

Who Do You Think You Are?

I remember as a child being somewhat disinterested as the beginning of Matthew's gospel was read, usually from the KJV, with so many strange names and unfamiliar 'begats'. It made more sense when it was explained that begat meant 'was the father of'!

For many cultures, the family tree is an important part of who you are, and today families of all cultures are more likely to explore their roots, often inspired by the popular tv show, "Who Do You Think You are?" It is interesting to go back in history and find out who our ancestors were and what they did. My family, as far back as I have explored, is mainly British, and while there are some notable people, most would be said to be ordinary. I can't even claim a convict!

For Jews in Jesus time, a genealogy was extremely important. It enabled each person to understand their place in the story of the Hebrew people, and was another re-

minder of the promise of God for the Messiah who was to come. All claimed Abraham as the father of the nation, but few could trace their line down through David and the exile as Jesus could. As Matthew is about to tell the story of Jesus' birth, strange as it was, he is reminding people that God has used strange ways in the past to maintain the royal line, through Rahab, Tamar and even David himself...

Jesus fulfilled God's promise, and his coming was the start of something new and different in the world.

Today, God still works like that: keeping his promises, acting in character, yet always ready with surprises for those who learn to trust him.

As we celebrate this Christmas with family and friends, may we continue to trust our God, and be prepared to be surprised...



*Wishing you all
the peace and joy of this
Christmas Season...
Marg*

Prayer for December and January...

- Give thanks for this Christmas Season, for the birth of our Saviour
- Be prayerful for those who are doing it tough and find the season difficult.
- Pray for a refreshing and restful time for all our leaders and helpers as they take a break from normal activities and programs and for those who are taking holidays over this time.
- Continue to pray for those who are struggling with health issues
- Give thanks for those recently baptised, and those to be baptised in the coming weeks.
- Pray for those taking part in camp and beach mission leadership teams during the holidays.
- Continue to pray for our country and governments at all levels,
- Pray for our world, for leaders that they govern wisely.
- Pray for all those who are preparing for a new season of study or work...

Year 12s

We have prayed for these young people through the year. As exams are now over they will be waiting for results for their year 12 and applications for tertiary study or exploring other possibilities for the future. Keep praying for them as they negotiate this time while celebrating the end of school.

Monday Communion

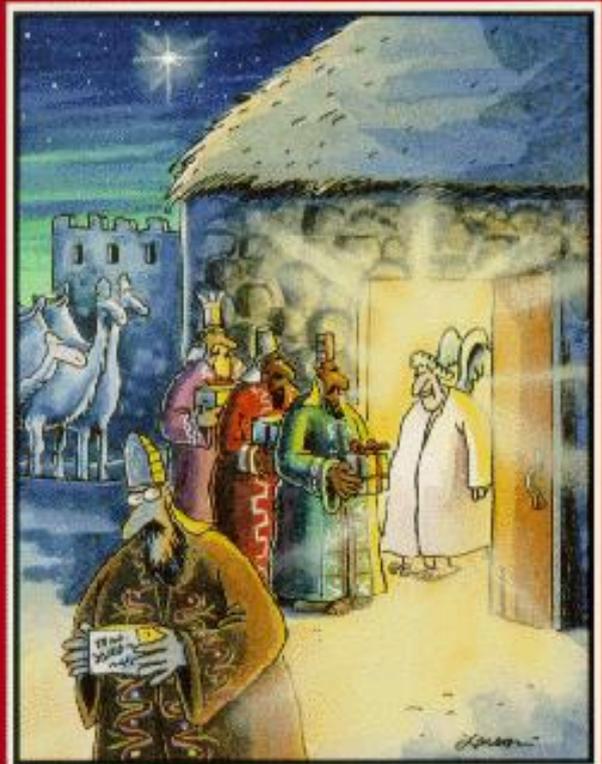
Our last Monday Communion for the year will be **Monday, 4th December**, at 1.30pm at the church.

We will spend time together over a cuppa and afternoon tea, and share communion together. For any further information, please contact Marg.

Ordinary Holiness

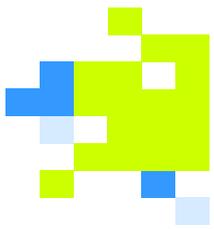
Susan Palo Cherwien

Wonder
is at the root
of praise.
Wonder
is at the heart
of Christmas,
and not for one day only
but for each waking day.
At the heart
of Christ's incarnation
is the truth
that God makes extraordinary things
happen
in ordinary places,
that heaven and earth
holy and earthly
God and human
are intertwined.
The wonder of Christmas.



Unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wiseman, who was turned away for bringing a fruitcake.

Ringwood Church of Christ Seniors Activities December 2017



♦ **Monday 4th December, 1.30pm**
Afternoon Tea and Communion Service at the church.
Contact Person: Marg Goddard 9870 8169

♦ **Friday 8th December Seniors Christmas Lunch**
♦ **See details below**

♦ **Tuesday 12th December, 10 am**
Seniors Bible Study Breakup
Contact person: David Brown 9725 6601

Our next Links, towards the end of January, will give details of activities which will begin in February, 2018.

Advance Notice:

Monday Communion—Monday 5th Feb, 2018.

Seniors Launch Lunch Friday 16th February. More details to come

Holiday arrangements

Marg will be away until 16th January. For any needs during that time please call the church office.



*You're invited to the annual
Seniors' Christmas Lunch
Friday 8th December, 2017
12.00 noon, for a 12.30 pm start*

Please come along and enjoy a beautiful 3 course lunch, with musical entertainment. It is always a great time to all gather together and give thanks for the year past while we celebrate Christmas. Looking forward to seeing you there!

\$15.00 (pay on the day)

*RSVP by Wednesday 29th November either
by putting your name on the sign-up sheet in the church foyer
or by phoning the church office 9870 8169*

Mystery Bus Tour and BBQ

We left the church with lots of speculation about our destination. Our first stop was Croydon Hills where we visited Russ and Barb Cheal and enjoyed their beautiful garden and morning tea. Thanks again for your hospitality, Barb and Russ...

Then it was back on the bus and head east through Chirnside Park and Yarra Glen, then north. The rain caught up with us! At the Mt Slide intersection we turned left and continued on through Kinglake until we turned off into King-

lake National Park and found our way to the Masons Falls Picnic Area. And the rain stopped for us.

We ate our bbq lunch which Pat and Bruce prepared while enjoying the surroundings. After lunch some walked to the Falls viewing area a short distance away, although uphill coming back, then we drove home through St Andrews and Warrandyte... A great day enjoying the bush and each other's company. Thanks again Pat and Bruce for preparing lunch.



Ringwood Church of Christ Seniors' Ministry



**A place where Jesus is
central
and people are vital**

13 Bedford Rd Ringwood Vic 3134
Phone: 03 9870 8169

Seniors' Minister: Marg Goddard
Phone: 9870 8169 (church office)
9720 0016 (home)

0419 383 997 (mobile) or

Email: margg@bigpond.net.au
Editor: Marg Goddard

Contributions for Links can be handed to Marg or
emailed to: margg@bigpond.net.au



Pat and Bruce showing off their grandchildren on the new bus livery...