

SERVICE TIMES FOR DECEMBER

THE SERVICE TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

St. David's

Every Sunday
9.00 Holy Communion
On the second Sunday in month
9.00 GROWING TOGETHER IN HOLY COMMUNION
10.30 SALT ...

St. Oswald's

Every Sunday **except the second** in the month
11.00 Holy Communion
(On the second Sunday: St David's 9.00 Holy Communion / 10.30 SALT)
Every Wednesday
10.00 A service of Holy Communion
and Prayer for Healing

"GROWING TOGETHER IN COMMUNION"
- 12TH DECEMBER AT 9.00

10.00 - 10.30 - morning tea

SALT

Sharing
And
Learning
Together

Theme for December:
"99% Fat Free"

~THE ECHO~

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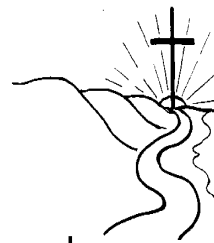
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Jesus
is the way
the Truth
and
the Life

~THE ECHO~
Monthly Newsletter of St Oswald's
& St David's Churches. December 2000

Heart to Heart....

The World in Which we Live

"A person went into a jeweler's shop with the intention of purchasing a cross. The attendant went to get some samples, and on returning said: 'I'm sorry, but we seem to only have two in stock; one is a plain one, and the other has a man on it'."

This was one little story that Bishop John Harrower related to us at Synod last month.

Another true story that he told concerned his wife Gayelene. Each Christmas their former church had a birthday party to celebrate the birth of Jesus. One particular year, She went to a cake shop to get the large birthday cake made and have an inscription palced on it – *"Happy birthday Jesus"*. The person serving her asked: *"How do you spell 'Jesus'?"*

Such is the world in which we live. In some parts of Australia there are some who are unaware of who Jesus was or is.

No longer can we assume that there is a large population out there with knowledge of Jesus, the Christmas story, let alone the Easter story – the death and resurrection of Jesus.

No longer are prayers said and hymns sung in state school assemblies. (This hasn't been done for over thirty years now.)

No longer are people familiar with "congregational singing" - that is, they have never sung a hymn or religious song, nor do they gather to sing with others. There is a vast proportion of the population who would have *never* said the Lord's Prayer, who would not know of – even heard of – the Ten Commandments.

Over 80% of the population, would have never entered a church service except for a wedding or a funeral. Don't forget, the majority of funerals are now conducted in Chapels, not churches.

Continued over page ...

The world has changed ... How do we respond?

How can we use this coming season of Christmas to help peo-

ple know about the Greatest Story ever told? How can they be made more aware of the Good News of God's amazing grace, his wonderful love expressed in the giving of his Son – our Lord Jesus?

WORSHIP

We must ensure that our liturgies – the words used in our services are simple enough to be intelligible to those who have encountered Christian worship. (Have you ever sat in church and put yourself in the shoes of someone who has never been to a church service, especially a service of Holy Communion? Try it sometime and let me know what you experienced.)

Worship with all your heart, or to use the words of John Wesley, "*Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Above all sing spiritually. Havwe an eye to God inevery word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself or any other creature*" In other words, let your worship be enthusiastic and infectious!

INVITE PEOPLE TO ...

Use the opportunities that present themselves to you to invite people to attend church with you, to come with you to Carols in the Trevallyn Park, to have a special meal with you over the Christmas season etc.

CARDS

Give real cards that express the true story of the birth of Jesus – avoid all the Santa *business* ... Instead of giving gifts, give a card expressing that this year you are giving money to charity rather than buying presents.

PRAY

that the peace, joy and wonder of Jesus come to our friends, family neighbours and work associates Make Christmas special .. as of course it is! RKF

Thank you ...

Many people need to be thanked for their contribution to the wonderful Confirmation Service last month:

The choir and musicians for the music before and during the service.

Kay, Alison and Rebecca for the dance.

The kitchen staff and all who brought food

Peter and Joan for looking after John and Gayelene and for the

meal that they supplied for the young people of the parish on the

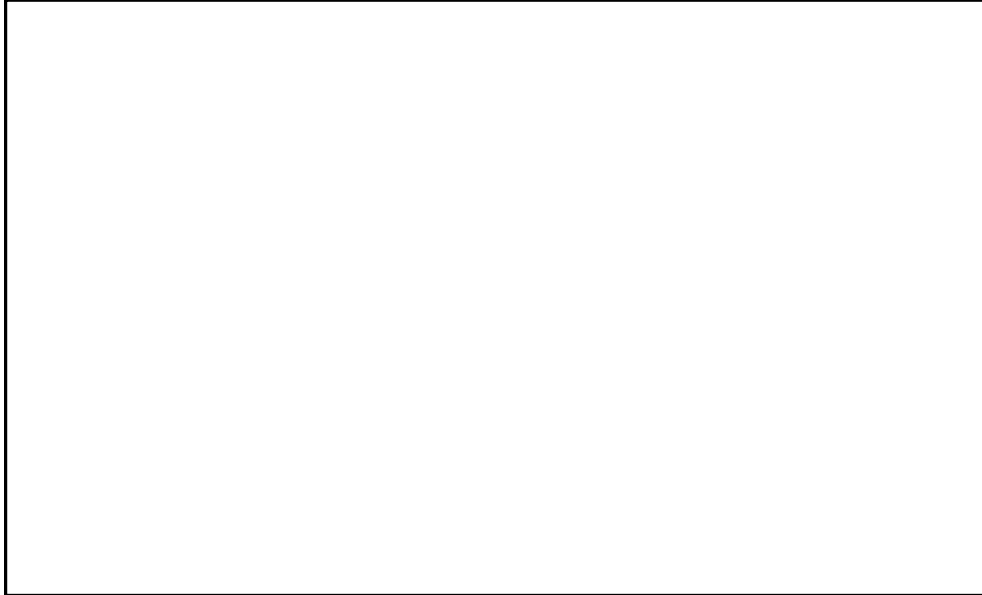
Friday evening prior to the Confirmation.

Rebecca for the *two* birthday cakes that she made for John's birthday.

Peter Cox for his work on the overhead projector

The Cook family and Vince and Margaret for supplying the bread and wine

Those who decorated church and hall.



PARISH BUDGET



What's on this month ... December ...

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|--|
| Wed | 13 | 12.00 | Ross at Diocesan Ministry Council - Ross |
| Thurs | 14 | 10am | Parents and Toddlers picnic at the Tailrace Park |
| Sun | 10 | 7.00 | Parish Council – St Oswald's with supper |
| Thurs | 14 | 8.00 | SALT leaders' meeting at the Lawrence's home |
| Mon | 18 | 2.30 | Cadorna House - Holy Communion |
| Thur | 21 | 1.45 | Holy Communion at Tamar Park |



Christmas Bowl cutting