

St John's Cranbourne December 2018 Newsletter

church location: cnr Childers and Russell Sts Cranbourne

office: 27 Childers St Cranbourne 3977, 59959364

vicar: The Rev'd Dr David Powys, 5996 8461 ah, email: dpowys@live.com

website: www.sjac.com.au

GROWING PEOPLE, BUILDING COMMUNITY

8 December 2018

Dear Friends,

This newsletter has been somewhat delayed, in view of unexpected recent developments, but with Christmas services fast approaching, and with our youth musical coming up this Friday, the time has come to 'go to print'.

It was announced on Sunday 11 November that the Parish Incumbency Committee had decided that my incumbency at St John's Cranbourne should not be extended beyond ten years. This was despite my indicating that I was keen to continue as Vicar of St John's and Christ Church for just over two more years, in order to help St John's steady itself after a quite difficult year, and to take me to retirement.

Back in the 1980s it was decided that incumbents (that is my technical position) in the Diocese of Melbourne should no longer be able to stay in one parish indefinitely, and that their term should be limited to 10 years from their time of appointment as incumbent. When this change was implemented, incumbency committees were given the option of offering a 5 extension of incumbency.

Each parish has an incumbency committee comprised of three or more parish representatives (we had four), along with the archdeacon, a representative of the clergy of the Diocese and the area bishop. In our case, the four individual parish representatives are in fact elected/appointed by 1) St John's 2) Christ Church 3) St John's and Christ Church voting together and 4) the churchwardens. These positions are filled in the first three cases at, and in the fourth case, after, the Parish Annual General Meeting each year.

There is an Act of Synod which directs the process used by an incumbency committee, and on the interpretation of that Act which was applied in my case, given that a majority of the parish representatives on the Incumbency Committee did not vote for my extension, it was decided that I could not be extended.

This decision was legal, but very surprising and disappointing to me and my wife Penny. It was evidently also surprising and disappointing to a great many parishioners, as has been expressed by motions carried strongly by the previous Parish Council, the Annual General Meeting held just under a fortnight ago, and unanimously by the newly elected Parish Council.

It is not clear why this has occurred or where this will all lead, but I shall in any case be continuing as the Vicar of St John's until 11 May next, after which I shall have nearly 4 months of leave due to me.

You will appreciate that the decision of the previous Incumbency Committee places me in a strange position, which will impact how I approach some things, especially longer-term planning. However, I give you my undertaking that I shall continue to work hard, and I trust graciously towards all, until the end of my time as vicar among you.

Please pray for the unity and health of our parish at this testing time, as there are clearly two very different views within the parish as to whether my tenure should or should not have been extended. It would be a great pity if the 20 months difference between my being extended or not were spent divided and losing momentum. Despite erroneous suggestions by some to the contrary, St John's has been keeping good momentum over the last year, in attendances and in giving, despite setbacks and difficulties. This is thanks to a great many reading this newsletter.

Christmas Services and Events at St John's 2018

Friday 14 December

8pm, Youth Musical *WaiT It's a Musical* (see below and insert)

Sunday 16 December

10.30am Christmas Children's Pageant

Sunday 23 December

6.30pm Nine Lesson and Carols Service led by the St John's Choir

Christmas Eve

7pm Family Christmas Communion

11pm Midnight Communion

(with carols from 10.30pm)

Christmas Day

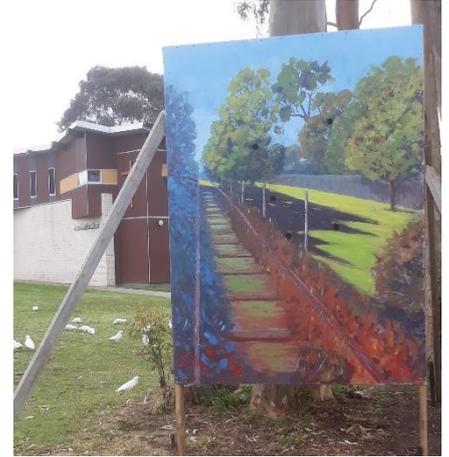
9.30am Christmas Day Service (also 8am at Christ Church Tooradin)



