



Alstonville Anglicans

Epiphany

Bulletin for Wed 16 Jan–Sun 27 Jan 2019

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land, on which we worship, work and meet, the Bundjalung people. We recognize the significant role the past and future Elders play in the life of the region. We are mindful that within and without the beautiful sandstone church, the Land always was and always will be Aboriginal Land.



Jesus Christ is the centre of our faith; the child Jesus is the centre of the mystery of Christmas we have just celebrated.

When Jesus grows up, he will teach "let the children come to me for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these," and "unless you become like a child you will not inherit the kingdom."

Alstonville Anglicans take Jesus seriously. We regard children as a sacrament - an outward sign of invisible grace. Why? Because Christ became a child. Why? Because Jesus said the kingdom of God belongs to children.

Here are some important things to remember about sacraments.

1. Sacraments 'work'; they communicate God's love and presence.

Sacraments work because God is good; not because the giver or receiver is good. Children are sacraments, pointers to the kingdom of God, because God is good, not because children are good, pandered to, put forward, entertained or made into entertainment. It is enough for children to merely be a part of us.

**Please note a hearing loop is installed on the right hand side of St Barts.
Please turn off your mobile phone during worship. Toilets are located in the front of the Hall.
First Aid Kits are located in the Church & the Hall.**

2. We create spaces around our sacraments- we have an altar for the Eucharist and a font for baptism. Likewise, Alstonville Anglicans create a worship space that indicates that children are welcome. We achieve this by:

- a. Inviting children to the front of the church where there are comfortable cushions to welcome them.
- b. The Godly Play models inside and around the altar communicate the sacred story of God's work with God's people.
- c. The Godly Play models are lovingly made by the saints and ministers in our church family. They are not clutter, but holy things for holy people achieving a worshipful atmosphere.

3. Sacraments 'work' when they are received. Bread and wine remain bread and wine until they are given and received as the body and blood of Christ.

Likewise, Alstonville Anglicans explore wise and sensitive ways to 'receive' children.

To this end I offer my gratitude to all of you for working with me as fellow ministers in receiving children as sacraments.

I am especially grateful to those who have offered self-emptying love in creating Godly Play models (holy things for holy people) and working with children and families in Messy Church and other projects.



Play Place 2019

Assistance is required sorting and cleaning the Play Place toys in preparation for 2019. Tuesday 22nd January **8.00am**. **Please note change of time**. Contact Lyn Stuckey for more information: 66283944.

Bible Readings

20th Jan Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Luke 2:1-11

27th Jan 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Luke 4:14-21

Annual Reports

Annual reports are due as soon as possible. Please email reports to the parish office: office@anglicans.live

AGM

17 February, 10.00am is our AGM. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) has two tasks.

1. In a church, an AGM is about the body of Christ (the congregation) discerning the Spirit. In other words, as a community we are answering the question: "what are our deepest and most authentic desires for ourselves and for God's world?" By tuning into our deepest longings, we discover God's will for our lives, our church and our community; for our deepest longings coincide with God's.

2. An AGM is also about discerning the gift-based ministry of all believers. What does this mean? Our firm conviction is that by virtue of our baptism, every person is a minister and has been given a gift by the Spirit for building up the community in unity and love. At the AGM we celebrate our status as ministers, we offer gratitude for the gifts that the Spirit gives, and we discern who has been called to practice their discipleship by being leaders, or teachers, or evangelists etc.

All who offer themselves to this process are held in high esteem for their willingness to be vulnerable to a process of discernment. Through the community at prayer, the Spirit will appoint people for different tasks. While some may experience disappointment that the church community did not select them for a particular role, it means that there is another opportunity to discover their gifts at work in another area. Thus I ask you to pray for our current, potential and future leaders, lay ministers and councilors and servers. Pray also for yourselves and each other as we listen to the heartbeat of the Spirit at work in our community through our church.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers	all the baptised!	
Rector	The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman	04 02 764 969
	rector@alstonvilleanglicanchurch.org.au	
Associate	The Reverend John Kidson	0411 394 213
	The Reverend Geoff Vidal	0447 645 456
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website:	www.alstonvilleanglicanchurch.org.au	

The Anglican Op Shop 1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777
We give thanks to God for those who contribute to sharing the good life through this church electronically. **ESB: 705 077 / Acc: 40130**

THIS MONTH IN OUR PARISH

Wednesdays	9.00am	Meditation Group, St Bart's (in recess)
Thursdays	6:00pm	Contemplative Church, St Bart's
Fridays	10.00am	Holy Communion, St Bart's
Sundays	8.00am	Holy Communion, St Bart's
	5.30pm	Cuppa then Sunday@6, St Bart's
Sunday 27th	10.00am	Holy Communion, St Peter & St Paul's

Rosters Sunday 20th January 8.00am

Thank you to all volunteers assisting with Worship (3rd Sunday team).

Person in Charge: Carol Vidal **Worship Leader:** Iris Cowie

Music Choir Cleaning: Robin Delaney **Sound:** Mark Stuckey

Flowers: Leone Frogley, Christina Woodhead, Ruth Campbell

Rosters Sunday 27th January 8.00am

Thank you to all volunteers assisting with Worship (4th Sunday team).

Person in Charge: **Worship Leader:** Helen Nicholson

Music: Ros Sharp **Cleaning:** D Fenwick & L Stuckey **Sound:** Shane McBurney

Flowers: Gladys Charter, Carol Vidal, Helen Dobbie