

Voice from the Vicarage December 1st 2022

Dear All,

Well, I think we began Advent pretty well. Last Sunday morning was a good gathering to begin the new liturgical year. Fr Russell presided at the 10am Mass on the second anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. (Just the day before was Fr Chris's sixth anniversary of ordination as an Anglican priest). Luke McGorlick was our cantor for the first time and did a splendid job, and the 'Brunswick 4' was enlarged to '6' to sing the very beautiful Advent Matin Responsory, 'I look from afar', with music by Palestrina. I love some of the Advent hymns and I can't wait to get stuck into 'Lo he comes with clouds descending', this Sunday, which takes up the very theme of that responsory!

Advent Sunday was AGM Sunday

As you know, the Mass was followed by the AGM in the church. Thank you to those who were able to stay, and those noble folk who are not on the electoral roll who also stayed. Usually such meetings are held in the parish hall, but there is something to be said for coming back into the sacred space to discuss all that has been happening, and to ponder a little on what we hope for in the coming year. It's a reminder that everything we do and say, in church or not, is in the sacred presence of God, though I must admit I sometimes forget that reality.

The minutes of that meeting will be available fairly soon, and attached to this Voice is the verbal report I gave as the parish priest. But let's mention a few matters. First of all, John Vincent and Cecilia Fairlie were confirmed as Churchwardens, and Gillian Thyer will continue as Vicar's Warden. It is so important that there be some continuity in our leadership at the moment, given all that is going on development-wise. With regard to the Parish Council, for reasons relating to the Parish Governance Act, though twelve were nominated, it was necessary to only accept nine of the twelve names for the Council. A motion from the Churchwardens, giving notice of a special meeting to be held on 8 January was passed. At this meeting there will be the opportunity to adopt rules to allow for the increased representation on the Council. It sounds complicated and bureaucratic, and that's because it is! But there we are. We can, however, be very thankful that we have so many folk willing to share in the life of the Council for the coming year.

Indeed, as befits the Lord's people, thankfulness was the general tone of the folk gathered for the meeting, and we can, I believe, look forward with a good hope to the year ahead, and face whatever challenges lie before us, and there will surely be some, for what worthwhile life can be lived to the full without challenges?

Our Sister Cara...

You will read in my report that Sister Cara will be staying with us next year as a pastoral assistant. She has, as you know, been testing her vocation with the Sisters at Tymawr in Wales. After much thought, prayer, and reflection with the Reverend Mother, the Warden of the Community (Bishop Rowan Williams), and myself, Cara is withdrawing from the novitiate, while maintaining a relationship with the Community. She will spend time back in Wales early next year, and then return to Melbourne to continue studies at Trinity, and will attend a selection conference for the ordained ministry.

The news of her staying on was met with a lovely round of applause and much joy!



What to do after an AGM?

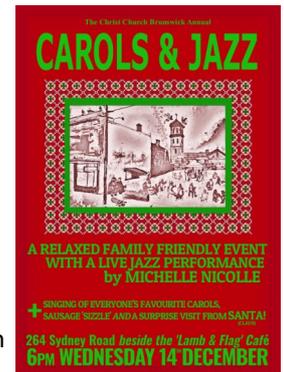
I had planned a darkened room, but a few folk took it upon themselves to arrange an impromptu lunch in the vicarage. It was fun, and rather musical! And, by surprise, we were joined by a former vicarage resident during the early 1970's! He just walked in the unlocked door and joined us for a glass of wine and a look around. At first I hear he thought Fr Jack might be the vicar (have I aged him over the past year!?) I gave him a tour of the house and he was very impressed by the musical talents of the assembled company!



Former parishioner, Earle Goldie, examines the notation in the vicarage kitchen... Nick's hidden talent on the guitar was much in evidence!

And now to the next thing! Preparing for the coming of Our Lord and the celebrations that surround his birth.

And the first event is **CAROLS & JAZZ** on December 14th. How good it will be to have a bumper turnout on the land at 260 as a witness to all passing by on Sydney Road.



Remember the best invitations are *personal invitations*. There now **definitely is** a sign up sheet for helpers at the back of the church.

A FEW DAYS LATER, ON SUNDAY 18th at 5pm...

CAROLS, where we build the Crib and turn on the Christmas tree lights, and afterwards enjoy mince pies (etc.) in 'The Lamb'.

And finally, I hear that at the Thursday lunch today hearty casseroles were on offer—beef, chicken, salmon, pork and beans, and lentils. With thanks to Stephen, Mary, Jan and Elaine. And great home made cakes too, from Ruth, Geoff, and Stephen. What a team! What a feast!

Much love, *+Lindsay*