come let us adore him Christ the Lord

2018 The Year that Was

Last month's Victorian election result was no surprise to anyone, and in a real sense the result was well-deserved. The Victorian Labor Government has made long-overdue infrastructure development in parts of the state its priority, something which is vital for Victoria with its capital growing at such a rate that it is expected to become Australia's largest city in coming decades. Melbourne's projected expansion is due in large measure to the growth of places like Cranbourne and Clyde, which make up this parish. My hope and prayer is that under our newly elected local member, Pauline Richards, this electorate will not be further left behind in terms of roads and rail. It was in a quest to highlight the need for the train line to be extended to East Cranbourne that I created and displayed my 'big painting', depicting the abandoned rail track just west of Narre Warren Rd (see photo). This extension, and the construction of a station at East Cranbourne, were promised 20 years ago. Life will be much easier for everyone in this parish when the train line is extended, and when we come to rely less on Cranbourne and Merinda Park Stations to access train services.



At a federal level it is clear that 'conservatives' are coming in for a lot of criticism.

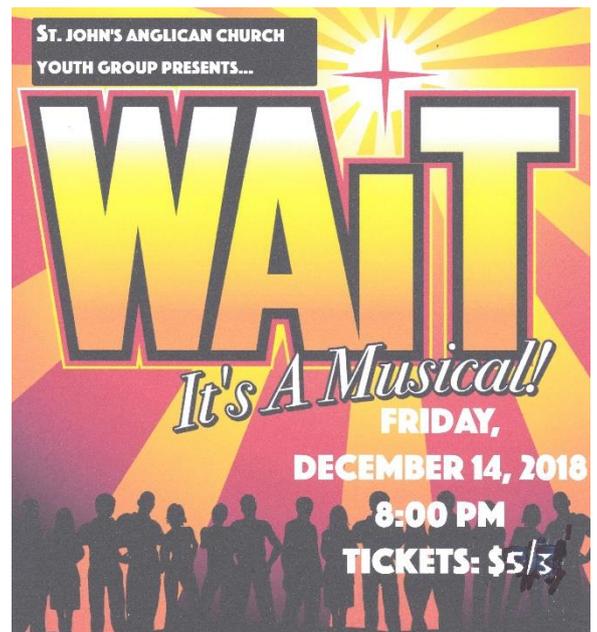
The Victorian election result and the wider criticism of 'conservatives' probably also reflects a move away from public concern about certain moral and ethical issues, issues dear to my heart, and I know dear to many of you. Increasingly these are represented as being concerns mainly of 'conservatives', whose conservatism is attributed to 'religious convictions', and accordingly not seen as relevant to debate in the public arena. My hope and prayer is that Victoria and Australia will not come to rue the day they set aside the moral and ethical concerns of conservatives, especially of christian conservatives. If we were better students of history, we would not forget the lessons of history so easily.

Youth Musical – Fri 14 Dec at 8pm

St John's young people have been rehearsing *WAIT – It's a Musical* over the last two weeks. This is a rock musical, written some 20 years ago and performed in many locations across the world over that time. **The one and only performance is at 8pm this Friday, 14 Dec, at St John's.** Tickets are available this week from the office, and will be available at the door (please arrive 15 minutes early to purchase).

The cast is thirteen in number, with others in instrumental, backstage and support roles. There are twelve songs, some of them solos, others duets and others with small groups of singers, with many of them being accompanied live by our own youth musicians.

The tone of this musical is humorous, but the theme is serious – the 'back stories' to the births of John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth. Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph are key players, as is a narrator, and a very 'out there' Gabriel. This Friday night is the time to come and see the front of St John's Church transformed to Zechariah and Elizabeth's home, the Temple precinct in Jerusalem, and sites in Nazareth, as our young people take us back more than 2000 years in time to explore extraordinary events in the lives of these two ordinary families in the year before the births of cousins John and Jesus. A flyer is enclosed.



Nine Lessons and Carols Service – Sun 23 Dec at 6.30pm

St John's combined choir will again this year lead a traditional *Nine Lessons and Carols Service* on 23rd December at 6.30pm. St John's is blessed at the present time with many very talented singers and a fine organist, meaning that we can offer what local churches cannot offer. This carol and readings service is a most suitable compliment to attending Holy Communion on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The choir will sing some carols on their own, and lead many others (in four part harmony) sung by the whole congregation.

With every blessing,

David Powys, Vicar