

COLLECT: Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you: come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end and your children may live in peace, honouring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER BEFORE READING: Blessed Lord, you have caused all the Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us to so hear, read, learn and embrace them, that, encouraged and supported by your Word we may hold fast to the joyful hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

MINISTRY MORSEL

*Fifth edition of our monthly column, **Heart to Heart**, from the December edition of **Woopi News**.*

"My **fellow student** at Bible College a 'shady' police officer in his former life. Taking advantage of his role with the Licensing Branch. **Moonlighting** as a bouncer at a night club. Sitting in a hire car outside the night club, he opened the glove box and **discovered a New Testament**. He began to read one of the Gospels. Record of the words and works of Jesus Christ. His **heart strangely moved**. In the weeks ahead continuing to read from the book he never put back in the glove box. Turning his world upside down. Encountering the one in whom he found **forgiveness, hope, meaning and purpose**. Countless people down through the ages in every nation of the world share similar stories. **Meeting Jesus** in the **pages of the Bible**. Lives transformed. Mass delusion OR overwhelming testimony of the **power of Jesus Christ**? Last month we explored the conclusion of scholars. The Bible valuable historical text. Content not altered over the centuries. Reading the Bible involves **reading what originally written** by forty different authors. Accuracy of the documents matter of fact. No doubt about the existence of Jesus. Reinforced by long held, **widespread celebration of Jesus' birth**. In the season of 'Christmas'. Truth about the claims of Jesus move into the **realm of faith**. As distinct from superstition, faith is **well placed trust**. On the basis of confidence in facts about something or someone. Christian faith: trust **in the person of Jesus Christ**. Foundation of confidence in the truth revealed in his words and actions. Many people **dismiss the claims of Jesus without checking them out!** Relying on assumptions instead of going to the source. So this Christmas please accept my gift of '**The Essential Jesus**'. An easy read Gospel of Jesus. Opportunity to get back to the real Jesus, the essential Jesus, and to discover something new about yourself, your world and God. Ring 0408423442 for details of how to receive your gift. Stay tuned as we explore key claims of Jesus. Their implications for life. Let's begin by considering the **birth of Jesus**. If the events described in the Gospels true then he **came from another world!** Christians believe they are true. That Jesus' birth challenges beliefs that exclude, or set aside, anything beyond this world. Like bigger realities, transcendent truths. May your celebrations this Christmas include the possibility that **God broke into this world in the birth of his Son.**"



**YOUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER -
A RESOURCE NOT A THROWAWAY**

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Next Week's Sermon Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

FEEDING ON GOD'S PROMISES:

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.' **Romans 12:2**

Rector:	Rev David Hanger	0408 423 442
Young Families Ministry:	Rev Simon Reeve	0450 255 055
Seniors Ministry:	Rev Pam Stone	0418 228 885
Ministers:	The Congregation	
Office/Op Shop:	21 Scarborough Street, PO Box 49 Woolgoolga NSW 2456 66541370	
Email:	office@northernbeachesanglicans.org.au	
Website:	www.northernbeachesanglicans.org.au	

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

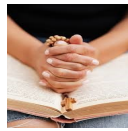
- Monday:** 8.30am - Prayer Gathering
9-11am - Stay and Play (Playgroup)
2.00pm - Fellowship Gathering @ Woolgoolga Aged Care Centre (see Pam)
- Tuesday:** 8.30am - Prayer Gathering
4pm - Choir Rehearsal
- Wednesday:** 9-10am - Prayer Gathering
1.30pm - Women's Bible Study - fortnightly (Anne Dorman's home)
2pm - Women's Bible Study - fortnightly (Lilian Essex-Clark's home)
4pm - Sunday@10 Singing Practice
7.30-8.30pm - Men's Bible Study - Ministry Centre
- Thursday:** 8.30am - Prayer Gathering
11.00am - Armchair Church @ Woolgoolga Aged Care Centre (see Pam)
- Friday:** 8.30am - Prayer Gathering
9am - Women's Bible Study - Alison Reeve's home (Rector) (In Recess)
5.30pm - WiFY - Parish Centre - Years 4-10 (In Recess)
6.30pm - Friday Night Fellowship (In Recess)

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL PARISH ACTIVITIES

DAYS OFF David—Monday Simon—Thursday Pam—Friday

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Rex Rainbow, Yve Fraser, Frances Robinson, Belinda Stone, Lynda-Mary Wood, Mark Wyborn, Marj Simmons, Thelma Watkins, Belinda McHale.
Northern Beaches Anglicans in the Diocese of Grafton is committed to protecting your privacy. The people on this list have requested prayers at this time.



