



# Church on the Hill

Sunday 7 December 2014



**Theme:** Prepare a Road for the Lord  
**Vicar:** Susan Gill  
**Preacher:** Susan Gill  
**Readings:** Isaiah 40:1 – 11, Mark 1:1 – 8

**Sentence:**

Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord! Clear the way in the desert for our God!  
*- Isaiah 40:3*

**Prayer for the day:**

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ always.

**Amen**

*Following Jesus, Building Community*

## *Reflections...*



### **Godly Imagination**

Our son had an imaginary friend for a while. He and his friend (whose name I have forgotten) would play in the sand pit together for hours. Our daughter had just gone to school and he was lonely. Many children invent an imaginary friend when they go through something difficult. This is not a bad thing – it helps them cope.

Our imagination is a gift from God. It brings out our creative side. Wonderful ideas come when we allow our imaginations to run riot.

Our imagination can help us pray. Do you run out of words? I often do. If you have the gift of tongues, that can help. It can also be fun to use our imaginations. Instead of prescribing what God ought to do for someone, we can imagine that person safe in God's hands. In our minds we imagine the Lord's loving gaze resting on them and his light surrounding them. What might his love bring to them?

Our imagination helps us to enter into the Bible in new ways also. Have you ever slowly read one of the stories wondering what it might have

been like to have been there? What would the bystanders see, hear, smell? What thoughts would they have? What questions and feelings would they experience? Such day-dreaming is not a waste of time – it leads to a richer understanding and experience of God's grace.

As we wait in Advent, you might like to imagine you are one of the key figures of the Christmas story. What might you be feeling? Or you might be a bystander; a friend or family member of one of the characters. How might you have reacted to the news of a virgin birth? Would you have offered support or judgement to the couple? What if you were one of the shepherds out in the cold and dark night? What if you were old Anna; a widow for 84 years? What if you were one of Herod's servants?

Let's allow our imaginations to run riot this Christ. Let's enter into the gritty reality of the story rather than the sanitised fairy-tale version. Let's take time for the truth of God's story to impact us afresh through our feelings and emotions as well as our minds. Let's meet again the grace of God, become flesh as a baby, born into our neighbourhood.

Much love, Susan

*Susan*

**Carol Singing around the parish** - We will be having our carol-singing night at 7.00pm on Tuesday 16 December this year. If you know anyone that you think would appreciate a visit from us could you let Jan South know - Phone 544 8413. If you are free and would like to join us as a musician or a singer please put your name on the list at the back of the church. We also like to take with us some little packs of biscuits and a posy of flowers, so please put your name down if you could help with those as well.

**Christmas Dinner** - Registrations and tickets are available at the Richmond Mall service desk, but if you have already registered with me, your tickets are in the office for you to collect. Kay.

**Parents** - Please note there will be a KC play practice at 4.00pm in the church on Sunday 7 December and then again on Saturday, 13 December at 2.00pm. The following day the children need to be at church at 9.15am to perform the play at 9.40am and then again at the 10.30am service. On Sunday 21 December children will receive gifts from the church and Micah and a helper will co-ordinate the children's programme. Crèche will be available. During the holidays there will be a programme for KC kids and people will supervise the preschooler's. Ingrid.

**Lessons and Carols Service**  
**7.00pm Tonight Sunday 7 December**  
**Church on the Hill**  
Holy Trinity Choir  
*With Special Guests*  
Richmond Primary  
School Choir



### **Children's Programme**

The toy box and baby change facilities are available anytime at the rear of the Church. Children are welcome to attend one of the following during the 10.30 sermon time:

- Kids' Church under 5's in the crèche.
- Kids' Church primary school age in the church hall and younger youth (Yr 7 to Yr 11) in Youth Room in the hall.

**Bible Reading Record** – Copies are available at the back of the Church.  
A helpful guide for your Bible reading.

### **Prayers for the Week**

**Our World:** We pray for the complex issues surrounding policing throughout the world - where there is corruption, under resourcing, pressures and many other factors for nations to deal with. We pray for the events in the United States with their policing, praying for peace and hope for all involved.

