

Annual General Meeting of our parish TODAY

- after worship, approx. 11am

Christmas Events and Times

- Christmas Eve = Sun 24th Dec: 10am Service and 5pm Carols
- Christmas Day = Mon 25th Dec: **9am Carols and Communion**
- New Years Eve = Sun 31st Dec: 10am prayers
- January service times: 10am Sundays - no rostered duties

Parish day out at beach hosted by Hodgson Family: 13th Jan 2024

Resources for ministry

Giving can be made directly to our Bendigo Bank Warrandyte account
BSB: 633-000 Acct Number: 140334277.

Church Contact Details Rev'd. Mark Hanson (Vicar) 0430 141 006
ph (general admin): 0491 185 983
email: ststephenswarrandyte@gmail.com
website: www.ststephenswarrandyte.org.au



*A welcoming Christ-centred community
seeking and working together
through the power of the Holy Spirit
to worship God, share His good news
and grow as disciples of Jesus*

Sunday 26th November 2023

Annual General Meeting

This Sunday we will share time together in our annual meeting. The Parishes Act sets out the purposes of the meeting: a business meeting to formally make appointments, to receive reports and to ask questions. The essential business of the meeting takes very little time. After the formal business, we can spend a little more time in review.

As I write this on Friday afternoon, nominations have been received for Office Bearers which do not exceed the available openings, so no election will be needed; those nominated will stand elected, as follows:

Churchwardens: Andrew Brock and Brenda Rutherford
Members of Parish Council: Kirsty Freeman, Deborah Hodgson,
Timothy Pepper and Graham Scott
Incumbency Committee: Brenda Rutherford

Thank you for those who have written reports. Attached to the weekly email are the business papers of the Annual General Meeting, including reports, and financial statements.

As I write this on Friday afternoon, no written questions or points of order have been posed.

1 If a child is in immediate danger at any point **CALL 000**

2 All suspicions or reports of child abuse must be reported to:

Who can report neglect and abuse of a child under the age of 18?	What is Child Abuse?	What sorts of things must be reported?
Children, Parents, Staff, Volunteers, Anyone.	Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to: Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, Grooming and Neglect.	All child safety concerns must be reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disclosure of past and present abuse and harm• Allegations, suspicions or observations• Breaches of the Code of Conduct

CONTACT NUMBERS: POLICE 000 CHILD PROTECTION SEE BELOW KOYOORA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 1800 135 246

Song for the Season

As we enter Advent and prepare ourselves for Christmas, our new song of the season reminds us that Jesus coming to earth is good news for all people. The song, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, is an African-American spiritual based on Luke's record of Jesus' birth being announced to the shepherds. It draws on an image from the prophet Isaiah, who says, 'How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns! (Isa 52:7 NLT). And it evokes the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20, in which Jesus authorizes his followers to go and teach his ways to all the world and gather people into God's family.

Jesus is God's good news to us! This season we celebrate together who he is and what he means for us all. Our song of the season inspires us to share with joy the good news about Jesus to everywhere to everyone.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy light
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born
And brought us all salvation that blessed Christmas morn
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Matthew 25:1-13 and 31-46

(Jesus was speaking to his disciples and said) "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 'No,' they wise ones replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."