Op Shop 1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777

We give thanks to God for those who contribute to sharing the good life through this church electronically. **ESB: 705 077 / Acc: 40130**

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday	3rd Dec	10.00am	Life Group (in recess)
		1.00pm	Sew Helpful
Tuesday	4th Dec	12.00pm	LinC Luncheon
		1.30pm	Life Group at Carol Stone's home
		6.00pm	Life Group with Rev Desiree
Wednesday	5th Dec	9.00am	Meditation Group, St Bart's
		3.30pm	Property Committee Meeting
Thursday	6th Dec	9.30am	Play Place
		3.30pm	Op Shop Meeting
		6.00pm	Contemplative Church, St Bart's
Friday	7th Dec	10:00am	Holy Communion, St Bart's
		2.00pm	Choir, St Bart's
		3.00pm	MU setting up in church
Saturday	8th Dec	6.00pm	Coming of the Light
Sunday	9th Dec	8.00am	Holy Communion, St Barts
		10.00am	Holy Communion, St Peter & St Paul's
		5.30pm	Cuppa then Sunday@6, St Barts

Rosters—Sunday 9th December

Thank you to all volunteers assisting with Worship (2nd Sunday team).

Person in Charge: Carol Vidal **Worship Leader:** Barbara Fewtrell

Music: Ros Sharp **Cleaning:** Barry & Barb Campey **Sound:** Shane McBurney

Flowers: Nancy West, Joyce Shepherd, Jane Cooke