

Vision Statement:

We see a Jesus-orientated church having a passion for the Gospel and compassion for the world expressed through dynamic worship, love in action, the empowering of the servant leaders and the growing of disciples.

Reverend Jonathan Button can be contacted on 0467 683 333 or j.button@bigpond.com

I am available in the event of emergencies at any time, but other than that would appreciate not receiving calls on Wednesdays, where possible, as this is my day off.

Church Telephone Number: 8251 4298

This Week's Roster

16th December, 2018

Preacher: **Joan**
Leader (am): **Cath**
Leader (pm): **James**
Welcome: **Trevor**
Duty Elder: **Richardt**
Reader: **Chris H.**
Musicians: **Brunetta & the Boys**
Stewards: **John & Max**
Managers: **Max & Jim**
Crèche: **Christmas Break-Up**
Kidz Connect: **Christmas Break-Up**
Morning Tea: **Glenda & Ted**
Audio: **Jim**
Visual: **Kay**
Cleaning: **Åsa, Lucinda, Jane & Roger**

Next Week's Roster

23rd December, 2018

Preacher: **David d'Lima**
Leader (am): **Cath**
Leader (pm): **Jonathan**
Welcome: **Chris DeB.**
Duty Elder: **Richardt**
Reader: **Coral**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Stewards: **Max & Ray**
Managers: **Max & Jim**
Crèche: **Vacation**
Kidz Connect: **Vacation**
Morning Tea: **Katherine & Sarah B.**
Audio: **Jim**
Visual: **Kay**
Cleaning: *********

Christmas Hampers

Last Thursday 20 Christmas hampers were delivered to Banksia Park Primary School and Greenwith Primary School.

Thank you so very much indeed to Estia nursing home and our generous and giving congregation for a vibrant and living manifestation of the Christmas spirit in full blossom.

May God bless you all.

Golden Grove Gazette

Keeping in touch with the G.G.U.C. family

<http://goldengroveuniting.org.au>

Sunday, 16th December, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent

Preacher: **Joan**

Theme: **The Command to Be Ready**

Scripture Reading: **Romans 13: 11-14 and Matthew 24: 36-44**

Mission Statement: To draw people



to our Lord Jesus Christ



and nurture them through our church

"Nothing Is Impossible For God"

Are you struggling with difficulties, or even in a place of utter darkness from which you can't see a way out?...

The angel Gabriel said, "Nothing is impossible for God"!

That's a truly amazing statement. Can it be true?... Can it be true for us?...

Gabriel said this to Mary when prophesying the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, who was conceived in her by the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:37). However, it was in reference to her barren and elderly cousin Elizabeth's also miraculously becoming pregnant. This child was to be John the Baptist, the one appointed by God to announce the salvation of God to all people, that was coming through Jesus Christ.

When John was born, Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, burst out into a song of joyous praise of all that God was doing (Lk 1:67-79). The people of Israel had had a tortured history, and been through, and were very much still in, great darkness. They had known enemies and oppressors without, and grave weakness and sin within. Who could ever rescue them?... They knew that only God could. The greatest question was, *Would He?...* After all, *Why should He?* – given their profound resistance to Him, and their sin.

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This was Israel, yet Paul says that *we – the Church – are "the Israel of God"* (Gal 6:16). They are our spiritual brothers and sisters, and we have a part in their nature and experience... We have our own tortured histories, our own deep darkneses! The cry goes up from us, too, who will save us?

Zechariah answers that God remembers His mercy, His holy covenant, the oath that He swore to His people. God's people would prove weak and faithless; God the Father would prove merciful and faithful... But again, *How?* – He is a holy God! Yes, but He gives "knowledge of salvation to His people by the forgiveness of their sins". The answer is, *this child, Jesus Christ, will save the people from their sins* (Mt 1:21)!

Because Jesus Christ came at Christmas, and comes now by the power of the Holy Spirit, "...the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness..." (Lk 1:77,78)

Wherever you are "at" this Christmas, *nothing is impossible for God! So cling around His neck in faith, and nothing is impossible for you!*

Grace in Christ, Jonathan

NOTICE TO ALL CONVENERERS

As the Annual General Meeting is being held on Sunday, 24th February, 2019, after Worship, could I please have all Convener's reports no later than Sunday, 3rd February, by e-mail to:

catherine.mckechnie@bigpond.com .

Thanks in advance, Cath.

And now these three remain:

Faith, Hope, and Love

But the greatest of these is Love.

- 1 Cor 13:13 -



Recycling



Thank you very much to our congregants and their families and friends for the enormous contribution that they have made to the recycling part of the budget this year. Last Tuesday Max, the two Johns (H. and W.) and Jim counted, sorted, bagged and delivered 1,029 cans, bottles (glass and plastic), coffee containers (cardboard and plastic) and even Yaklut (?) containers. This meant that \$102.90 had been raised for our church coffers. For God had said, "Let the South Australian government introduce the ten cents system because the Golden Grove Uniting Church will be in desperate financial need." Long live recycling!!

