



Advent 2014

## From Your Vicar

Several years ago a friend showed me a catalogue from a USA Church supplier. If it opens and shuts and has flashing lights it was to be found within the pages of this catalogue! However, one of the most amazing items for sale, in genuine plastic, was an image of a rotund, jovial Father Christmas kneeling by the crib of the Christ Child and, you wouldn't guess it, but it was a music box!! You may be amazed at the symbolic confusion of commercialism and piety but, you have to admit, it is a real attempt to serve God and Mammon in a way never envisaged by the writers of the Gospels.

Of course, we may laugh at such bad taste and yet it is symbolic of how we keep Christmas. We are caught up in the world's most materialistic civilisation to date – it's a part of our culture and way of life. However as much we wish to focus on the true understanding of Christmas we cannot be divorced from the world around us that is caught up in festive, tinsel dressed, consumerism. So for us, who call ourselves Christian, we need to be absolutely sure of our faith and what it is that we are indeed celebrating. The "safe" way to keep Christmas is to focus just on Baby Jesus, that will tug a sentimental cord somewhere in each of us and give us a "nice" semi-religious feeling. It is also what the commercial world like to focus on because, surely, no one would be offended at a baby? Each of us has a nostalgia about our lost childhood and infancy, and so it is interesting to note that the Early Church celebrated

not just the fact that a Child was born, but rather, that God has become one with us and for us FOREVER. Yes, he was born once in history, but is still with us and works through us, so that the reign his birth inaugurated may spread and continue to spread.

Christmas is the reign of God revealed and disclosed in Jesus. It came as a gift to be shared (our Christmas gifts are a symbol of this) – and this fragile world is to know and experience this through our faith and love, because Christ has been born in our hearts as our Lord and Master. Christmas is not about our nostalgia over our lost childhood and infancy. It is the truth that we have been bonded to the Kingdom of Heaven in and through the God who became a human being; Jesus Son of Mary and Son of God.

Jesus is the Father's present to you – but it is a present that needs to be received and opened – and when we do that - by goodness, we do really have something to celebrate.

May Christ bless you this Christmas with His presence in your life.

### ALLELUIA! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

We use this word frequently in our Eucharistic worship, but do we know what is meant by it?

Alleluia is the usual way we spell this word, however hallelujah is another spelling which is more helpful in explaining its meaning as it shows it is a composite word; Hallelu-ah. "Hallelu" is a command, an imperative, "praise (ye)" to which is added the Divine name, revealed to Moses, "Jah", or as it is more correctly

spelt these days YAH. So in modern English we would say "You, praise the Lord."

We know from the Book of Psalms that it was phrase used in the Temple worship as an ecstatic shout of praise by the people in recognition of the Lord's presence with his people. It is also believed to have been used as a cry of victory as the Ark of the Covenant was carried into the army camp before a battle. Again this is a shout of confidence that the Lord is with his people.

The Christian Church of the East used Alleluia in its worship since the early days in connection with the reading of the Gospels. This was witnessed by Saint Jerome, the great Biblical scholar of the early Church, when he was in the Holy Land. It was he who encouraged the Bishop of Rome, Damasus (366-84) to include it in the Eucharistic services of the Western Church.

Today, we too use this ancient word when the Gospel Book is carried to be read amongst the people. For us the Words of Jesus, contained in the Gospel Book, is the Ark of the New Covenant for God's Christian people. It is when the People of God are gathered to hear the Words of Jesus, in the way he asked us to be together, that WE KNOW that he is with us again and, therefore we greet him directly, Alleluia, alleluia.

With every blessing for the Season of Christmas,

Rev'd Dianne Sharrock

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*Acknowledgment and thank you to Rowena, Graeme, Fran... for the centre pages photos.*

Any suggestions and feedback to [helenedur@netspace.net.au](mailto:helenedur@netspace.net.au)

### From the Registers:

#### Burials:

- 14.07.14 Agnes Berta Cusden  
15.09.14 Joan Sybil Robertson  
12.09.14 Doris Alice Wallis  
07.10.14 Rimi Tyrone Lyndon Williams  
14.10.14 Allan Faulkener

#### Baptisms:

- 09.02.14 Daniel Walter Lloyd Kanagalingam  
23.03.14 Zane Trevor Bell  
06.07.14 Samuel Kenneth Fregon  
24.08.14 Mason Joseph Lamb  
31.08.14 Mackenzie Ellen Johnson



**Ever considered making a bequest to the Parish in your Will? Need more details, then please speak to one of the Wardens.**

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

### CAROL SERVICE

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

5:30 pm

### CHRISTMAS EVE

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 5:30 pm Contemporary Eucharist (Children's Participation)  
11:00 pm Midnight Mass

### CHRISTMAS DAY

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 7:45 am Holy Communion (BCP: Traditional)  
9:00 am Sung Eucharist

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 7:45 am Holy Communion (BCP: Traditional)  
9:00 am Sung Eucharist

(There will be no 10.30am Service on this Sunday)



# Ladies Guild

The Guild meets on every second Thursday of the month from February to November, at 2 pm in the Parish Centre. Every one is most welcome.

As this is the last Parish News for 2014 I would like to thank Marj Collas, Secretary, Di Scrivener, Treasurer and Nima Flora, Assistant Treasurer for their fine work during the year.

Thanks also go to all of the Parishioners who assisted us with the Opportunity Shop either by helping staff the shop or by donating goods for sale.

Our next week at the Opportunity Shop is 13-17 April 2015.

The Guild also wishes to thank everyone who supported our Morning Tea when Frank Cresia from Waverley Industries Ltd spoke on the opportunities provided by this organisation for those with disabilities to gain employment.

Funds raised at this year's special May afternoon tea were forwarded to the Cancer Council.

Guest speakers at our meetings this year also included the Reverend Dianne, Jane Scoble and the Reverend Dr. Sharne. Their most interesting talks were very much appreciated.

Early notice is given for our 2015 Morning Tea. This will be held at 10.00 am on May 19 in the Parish Centre. Sue Schofield from the Orangutan Project will speak about orangutans and their conservation.

Monies given to the Guild by the family of the late Nance Johnson were used to purchase a communion set for home and hospital use.

It has on it "In Loving Memory of Nance Johnson 12.3.1927-8.7.2013 from St Stephen & St Mary's Ladies Guild. A tireless worker for the Parish".

The Guild wishes all Parishioners a Blessed Festive Season and a Happy and Safe 2015.

Janice Miller.

## An Accidental Lance Corporal

Michael Mosley's latest short story can now be viewed on the parish's website.

"I was an accidental lance corporal; accidentally promoted and accident prone by nature", is the opening line of a story recounting some of Michael's service in Vietnam and at times his less than glorious experiences as a non-commissioned officer.



The story illustrates that ordinary people can do ordinary things given the wrong circumstances but then that can pretty much be said about life in the army!

Michael Mosley

## The Star Sign

Sages soaked in ancient wisdom  
Spinning in rhythm with the  
universe  
Stopped  
At the sign of an eastern star  
Pondering its mystery.

The wisest trusted its meaning  
And leaving worn thresholds  
Journeyed through distant lands  
Following the star sign  
Until with joy they worshipped.

A lone child stands pondering  
the great southern night sky  
on the threshold  
of a house with a car in the garage.  
Seeking a sign she asks,

"If you are real  
make *that* star disappear".

Deep time inhaled and held  
stopped  
Suspended  
on the watched star.  
That she didn't see.

The child saw and believed  
and leaving with joy  
journeyed through many lands,  
following the sign in the star  
that she didn't see.

The longer she travelled  
The greater the mystery  
in the star sign.  
That still leads seekers  
to joy and worship.

Christine Mallouhi



## Kokoda Gym

In the Kokoda Gym at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, there is a Remembrance bell.

The bell is rung for a minute's silence, in remembrance of a gym member who has died or for a serviceman or servicewoman who is killed on active service or who dies from wounds received on active service.

