

Mainstream



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Minister:
Andrew Tonkin

21st & 28th December, 2014

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

That was the message of the heavenly host at the birth of Jesus. But turn on the nightly news and it seems that 2000 years later we have anything but peace on earth. Many see and hear the sights and sounds of Christmas, and in despair they say, "There's no peace on earth."

But it's certainly not just this particular year. For centuries, people have struggled with the notion of peace on earth. During the American Civil War, poet Henry W. Longfellow wrote with stark honesty, *"For hate is strong and mocks the song, of peace on earth, good will to men."*

But peace is possible. Jesus came to bring peace to all mankind, and peace would be possible if mankind learned to turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, love our neighbour, love our enemies and forgive those who sin against us. Obviously these are all the words of Jesus. His words and his ways are the ways to experience true peace.

But Jesus also brought for all mankind an even greater peace than that between two people, and that is peace between God and mankind.

Colossians 1: 19-20 says, ***"For it pleased the Father that in Jesus all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on Earth or things in heaven, having made Peace through the blood of His cross."***

The sacrifice Jesus made on the cross paid the penalty of our sin and has brought us peace with God. That is a lasting peace, that is an eternal peace and it is a peace that is offered to all who would simply believe. God bless you, and may you know and experience his peace this Christmas time.

ANDREW



Welcome to church today. If you are a visitor we offer you a special welcome. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee in the hall following the morning service.

Today, Sunday 21st December

10.00 am

Andrew Tonkin

Christmas

Worship Leader

Matthew Cameron

Communion Leader

Dennis Homfray

Bible Reading

Luke 2: 1-20

6.00 pm

Andrew Tonkin

Isaac Fabich

Next Week, 28th December

10.00 am

Joshua Cole

&

6.00 pm



Luke 2: 1-11

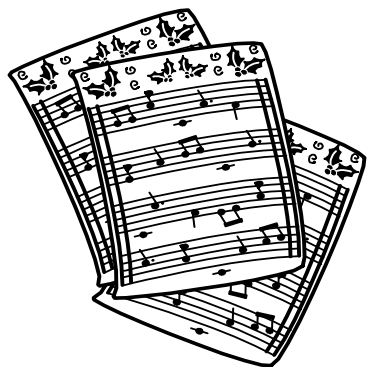
In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people..."

Loving God - Loving People

GODLY GENEROUS GENERATIONS GRACE GOSPEL



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Wednesday
24th December
7.00 pm

PRAYER NIGHT

There is nothing too great for God's power, and nothing too small for His love.

Corrie ten Boom

Monday, 22nd December
7.00 - 8.30 pm



When we come to the place of danger or threat or the uncertainty of the future, our greatest resource is time spent on our knees.

Chuck Swindoll



Family News & Prayer



- * Be in prayer for Norma Fechner, Marianne Haigh and Gwenyth Curtis in hospital. Pray for healing, strength and good spirits.
- * We have re-commenced the **chapel cleaning roster**, which will not appear on your roster, so please check the back of the Mainstream.
- * Parking in the Staff Parking Bays in the laneway is for the staff only who need an all day parking space. Please leave them free. Andrew does not want to return from lunch to find there is nowhere for him to park.
- * Greetings from the Bacchus Marsh Combined Churches who put on an 'inspiring' Christmas Carols night last week.
- * Congratulations to all our students on the wonderful results they have achieved in their school work. Well done to all our graduates and for special awards achieved.
- * Thank you to all who generously supported Mildura Chaplaincy by purchasing Christmas puddings and cakes.
- * Congratulations to Andrea and Michael Corrie on 20 years of marriage - 7th January.
- * Congratulations to Joshua Cole on the completion of his studies with ACOM. His Ordination as a Minister of Churches of Christ will take place at the Vic/Tas Conference time May, 2015. He will now be employed by this Church two days a week.

Were it not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception. And were it not for a group of star-gazers, there would have been no gifts.

Max Lucado 'God Came Near'

Christmas gift suggestions;

To your enemy, forgiveness
To a friend, your heart.
To all, charity
To yourself, respect.

To an opponent, tolerance
To a customer, service
To every child, a good example.

Grand Opening & Dedication of our New Building February 21st & 22nd

Saturday evening - David Ratten & Neale Meredith
Dessert & Coffee Night

Sunday Service & Dedication
Invited Guests, including Simon Risson, Paul Cameron,
Julie and Blair Davis
Catered Lunch
Tickets available in the new year.

INVITE TO WORSHIP

You are invited to join the Red Cliffs Church for worship on Sunday, 4th January, 2015 at 10.30 am, when they will officially open the new extension of their buildings. Following the service they plan to hold a shared luncheon. (Please bring food to share.)

"Looking forward to seeing you on this special occasion."



ANGEL TREE THANK YOU

The Women's Ministry Team would like to thank everyone who has so generously donated gifts for the Angel Tree.

Haven, Meminar Ngangg Gimba and the Cancer Wards at both the Base and Private Hospitals are amazed by your generosity, and very thankful for all the gifts that they are able to distribute because of your generosity.

