

## Newsletter December 2017

### **A child is born to us**

Victor Hugo said that nothing is so powerful in this world as an idea whose time has come. Christmas is the perfect consummation of a promise and a person. *'For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'* Isaiah 9:6

Through centuries of darkness and doubt, discouragement and disillusionment, hope for the coming of the Messiah burned in the hearts of humankind. The fulfillment was God's gift of Jesus the Christ. *'To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'* Luke 2:11.

Let's not forget just why we are partaking of the festive indulgence. Without the Royal birth, there would be no festivities.

### **Christmas Services**

Being a Sunday, there will be the usual 10.00am service on Christmas Eve. At 6.00pm there will be a family Carol service. If you are bringing children, they might like to dress up as shepherds, angels or wise men. I will be including them as much as possible in the service.

Then at 11.00pm there will be a Holy Communion service. On Christmas Day our service is at 10.00am.

We look forward to celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus with our community.

### **January Services**

Sunday services (10.00am) will continue as usual throughout January. However, there will be no Wednesday Holy Communion services. They will get under way again in February.

### **IDEA Services**

The monthly meeting of IDEA Services in the hall will be discontinued next year. I would like to pay tribute to the tremendous service Reverend Eleanor Keys has given to this programme over the years. It has been a huge commitment for her and we are so very grateful.

### **Selwyn Seniors**

After over two years of wonderful service, Dawn Tutin is standing down from the position of Selwyn Seniors Coordinator. We are grateful to her for her enthusiasm and the relationship she has forged with the group.

We are in the process of finding her replacement.

### **To ponder**

'I've never seen a monument erected to a pessimist.' Paul Henry.

### **Thank you**

I would like to thank the people of St Paul's in the Park for making me and my family feel so very welcome this year. Having been at King's College for 28 years, I often get asked if I am missing King's. I am able to answer straight from the heart, 'Not one bit!' And that is because of the support I have received and the wonderful environment created by the congregation of St Paul's.

There are undoubtedly one or two challenges on the immediate horizon. I am thinking especially of

the building of our new Church and then reaching out to our local community in order to fill that Church. But what would life be without challenges?

I am excited about our future and I am excited about working with you all as we confront these challenges.

Mervis and I wish you a very happy and fulfilling Christmas and may 2018 bring you countless blessings.

God bless

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