



The Friendly Word

CHURCH OF CHRIST WEMBLEY DOWNS APRIL 19th 2009

Marks of faith

This week's readings:

Acts 4: 32-35 *The early church living community*

Psalm 133 *"Family" love*

1 John 1: 1 - 2: 2 *Walking in the Light of God.*

John 20: 19-31 *The Risen Christ— and disciples doubting. seeing, believing.*

Today please pray for the people of Japan, North Korea, South Korea & Taiwan



DeeJaySpins...

Ever wondered "what now?" after the long weeks of Lent, the intensity of Holy Week, the sobriety of Good Friday and the startling contrast of the joy of Easter Sunday? CCTC lecturer, **Stephen Curkpatrick**, pulls no punches when he reminds us that our task is perpetually **practising resurrection**.

When church is a pitiful business

If Christ is not risen, "we are of all people most to be pitied" on a Sunday or any other day the church gathers together. It will not matter what is done in the name of church; if Jesus Christ is not our central focus, we are a pitiful people.

The church may present itself as a community network or facilitate human interests, yet without testimony to Christ as its primary concern and crucial resource in faith and joy, the church will not be a distinctive community within society. It will most likely offer shadowy imitations of what is already available elsewhere.

If Christ is not risen, then as Paul states, our "faith is futile" and we are "misrepresenting God."

Being "in Christ" is living in the reality of Christ risen and present in a community of grace as its transformative source and testimony amid human life. This is good news to be heard, experienced and toward which any person can be wholly orientated without ambiguity.

Alternatively, without the living reality of Jesus Christ as its central focus and impetus for new life, purpose and service, whatever its business within society, there is no reason why people would not suspect that church is a pitiful business.

Shalom Dennis Ryle



Is peace somewhere over the rainbow???

Find answers at our **Church Camp** Friday May 1 to Sunday May 3 at **Landsdale School Farm., 80 Landsdale Road, Landsdale.**

Come for all the program if possible; or come for whatever parts you can. A great way to build fellowship and get to know your church family. Special interests for the children. Lifts and Car-pooling possible.

Forms are available with program, costs, what to bring, etc. They need to be completed and in by next Sunday.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There will be no service held here in our chapel on May 3rd. All are invited to be at Camp from 10.30am for morning tea, followed by a communion service at 11.00am

And stay for lunch (but you need to let us know in advance so we have some food for you).



Caring for God's beautiful world...

a few reminders about s this.... and that....

Did you know that substantial government rebates are available when you install water tanks, rain-water plumbing-in systems, grey-water systems, solar hot water, electricity generating, etc?

If you're looking for ways to "stimulate" the economy with Mr Rudd's money, you might like to consider....

Important dates !!!!

****The Future of Christianity: What will it look like in coming years?**

The Institute for Anglican Studies present **6 guest scholars' views** on the subject, in a Tuesday night series beginning on May 5th at St George's Cathedral from 7.30pm. Full details are in a blue booklet on the notice board.

.**Ladies—**Women's Ministries** "In Touch" for April is on the board.

** The **ACCIM coffee & dessert** evening will be held on Tues April 21st at 7pm at Dianella church.

Sorry to learn that **Merrill Kitchin plans to retire from her post as Principal of Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Vic, at the end of the year. Merrill has made a great contribution to our churches and to church life in Australia and Israel.

Our prayers are with those who must search for a suitable replacement.

**Our next State Council meeting will be held on Saturday May 16 at 10am, and will include an ordination ceremony, when a number of ordinands will be recognized. (Venue to be advised).

The **new draft service plan is in the long room today for your attention please. Good to have some new names on the lists this time—thanks for participating.

IMPORTANT NOTE: As the last Sunday on the present plan is Pentecost, and will see us taking part in a combined program at St Paul's, those listed for service on that day will find they are now listed for the first Sunday in June. Hopefully this will still be OK with you—if not, please talk to Dot today.

The new **Church Directory is to hand—if you are on line but didn't receive a copy, grumble to Dot (gently) - and if you're **not** into computers but would like a "hard" copy, also talk to Dot. **NOTE:** The Board Chairman's phone # should be 4357.



ON THE GRAPEVINE

Happy birthdays this week to **Ron Benford (tomorrow) and **Dennis Gregory** (Thursday). (Dennis & Sri's new home in Alexander Heights is nearly ready to move back from Mandurah into.) ****Pam Prosser** is away, traveling on the "Ghan" with daughter Shelley. Now that's nice!

We were sad to hear that **Vera Mullins has passed away after a long illness. (Vera was in membership here for many years, but needed hospitalisation some years back after a stroke). Her funeral was on Friday.

We understand **Marilyn & John Beard are about to be inundated (in the nicest imaginable way) by relatives, gathering for another family wedding. We trust all goes well!

****Cecilia Stokes** is still very sore as she nurses 2 broken ribs. We hope she'll be skipping about again soon!

**Good to hear that the "hot box" previously known as the minister's study now has air-conditioning. (Just in time for the cool weather! - oh, well....)

****Rose & Neil Monson** send their love—they're doing well at their home in Bunbury, and think of us often.