

**CHRISTMAS
2016**

CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm CAROL RECITAL BY THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

11.15pm CAROL SINGING *by candlelight*

11.45pm THE FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS

Presiding Priest & Preacher: Very Rev'd Lawrence Kimberley, Dean
Bishop of Christchurch: Rt Rev'd Victoria Matthews
Assistant Priest: Ven Lynnette Lightfoot
Assistant Curate: Rev'd Ben Randall
Deacon: Rev'd Nicky Lee
Verge: Chris Oldham
Music: The Cathedral Choir
Director of Music: John Linker
Assistant Organist: Harry Meehan

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION & CAROLS (NZPB)

Presiding Priest & Preacher: Rt Rev'd Victoria Matthews, Bishop of Christchurch
Deacon: Rev'd Alastair Buick
Reader: Evelyn Terris
Assistant Organist: Harry Meehan

10.00am FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

Presiding Priest & Preacher: Very Rev'd Lawrence Kimberley, Dean
Bishop of Christchurch: Rt Rev'd Victoria Matthews
Assistant Priest: Ven Lynnette Lightfoot
Assistant Curate: Rev'd Ben Randall
Deacon: Rev'd Nicky Lee
Liturgical Assistant: Yvonne Densem
Verge: Chris Oldham
Music: The Cathedral Choir
Director of Music: John Linker
Assistant Organist: Harry Meehan

5.00pm FESTAL EVENSONG

Officiants: Rt Rev'd Victoria Matthews, Bishop of Christchurch
Very Rev'd Lawrence Kimberley, Dean
Meditation: Rev'd Ben Randall, Assistant Curate
Verge: Chris Oldham
Music: Gentlemen of The Cathedral Choir
Director of Music: John Linker
Assistant Organist: Harry Meehan

*The Bishop, Dean, Chapter and
Staff of the Cathedral
wish you a joyful and blessed Christmas*

Welcome to all this Christmas. We are glad you have chosen to come to the Transitional Cathedral. If you're a long way from home, we hope you are enjoying your Christmas in Canterbury. God bless you and your family and friends.

Today we farewell our senior choristers: **Josh Erasmus, Damian Fraser, Timo Niehausmeier, Oscar Parkes, Rupert Pett** and **William Rowe-Lucas** are moving on to secondary school next year. We thank them for their years of dedicated service and wish them well for their musical futures. The Choir is on holiday after the Christmas Day services. They return on Sunday 29 January. Thank you to members of the **Cathedral Chorale** and the various soloists who will be providing music over January.

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER: Please remember in your prayers today the Bishop, the Cathedral and all the Ministry Units of this Diocese. We also pray for The Ven Richard Rangi Wallace, Bishop-elect of The Anglican Maori Diocese o te Waipounamu.

You will have seen the recent media coverage about the delay in an announcement about the **Cathedral in the Square**. Please see the Cathedral website for a full statement and message from Bishop Victoria.

During this season we are supporting the **CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL**. An envelope is included with your service sheets. Please give generously if you are able.

The **Vege Co-op** has finished deliveries for the year and restarts for 2017 on 1 February.

Thank you for continuing to support the work of the **Christchurch City Mission** by donating groceries for their foodbank. At Christmas and in the January school holidays the demand on the food bank increases and all donations are gratefully received.

You will notice a few changes in the **shop**. Some new display units have arrived and new stock is appearing too. We are getting some assistance with stock management too, with the overall aim of greatly increasing turnover. Watch this space! You will also notice an **ice cream cart**. This is a new fundraising initiative. On hot days the cart will be outside under its umbrella; at other times ice creams will be sold through the shop.

THIS WEEK

Morning Prayer is said Mon - Fri at 8.30am

Monday 26 December

12.05pm Midday Prayer

Tuesday 27 December

12.05pm Holy Eucharist or Midday Prayer

Wednesday 28 December

10.00am Bible Reading Marathon starts

12.05pm Holy Eucharist or Midday Prayer

Thursday 29 December

12.05pm Holy Eucharist or Midday Prayer

Bible Reading Marathon continues

Friday 30 December

12.05pm Holy Eucharist or Midday Prayer

Bible Reading Marathon continues

Saturday 31 December

12 noon Bible Reading Marathon concludes

12.05pm Midday Prayer

9.00pm - Midnight Watchnight Service

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY 2017 ~ CHRISTMAS I

8.00am Holy Eucharist

Preacher: Dean Lawrence Kimberley

10.00am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: Dean Lawrence Kimberley

Music: The Cathedral Chorale

5.00pm Evensong

From Monday 26 December weekday services of **Holy Eucharist** or **Midday Prayer** will be held Monday - Saturday at 12.05pm and Morning Prayer Monday - Friday at 8.30am

Weekday services of **Choral Evensong** resume at 5.30pm on Tuesday 31 January

On Sundays in January:

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

5.00pm Evensong

THE BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Each Christmas we come face to face with the stunning realisation that love has a name. The name of love is Jesus and love's name Jesus reveals to us the heart and will of God. Yes there will be decorations, gifts, wonderful music, and many parties again this Christmas-but ultimately the message of Christmas is LOVE. The name of this eternal and ever present love is Jesus, born in obscurity and poverty yet embodying for us the assurance of God's great love for all of creation and most certainly every person, man, woman, and child on earth.

This love also has a destination. The destination is our hearts and lives. We are the recipients of the greatest love imaginable and then it is up to us to decide what to do with this great love. Will we try to file it away and bring this love out only when convenient? Or will we allow this extraordinary gift to truly transform us and make us the not-so- secret agents of the love of God? If so, then Christmas is simply the celebration of what we know and live every moment of every day. That "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son ..."

But you and I know that the gift of love is not static. Love is a dynamic gift. Love changes the recipient and it also changes the giver. So when we receive the gift of love whose name is Jesus, we become part of the story of how God is ever so slowly transforming the world to the Kingdom's design and purpose. We are God's agents as I wrote before but even more extraordinarily, we become partners with the love of God called Jesus.

This Christmas I invite you to take an inventory. How do you accept and share the love of God called Jesus? First of all, how has this love called Jesus transformed you? Secondly, how are you partnering with God's love to change the world? Don't think about a one time gift and then return to your old way of life, but emulate God and give something that keeps on giving. Ask yourself if there is one aspect of your life that could become far more generous and gracious, and then live out the love of God in a way that will transform yourself and others.

Love has a name and it is Jesus. Love has an address and it is our hearts and lives as disciples of Jesus. Finally, love has a story that is not quite finished. It is waiting for you to do your part. This Christmas determine to be part of the Christmas love story which begins with the birth of love and has continued through the ages. The story of love invites you to do your part by writing yourself into the story. As a disciple of Jesus what will you choose to be and do?

Write the next chapter of your life so that your love in action, which you first received as the gift of God called Jesus, makes the angels sing, Jesus the Babe laugh with joy, and God smile.

+ Victoria

- I would like to know more about the Cathedral's worshipping community.
- I would like to receive the monthly Cathedral newsletter, "Extra" **by post**
(if you would like to receive it by email please go to www.christchurchcathedral.co.nz)

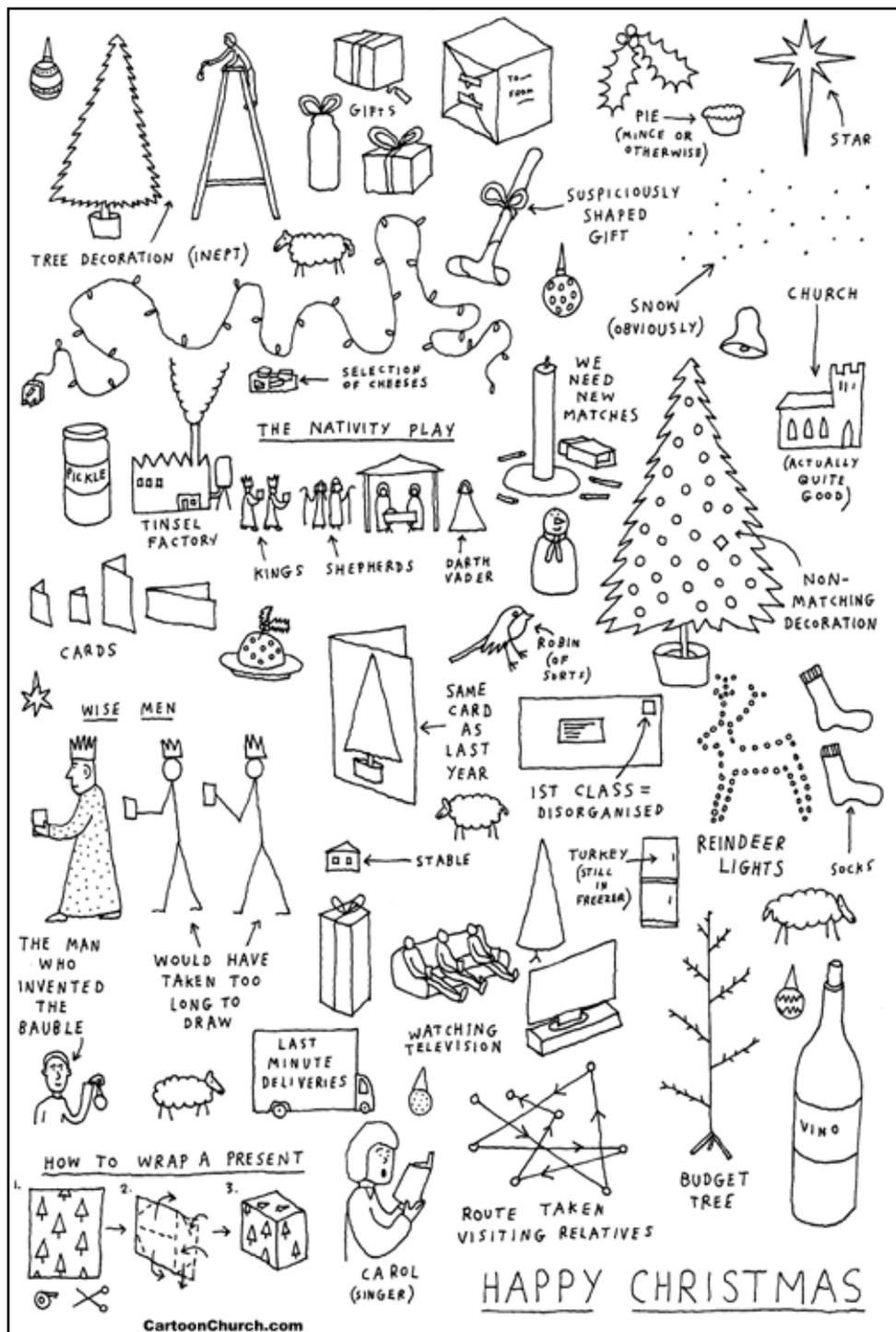
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Date _____

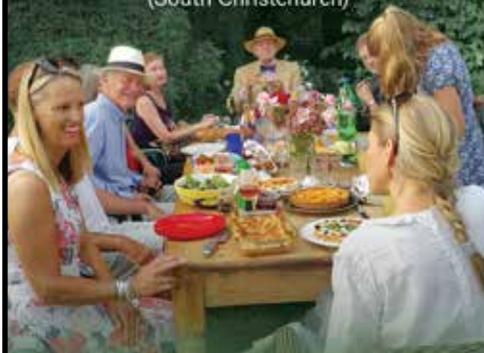
Please drop this slip into the offertory bag or give to the Verger



THE FOURTH FESTIVAL
LANSDOWN
Narropera

12TH FEBRUARY TO
26TH MARCH 2017

Lansdown House & Gardens
132 Old Tai Tapu Rd
(South Christchurch)



ALL BOOKINGS VIA THE COURT THEATRE

At the Box Office or (03) 963 0870

www.courttheatre.org.nz
(click TICKETS & scroll)

THE 2017 FESTIVAL

Narroperas

W.A. Mozart: *COSÌ FAN TUTTE*
C.M. von Weber: *DER FREISCHÜTZ*

12th February, 8.00PM - TICKETS: \$55
COSÌ FAN TUTTE

19th February, 8.00PM - TICKETS: \$65
Incl. glass of bubbly on arrival
GALA OF GERMAN OPERA
(Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner)

22nd February, 8.00PM - TICKETS: \$65
Incl. glass of bubbly on arrival
GALA OF GERMAN OPERA
(Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner)