**Our Nation:** We pray for families preparing for Christmas; especially those who may overspend. Help us realise that commercialism and consumerism aren't as important as people may believe.

**Our Mission Partners:** We continue to pray for the Allan and Christine and the important relationships they nurture with many people. We pray for their health and well-being especially over the Christmas season.

**Our Diocese:** We pray for the Havelock and the Sounds and for Chris and his team. We especially pray for the travel he does throughout a large area and the challenge he faces with isolated families and communities.

**Our Local Area:** We pray for the Assemblies of God and their ministries over the Christmas and the New Year. Help them, we pray, to continue the work you want them to do. We also give thanks for the Santa Parade and the enjoyment the kids had on Sunday.

**Our Church:** We pray for the busyness of this time of year. Help us to take time to think about Christ coming into the world and what that truly means for us. We pray for those taking a break, that it will be refreshing for them. And we pray for family gatherings, that it will be a special and good time for all.

**Those in Special Need:** We pray for Franz, Ingrid, Luke, George, Carole, Noel, Wendy, Grant, Dorothy, Erica (Shirley Jackson's niece), Lisa and Fiona (St Albans), and Ellie, others known to us, those in the rest homes, hospitals and in our parish; and we give thanks to all those who care for others. We give thanks for answered prayers and ask for the Lord's continued blessing on them.

## This Week...

### Monday 8 December

9.00am Church Open for Prayer  
7.30pm Fortnightly women's group (S. Frengley)  
7.30pm Weekly group (K. Peterson)

### Tuesday 9 December

9.00am Prayer  
10.00am Fortnightly group (J. Payne)  
10.00am Weekly group (M. Silke)

### Wednesday 10 December

7.30am Prayer  
10.00am Fortnightly women's group (N. Thomas)  
10.00am Wednesday Service

### Thursday 11 December

9.00am Prayer  
9.30am Friends 'n Fun  
12.00pm Weekly Study group (WWilkinson, J Lines)  
7.30pm Fortnightly group (J. Palmer)  
7.30pm Fortnightly group (N. Pritchard)

### Friday 12 December

9.00am Prayer

### Sunday 14 December

9.00am Holy Communion\*  
10.30am Praise on the Hill\*

*\*Morning Tea between services in the Hall*

## Coming up...

### Tuesday 16 December

7.00pm Carol Singing around the Parish

*For more information about services or groups  
contact the office Ph 544 8844.*

**St Albans' Appleby Services 10.30am**

**Sunday 14 December Holy Communion**  
**Thursday 25 December 10.00am**

If you wish to give financial support to Holy Trinity Church, our bank account number is: 03 0751 0146369 001 Westpac Richmond

## Roster for 14 December *Thank you for serving us all!*

<b>Leader:</b>	<b>9.00am</b> J McConachie	<b>10.30am</b> A Sardella
<b>Sidespeople:</b>	<b>9.00am</b> M Gibson	<b>10.30am</b> M Tilley
<b>Welcomer:</b>	<b>9.00am</b> J McConachie	<b>10.30am</b> S Lyon
<b>Tea:</b>	M Watson, M Evans	
<b>Chalice:</b>	<b>9.00am</b> G Thomas, M McRae	<b>10.30am</b> N/A,
<b>Flowers:</b>	R Armstrong	<b>Brass:</b> M Evans

**Readings for Next Sunday:** Isaiah 61:1 – 4, 8 – 11, Luke 1:46 – 55

**Theme for Next Sunday:** A Child Shall Lead Them

<b>Parish Contacts</b>		Youth Intern	Antonio Sardella 544 9237
Vicar	Susan Gill 544 8827	Youth Pastor	Micah Did-dell 544 6495
Assistant Priest	Owen Haring 541 0820	Children's Ministry	Ingrid Blackbeard 544 4917
Priest Assistant	Jean Palmer 544 4275	Friends 'n Fun	Carol Sardella 544 9237
Senior's Ministry	Kay Peterson 544 8844	Parish Administrator	David Cowdrey 544 8844

### Holy Trinity Church

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### Office Hours

Monday 8.30am - 6.00pm

Tuesday 1.00pm - 6.00pm

Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm