

Upcoming Bible Talks

Summer in the Psalms

31 December:

8:30am Bexley, 10:30am Bexley North & 4:30pm Bexley North:

Jason Veitch on
"The Faithfulness of the Lord" (Psalm 100)

9am Carlton, 10:30am Carlton, 6:30pm:

Phil Colgan on
"Living to praise the Lord" (Psalm 111)

7 January:

8:30am Bexley, 10:30am Bexley North & 4:30pm Bexley North:

Jason Veitch on
"The love of the Lord" (Psalm 92)

9am Carlton, 10:30am Carlton, 6:30pm:

Troy Munns on
"The Lord who reigns" (Psalm 93)

Events

Prayer Meetings

First Saturday of every month, 8am
Email office@snac.org.au for location.

English for Life

Every Friday during school terms,
9:30-11:30am at St James

Big Day Out

Saturday 24th March 2018
Register at www.snac.org.au/bdo

Contact Us

General Enquiries

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Colin Francis (Electronic Giving)

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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)

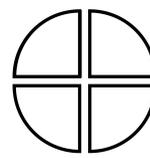
Holy Trinity, entry via Carrisbrook Ave

4:30pm Bexley North (Contact Jason)

Holy Trinity, entry via Carrisbrook Ave

6.30pm Church (Contact Troy)

St James' Carlton, entry via Percival St



*St George North
Anglican Church*

Glorifying God by
Proclaiming Jesus | Growing Disciples | Serving Together

Weekly SNAC

Edition 700
Christmas & New Year
2017/18

Listening carefully at Christmas

I know that many people complain about the incessant overplaying of Christmas carols at this time of year, but I must admit that I love them. I actually look forward to visiting the shops at this time of the year and more than once I have found people looking at me strangely as I unconsciously start singing along to the Little Drummer Boy while walking around Hurstville Westfield. Of course many of the Carols have very little to do with the real meaning of Christmas but I must admit that I still enjoy them all. In fact, so much so that I've scoured the Scriptures for a reference to that little drummer boy just so that I'd feel better singing it in church, but sadly he is just not there.



However, the ones I really love are those that drive to the heart of why Jesus entered the world. Besides singing along, I also have moments where I ironically (and somewhat sadly) chuckle to myself as other people sing about the birth of "the King of Israel" and especially when they sing praises to the one "who brought forth heaven and earth from nought, and with his blood mankind has brought." (The First Noel) It leads me to pray that people would stop and consider the words of these wonderful hymns.

With that in mind I thought that I would take the chance to point out what I think is the greatest carol of them all. The great Hymn writer Charles Wesley wrote "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" with the account of Jesus' birth in Luke 2 in mind. In the 1st verse, he wants us to picture that wonderful scene where the angels appeared to the shepherds in the field announcing to them the birth of God's Saviour King in Bethlehem. He invites us to join with the angelic host and proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem".

However, what makes the hymn even more wonderful is the way he then expands on the meaning of that event in the 2nd verse. The hymn invites us to marvel in the fact that the one who is everlasting and who created the heavens and the earth has decided to enter our world in the most humble of circumstances – as "offspring of a virgin's womb". How incredible it is that the king of the universe is "pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel". Immanuel of course means "God with us".

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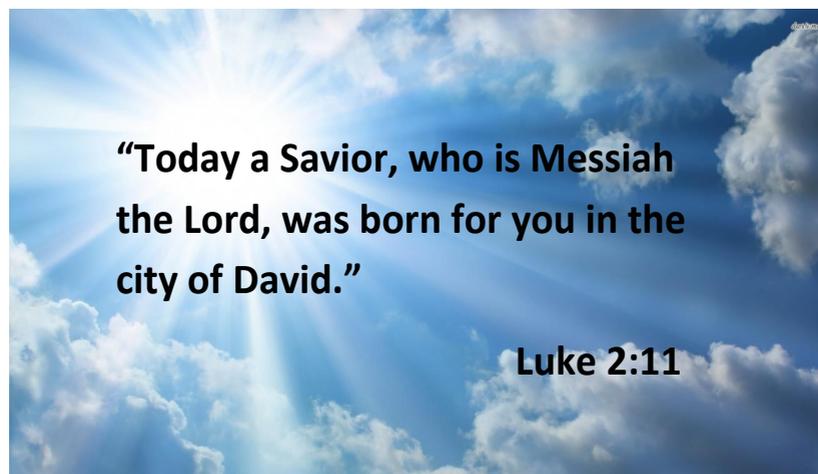
Finally, the 3rd verse takes us beyond Christmas. Wesley understood that the significance of Christmas is only properly understood in the light of what the baby Jesus would grow up to do. Ultimately it is not Jesus' birth that brings us our true hope and meaning but his re-birth, his resurrection from the dead. With that in mind, Wesley encourages us to sing:

“Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.”

Wesley captures so wonderfully the true essence of Jesus and what he came to do. He gave up his glory for our sake so that we might find eternal life in him.

So, can I encourage you this Christmas to not just sing along with these wonderful songs, but also dwell on their meaning? What a joy it is to sing the praises of “the heaven-born Prince of Peace!”.

Phil Colgan



**“Today a Savior, who is Messiah
the Lord, was born for you in the
city of David.”**

Luke 2:11

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).

Thank you for serving

As 2017 comes to a close I thought I would take this opportunity to give thanks to God for all the people who serve faithfully week in week out in the life of the church. Every week 100s of people contribute in large and small ways to helping us achieve our mission of Glorifying God by Proclaiming Jesus, Serving together and Growing disciples.

If you are involved in any area of ministry I thank God for your faithful service. Perhaps over this New Year period you could take the opportunity to specifically pray for all those people who built you up in your faith in 2017 by speaking God's word in love to you? Maybe at the same time you might prayerfully consider how you will use the gifts that God has given you to build up others in 2018?

Phil Colgan

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.

After the 6:30pm service everyone there is invited back to the Colgan's for a very laid back New Year's Eve party. BYO soft drinks and snacks.



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	Offertories 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
A/C Name: Parish of St George North General A/C
BSB: 032 158
Account No.: 268126