




Toorak Uniting Church

Update 25 December 2016

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www.toorakuc.org.au

Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am



Thinking – – Christopher Page

Christmas by John Betjeman

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the
ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas
Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze,
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are
glad.

And Christmas-morning bells say
'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true ? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissue'd fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

O love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

Special service, Sunday 1 January

Please be reminded that **all January services begin at 9.30am**. To celebrate the start of 2017 on New Year's Day, come and join the worship led by our very own Rev Chris Page. Jennifer Chou and Joseph Yu will play special Prelude, Offering and Postlude music at the 9.30am service to ring in the New Year!

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND ELECTION OF ELDERS

A Special Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday 26th February 2017 immediately after the 10.15am service. The purpose of the meeting will be the election of elders and non-elder members of Church Council and the election of a new Chairman of the Congregation. Nomination forms for the position of elder and non-elder of Church Council, and for the position of Chairman of the Congregation, are available from the Church Office and must be returned to the Church Office by Monday 30th January 2017 by 12.00 noon. Members considering nomination may wish to discuss the duties with the Minister.

Baptism, Confirmation, Membership

If you are considering one of these Christian practices now or in 2017, please feel free to see Chris to discuss it further. There is no age limit on any of them!

Diary Dates

Sat 24 Dec	6.00pm	Family Carols in the Courtyard	Courtyard
Sat 24 Dec	8.00pm	Australian Christmas Carols Service	Church
Sun 25 Dec	10.00am	Christmas Day Service	Church
Sunday worship services in January are at 9.30am.			Church
Thu 16 Feb	10.00am	Morning Group AGM & Communion	Church
Sun 26 Feb	10.15am	Whole Church Family Service: Relationships	Church
Sun 26 Feb	11.15am	Cong. Mtg: election of Elders & Cong. Chair	Church
11-13 Mar		Labour Day long weekend	
Sun 19 Mar	10.15am	Grief service	Church
Fri 14 Apr		Good Friday	
Sun 16 Apr		Easter Sunday	
Tue 25 Apr		ANZAC Day holiday	
Sun 30 Apr	10.15am	Whole Church Family Service: ANZAC Day (TBC)	
Sun 07 May	11.15am	Cong Mtg: Reports & re-election of Elders	Church
Sun 21 May	10.15am	Communion & Elder commissioning	Church
10-12 Jun		Queen's Birthday long weekend	
Sun 25 Jun	10.15am	Whole Church Family Service (TBC)	Church
Sun 27 Aug	10.15am	Whole Church Family Service: Baptism Reunion (TBC)	
End Sep/Beginning Oct		Grand Final long weekend (not yet dated)	
Sun 29 Oct	10.15am	Whole Church Family Service: Grandparents/kids (TBC)	
Tue 07 Nov		Melbourne Cup Day	

Donations for the purchase of courtyard pots & plants would be gratefully received by the garden committee via Pamela, Nina, Jon or the Office. Thanks!

Watering job: Watering a newly planted nature strip for ten days over summer, please ring 0408 992 199 to discuss the details.

Warmest congratulations to James and Kate Widdowson on the safe arrival of their son, Xander Neo Widdowson. Born 12 Dec. 2016, approx. 3.5kg / 7.5lbs. All well and very happy.



TUC Office Summer Hours:

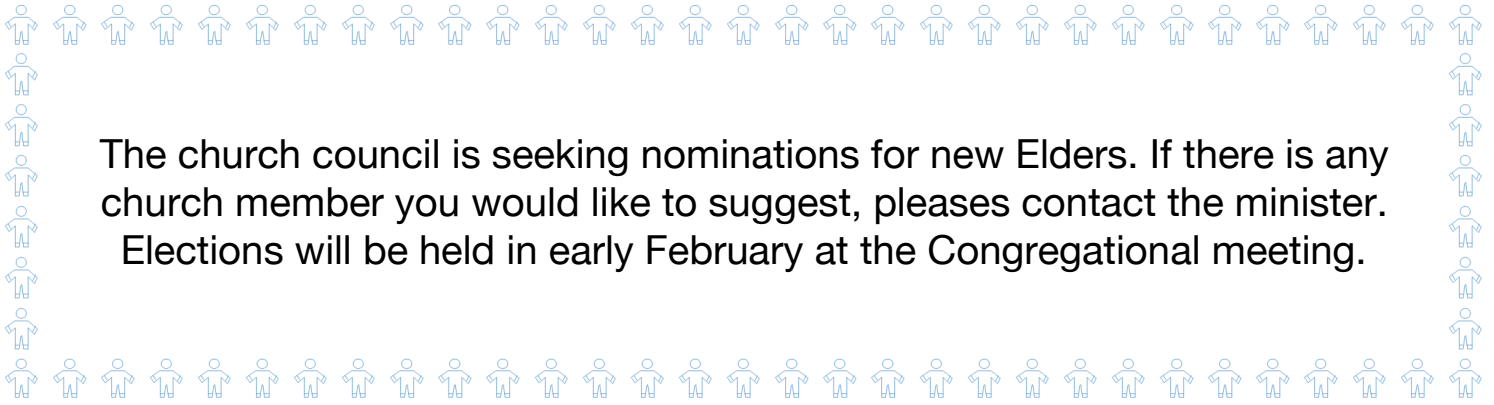
CLOSED	24 December 2016 - 15 January 2017
OPEN	Wed. & Fri. only 16 - 31 January 2017
OPEN	Mon. to Fri. from 1 February 2017

Messages (returned after 16 Jan.):	9829 0300
Pastoral emergencies:	0417 506 338
Maintenance emergencies:	0412 106 999

*** Please Note: Sunday services in January are at 9:30am only. ***

MUSIC NOTES:

- ♪ The choir will be in recess in January, and resume singing in the 10.15am service on Sun. 19 Feb.
- ♪ Guest organists:
 - ♪ 29 Jan. Andrew Blackburn
 - ♪ 5 Feb. David Hammes from Norway. David will bring special Norwegian organ music written for the church and give a mini-recital at the end of the 10.15am service. Soloist: Catriona De Vere.
- ♪ Andrew Blackburn and Jean Penny will be guest performers in the annual Lady White Memorial Organ Recital on Sunday 21 May 2017 at 2pm. Please save the date now for this special concert. Andrew is a former Director of Music of TUC. He and Jean will share with us magnificent music written for organ and flute.



The church council is seeking nominations for new Elders. If there is any church member you would like to suggest, please contact the minister. Elections will be held in early February at the Congregational meeting.

USE OF THE FAICHNEY ROOM

Please note that due to renovation of the John Macrae Centre building, the JMC program will be run in the Faichney Room during January and February.



The renovations are due to be completed by 3 March. Fingers crossed!

2017 Planned Giving Envelope Sets are now available. Please pick up your set at the back of the Church after the service. If you would like to join the TUC Planned Giving Stewardship Programme, please contact:

Stan Laugher:
9813 5242
0427 401 299

stanlaugher@acslink.net.au

TUC IN 2027??

Have you ever given much thought to this question?

During 2016 a small committee has discussed this matter extensively and have a preliminary report for the whole congregation to consider next year.

After January 19, copies will be available from the office for you to consider and express your thoughts in writing by March 2017.

More details will be available in the new year.

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at Toorak Uniting Church.

Please come and join us after the service for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee.