

Alstonville Anglicans

Sharing the Good Life

9th December 2018

Second 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.



Perhaps some images of Advent will guide us into its meaning. Images that are helpful are lessons from nature; how seeds grow in dirt and darkness, hidden from the sun's light. Another image is of a child growing in its mother's womb, hidden, mysterious, uncertain, but growing to maturity in darkness.

Similarly Advent is a time of darkness for us; we are set free to embrace doubt and questions. In fact doubt is often a sign of spiritual growth: the more faith the more doubt. In advent we embrace darkness, doubt and questioning. As a child grows in the darkness of the womb, so too does our faith grow in darkness, in doubt, in questioning, in waiting. So much of our faith is about being "full" and so much of our spirituality is about having answers. Some expect their faith to make their life full: full of happiness, full of answers. The Creed for example is too direct, too exact, too correct, too forceful, too right. We expect of ourselves to constantly be on a spiritual high, to always feel the immediate presence of God, to always have peace and joy. In contrast Advent asks us for "emptiness." Advent asks us to be comfortable with our questions and our doubt and wants us to realise that doubt is the other side of faith. Advent is about owning the shadows, not turning our backs on them and trusting that they will eventually lead us to God, albeit by another road.

**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 3:1-6

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"



Christmas Service Times

Sunday 23rd December

Advent 4 Holy Communion 8.00am, St Bartholomew's

Sunday @ 6 St Bartholomew's

Carols Service 6.00pm, St Peter & St Paul's, Tregagle

Monday 24th December;

Family Service 5.00pm, Carols 11.00pm followed by

Holy Communion 11.30pm, St Bartholomew's

Tuesday 25th December

Holy Communion 9.00am, St Bartholomew's

Please note there will be no Friday Service 28th December.



"The Coming of the Light"

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this event possible.

Bible Readings

9th Dec

Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1:1-11

Luke 3:1-6

16th Dec

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Farewell Gail Hagon

Celebrations of the ministry of Gail Hagon will take place 8th December 10.00am-1.00pm St Mary's, Ballina, and 14th December 4.00pm service Christ Church Cathedral Grafton. Bring and share finger food. For more information contact Maree 02 66 42 122 / 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 Taize.

Sunday@6pm—9th December

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

Thank You

Heartfelt House and BCA have written to thank us for our contributions throughout the year. Please see copies at the front of the church.

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.

Lawn Mowing

Copies of the 2018/2019 lawn mowing roster are now available. We have 7 teams of mowers. 3 more helpers would complete our roster. Thank you. Barry Campey 66283089

Baptism

Please pray for our Baptism Families:

The Beavis Family, Anna was baptised 1st December

The Lusk Family, Amelia and Joshua will be baptised today 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	10th Dec	10.00am	Life Group (in recess)
		1.00pm	Sew Help ful
Tuesday	11th Dec	1.30pm	Life Group at Carol Stone's home
		6.00pm	Life Group with Rev Desiree
Wednesday	12th Dec	9.00am	Meditation Group, St Bart's
		6.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday	13th Dec	6:00pm	Contemplative Church, St Bart's
Friday	14th Dec	10:00am	Holy Communion, St Bart's
		2.00pm	Choir, St Bart's
Sunday	16th Dec	8.00am	Holy Communion, St Barts
		5.30pm	Cuppa then Sunday@6, St Barts

Annual Reports

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

Rosters—Sunday 16th December

Thank you to all volunteers assisting with Worship (3rd Sunday team).

Person in Charge: Carol Vidal **Worship Leader:** Iris Cowie

Music: Choir **Cleaning:** Robin Delaney **Sound:** Mark Stuckey

Flowers: Gerri White, Sheila Hobbs, Narelle Smee