

The Messenger

December 2017/January 2018

Dear Friends

In his book, 'The Purpose of Christmas', Rick Warren writes: "It's the largest celebration around the world each year. Other holidays get a single day, but Christmas is emphasised for an entire month, one twelfth of every year. During the Christmas season, billions of people set aside their normal routines to decorate their homes, send out greeting cards, buy gifts, go to Christmas parties, attend Church services, sing Christmas songs ... and travel long distances to be with their families ... When Christmas comes, you can't miss it. It's everywhere."

Every Christmas, there is a battle in me. The battle is between the frenetic pace of the end of the year and the impulse to slow down; the battle is between the shopping and the end of year parties and my longing to focus on the beauty of Christmas; the battle is between the needs of extended family and friends to be visited and to get together and the desire to keep it small and intimate. So – here I am, feeling all those feelings again!

So – what are your plans? Are you travelling or staying at home? Will it be a big group on Christmas day or just the close family? Are there lots of Year-end functions or none? Does it feel like everything is speeding up or slowing down?

The key, I think, is to find a quiet place in the midst of the business – to experience calm in the midst of the storm. Rick Warren goes on:

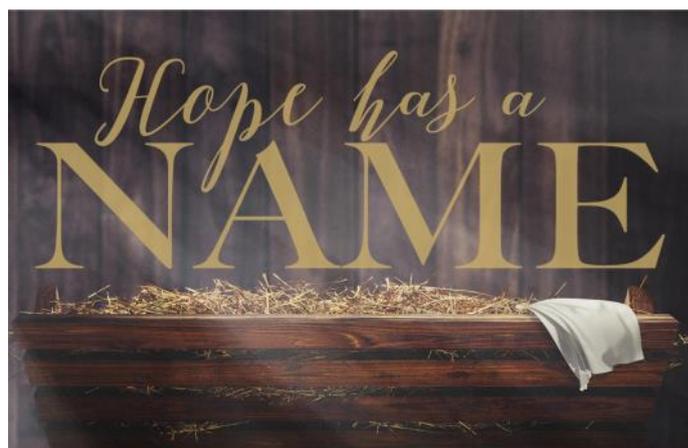
He gave us taste buds, then filled the world with incredible flavours like chocolate and cinnamon and all the other spices. He gave us eyes to perceive colour and then filled the world with a rainbow of shades. He gave us sensitive ears and then filled the world with rhythms and music. Your capacity for enjoyment is evidence of God's love for you. He could have made the world tasteless, colourless, and silent. The Bible says that God "richly provides us with

everything for our enjoyment." He didn't have to do it, but he did, because He loves us.

My hope for you this Christmas (and also for myself) is that you would enjoy without feeling overwhelmed, that you would hear, feel, smell and of course, "Taste and see that the Lord is good".

Happy Advent ... and when it comes, A warm and love filled Christmas.

Lots of love *George*



Christmas Services

Sunday 24th December, 9am
Christmas Eve Service

Sunday 24th December, 6pm
Christingle Service (All Age)

Monday 25th December, 8am & 9.30am
Christmas Day Services

Sunday 31st December, 9am
Christmastide

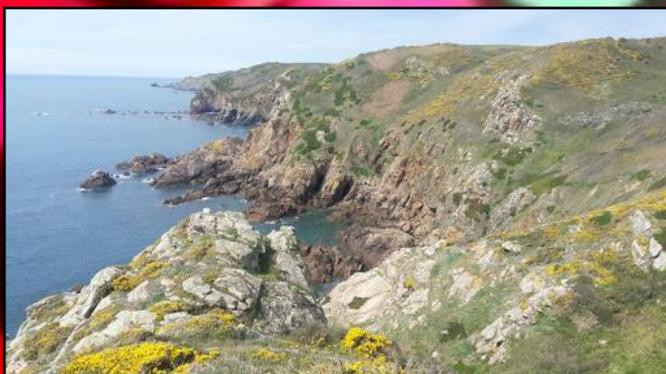


Family Sharing

Dear Friends of St Mungo's

You know you have lived in Guernsey when you understand that:

