

# make ROOM THIS Christmas

I am writing this letter in a week that I have had my mum visit us. She always says "don't go to any trouble on my account. I am just happy to come and spend some time with you". But we do have to prepare and make room for my mum. This will involve ensuring the bed is made up, the room is tidied, dusted and vacuumed. Food that Mum likes is purchased. We don't go to too much trouble but we do want my mum to be comfortable and feel welcome while staying with us.



Lynn traditionally makes our Christmas cards. One year we had a card with a picture containing many different Christmas images. The card was full of images like Santa, a Christmas stocking, a present, decorations, a Christmas pudding, a shepherd's crook, a star, a Christmas tree and in the middle was a manger with a baby in it which was almost crowded out and lost in the picture because of all the other images. It was highlighting how easy it is for the real meaning of Christmas to get lost by everything else we associate with Christmas and all the associated activities.

During the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas the ministry team is inviting all of us to reflect on the theme "make room this Christmas". We can intentionally make room for Christmas by ensuring we participate in and engage in services of worship. We can do the usual things like singing carols and reading again the Advent and Christmas readings from Scripture. We can take a moment to read a Christmas story to our children and grandchildren. We can encourage family members to take up the opportunity of participating in the nativity photos that our church offers on 19 - 21 November and 2 December (immediately after the 10 am service). We can encourage grandchildren or great grandchildren to get involved in our children's Christmas program this year under the banner of Hub Kids' Christmas.

Christmas is a special time of the year for our congregation and for families. It is the time where we make room to acknowledge the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. It is the celebration of God being with us that is so remarkable about Christmas. It is this profound truth around the significance of Jesus' birth that we cannot allow all the trappings and fun of Christmas to crowd out.

The coming of Jesus reminds us of God's immense love for humankind. God's love is so inclusive. God's love is inclusive of culture and ethnic background. God makes room for everyone to experience God's love and grace. This is surely worth celebrating and remembering at Christmas.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

The ministry team wishes you all a very blessed, happy and safe Christmas season. We also take the opportunity to thank the congregation for their support and care offered to us throughout the year and their many hours of voluntary service within the congregation and the community. We also look forward to the journey of 2019.

God be with you this Christmas.

Neil, Alanee and Di



**19th, 20th & 21st November:**  
**Children's Nativity Photos at The Hub** 10am – 12noon.

**2nd December:**  
**10am Service** followed by Christmas Lunch  
**Indonesian Christmas Worship & Celebration** 5pm

**6th December:**  
**Christmas Morning Tea at The Hub** 10am – 12noon.

**6th December:**  
**Hub Kids Christmas** 4pm – 6pm

**16th December:**  
**Uniting Voices** 11am  
**Seniors Carols, songs & shortbread** 2.30pm

**23rd December:**  
**10am Nativity Service**

**24th December:**  
**Christmas Eve Services** 5.30pm & 11pm

**25th December:**  
**Christmas Day Services** 8.30am & 10am

**30th December - January:**  
**10am Services.**

**GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH**

CORNER OF BOGONG AVENUE & KINGSWAY, GLEN WAVERLEY  
[WWW.GWUC.ORG.AU](http://WWW.GWUC.ORG.AU) P. 03 9560 3580 E. [OFFICE@GWUC.ORG.AU](mailto:OFFICE@GWUC.ORG.AU)