Happy Birthday

Ella Reeve

Monday 12 December

Thelma Watkins

Saturday 17 December

May God bless you both on your special day



Today's Songs of Worship

@8 *Rejoice The Lord Is King

*Love Divine, All Love

Excelling

*Judge Eternal

*At The Name Of Jesus

@10* No Other Name

*My Heart Is Filled With Thankfulness

*The Love Of The Father

*Facing A Task Unfinished

MARKET & TOY STALL

NEXT Saturday 17 December

9am 12noon.

If you are able to bake or have produce that can be sold on the stall, please



bring to the Parish Kitchen by next Friday 16 Dec or bring down to the stall from 9am on the day.



ONLINE OFFERTORY:

NAME: NBA Working Account

BSB: 082 842 Account: 887941599

Reference: Offertory

'Oasis in The Desert'

This Week's Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10 (Pg713)

James 5:7-12 (Pg1219)

Matthew 11:2-11 (Pg976)

This Week's Sermon Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10 (Pg713)

UPCOMING EVENTS

For your information, diary and prayers in the month of December:

13 December Parish Council Meeting

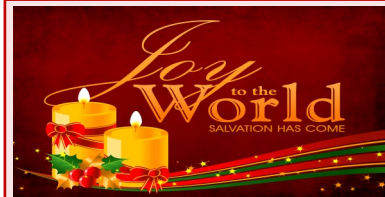
17 December Market and Toy Stall

18 December David Final Service Upfront (for a while)

HOLIDAY DETAILS: The Op Shop will close at 4pm on Friday December 23 and reopen on Thursday January 5 at 9am. **NO DONATIONS** will be accepted from **December 12 until January 9**. The **Parish Office** will close on **Thursday January 22 and reopen Thursday January 5**. There will be a Christmas edition of the Parish Newsletter and then the next newsletter will be on Sunday January 8. The parish **daily prayer gatherings** will conclude for the year on **Wednesday December 22** and resume on Monday January 16. The **Reeve family** will be attending **CMS Summer School from January 6-11 inclusive**. During that period Pam will take pastoral calls and lead the Sunday services. At all other times when the Parish Office is closed the phone will be diverted to Simon.



PARISH MISSION: As a parish family we always seek to be on about the mission of spreading the Good News about Jesus. From time to time that mission is refreshed by more focused activity, more focused prayer and gospel enthusiasm from beyond the immediate family. Refreshment is on its way through a mission team from **Sydney Missionary and Bible College (March 25 – April 2, 2023)**. Please put the dates in your forward planner. More importantly please put this Mission on your prayer list NOW and begin to cover every aspect of the mission in prayer. The key to fruit will not be the quality organisation or moving presentations but the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people.



CHRISTMAS SEASON EVENTS

For your prayerful invitation of others our Christmas plans are:

TONIGHT 6pm Family Carols

Dec 18 Sandy Beach Carols (from 6pm)

Dec 24 6pm Family Christmas Eve Gathering

Dec 25 8am Christmas Day Holy Communion

Please use the Christmas flyer in your newsletter today and invite someone to join you for Christmas OR take a bundle (or more) and distribute them in your neighbourhood.

2023 AGM: The AGM will be held on **Sunday February 26, 2023**. Please begin to prayerfully consider nominations for Wardens, Parochial Councillors and other elected positions. As 2023 is the beginning of a new 3 year Synod cycle there will also be elections for a three year term of Synod Representatives and Parochial Nominators. Nomination forms available at the back of the church. Please ensure correct nomination form is used for the position being nominated.

FREE COVID TESTING KITS and N95 MASKS



are available to the parish family until supplies run out. Please take them from the table at the back of the church under the Notice Board.



PARISH COUNCIL meets this Tuesday night (13 December) at 6pm in the Parish Centre. Please pray for this important meeting.