- You have to mount the pavement to let another car pass. And that will not necessarily save your wing mirror from being bashed by an oncoming car (they call it the Guernsey kiss or rash!!)
- You DO actually let another car pass.
- You wait patiently for another driver to reverse park into his narrow driveway without hooting at him!!
- You know that a road closure and diversion can literally take you on a tour of the entire island....in less than an hour!
- The entire population would fit into Ellis Park stadium and there would be a couple of tickets to spare!
- You don't even lock your front door unless you are going on a long holiday! (You may not even own a key!!)
- When Amazon delivers a parcel to your door at 9am it is still there when you get home at 5pm!
- Guernsey Gache is a densely fruited little loaf... best toasted with lashings of Guernsey butter
- Yes, you actually DO find Guernsey cows here... they live better than most humans!!
- You know that Victor Hugo lived in Guernsey for a while (he wrote Les Miserables, remember?)
- You can do breakfast in Guernsey, tea on Herm, lunch in Sark (where there are NO cars by the



way) and dinner in France...all on the same day...if you own a small boat and are willing to travel

- You can walk the entire perimeter of the island (about 62km) in 12 hours...(or less if you are an over-achiever and don't stop to take in the breathtaking scenery)
- There is NO MacDonald's, NO Burger King and NO KFC! But there are more restaurants than you could ever imagine
- When the weather is really bad and the ferries can't get in, the supermarket shelves look like they did in Zimbabwe a few years ago
- Guernsey's tidal range of about 9 to 10 metres is one of the biggest in the world...you wouldn't dream of leaving your things on the beach as within an hour they would all be washed away
- There is only one red postbox in Guernsey (in Union Street and it is the oldest cast-iron pillar box still in use anywhere in the British Isles) and all the rest are blue

I could go on and on but perhaps you should come and see for yourselves! It is hard to believe that we have been here for almost 11 months. John jokes that he gave me a cruise as my last birthday gift....the ferry ride from Poole to St Peter Port which is the capital of Guernsey. Little did we know how those ferries were going to be our lifeline to Britain and France when we tire of being on "THE ROCK".

The boys have settled in well and have quickly grown used to doing any activity in any weather conditions... after all there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad equipment! As we arrived on 2 January, the boys started



ed the second term of school here. It was quite an adjustment. They are now both at Elizabeth college which was founded in 1563 by Queen Elizabeth I. Liam is in year 10 and Cameron is in year 7. John is enjoying his new

job with all its challenges and I have taken on the role of home executive with panache!! I have a growing appreciation of the amazing women who help to run our homes and lives in SA as there is little help here and it comes at a



huge cost. It is amazing how few items of clothing actually need to be ironed!!

The other thing we have learnt is that you don't make new "old " friends and we love, treasure and miss all of you back home. There is something intensely heart-warming and special about all the connections we share ... like they say: " ALWAYS TOGETHER, NEVER APART, MAYBE IN DISTANCE BUT NEVER IN HEART"

So a very warm and heartfelt "Happy Christmas" to all of you at home and spare a thought for us spending our first Christmas far from home and in the middle of winter.

May God bless and keep you.

Fond regards,
Jenny, John, Liam and Cameron Rivers-Moore

Refresh Brunch

As a young female the Refresh brunches at St Mungo's Bryanston church has made a huge impact in my life with the motivational speakers being so true to themselves, God and everyone around them.

We live in a society whereby we do not notice the little impact one can make in each others lives, we are blinded by our problems and focusing on who says what and forgetting the privilege of having a life.

I believe the brunches have changed many of our lives, well mine especially, because it has opened my eyes and heart to things I never thought really mattered. I have

become a true God fearing Christian woman, have grown mentally and spiritually.

I have learned to accept and appreciate life even more now than I did before. As young adults of our generation we do not believe in "struggle" we want to be spoon fed, and by doing so be successful in whatever we do. Which is not the main point, we need to struggle in order to adore what we have.

God brought us to this world and gave each of us a purpose, some are yet to find it and some have found it.

Thank you so much for everyone who was involved in organising these brunches we have grown as woman of St Mungo's and SA!

Roselyn Molakeng



Holly & Victoria with our guest speaker Leona Nompula.



Social ACTION

Employment Bureau

The Setlamo Employment Bureau (thanks to Lucia) was blessed to have a journalist from Sandton Chronicle visit at the beginning of October. The article was published on the 13th October 2017. As a result the Bureau has been utilised by many new employers and therefore our employment rate has increased.

Please find published pics below, we are famous!

Thank you to all the volunteers who tirelessly give of their time every Tuesday to assist in our plight to help the unemployed find employment.

We are still looking for volunteers to donate bread and volunteers to assist with the soup kitchen and employment bureau.



Jordan House

A massive thank you to the Woman's Association for their continuous giving to Jordan House. Jordan House is an old age home in Martindale and is totally reliant on donors.

If you have a calling to help at Jordan house whether it is your time or monetary donations please let us know.



What an amazing morning at Khulani ECD as the children held their year end concert in Diepsloot. We were treated to song and dance in the nursery rhyme section and a wonderful Christmas play.

The learning progress in the children was visible as most of the concert was in English and their confidence has improved remarkably since the official opening in March.

There was also a chance to engage with parents and receive much positive feedback from them regarding their children.

All glory to God and many thanks to all who contributed to this successful morning, to those who attended, those who made eats, our staff at the ECD and all the 'friends of Khulani ECD' who work tirelessly to make this project a success.





Special thanks to Doreen Read who was in attendance when the children received the teddy bears she had knitted them for Christmas – what a special gift from a remarkable lady.

We are opening a new classroom in 2018 for 4-5 year olds. We appealed as part of our Christmas giving to the congregation for donation to kit out the classroom; we are so blessed to be part of such a giving community thank you! We are nearly fully kitted out for next year; watch this space for pictures and feedback.



MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet
EVERY SWIPE COUNTS

Have you signed up for MySchool. Please help raise funds for Khulani ECD at no cost to you. Simply apply for a MySchool card and nominate Khulani ECD as your beneficiary, or change your beneficiary to Khulani ECD. We can also assist you at the Social Action table.

Christmas Giving

St Peter's prep school has very generously given Christmas boxes for us to hand out in Diepsloot

Christmas giving with a difference

- This year we have appealed to the children's ministry to send Christmas boxes to church for the poor children in and around the Bryanston area. We have encouraged the parents to allow the children to take ownership of the boxes and have made suggestion as to what is required in the boxes. Social Action will distribute the boxes to the street children in Bryanston after the 15th December.
- Reverse Advent Calendar
This year we would like to encourage you to try something new. Each day in December place one

item in a box (boxes are available at the Social Action table) that would assist someone who is homeless or destitute. On the 24th go out and give it away!



Thanksgiving

Every year the Thanksgiving weekend at Saint Mungo's is a time that surprises me with its deep spiritual rest and sense of gratitude. This year on Saturday the sanctuary was only different in that in addition to the beautiful flowers on display, there were five prayer stations to take us through a time of reflection. I missed the first Boiler Room experience and it was a joy to go through these five stations, and a great surprise to discover how much they deepened my sense of tuning in with the Lord.

As beautiful music played gently in the sanctuary, I sat down at the first station in the foyer, and wrote on a piece of card the things I'm thankful for. Somehow, putting it in writing focussed my prayer and heightened the sense of joy I felt.

Inside the old entrance to the sanctuary I prayed and wrote what I specifically believe to be God's descriptions of me on a label, and hung it as high as I could on the tree. Those were prayers experienced as the Beloved, Mighty Warrior my Lord sees in me.

At the third station I wrote my burdens on another note and posted it onto the big wooden

cross, handing them over to Jesus and feeling lighter in my meditation and prayer.

Then I went up to the communion table and wrote my names for the Lord on a stone.

How such actions intensify the prayer and meditation experience is something only God fully understands; but as I went and sat at the last station and reflected on the many faces of Jesus, my heart was so full of the sense that He is everywhere and in all things, and that his face is reflected in all of us, it seemed to burn.

On Sunday we were treated to a sermon that included Pass the Parcel (I was only mildly distressed not to be one of the people the music stopped on), and a profound lesson on what gratitude is, from a young, happy and enthusiastic Daniel Geddes, who won the hearts of the 8 o'clock congregation in the first couple of seconds of his address. A layperson and actor, Daniel was not only entertaining and profound, but he serves as a great example of the type of missional discipleship Saint Mungo's is striving for.

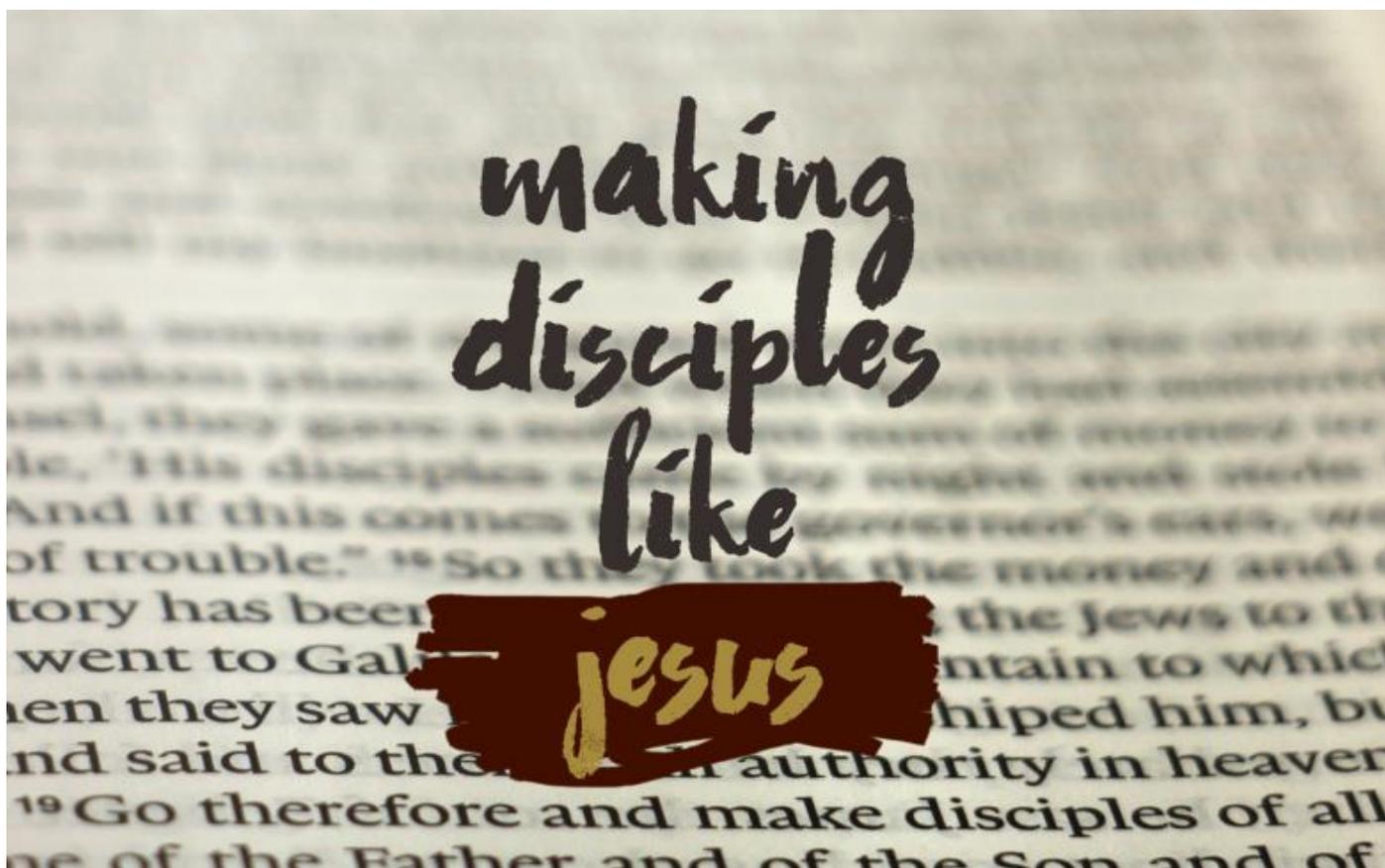
The choir, guided by Shelia and with Dudley on the organ, made us all sing for joy.

What a wonderful experience! Thank you to our ministers, to Sascha, and to all the dedicated people of Saint Mungo's who made the weekend what it was. Most of all, thank you to our great God of joy and hope, for the torrent of blessing He constantly bestows on us.

Fiona Taylor







Greg Finke in *Joining Jesus - Show Me How: How to Disciple Everyday Missionaries*. "Think if all the 2.2 billion Christians on the face of the earth began to offer a little of his love, good news, humility and self-sacrificing service to the people around them... and then did it daily...habitually...as a lifestyle... because this is who we are and this is what we do. The mission of redeeming and restoring the world would take a quantum leap forward."

Jesus Christ has called us to come and follow Him. In walking with him we learn his ways. We begin to understand who we are in Him, what we have in Him and what we can do in Him, as Christ works in and through us. Our lives as those called by him are centred on the mission of God (*Missio Dei*) which is at the heart of what we are called to be and do as the people of God. Alan Hirsh in *Right here, right now* says that we are "a community of God's people that defines itself by, and organizes its life around, its real purpose of being an agent of God's mission to the world. In other words, the church's true and authentic 'organizing principle' is mission. When the church is on mission, it is the true church. The church itself is not only the result of God's mission but it is obligated and destined to extend it by whatever means possible. The mission of God flows directly through every believer and every community of faith and adheres to Jesus. To obstruct this is to block God purpose in and through his people."

If God's mission flows through us we have to imitate

and embrace the methodology of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He spent his entire ministry training his disciples. He called them to follow him, established relationships with them, travelled with them, taught them to pray, and showed them how to live in the light of his message. In the Great Commission Jesus was teaching His disciples and us, to go and do likewise, to follow his example.

When the Church is on mission, it is the true church.

In 2 Timothy 2: 2 Paul says, "what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." Paul uses the word 'entrust' urging that the gospel has to be entrusted to reliable people who will in turn teach others. Entrust was a first century banking word meaning 'to make a deposit'. In this text Paul urges Timothy to pass on the truths he has learned from him, into the lives of other disciples. It is clear that taking what we have been taught by Jesus Christ, and the way He lived his life are the things we have to deposit into others.

In the Master Plan for Evangelism, Robert Coleman tells us that Jesus' plan of reproducing disciples was not with programs to reach the multitudes, but with men whom the multitudes would follow... Men were

to be His method of winning the world to God. The initial objective of Jesus' plan was to enlist and carry on His work after He returned to the father. If we are to be like Jesus, we must invest in faithful men and women who must invest in faithful men and women who will reproduce themselves in others.

Robin Gamble in *Jesus the Evangelist*: "How might we emulate some aspects of Jesus' tripartite plan? When it comes to drawing up a geographical plan for evangelism (mission), a church or Christian agency needs to think about its surrounding neighbourhood with all its community features, schools gathering points and types of inhabitants. Added to this are human networks of its own members and organisations, children's groups, drop-ins and social care projects that it runs itself or with which it engages."

As he prays to the Father, shortly before betrayal and crucifixion, Jesus underscores the missional commissioning of his disciples: "In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world" (John 17: 18 *The Message*).

Selatswe


FOR
 UNTO US A
Child is born,
 UNTO US A *Son*
 is given; and
 the government will
 be upon his shoulder, and his name
 will be called
Wonderful Counselor
MIGHTY GOD
Everlasting Father
PRINCE OF PEACE.
ISAIAH
9:6



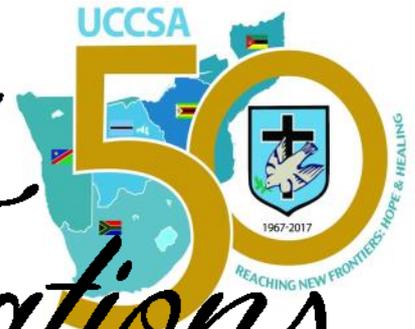
Christingle

Celebrate Jesus the Light of the World

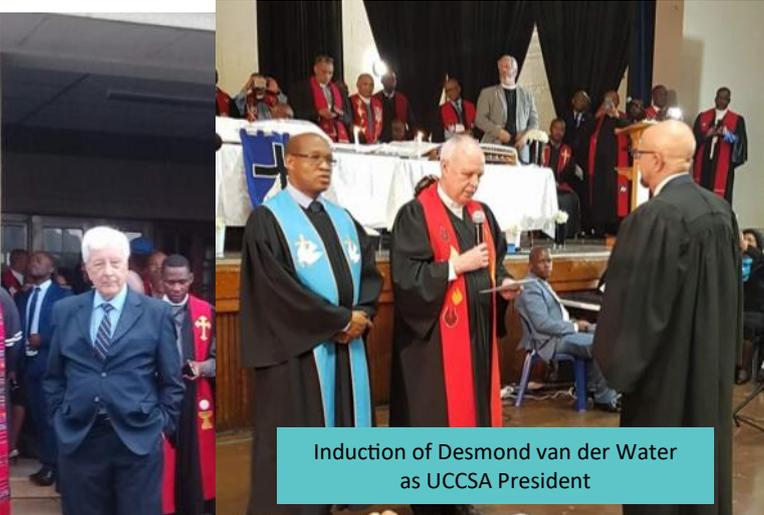
Christmas Eve
6pm

All Age Service

Anniversary Celebrations



Delegates marching through streets of Durban



Induction of Desmond van der Water as UCCSA President



Signing of union agreement between UCCSA & UPSCA



Allan Wentzel, Former Chairman of UCCSA



Central Region Delegates



YOUTH MATTERS

Teen Church

We have been doing a series called seven broken relationships in Teen Church over the last few weeks. We have dealt with our broken relationship with nature, with work, with friends, with family, in relationships and with ourselves. We have also spent time playing table tennis and Uno which has helped me to get to know the teenagers.