"This most tremendous tale of all, a Baby in an ox's stall."

John Betjeman (1906-1984)

Today's Hymns and Songs

Garment of Praise (Praise and Worship 236)

Light one candle for hope (Together In Song 286)

Joy to the world! (Together in Song 268)

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee (Together in Song 152)

Come as you are (Together in Song 693)

Glory be to God the Father (Together in Song 142)

May the feet of God walk with you (Together in Song 779)



Christmas Greetings

May you all have a joyous Christmas
and a blessed and happy New Year.

Vivienne and Eddie



To my dear
Church Family,

Praying that the blessings
of the Christmas season
will be with you all now
and throughout the New Year.

Lila

May your Christmas be filled
with moments of love,
laughter and goodwill,
and may the year ahead
be full of good health,
contentment and joy.

Happy Christmas,

Lesley and Barrie

(donation to
Guide Dogs SA/NT
in lieu of sending cards)



Hope | Peace | Joy | Love



May you all be
blessed with
hope, peace, joy
and love at
Christmas and
in the New Year.

Kathleen S.



To all
my Church Family,
May God bless you
with His love and peace
at Christmas.

Pat H.

Dates for our December, January and February Diaries

- Third Sunday in Advent (JOY): Sunday, 16th December
- Carols Service: Wednesday, 19th December: 7.00 pm (Shared Supper)
- Southern Summer Solstice: Saturday, 22nd December: 8.53 am
- Fourth Sunday in Advent (LOVE): Sunday, 23rd December
- Christmas Eve Service: Monday, 24th December: 6.00 pm (Café)
- Christmas Day Service: Tuesday, 25th December: 9.00 am
- Jonathan's Annual Leave: from 26th December to 27th January
- Wednesday, 26th December: Public Holiday
- Friday, 28th December: Proclamation Day
- Monday, 31st December: New Year's Eve
- Working Bee: Saturday, 5th January: 8.00 am
- Presbytery and Synod Meeting: Saturday, 5th January, 2019
- Estia Worship Service: Monday, 7th January: 2.00 pm
- Due Date for Conveners' Reports: Sunday, 3rd February
- Annual General Meeting: Sunday, 24th February, 2019: after Worship

*"This is the month, and this the happy morn,
Wherein the Son of Heav'n's Eternal King,
Of wedded maid and virgin mother born,
Our great redemption from above did bring."*

John Milton (1608-1674)

Carols Service: Wednesday, 19th December: 7.00 pm

It is our custom at Golden Grove that, after the Carols Service, we have a shared supper. Therefore, once again we ask if you could please bring a plate of food to share on the night.

Thanks and blessings, Cath.



Philippines Sponsorship



A reminder that this quarter 's donations are now due.

It would be really appreciated if you were able to attend to this as soon as possible, so that we can finalise everything before Christmas.

If you 're not a sponsor, you can still participate by using the 'Philippines jars ' on the tea and coffee table.

Thank you, Gordon Cooksey.

Craft Group Update

We would like to thank the Craft Group for its considerable contribution to the Christmas Tree Festival's stalls. In addition to keeping the Pink Pig well fed, the group also raised \$321.00 from its weekly donations. This money has been given to the church to pay for the much needed new altar cloth, with any money left over going directly to the church. In 2019 the group will meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning in February. This change is a result of Janet's semi-retirement and a perceived decline in interest in attending each week.

Church Council Election

25th November, 2018

The following members have been elected to Church Council:

ELDERS: Jane Bean, Roger Bean, Ray Holroyd, Andrew MacTier and Cath McKechnie.

COUNCILLORS: Tim Checkley, Coral Larcombe and Neil Larcombe.

The tenure for these elected members is for two years and will commence on 1st January, 2019.

John Wheatcroft

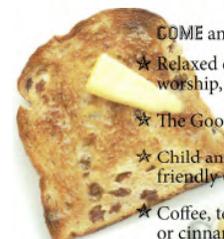
Council Chairperson



Café CHURCH

Golden Grove Uniting Church

Join us for Cafe Church @ Golden Grove Uniting every **second** and **fourth** Sunday of the month.



COME and EXPERIENCE:

- ★ Relaxed contemporary worship, cafe style
- ★ The Good News of Jesus Christ
- ★ Child and young family friendly (noise allowed!)
- ★ Coffee, tea, and yummy raisin or cinnamon toast supplied
- ★ Friendship

WHEN: Every second and fourth Sunday

TIME: 6.00 'til 7.00pm

WHERE: Golden Grove Uniting Church hall

All Welcome!



2019

- 13th January
- 27th January
- 10th February
- 24th February
- 10th March
- 24th March
- 14th April
- 28th April
- 12th May
- 26th May
- 9th June
- 23rd June