

Christmas Services

Bexley

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday 24 December

8:30am - Christmas Carols with evangelistic message.

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday 25 December

8:30am – Holy Communion service



Bexley North

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday 24 December

4:30pm Traditional Carols service

A Christmas Eve service that is aimed more at adults. A great opportunity to invite friends along to hear about the true meaning of Christmas (but without puppets, glow sticks and jumping castles).

NB There will be a normal 10:30am service that day.

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday 25 December

9:30am – Family service



Carlton

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday 24 December

There will be no morning services at Carlton on Christmas Eve so that people can focus on the two evening services.

4:30pm Family Carols at Carlton Public School

This will be our now traditional family Christmas carols celebration with lots of things for kids, lots of singing and maybe even a jumping castle.

6:30pm Traditional Carols service at St James Carlton

A Christmas Eve service that is aimed more at adults. A great opportunity to invite friends along to hear about the true meaning of Christmas (but without puppets, glow sticks and jumping castles).

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday 25 December

9:30am – Family service

Contact Us

General Enquiries

☎ 9553 1840 ✉ office@snac.org.au
<http://www.snac.org.au>

Phil Colgan (Senior Minister)

☎ 9553 1840 ✉ phil@snac.org.au

Jason Veitch (Associate Minister)

☎ 9502 1946 ✉ jason@snac.org.au

Kevin Stepniewski (Associate Minister)

☎ 0421 286 835 ✉ kevin@snac.org.au

Troy Munns (Associate Minister)

☎ 0406 371 009 ✉ troy@snac.org.au

Brendan Moar (Youth Minister)

☎ 0409 525 365 ✉ brendan@snac.org.au

Sarah Munns (Children's Minister)

☎ 0403 686 284 ✉ sarah@snac.org.au

Colin Francis (Electronic Giving)

☎ 9588 7119 ✉ finance@snac.org.au

Carmel Vincent (Admin)

☎ 0431 969 516 ✉ carmel@snac.org.au

Sunday Locations

8:30am Bexley (Contact Jason)

Corner of Albyn St & Dunmore St, Bexley

9:00am Carlton (Contact Kevin)

St James' Carlton, entry via Percival St

10:30am Carlton (Contact Phil)

Carlton Public School, entry via Cameron St

10:30am Bexley North (Contact Jason)

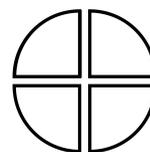
Holy Trinity, entry via Carrisbrook Ave

4:30pm Bexley North (Contact Jason)

Holy Trinity, entry via Carrisbrook Ave

6.30pm Church (Contact Troy)

Carlton Public School, entry via Cameron St



St George North
Anglican Church

Glorifying God by
Proclaiming Jesus | Growing Disciples | Serving Together

Weekly SNAC

Edition 699

17 December 2017

God in the flesh!



When I was a kid in the late 70s we didn't think much about sun safety. We'd run around all summer in a pair of shorts enjoying the summer sun – no hats, no shirts, no sunscreen. Blistered skin from sunburn was as much a part of summer as cicadas, the beach and cricket on the radio!

However, some time in the mid-80s we worked out that human flesh shouldn't be repeatedly fried by the summer sun. As deadly cases of skin cancer began to rise, Government sponsored advertising campaigns taught us the weakness of our flesh under the summer sun: "Slip-slop-slap! Slip on a shirt, slop on sunscreen and slap on a hat". Do you remember the jingle? Try youtubing it!

The human body is incredibly resilient and capable and yet there is weakness to us as well. You've heard the expression '*the spirit is willing but the body is weak*' used as an excuse for when our bodies are too tired to carry on. However, the phrase actually comes from something Jesus taught. He told his disciples not to fall into temptation *because the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak* (Matt 26:41).

Jesus was not talking about sunburn and aging bodies. He was saying that human beings have an inherent weakness for giving in to temptation. Temptations come in many forms, big and small, but what he really meant was the things of this world that are contrary to the good that God wants for all of us. Another way to put it is to use the expression: to err is human. The problem is that God in his perfection can't just let us err against him forever.

Which is why Christmas is so incredible. At Christmas we remember that God saw us struggling with temptations and erring against Him and he chose to help us. He sent his son into our world as our saviour.

I suspect many people know the 'Jesus is saviour' part of the Christmas story but I wonder how many know why it is critical that God became flesh? Here are 3 important reasons:

(continued page 2.....)

Visit us online @ www.snac.org.au

1. By entering creation as a human, Jesus was able to reveal to us what God is like. In John's gospel he writes *"The Word (Jesus) became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14). So, if you want to know God then look to Jesus: God in the flesh!

2. Jesus showed us what it looks like to live God's way perfectly in relationship with Him. Jesus was the first and only human to properly live out that God-given human purpose.

3. By taking on human flesh, Jesus was able to understand us and our temptations and weaknesses. He knows our greatest needs which is why he was prepared to die unfairly and to face God's judgement so that we don't have to pay for the times we give in to temptations.

By coming in weak human flesh God showed how much he loves us and Jesus left us to respond to him by teaching us: *God loved the world so much: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16).

We all know that the flesh will perish but our great human hope is that by believing in Jesus we will have eternal life and know God forever. Merry Christmas indeed!

Jason Veitch

*For a child will be born for us,
a son will be given to us,
and the government will be on His shoulders.
He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

Church on New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday this year, but all six of our services will be meeting as normal. Then after the 6:30pm service everyone there is invited to an as yet undisclosed location (probably the Colgan's house) for a very laid back New Year's Eve party. Stay tuned for more details.



Big Day Out

To kick start next year and some of the new things we are starting we are going to be having our parish wide Big Day Out. Please get the date in your diary now because it will be a wonderful time for all members of SNAC from across all the congregations to meet together and encourage on another.

We will also be hearing from various people from across the parish about the different ministries they are involved in.

When? Saturday 24 of March from 8:30am
Where? Danebank School, Hurstville

Please take the chance to sign up now to also get the early bird saving (Sign up online at www.snac.org.au/bdo Paper forms are also available at all locations).

Church Finances - Giving to November



Please be prayerfully considering your giving as we approach the end of the year. Entering into December we do have a shortfall and it would be wonderful if we could bridge that shortfall before Christmas.

Giving for November	\$68,845	Offeratories YTD	\$737,591
Budgeted	<u>\$69,892</u>	Budgeted YTD	<u>\$768,816</u>
Shortfall	\$ 1,047	Shortfall YTD	\$ 31,225

For those wishing to give electronically the church's Bank account details are:

Bank: Westpac
BSB: 032 158

A/C Name: Parish of St George North General A/C
Account No.: 268126