

Prayer Points

For those in need: Chris Langman; Linda Anchell; Adrian Knight; Brian Turner; Pat Forbes; Tracy Barralet; Grace Barnes; Betty Heaton

Those we remember: Alice Saylor

Next Sunday – First Sunday after Christmas

8am **Holy Communion**

10am **Holy Communion**

Readings: 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52

Rosters: Flowers: Philida Sturgiss-Hoy

Preaching & Presiding: Rev'd Jeannette McHugh

8am Sidesperson: Tim Woodburn; Bible Reader: Shane Woodburn

10am: Welcomer: Helen Palethorpe; Sidespeople: Hardy Palethorpe; Music: Colin Forbes; Reader: Ashton Robinson; Communion Servers: Hardy Palethorpe & Andrea de Vaal Horciu; Morning Tea: Self serve in the Lamerton Centre

St Philip's Calendar <http://stphilipsoconnor.org.au/calendar.php>

Thursday 31 Dec from 8pm **New Year's Eve Party**

Chris, Roger, Leighton, Ruth & Zara's bi-annual New Years eve party is on again. This year the theme is Mexican, please dress accordingly. Please bring some food to share, drinks provided. Everyone invited. Please talk to any of the hosts for further details. Don't forget your swimmers if you wish to swim

Mexican New Year Party Wear – Pandora's has a good line in Mexican wear (alas no sombreros as YET) Please feel free to get in touch with me after 21 Dec. to make an appointment, either after church on Sunday or during the week. We cater for your every need and those you didn't know you had! Kerry-Anne and Pandora's staff.

Monday 4 Jan St Philip's Care @ Northbourne Community Centre – Resumes for 2016 (every Monday)
Sunday 7 Feb AGM Report due, please send to Rev'd Colin

Wednesday 10 Feb 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 28 Feb following 10am St Philip's Annual General Meeting

Locum tenens rector: Rev'd Dr Colin Dundon
0414 250698 cdundon@iinet.net.au

Pewsheets temporary editor: Leighton Mann. **Christmas edition** please forward notices and prayer points **by Tuesday 22 Dec, 12noon.**

Regular weekly editions will re-commence in Feb 2016
pewsheets@stphilipsoconnor.org.au or 0418 686033



St Philip's Come & See

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

e: stphil@grapevine.com.au

p: 61617334

Sunday 20 December 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10am Music

Hymns: 217, 161, 287, 272 & 283

Sentence

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Luke 1.45

Prayer of the day

Gracious God, you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son: as we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)

Today's Rosters

Flowers: Kerry-Anne Cousins

Preaching & Presiding: Rev'd Dr Colin Dundon

8am Liturgical assistant: Elizabeth Allinson; Bible Reader: David French

10am: Welcomer: Rev'd Andrea de Vaal Horciu; Sidespeople: Peter Andersson & Kerry-Anne Cousins; Liturgical Assistant: Brian McKinlay; Music: Colin Forbes; Readers: Denise Manley(OT), Ann Munro(NT); Communion Servers: James Kim, Denise Manley & 1 more; Morning Tea: Helen Palethorpe & Ethel McInnes

Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;
The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.
God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.
The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

From the Locum Tenens Rector

Song of Mary (Magnificat Luke 1:47-55) p.425 APBA

We have spoken of Zechariah's dream in recent weeks; now we reflect on Mary's. Her song echoes Hannah's over Samuel's birth (1 Sam.2.1-10), and we have looked at that in recent weeks too.

The main theme is God's promise of salvation for the poor and the oppressed. That salvation is the source of praise and worship; this hymn is a prime example of such praise.

The salvation of the poor and oppressed begins with Mary herself who becomes God's servant, a lowly person, very young and very vulnerable in a violent world in which women and children were at the bottom of the social pile. God does not choose the famous, the powerful or the celebrated because they have too much social baggage to be of much use. God simply requires that his word of promise be trusted and his right to rule be acknowledged. He uses his might and strong arm for the liberation of the poor because he is holy (Psalm 111.9; Psalm 89.10, 13).

God replaces the ruling power elites by lifting up the lowly, the rich lose their security and the hungry find satisfaction in the good things that He has to offer (51-53). The world's social order is reversed or at least that is the plan. This is a provocative and not in the least a conservative vision of God's will.

But the key to Mary's vision is that God is fulfilling his promises to Israel (54-55). Everything that is about to happen is in pursuance of God's

ancient unswerving commitment to Abraham that through him God would bless all the nations (Genesis 17.6-8, 18.18, 22.17). This also includes the promise made to David (2 Samuel 7.11-16). God's work in John and Jesus cannot be separated from these ancient promises. God's purpose has always been to bless the world with peace, love justice and truthfulness. Now is the time.

Notice how Mary speaks not of God's future action but of God's present. The announcement of the births of John and Jesus are the context for the prophetic announcement that God is working now in the midst of the present mess of deceit, violence and coercion. This prophetic language privileges the present, neither longing for a past golden age nor reserving all hope for the future. When God speaks, God acts. Such is the confidence of faith grounded in hope.

Colin

This week @ St Philip's

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| Monday | St Philip's Care @ Northbourne Community Centre Christmas Party - including Lunch |
| Thursday | 10am Holy Communion Christmas Eve 5pm Children's Christmas Service 11pm Carol Singing 11.30pm Sung Eucharist |
| Friday | Christmas Day 9am Holy Communion |

People needed to help with Rostered duties for Sunday services.

Are you able to help from time to time with some of the many duties that help to make our Sunday worship services run smoothly?

- Sidesperson to welcome people, hand out books, take up the collection and count the offerings in preparation for banking
- Liturgical assistant – see Rev'd Colin if you are interested in this
- Readers to read either the old or new testament reading of the day
- Communion servers
- Morning tea - preparation, serving and cleaning up
- Flowers – see Kerry-Anne

None of these jobs are onerous and many participants mean that the load is shared. All training and assistance will be provided. See Helen if you would like to contribute to our parish in this way. hpalethorpe@grapevine.net.au or 62488030

St Philip's Advent Calendar 2015

Enjoy the Advent Calendar on our website (stphilipsoconnor.org.au).