

### The best Christmas gift

When my brother was about 12 years old, he wanted a surfboard. He loved to use his surf mat but was ready for the next step. He decided to save for a surfboard so he asked for cash that Christmas. No toys, games or books just cash.

That Christmas everyone dutifully gave him cash. He got exactly what he asked for – heaps of it. And while he had enough to buy his first surfboard it wasn't quite what he expected.

We all sat around giving and receiving gifts – wrapping paper everywhere and gifts piling up next to us. Yet all he had was envelopes. He looked at our stash and the fun that we were having and looked at his pile of cards and \$20 bills. He was disappointed. A tear rolled down his cheek. It was turning out to be a disappointing Christmas.

We quizzed him. Why was he unhappy? Didn't he get exactly what he asked? Our words of comfort couldn't console him.

My father left the room and returned with a large, wrapped object, about the size of an ironing board. He gave it to my brother and said, 'Merry Christmas, son'.

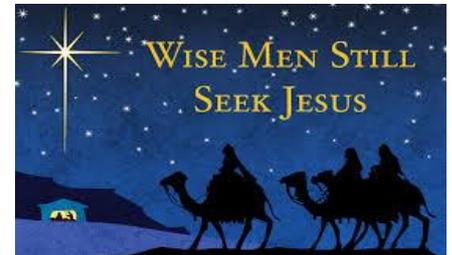
He wiped his eyes, tore off the paper and beheld his Christmas gift – a fibreglass, 3 finned thruster surfboard! He was overjoyed. He couldn't wait to get his board shorts on and to take his surfboard for a trial run in the pool.

My brother is now a middle-aged man and still loves to surf. He surfs small waves and big waves, all year-round. He has a collection of surfboards and lives by the beach. What a wonderful gift he received when he was 12 years old.

The gospel of Matthew tells us how the wise men followed the star to where the child was. It doesn't tell us what they said but what they felt. They were overjoyed. They came bearing gifts but beheld God's gift to humanity – a King, a Saviour.

The giving and receiving of gifts is a wonderful Christmas tradition. It reminds us that God has given us the greatest gift by sending his son into the world. Accept his gift and it will become your best Christmas ever.

Gav Poole  
Pastor



**Jesus is the reason for the season.**

**Wishing you all a blessed Christmas.**



### Christmas Countdown

Volunteers are still needed. If you think you can assist on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup>** December, please contact Lucy Ying, ph 0413 335 486

### 2019 Youth Ministry

**21-25 Jan – NextGen**  
leadership Training

**1 Feb – Fridge** starts

**3 Feb – Crosstrainers and Tribe** start

**12-14 April – Youth Camp**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE - CHANGE OF CHURCH VENUE 13 AND 20 JANUARY 2019

as the Community Hall is not available, on these Sundays we will be joining **St Jude's Anglican Church**, orner of Old Northern and Galston Roads, **Dural**. The times will be 10am and 6pm. Please join us.

# PRAYER @ CAC



## Thank you, Father

- For the many blessings you have given us this year
- For Your presence in our lives
- For the bible-based preaching we receive at CAC
- That Christ is our Peace

## Please pray for:

- **Our church family**, particularly
  - Ben Connelly, Alyssa and Josiah
  - Sue Dawkins
  - Julie Hohne
  - Barbara Scrivener
  - those who are ill or injured
  - those who are grieving
  - those who are broken
- For those who are yet to know **the gift of salvation** through Christ, the true meaning of Christmas
- **Our Missionaries**
- **Safety over the holidays**

## Financial Appeal Report

During November we informed you that we were behind budget and needed an extra \$40,000 to meet expenses by the end of year.

Our finances are now in a much better position. During November our total income was \$36,000. This along with cost cutting has enabled us to reduce our YTD loss to about \$3,000. We are still in financial need but are in a far better position than before the appeal.

Once again, God has answered our prayers and the members of our church have generously responded. Thank you!

## Thank you from Catherine Boyle

Thank you ladies for your support of Share the Dignity, It's in the bag. Bags from CAC contributed to a larger collection of 80 bags which will support women and girls in need through Anglicare and / or regional areas of NSW.

## New Year Services

### 30 December 2018

9.30am and 6.30pm

#### A sword in the soul

Gav Poole

**Luke 2 : 21 - 40**

### 6 January 2019

9.30am and 6:30pm

#### Blessed are the poor in spirit

Dan Butler

**Matthew 5 : 1 - 12**

**Ephesians 2 : 1 - 10**

### 13 January 2019 at St Judes

10.00am and 6:00pm

### 20 January 2019 at St Judes

10.00am and 6:00pm



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## THE ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING ARE:

### ACC NAME:

Cherrybrook Anglican Church

### BANK:

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

BSB: 062 401

ACC NUMBER: 1030 0904



## 16 December 2018

9.30am and 6.30pm

### The Mothers of Jesus

Dan Butler

**Matthew 1 : 1 - 17**

## 23 December 2018

9.30am and 6:30pm

### The Fathers of Jesus

Ben Connelly

**Matthew 1 : 18 - 25**

## 24 December 2018

6:00pm only

### Where is the king?

Gav Poole

**Matthew 2 : 1 - 23**

## 25 December 2018

9.30am only

### The Shepherds' faith

Dan Butler

**Luke 2 : 8 - 20**

## Diary Dates

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Prayer Meeting at Gav and Bron's house, 29 Gavin Place Cherrybrook