We recently held a minute's silence for a gym member who had died and in the silence of that minute the following reflection formed in my mind:

## Journey to the Sacred

Place ... blessings and travel on  
soft soles of wonder

I made pilgrimage to my favourite sacred place at least 1000 times and yet when I arrive it never appears the same. I usually begin by walking there as it's inaccessible by plane, boat or car. The best arrival generally happens by simply falling down into it, but even then there is no assurance that I will land where I expected. Actually the best is one where I give up following any plan or map and allow the wind to blow me where she wants. There is one guarantee; there will be no crowds of tourists noisily elbowing for space. I am the single pilgrim on my path, but I know that I am not alone. Sometimes I am poignantly aware of the Other Companion somewhere near me, other times Presence carries me high on joy waves or deep in dense stillness or floats on the dark waters of a deceptively still lake. There are also the disappointing trips where after a long climb haze clouds any sight, or when I simply can't stop

### "IN REMEMBRANCE OF A LIFE"

The Remembrance bell tolls its poignant ode to the hearts of the Returned, for a minute's silence of a life now departed.

As the bell's lament retreats into silence a transcendent life, no longer captive to the ravages of time, is fused for a moment to the fabric of memory; a tactile fabric, an infinite shroud.

A life embraced from the arousal of memories embedded long ago; memories echoing, intruding into present clarity, raw, melancholy, light hearted, resting upon heavy hearts.

A soliloquy of memories grounded, in contours of mellow terrains earthed, in the homily of the fallen pondered, in the ebbing to their wistful dusk.

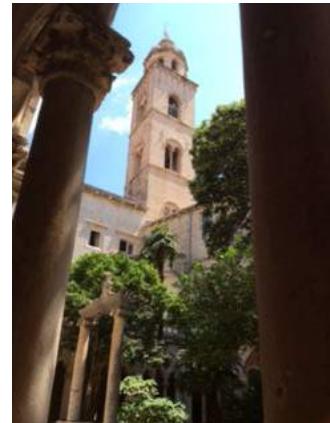
A life formed anew in a discourse of memories; a life everlasting in the harmony of Spirit.

Michael Mosley

Sacred Places  
Visited by Marg and Geoff Taylor on  
their recent overseas trip.



On Santorini... A Greek Island



Dominican Monastery in  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

Christine Mallouhi

# Mothers' Union

Looking back at history of our church Mothers' Union, I would like to share with you a little history of the church. When I was going over old papers I found while moving to our new address, papers I wrote in 1985!

We had Caritas, which was the young mothers... part of Mothers' Union, and we met once a month in member's homes. Previously known as the "Young Wives group" we had a name change back in the Rev'd St John Edwards' time.

I once read that nature in her beauty often brings people together, who would otherwise have nothing in common. I would like to rephrase that and say Caritas (part of MU) in its beauty brings people together and they share times of encouragement, fellowship, prayer, worship and service.

We shared the joys of motherhood, the blessings of marriage and births. It was important to share these things, as we supported each other in our daily lives.

If anyone was sick or a new baby came into the family Caritas girls were there with a casserole and sweets for as long as it was required.

The Old Church building may have been built with clay bricks but the new St Stephen's building was built with people caring for each other.

The first St Stephen's church was built in 1865 with much love and sweat with handmade bricks on the land given by Mr Shaw. I'm sure the Architects chose the best position on Mr Shaw's land.

We the people have since built a new and larger Church; this is the building we worship in today. It is only a building; we the people make the family of God.

When we look at St Stephen's it is made up of many buildings, all dedicated on different dates...To me this has shown growth and the need for expansion to once again serve the people. Some of us today can identify ourselves with these buildings.

Ten years past we have now become the Parish of St Stephen and St Mary welcoming our friends from St Mary's Chadstone and new members to Mothers' Union. It was heart breaking at the time to see their church closed, but we at St Stephen's have grown in love and worship with our friends. As I said before we the people are God's church and we worship in the house of God. For our friends it was a new beginning a new birth, a new identity as one together in the love of God.

Mothers' Union is a worldwide fellowship of Christians united to prayer, worship and service. We don't just belong to one branch or even a diocese we belong to a fellowship worldwide. We may worship in different ways but we are united as one in Jesus Christ.