Epic Kids

At Epic Kids we did a series on friendship and generosity and we have started a Christmas series for November. We have played games, had a Karaoke and drama evening and played rounders.

Children's Church

Bill and Diane Pansegrauw have taken a leadership role at Children's Church for which I am very grateful. I continue to send out the lessons and will do the teaching roster. The pre-school age group seems to be the most stretched when it comes to volunteers. Children's church is using the Orange curriculum.

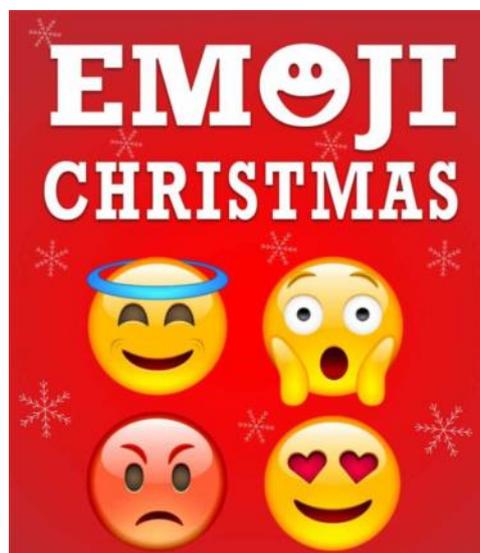
Quiz Evening

On Friday evening the 15th of October approximately thirty children, teenagers and adults gathered for the annual quiz evening in the new Foyer. The evening included a bring and share picnic as well about 57 questions from the quiz master. Mungo and Judith Park together with Michael Craig proved to be a formidable team and managed to answer some of the questions that had the rest of the teams stumped. As a result they walked away with the prize for answering the toughest questions. There were also special questions for the kids with sweets as prizes. We will definitely be repeating the quiz evening in 2018. Be sure to sign up...

An Emoji Christmas

Join us on Sunday 3rd December at 6pm for our Family Carol Service. The Children & Youth have been working very hard on their Christmas Play!

All are Welcome!



Save the Date

Diarise some of our events for 2018 to make sure you don't miss out!

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Outdoor movie night | 16 March |
| Family Fun day | 19 May |
| Holiday club | 25 - 30 June |
| Quiz evening | 12 October |
| Family Carol service | 2 December |
| Vac Fest | December |



Upcoming Sermon Series



| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 3 December | A cry for mercy Isaiah 64: 1 - 9; Mark 13: 24 - 37 |
| 10 December | Words of comfort. Isaiah 40: 1 - 11; Mark 1: 1 - 8 |
| 17 December | Beauty instead of ashes Isaiah 61: 1 - 4, 8 - 1; John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28 |
| 24 December | The Lord promises great things! 2 Samuel 7: 1 - 11, 16; Luke 1: 26 - 38 |
| 25 December | A song of joy in Zion: "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52: 7 - 10; John 1: 1 - 14 |
| 31 December | Who will this Jesus grow up to be? Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3; Luke 2: 22 - 40 |
| 7 January | The Spirit of God transforms lives Genesis 1: 1 - 5; Acts 19: 1 - 7; Mark 1: 4 - 11 |

So what does it mean to "move into the neighbourhood"? When the Christian faith was made legal in the fourth century, Churches sprang up in every city of the Roman empire. Since Christianity was a State religion, everyone was assumed to be Christian (until proved otherwise). The Parish system emerged. Every congregation was a parish and would include everybody living in an area unless they chose to 'opt out'. This system characterised German, English, Scottish and Irish Church life as well as many other European societies. As the years have run on and as our neighbourhoods have become multi-denominational, and then, multi-faith we cannot assume that all the people of the neighbourhood would want to belong.

In some ways, the parish system assumed too much but there may be one important element that has been lost when churches became "free churches", no longer attached to a parish. That element is the belief that the Church belonged to a community and its life was in symbiosis with that community. John 1: 14 (in the Message version) states that "the Word became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood". It's a powerful indicator of how God wants to work. In January, before Lent, we are going to explore this in depth.

Themes & Readings available on the website.

How to Contact Us:

- ✓ Telephone: 011 706 6108
- ✓ Email: stmungo@stmungo.co.za
- ✓ Website: www.stmungo.co.za
- ✓ Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmungosunitedchurch

For instant access scan the barcodes below:



Website



Facebook