

**This Sunday @ BCUC**

**22nd December**

9:00am Contemporary, 10:30am Classic: Rev Rob Williams

***Reading the Signs***

*Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25*

10:30am Café : Rev Dr Benji Callen

***Jesus is Coming : Hope***

*Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-9*

**Personal Prayer**

Prayer is available after the 10:30 service in the Chapel

**Coming Week @ BCUC**

***Tuesday 24th December***

*6:00pm Christmas Eve Worship for everyone*

*11:30pm Carols and Candles*

***Wednesday 25th December***

*9:30am Christmas Day Service*

***The Silent Invasion***

*Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20*

**Next Sunday @ BCUC**

**29th December**

9:00am Contemporary, 10:30am Classic : Rev Dr Benji Callen

***Humble Prayer—God First***

*Matthew 6:9-13 (The Lord's Prayer)*

10:30am Café :

Prayer service for the year gone and the year to come

Prayer Requests: [prayer@burnsidecityuc.org.au](mailto:prayer@burnsidecityuc.org.au)

If you require more information please contact the church office or visit our website.

T: 8331 3914 E: [admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au](mailto:admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au) W: [www.burnsidecityuc.org.au](http://www.burnsidecityuc.org.au)  
384 Portrush Road, Tusmore 5065



**Burnside City**  
Uniting Church

**Sunday 22nd December 2019**

**WELCOME**

*Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service  
so that we can get to know each other better.*



**Ministry Team Contacts**

**Minister: Rev Dr Benji Callen** 0427 792 869; [benjic@burnsidecityuc.org.au](mailto:benjic@burnsidecityuc.org.au)  
Day off : Monday

**Minister in Assoc: Rev Rob Williams** 0424 123 171; [robw@burnsidecityuc.org.au](mailto:robw@burnsidecityuc.org.au)

**Administrator : Stuart MacAdam** on leave until December 27; office closed

**temporary opening hours** Mon,Tue, 9am - noon (8331 3914)

*Ministers are available for Pastoral Care as required.*



**BCUC : Raising Children of God**

## A MESSAGE FROM ROB

Everywhere we look, we see signs: street signs, advertising signs, signs on the roadway, signs telling us how long we can park or whether we can park there at all. If we take notice of them most assist us, some confuse us – but we need to see them and follow what they say.

The Advent/Christmas/Epiphany cycle of the Christian Year is full of signs. The prophet Isaiah announces a sign to king Ahaz that 'a young woman will conceive and bear a son and shall call his name 'Emmanuel' – God with us.' Matthew builds on this as he tells the story of the birth of Jesus: "All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet – 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son ....'

The angels were busy. They surprise the shepherds with the announcement of the birth of Jesus – Messiah – by telling them: "This will be sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." So they go to Bethlehem and it's just as the angels had told them. They told everyone they met what they had seen.

One of the more obvious signs comes with Epiphany – the visit of the Magi from the east to the young child Jesus. They followed a star to a house in Bethlehem, presented their gifts and worshipped him.

I hope you have allowed yourself to fully enter into the love, joy, hope and peace celebrated in our times of worship throughout Advent, this time of looking forward to celebrating again the birth of Jesus, Messiah, and anticipating his coming again as King of kings and Lord of Lords.

Love, joy, hope and peace are not only gifts Jesus brings to us but gifts we are called as Christians to share within our families, with our friends and with all we meet. These are signs of Jesus' presence in us. Let's make sure they are seen.

This message from Jackie Hilditch is an example of visible signs at BCUC.

Following on from the wonderful Nativity Play last Sunday when I invited several of our extended family members, I received a text which they asked me to share, from the other grandparents to our grandchildren.

Tom and Peta said when they got home they talked about and appreciated the feeling of Church in the true sense of the word.... a Church that is welcoming and non judgemental, loving and a blessing. Tom said, how wonderful it felt to be approached by a young person with a kind handshake and smile to welcome him as somebody who was obviously a newcomer.

I think everyone would agree it was a Joy to behold, to see so many of our children participate - including a host of 16 angels! ..... and not forgetting the ducks.

Thank you to Heather and all the helpers.

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS & NOTICES

### Christmas Day Lunch

Christmas is a time for families. If you are going to be on your own on Christmas Day and would like to share Christmas lunch with the church family, please stay on at the end of the 9:30am Christmas service for lunch in the Hall.

Please bring food to share. There will be sign up sheets in the foyer if you would like to let us know that you are coming.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Anne and Richard Ellis who were baptised in the Chapel last Monday as an introduction to the usual Communion service.

### Junior Church

All Junior Church classes from now until the end of January will be combined together for common activities and teaching.

### Big Week Out Help Needed

In January there will be over one hundred high school aged people meeting at BCUC. They will be involved with a variety of activities that assist people in our local community. We have been asked to provide them with a meal. Please consider supporting their efforts by providing some food. More details will be in a future newsletter.

### Christmas Bowl 2019

Christmas Bowl giving envelopes are available in the foyer. You may place completed envelopes in the box at the back of the sanctuary through to December 30th.

### Christmas at Dr Jon's Pantry

Select one of our specialities to give to a friend : Tomato relish, Pear & Ginger chutney, Cumquat marmalade, among many others. Taste before you buy !!

### Administrator on Leave

Stuart is on leave and will return to the office on Friday 27 December. During this time, building opening hours are limited to Mondays and Tuesdays between 9am and noon (Dec 9, 10, 16, 17, 23). Benji will frequently be in the office throughout this period. You can reach him on his mobile number. See below for details on submissions for the newsletter & notices.

### Summer Events for Children / Youth

#### CE Camp (ages 14 - 20)

Dec 29 - Jan 2  
visit [ce.asn.au](http://ce.asn.au)

#### Jnr CE Camp (ages 9 - 13)

January 5 - 9  
visit [ce.asn.au/junior-camp](http://ce.asn.au/junior-camp)

#### Big Week Out (high school aged)

January 13-17  
visit [bigweekout.org.au](http://bigweekout.org.au)

### Christmas Services

Christmas Eve  
6pm Family Service  
11.30pm Carols and Candles  
Christmas Day  
9.30am Worship for everyone

### Psalm Booklet

Please collect today, one copy per family. It's a Christmas gift from BCUC .

Please e-mail articles for the BCUC weekly news to Leigh Duffett at [leighduffett1@gmail.com](mailto:leighduffett1@gmail.com) no later than 10am on Wednesday