## The Prayer of St Francis of Assisi.

*"Most high and glorious God  
Enlighten the darkness of our hearts  
and give us a true faith,  
a certain hope and perfect love.  
Give us a sense of the divine,  
And a knowledge of yourself.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen."*

and the...

## Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen



MU's Special Afternoon Tea in July  
to raise money for the  
Ethiopian Literacy Program

Speaker:  
Anna Burke, MP,  
who gave a 'non-political'  
reflection on her time as Speaker in  
the House of Representatives.



Afternoon Tea  
in the Parish Centre



Gloria with the group from MU  
enjoying "Christmas Lunch"...  
this year at the Wantirna Club in Wantirna.

# *The Gathered Community*

This year was the St Stephen's Patronal Festival with Rev'd Pirial Clift from the Anglican Franciscan Monastery of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Stroud NSW. Rev'd Piirial preached and held Three evening meditation sessions titled "Here I am Lord" - The Way of Prayer.



Old friends meet with Chris Oliver visiting from WA. He is the son of the first Vicar of the new Church (the late Rev'd Charles Loddiges Oliver -1961-69) He was responsible for the design of the Church... Also another photo with Chris' wife Jan Oliver



# *The Jazz Mass with Bishop Darling... her final visit before retiring*



*All Saints' Day at the  
CE Service*



Children's Talk



Recent Baptism



Rev'd Stewart

*Parish Dinner*



Helen—Convenor...  
an amazing job!



# On board the Indian-Pacific Train



Monday 22 September 2014

In the pre-dawn light the Indian-Pacific train is snaking its way across a vast landscape of red sand, low shrubby trees and grey saltbush, somewhere between Tarcoola and Wynbring, according to the schedule. It is dark outside with a mere smudge of red light in the east. Then in the time it takes me to negotiate the wavy corridor of our carriage and make a cup of tea, the sun rises, and each bush and blade of grass is touched by the sun, glowing in the thin morning light. Mostly the Nullarbor is flat and some would say featureless, especially on the long 478 km straight stretch of track (the longest in the world!) The gathering clouds for a coming thunder storm are spectacular, but there are subtle variations in the landscape too. Occasionally some eucalyptus stand tall where rainfall has been better, some areas are stonier and sometimes the grey saltbush carpets the red earth and few spring wild flowers change the colour palette. It is however, still a plain and we don't see any elevated land until we reach Kalgoorlie. Low saltbush and thin grasses fade into infinity on both sides of the train, shivering a little as we flash by at 110kph.

Through the window, I have a long, long meditation on the landscape and the endless, emptiness of the plain. Then suddenly we arrive at Cook, a tiny settlement with a permanent population of 4 people. Once a thriving fettler's base with a school and hospital and a population of over 200, it now sits empty as its history crumbles around it. Once there was a police presence here with two battered cells made of corrugated iron and a decidedly unhygienic bush toilet. I wonder how prisoners survived in the 50°C summer heat or how they had the energy or opportunity to commit crimes? In this desolate place winds at 140kph, toss the flowering gums and spindly wattle and bend any plant over a metre high into submission. Who would chose to live in Cook where apart from the wind, only the passing of the passenger and freight trains stir the emptiness? Once

as a student teacher I identified Cook on a map just in case I was unfortunate enough to be sent there. It is in the middle of nowhere, on the Nullarbor Plain. This is the world's



largest piece of limestone at 200,000 km. sq. and 1200 km at its widest point.

Viewed from space the Nullarbor looks like a pale bite out of the Australian continent, just above the Great Australian Bight, that great curve of ocean that edges the continent. I am including the amazing image taken from space found on Wikipedia.



