



**St Matthew's**  
KENSINGTON

## Next Week's Services

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### St Matthew's

8.30am, 10.30am & 6pm

### St Bartholomew's

10am

### Grace Church

10am

## Upcoming Events

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### Christmas Eve Services

5pm Children's - St Matt's

5pm Children's - St Bart's

11pm - St Matt's

### Christmas Day services

8am & 9.30am - St Matt's

9am - St Bart's

9.30am - Trinity Gardens

### Combined Services

**27 December 10am** - St Matt's

**3 January 10am** - St Matt's

## Partner Churches

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### St Matthew's Kensington

146 Kensington Rd, Marrayatville

### St Bartholomew's Norwood

77 Beulah Rd Norwood

### Grace Church Trinity Gardens

Trinity Gardens Bowling Club

Canterbury Ave Trinity Gardens

## Grace Anglican Network Office

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### 146 Kensington Rd Marrayatville

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed & Thurs 9am - 12pm

Tuesday 1-3pm

### Giving Electronically to St Matt's

**BSB:** 105 073

**Account No:** 286 016 340

If you require a reference we recommend using your surname.

## Naughty or nice?

**13 December 2015**

Welcome to church!

*'... the angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."' (Luke 2.10-12)*

You know, I always wanted to be one of the wise men growing-up (it alludes me still) in nativity plays. I was always cast as one of Herod's advisors, a sheep or a shepherd!! I've always wanted a different role.

Yet this Christmas I've been struck by the invitation made to, of all people, the shepherds! I've always picked them as really nice guys, protecting their flock and not letting any perish but historically they were really bad, inveterate sinners, liars and cheats. They were naughty, naughty, naughty people. In fact the shepherds were religious and social outcasts - the last people who should've been invited to such an event. But you know, they were the only people invited - everyone else just crashed the party! Only the shepherds were invited to witness the birth of the most central figure in all of human history - Jesus the Messiah. And they were naughty not nice.

It's staggering that God would be so gracious. It's staggering that the first witnesses to the fulfillment of God's great promise to rescue sinners, were shepherds - sinners like you and me.

So this Christmas, join me in thanking our God who loves naughty 'shepherds' like us so much that he would give us Jesus and invites us by faith to worship him and as a result enjoy complete forgiveness, certain hope and lasting joy!

Keep trusting Jesus,

Simon (Senior Associate Pastor)

## 2015 Christmas Services

Celebrate Christmas with us this year...

Christmas Eve: 24 Dec  
5pm at St Matt's or St Bart's  
11pm at St Matt's

Christmas Day: 25 Dec  
8am & 9.30am at St Matt's  
9am at St Bart's  
9.30am at Trinity Gardens

Post Christmas Combined  
10am on Dec 27 and Jan 3  
at St Matt's



Trinity Gardens Bowling Club, Canterbury Rd  
St Bart's- 77 Beulah Rd Norwood  
St Matt's- 146 Kensington Rd Marrayatville

### Prayer Points

**Special Needs:** Roger Wheaton, Joy Blanch & Daniel, Judy & Ian Black

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Loving Father, deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry this season with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake, Amen!

### Community Notices

#### Sausage Sizzle

You are invited to join us for a Sausage Sizzle following the Carols today.

#### Roast Lunch

Today 12.30pm. You are invited to join us for Roast Lunch.

#### TEAR useful gift's shop

TEAR useful gift shop is running today after the 10am service For more information contact Robyn Lakos

#### Magdalene Centre donations for Christmas hampers and gifts

Please bring donations of non-perishable food items and place them in the red bin at St Matt's.

#### Christmas Cards

In the St Matt's hall there are Anglicare Christmas cards on display which can be ordered by filling in one of the order forms found next to the cards and placing it in the office door slot. For more information contact Glenys Gould 8364 1117.

#### Positions Vacant

St Matthew's has 3 part time positions available starting early next year. If you or someone you know might be interested in the positions of Children's coordinator (10hrs/week), 10:30am Music coordinator (10hrs/week), GAN IT support (5hrs/week) please contact the office for a job description or arrange a time to talk with David Bassett.

#### Historic SAS (Sunday at 6) Service.

The final SAS service at St Matt's and at 6pm will be held next Sunday. You are invited to join us as we celebrate together. The evening service will be moving to 5pm at St Bart's on January 10.

#### Do you have spare rooms/need a house sitter?

A family at Grace Church are renovating and need a place to stay between the 11 and 26 Dec. If you are away during that period and are willing to have a family of 2 adults and three kids house sit, please contact Sam Bleby on 0406 342 028 for further details.



#### St Matt's Christmas flowers

If anyone could help with donations of funds or flowers for Christmas please contact Pam Thompson on 8331 3815.

#### Thanks

As many of our regular ministries and activities come to an end for the year, we want to say thank you for all who have given so generous of their times and skills in leadership and participation. The Joint Council thanks you for your faithfulness and prays that you will enjoy a good break over the holiday period and that you will be greatly refreshed as we celebrate God's immense love for us in his Son, Jesus, this Christmas.