26th February, 8.00PM - TICKETS: \$55
COSÌ FAN TUTTE

5th March, 7.30PM - TICKETS: \$55
DER FREISCHÜTZ

12th March, 7.00PM - TICKETS: \$55
DER FREISCHÜTZ

19th March, 6.30PM - TICKETS: \$55
DER FREISCHÜTZ

26th March, 6.00PM - TICKETS: \$55
COSÌ FAN TUTTE

www.lansdownsummer.com

The Cathedral's close association with the John Robert Godley Memorial Trust now spans 20 years, including nineteen annual OXFORDS trips. Since 2014, the Trust has also mounted at its property, 'Lansdown', a popular annual music festival, which the Cathedral is happy to support. The fourth Lansdown Festival of 'Narropera and more' begins on Sunday, 12 February and runs through to 26 March 2017, presenting eight performances. Six of them will be narropera (narrated opera) performances, three each of Mozart's brilliant last comic opera, *Così fan tutte* and of Carl Maria von Weber's wonderful masterpiece, *Der Freischütz*. The contrast between these two stories is almost total: the former, cynical, with Monty Python-like wit and razor-sharp commentary; the latter, a vivid and dramatic battle between the forces of good and evil. The remaining two festival performances are GALA GERMAN OPERA evenings, for which the star German baritone, Eike Wilm Schulte, will travel with his wife to New Zealand, from Germany. Herr Schulte has one of the most beautiful and technically 'perfect' voices among all contemporary German singers and is a well-known singer in the MET, Covent Garden, La Scala, Vienna, Munich, Bayreuth and Salzburg. He joins with German soprano Dorothee Jansen for arias and duets from Mozart's, Beethoven's and Wagner's not altogether unimportant contributions to German opera repertoire.

REFLECTION

Welcome to the Transitional Cathedral on this most holy festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. Welcome as we come in awe and wonder to hear again the message of the angels, and to go even unto Bethlehem to see the child in the manger. If you are a visitor to Christchurch, welcome to the Transitional Cathedral. Welcome also to the people of Christchurch. Welcome to this Cathedral, the broad tent with a wide open door.

When we come to visit the manger and to see the child lying there, what is it that we see? We see first and foremost love come down from heaven. This child is Emmanuel, God-With-Us. He comes to bring heaven into our broken world. This child is a message of love revealed in a human life, love that will stay connected even in the toughest trials we face. This child is Love communicated to us in our language and on our level. This is a precious gift from God that has inspired gift giving all over the world; for he comes to break down the walls that divide us one from another so that all can begin to share the gifts of love, peace, and compassion that God longs for us to receive.

As we hear the Good News of our Saviour's birth and sing the carols, we are invited to pray that our hearts will be a place where Jesus may find a dwelling and a home. I would be glad if you would join me in making that prayer your own this Christmas. Also, please pray that Christ will be born in the places where there is so much suffering in our world and so bring love, healing and compassion where there is pain, fear, and hatred: in Aleppo in Syria in the aftermath of a brutal war; in Berlin as the people there come to terms with another truck attack; and in the many other places where there is human suffering caused by war and conflict.

As we ponder the birth of Jesus, we notice the simplicity and poverty of his birth. Although he is the Christ who is God and who comes to us from the heart of God, he is born in a stable rather than a stately home; in the small rural town of Bethlehem rather than in the corridors of power in the city of Jerusalem. He is worshipped first of all by those considered to be outsiders: the shepherds and the Magi. The saints of old noticed this, and were inspired by the birth of Jesus to speak out when they saw a widening gap between the wealthy and the poor: In this country 8% of our children are living in severe poverty according to 2016 Child Poverty Monitor (partnership project between the Children's Commissioner, the JR McKenzie Trust and Otago University). May the birth of Jesus inspire us all to work to improve the social and economic arrangements of our world so that poverty may be eliminated and all may be enabled to participate actively in strong and vibrant communities.

This Christmas, may Christ the infant saviour give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, the awe of the worshipping sages and the humility and love of Mary and Joseph. On behalf of Bishop Victoria, my wife Elizabeth, and the Cathedral clergy and staff, I wish you and yours a holy and blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Dean Lawrence.



PO Box 855 Christchurch New Zealand | Tel +64 3 3660046
admin@christchurchcathedral.co.nz | www.christchurchcathedral.co.nz