(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

As we pass into Western Australia, with scarcely a bump at the border, the grey-green vegetation sprinkled with chunks of limestone, does not change. I assume that the explorers, such as Edward John Eyre, and his Aboriginal guide Wylie crossed the Nullarbor plain, further south closer to the sea, since in such a landscape with little physical variety, getting lost would be too easy. As the train stops in the middle of nowhere or so it seems, everything is still and silent and restful. No T.V., phones or even wifi, only the endless plain. Then the Sydney destination train passes our train on this short section of double track... a rattle and a shake and then we are on our way again. At Kalgoorlie, most passengers disembark to take a night time tour of the town and its mining industry, but I stay on board where it is warmer. Our single cabins are compact and with the bed down, there is space equivalent to the reduced Age newspaper to stand on whilst changing. It is somewhat challenging! The bed however, is comfortable and watching the scenery is quite restful. The long hours on the train provide time to read, to talk and to sleep. I have been reading Robyn Davidson's *Tracks* about her epic trek with camels from Alice Springs to the Western

Australian coast. I am beginning to understand her fascination and ambivalence about the desert. Through the train window, the Nullarbor Plain holds my attention for hundreds of kilometres.

Tuesday

I awake after sunrise, having slept through Kalgoorlie and as the train rattles through farming land, vast fields of monochrome grain replace the vegetation of the Nullarbor. We whizz past beige country towns, sleeping besides the railway line and slow down for the red winking lights of the railway crossings. We are on the edge of civilisation. But some remnants of the sandy scrubby landscape survive, with here and there, pools of rain water holding down the sand. This is not rich farming country, but land hard won from the desert. Then we slow down so we will not miss Norseman. This town revives a memory of a long ago trip to Perth on the old East-West Train, the "grandfather" of the current train. We returned to Adelaide by bus, because the train was fully booked. In the middle of the night, just out of Norseman, the bus hit a herd of camels, which had wandered south to find food in the drought.



After the injured animals were shot and I imagine the police were called, the bus limped back across the freezing cold Nullarbor with a shattered windscreen. It was a very slow and long trip and by the time we arrived in Adelaide, we were heartily sick of the Nullarbor. But this time, we pass through this town and following the Avon Valley we head for Perth and the end of our partial crossing of the continent. So through a glass darkly, we have seen one of the challenging wonders of Australia, in air-conditioned comfort. The excitement is in the journey, not the destination.

IDC

## CMS Steve and Jenny Sonneman serving in Pakistan through Theological Training

**ZBS Sunday** Recently ZBS launched a new "ZBS Sunday" program. From now on, every Sunday will be ZBS Sunday! Our Principal, Rev'd Ashkenaz, and student supervisor, Mr Shaheen, have developed a terrific timetable for groups of students to visit three churches each Sunday. So, each of the students at ZBS gets a turn at visiting a church in Rawalpindi, Islamabad or the surrounding villages, to share about ZBS. The churches are from many different denominations, and some are large city churches, while many are small house churches in the slums. The students will be in groups of four, and will share a testimony, introduce the

Seminary to the congregation and teach them the ZBS song. We have made colourful banners and flyers to tell people what ZBS is, and to encourage them to become a "friend of ZBS", by praying and giving money. Also, as the students visit the churches they can chat to people who may be interested in studying the Bible and learning ministry skills.

We hope and pray that many people will be encouraged by the work of ZBS and get involved in its vision to serve and bless Pakistan. This last Sunday was the first one, and the students were ready - each wore a sash saying, "I love ZBS".

It was perhaps the worst day to begin, as in Islamabad over night there had been some violent clashes between anti-government protestors and the police.

People were warned to stay indoors and there were road blocks around the city. But, nonetheless, they went ahead with their programs in Rawalpindi and Mr Shaheen reported that, thanks to God, they all had a great time and people had been more generous than they had expected. Under God, they are hoping to visit 42 churches before the end of the year. Do pray for God's help as ZBS seeks to share their vision to train Christian leaders and bring God's blessings to cities, town and villages around the country.

# An Historic Event—2015



In July 2015 it will be 150 years since the "old" St Stephen's church was licensed and worship commenced. Wow! Not even John Hobbs can remember back that far!!

The "old church" is the oldest church in the city of Waverley and is situated on land that was acquired for £4/10/- per acre. In order that we can celebrate this 150<sup>th</sup> milestone in style, a small committee is gathering some ideas and working on how to bring the best ones to fruition.