So again, we thank each of you who has given a gift.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Those who would like to spend Christmas in fellowship with others who may be on their own or away from family, are invited to join us on Christmas Day for lunch at no cost. Please put your names on the sheet in the foyer. All those who would like to help can also put their names down on the sheet.

Donations can be made towards the day, through the office or directly to Natalie Moritz.

New Ways to Serve

We as members can be of service in our church in so many different ways. Many are talented in leading in our worship services, others in teaching our young people.

With the opening of our new buildings comes a new way for you to serve. The Elders are asking each one of us to consider taking on the cleaning of individual parts of all our buildings. You don't need to be cleaning every room, just one area that you feel able to on a regular basis. You may even be able to have a friend work with you, or take it in turns to see that your allotted area is done.

Can you vacuum, mop, dust, sweep? We ask that you give this your prayerful consideration, and we will be asking you to commit to this important task in the new year.



CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS AID CHRISTMAS OFFERING

In your Mainstream today are the Churches of Christ Overseas Aid envelopes.

Please be generous with your donation to the mission work of COCOA.

COCOA partners with churches and agencies committed to providing care to people in need without discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion or ethnicity. The total giving to COCOA from all sources in the last financial year increased to more than \$1,961,500. Projects include provision of water in Zimbabwe, employment training, house repairs and water and sanitation in Vietnam, schooling in Bangladesh, medical treatment in India, care of children in Zimbabwe, South Sudan, education in India, and many other projects.

Your offerings will be received at the Christmas Eve Service.

This Week

Sunday	21st	9.30 am	Prayer
		7.00 pm	Ray on Radio 106.7 FM
Monday	22nd	7.00 pm	Prayer Night
Wednesday	24th	7.00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Thursday	25th	12.30 pm	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday	30th	8.00 pm	FAFFS



PEANUT PALS

Our Reveal Night on Monday was a great time of fellowship. We welcomed six new Peanut Pals for 2015 and found out who was looking after us in 2014. A big thank you to Clinton Waters who provided the sound as well as the short Christmas Story we watched. A special thank you to Noeline Cook who supplies us with a lovely cool drink and supervises the kitchen for supper each year, we appreciate you very much Noeline. It was a fantastic response for the Kmart wishing tree, with \$165 given and we were able to buy 19 presents to bless people through the Salvation Army at Christmas. Thank you all very much. Would everyone please check the table in front of the pigeon holes and your pigeon holes, for mail and parcels, thank you.

FAFFS



There will be a Trivia Game happening at Pam and Peter Midgley's home on Wednesday night, New Year's Eve, commencing at 8 pm to bring in the new year. If you are around the fifties and sixties in age, and have nothing to do on New Year's Eve, then you are most welcome to join us. We will try and entertain ourselves until mid-night. Please bring a plate of supper.

CRÈCHE ATTENDANTS NEEDED

According to the Child Safe Guidelines we are required to have at least two crèche attendants and at least one of them must be over 18. Speak to either Samantha or Carolyn if you would like to go on the crèche roster, teenagers would especially be welcome.

NEXT WEEK, 28th December

10.00 am

Worship Leader
Communion Leader
Children's Church
Singers
Band
Projector/Sound
Officer on Duty
Welcome/Reception
Helpers

J. Cole
M. Waters
W. Whitehead
M. Straub, E. Gibbs
D. Ferrett, A. Alabaster
A. Alabaster, M. Gardner, I. Fabich, C. Waters
? / B. Moritz
R. Hawtin
D. Shields / L. Potter
N. Cook, J. Renfree, I. Cross, P. Leng, volunteer,
volunteer, C. Armstrong (reader), G. Diggle
C. Waters, H. Nicholson
P. Castleman, K. Underwood, J. Purcell
R. Jackson
R. Hawtin, P. Leng

6.00 pm

Worship Leader
Singers
Musicians
Projector/Sound
Officer On Duty
Reception
Crèche

J. Cole
B. Kiley Prayer Leader R. Jackson
D. Gray
B. Moritz, B. Kiley, I. Stewart
A. Fabich / P. Norris
R. Hawtin
C. Waters
R. Fox

2015 4th January

10.00 am

Worship Leader
Communion Leader
Children's Church
Singers
Band
Projector/Sound
Officer on Duty
Welcome/Reception
Helpers

R. Jackson
M. Waters
W. Whitehead + Prayer Leader
None
M. Cox, D. Mountford, m. Gardner
N. Moritz, A. Tonkin, R. Jemmeson, C. Waters
C. Waters / B. Moritz
K. Underwood
R. Hawtin / C. Armstrong
J. Bradford, C. Beasy, J. Ferrett, G. Diggle, W. Duke,
B. Eaton, C. Meade (reader), H. Atkins
L. Homfray
G. Beruldsen, P. Castleman, R. brown
C. Waters
C. Beasy / J. & R. Barthelson

Crèche

Cuppa

Communion Prep.

Grounds / **Cleaning**