

ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST

the beacon

ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Sunday 22nd December 2024

a beacon of
hope

THIS WEEK

Monday

23rd December

Tuesday

24th December

Prayer Time 9.30-10.30am
in the Parents Room.

Wednesday

25th December

Christmas Day Service
9.30am

Thursday

26th December

Friday

27th December

Saturday

28th December

Bhutanese Church
8.30am - 12 noon
Grace Community Church
Music Practise 12noon-
2.30pm

Sunday

29th December

10am Worship Service

2pm Grace Community
Church Service

On-Line Giving

Account Name

Elizabeth Church of Christ

BSB Number

105 121

Account Number

441343540

This Sunday we will be looking at the story of the Wise Men. The question I want to ask is what were they really searching for? It says they asked for the one who was born king of the Jews. Why would they want to know about a baby born in a distant country, 1,500 km away? By the time this baby grew up to be an adult they would probably have passed away. Even if he did become a king, it was going to be in a little obscure Roman province that surely will have no influence on where they lived. How could this little baby's birth have any impact on their lives? Yet they put together what would have been a large entourage of people at great expense and travelled for 4 months into a distant land in search of this baby. What were they really looking for? People might say today, how can a baby born 2000 years ago in a distant land have any impact on us today? That is the miracle of Christmas.

Today people everywhere are searching. They may not be searching for a baby, but without even realising it they are searching for what this baby offers us. Isaiah 9:6-7 tells us what this baby going to bring to the world; *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever"*. He's going to bring an everlasting peace, righteousness and justice. This is what our world is looking for and I suspect this is what the Wise Men were looking for. They may have even read the prophecies about the Messiah and were desperate to find Him. Are you searching? What are you looking for? The story of the Wise Men takes us on a journey of discovery as we follow their search to find truth and hope. It led to a baby born in a distant land in a small Roman province.

Join us on Sunday as we follow the Wise Men and see how they went about their search. In the end they would find that the Saviour of the World came in the most unlikely way, in the most unlikely place at the most unlikely time, BUT He came. He said "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me". He is the answer to your searching.

Mark Zerna
Associate Pastor

2024-2025 Prayer Vigil

At the end of each year and the start of the next, our church has a prayer vigil.

This goes from 12 midday on the 31st December (Tuesday this year), to 12 midday on 1st January (Wednesday).

The 24 hours are divided into half hour slots (48 in all). We can choose a time that suits us to pray for our church however God leads us. You can pray at home or wherever you are. There is a list of available times on the front desk, in the church office, or see Merille Hill or Margaret Mount.

God is working in our church. Let's come before Him to thank Him for this past year and to pray for His leading into 2025, so that all He desires is accomplished and brings Glory to Him.

JOIN US FOR OUR

Christmas Day Service

9.30 AM

DECEMBER 25

38 ASHFIELD RD, ELIZABETH



DEDICATING *Adela Zerna*
SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2024

YOUNG ADULTS

SAVE THE
date
SATURDAY
8 FEBRUARY

OFFICE: 38 Ashfield Rd Elizabeth SA 5112

PHONE: (08) 8255 2467

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday 9am - 2:30pm

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES: 9am, 10:45am & 2pm

SMALL GROUPS: 5pm

WEBSITE: www.elizabethcoc.org

EMAIL: office@elizabethcoc.org

FACEBOOK: Elizabeth COC

A special welcome to all our visitors. May you be blessed by the time you have spent with us at the Elizabeth Church of Christ.

PRAISE & PRAYER NEWS

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The dedication of Adela Zerna at the 10.45am service last Sunday.
- Brent's sermon last Sunday encouraging us "to take a moment to pause today and just listen. It could be God inviting you to an extraordinary moment for His glory".
- All the people who help to make Kids Min a safe fun place for our children to learn more about God and His Son, Christ our Saviour.
- Our Ministry team Brent, Mark, Hamanda, Jady, Alistair and Chantel. Pray for rest and safety as each one take some time off to recuperate over the coming weeks.
- The Elders who listen to and pray for God's plans for our church. Pray that God gives them His wisdom to implement His will for the Elizabeth Church of Christ and the community. Pray for John Parker as he begins his time as an Elder next year.
- The maintenance/ gardening team who quietly go about maintaining and repairing our premises.
- The Café team, Baristas and scone makers who bless our bodies with food and drinks

PRAY FOR:

- Upcoming Christmas Day lunch in the Café Hope, for all those in our community who have nowhere else to celebrate Christmas day. Pray for the participants, helpers and donors.
- Carol Watson's family as we celebrate her life.
- All the people in our congregation who are experiencing pain or ill health. Pray that they may find healing and peace.
- The groups who meet together, as they conclude another year and as they celebrate the Christmas season together.
- Patience and safety on our roads during the busy time leading up to Christmas.
- All the people who were directly affected by cyclone Tracy 50 years ago.

"Greetings you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you" Luke 1:28



Sunday 22 December – 9am & 10.45am Services
Wednesday 25 December – 9.30am Christmas Day Service
Sunday 29 December – 10am Service only

December 29 & January Worship Services
10.00am
 in church and livestreamed

ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST **hope**



Merry Christmas from the Beacon team
 This is the last Beacon of 2024. Ferdinand and the team will be back in the new year to keep you informed on what is happening around the place. A huge thank you to Di Tidswell for faithfully formatting and editing of the Beacon each week. Merry Christmas.

Mission Trip to East Timor

We are planning a trip back to East Timor during the October School Holidays next year. Are you interested? Here are a list of areas we are looking focus on while in East Timor:

Building outdoor toilets	Electrical
General Maintenance	Medical Tent
Kid's programs	

Please pray and see if you and/or family feel led to join us. We will have an information night late January.

ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS CLOSURES
 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - 25 DEC 2024 TO 3 JAN 2025
 BOOMERANG CENTRE CLOSED - 16 DEC 2024 TO 27 JAN 2025
 CAFE HOPE CLOSED - 23 DEC 2024 TO 13 JAN 2025

Ladies' "Know Your Bible" Bible studies

will resume on Wednesday, 29th January, 2025. We will begin with an introduction to the term's study, "Tabernacle and Temple: the promise of God's presence with us"

Come for morning tea at 10.00am, followed by Val Zerna introducing the theme. All ladies very welcome.

The studies themselves will be every Wednesday, beginning February 5th 2025, 12.30pm until 2pm, in the church chapel. For more information, contact Margaret Mount

COCOA Christmas Day giving

Share peace this Christmas
 Through the COCOA Christmas Offering

Give now to share peace
cocoa.org.au/peace

Envelopes available at the information desk

The **December & January Bible Reading plans** are available at the information desk and on the church website