If you have any ideas to contribute, please tell Judith Gibson or email her at [judith@decorateddiva.com.au](mailto:judith@decorateddiva.com.au). And any old photos you have that we could use would be gratefully received. The other committee members are Michael Mosley, John Russell, Joan West, Howard Brown, Norma Schultz and Elizabeth Mounas.

So far, we are planning on a big celebration on 23 July 2015, with the Archbishop Philip in attendance. Lots of other ideas are forming, so stay tuned to hear what's in store! In the meantime, here are some interesting facts and photos from our past.....

The church was built from hand baked local clay bricks, baked by brickmaker William Stevenson

In 1916 a narthex was added

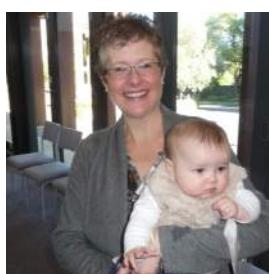
In 1920 a stain glass window was installed to honour the parishioners killed and those who served in the Great War

In 1965 plans commenced for building of the "new church"

In 1990 renovations to the "old church" started

In about 2004 the CE congregation started up with services in the "old church"

Elizabeth Mounas



Jim, Helene & Peter leaving for Michael's Baptism in the Old Church 1960



## A Mother Superior's Prayer

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and will some day be old.

Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and every occasion.

Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details - give me wings to get to the point.

I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of others' pain.

Help me endure them with patience; but seal my lips on my own aches and pains - they are increasing, and my love of rehearsing them becomes sweeter as the years go by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet;  
I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

(Contributed by Pam Knight.)

From: A Worship and Prayer Book for MU Australia and  
Also from Elizabeth Goudge "Poems of Elizabeth Goudge" on the  
web page. Have a look at this page—you may wish to learn more  
about Elizabeth, as a writer, and even purchase one of the books  
available on line!



Elizabeth Goudge

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## Some Important Events in 2015

For St Stephens and St Mary's, 2015 will be a very important milestone, with our Sesqui Centenary occurring.

In addition to the Parish celebrations planned, three Ecumenical Services, anticipated to be very large, will be hosted by St Stephen's and St Mary's next year - this happens only every 5 years.

Various Churches in the Waverley/Chadstone area are bonded by their involvement with Australian Church Women (ACW). This organisation, founded in 1965, encourages women to act together in prayer, fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries.

The first service, which is to be held at St Stephen's and St Mary's on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015, is the "World Day of Prayer", to which we will be inviting members of many other Churches together with community and political leaders.

There will also be a "Fellowship Day" and a "Community Day" later in the year.

With surrounding publicity, these three services are expected to bring our Church to the notice of the community in a very important year in the history of our Parish.

Our own Ros Sahhar will take on the position of President of the Victorian Unit of Australian Church Women in June 2015.

from Pam Knight,  
ACW Parish Representative  
to Monash/Chadstone Branch.

*Let's take a look at what God wants us to become and keep growing in that direction.*

Patricia Wood

# ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Vicar:	The Rev'd Dianne Sharrock	9807 3168
Assistant Curate:	Rev'd Dr Sharne Rolfe	9807 3168
<i>mainly music Co-ordination</i>	Jeannette Hamilton	0421 360 844
Clerical Assistant:	Thursdays 10.00am-2pm (from February 2015)	
Parish Office:	Barbara Aghajani	9807 3168
Email:	Tuesday/Thursday/Friday/10am-2pm) <a href="mailto:parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au">parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au</a>	Fax: 9807 0978
Pastoral Care Ministry:		
Home Communion and General Visiting;	Ian Smith	9888 1269
Aged Care Chaplaincies	Bruce Chugg	9802 3316
Hospital Visiting:	Sue Retschko	9807 4431
Contemporary Eucharist Contact	Hillarie Griggs	8802 8615
Funeral Ministry:	The Vicar	9807 3168
Pastoral Associate (Emeritus):	Trevor Bickerstaff	9802 9545

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November 2014

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