

Notices: MORNING TEA We have been invited to share **Morning Tea** at the Drop In this **Thursday 20th December at 10am.**

CAROLS at St Kilda. This will be held here on **Friday 21st December at 6.30pm.** Please come and bring friends and family.

CHRISTMAS DAY service will be at 9.30

Drop In Christmas Party. Thank you everyone for your help last Sunday. It was certainly an excellent example of 'many hands make light work.' The goody bags went down a treat.

We respectfully acknowledge the Yalukit Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung – the Traditional Owners of Port Phillip. We pay our respects to their Elders and community past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Date	16 Dec	23 Dec	30 Dec	6 January
Worship	David	David	David	David
Assistance	Brian	Randall	Melissa	Desleigh
Welcome at door	Janet	Louise	Maureen	Mary
Flowers	Deb	Maureen	Petra	Mary
Coffee	Mark/Ruth	Louise	Maureen	Mary
Rubbish collection	Roma	Melissa/Darren	Andrej	Randall

Church

Corner Chapel & Carlisle Sts
St Kilda 3182. Ph:

Engagement Hub

101 Carlisle St.

St Kilda 3182. Ph: 9525 5478

Minister: Rev. David Pargeter

Email: saints674@inet.net.au

PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183.

Ph: 0412 334 334

www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au

Church phone no.

0458 417 708


VISION STATEMENT:

As a community of faith, the St Kilda Uniting Church Parish Mission strives to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk humbly with God.

NEWSLETTER DETAILS:

Desleigh Kent is the editor of the Newsletter. **Contributions are welcome and can be sent to her at desleighk@ozemail.com.au**

If you would like to be part of a growing congregational email list (and receive a full colour copy of the church newsletter in pdf format), please contact Rob Hess at Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au



**St Kilda Uniting Church
Parish Mission
NEWSLETTER
Volume 53, Issue 44
Sunday, 16 December 2018
ADVENT 3**



You are most welcome to our worship service. Rev. David Pargeter will lead our service today. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation.

Bible Reading: Luke 3; 7 – 18. Pg.1127

From David:

‘Good thoughts. Good words. Good deeds’. This simple mantra appears in the film *Bohemian Rhapsody* – a story about Freddie Mercury and Queen. Freddie’s parents were Zoroastrian and this very simple phrase is attributed to Zoroaster.

Little is known about this ancient prophet from Persia who lived at least 800BCE - around the same time as the prophet Isaiah. But it’s quite clear that his spirituality influenced Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and probably Buddhism.

He was more commonly known as Zarathustra; a spiritual leader and ethical philosopher who taught a spiritual philosophy of self-awareness and awareness of the divine. That the two are one. In Hinduism the concept is captured in the greeting *Namaste* – ‘I bow to the divine within you’.

I first ‘bumped’ into Zoroastrianism while working in London and doing a project on multi-faith education in a State school. One of the grandparents in the focus group was a follower. He introduced me to this simple mantra and it has remained with me.

After watching the film while on holiday, I found myself meditating again the depths of its simplicity: **Good thoughts. Good words. Good deeds..**

This, in turn, lead me to pondering upon the deeper meaning of Advent and Christmas, and the historical context out of which John and Jesus emerge. Dark times with not much hope. Corruption and despair everywhere.

Christmas is deep and even more significant in our current times. It's an important story for a world where compassion seems less evident, and cruelty and hardness are on the rise, Christmas stands out as a season of light in a world full of shadows. Indeed, a time for '*Good thoughts. Good words. Good deeds*'.
David

HYMNS

A Bit of Faith. Tune: TiS 536

A bit of faith is all I need
A bit of faith on which to feed
A bit of faith by which to live
A bit of faith through which to give.

A bit of faith to hold me up
A bit of faith to fill my cup
A bit of faith to see me through
A bit of faith in me and you

A bit of faith among the strife
A bit of faith to give me life
A bit of faith to shape my ways
A bit of faith to end my days

A bit of faith to keep me strong
A bit of faith to right my wrong
A bit of faith is all I need
A bit of faith – a mustard seed.

David Pargeter October 2017

Kindness. Tune. TiS: 615

Unnamed, unknown and undisplayed,
the acts of kindness daily made;
kind deeds to strangers and to friends,
the helping hand that loving lends.
True kindness will love's presence bring
as joy and blessings newly spring.

The secret acts of kindly care
endow each life with treasure rare;
and kindness given without delay
is love divine shared every day.
True kindness shows God's presence lives
in all who receive and all who give.

The unremembered kindly deed
is gift of grace in time of need;
the healing power of kindly gift
will every shadowed spirit lift.
True kindness shows God's loving care
in human touch, good news we share.

We shall not pass this way again,
so may our kindness touch life's pain;
one kindly deed may friendship seal
and will a deeper truth reveal:
True kindness shows God's grace to be
revealed in all humanity.

Helen Wiltshire

Summer Christmas. Tune: 595

We sing our Christmas carols amidst
the summer heat;^{[L][SEP]}
When scorching winds can torment
those harvesting their wheat;^{[L][SEP]}
We look for cooling respite, some
shade among the trees;^{[L][SEP]}
An evening change in weather, a light
refreshing breeze.

The summer heat reminds us of
drought and rainless days;^{[L][SEP]}
Of hostile dust-storms raging, of
forest trees ablaze;^{[L][SEP]}
At times like these we question; we
sometimes feel dismay;^{[L][SEP]}
We need to sing our carols to
celebrate this day.

This story of a baby, exposed to
human fate;^{[L][SEP]}
To summer heat and winter, to human
love and hate;^{[L][SEP]}
The Jesus story claims that we all can
rise above;^{[L][SEP]}
Our disappointing failures to work the
works of love.

We can be devastated by all the daily
news;^{[L][SEP]}
By murders, wars and conflicts, by
pessimistic views;^{[L][SEP]}
But in the Jesus story we ponder on
the worth;^{[L][SEP]}
Of love, compassion, beauty, the hope
of peace on earth.

So Christmas has a message of
dreaming and good cheer;^{[L][SEP]}
When God's intention prompts us
both now and every year;^{[L][SEP]}
In summer and in winter to emulate
with joy;^{[L][SEP]}
The life we see in Jesus – this tiny
baby boy.

George Stuart 2009

And I will wait now. Tune: TiS 156

And I will wait now,
and in the waiting
feel still more closely
your love for me.
For I'll be patient
and I'll be gentle,
touched by your steadfast
humility.

And I will hope now,
and in the hoping
make every action
a gift for you.
For I'll seek justice
and I'll love mercy,
each word I speak an
echo of you.

And I will go now,
and in the going
follow your Christ light
so I will see
how I may find you,
holy and human,
your arms stretched open
waiting for me.

Laurence Wareing 2013 Inspired by the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer