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## WEEKLY BULLETIN – 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2017

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Today I invite you to hear a word of hope as we enter the season of Advent in expectation for Christmas.

Over the next four weeks, we will unwrap the gifts of Christmas as we journey through the Advent season. It is our chance to listen to the stories, to remember the true meaning of Christmas, and to wait in expectation for the arrival of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the World.



The point is not to get rid of the trappings and traditions and celebrations all around us but to take a purposeful journey through them to more deeply experience the gifts of Christmas: hope, love, peace and joy.

Do you want to experience more from Advent that opening up a calendar revealing a gift or treat for each day of the month leading up to Christmas? Then also be sure to jump on our website ([www.ipswich.church](http://www.ipswich.church)) each day, and read, download, and share our daily Advent devotional message.

Today, I look forward to discovering with you the first gift – the gift of hope.

*Pastor Ben*



Series: **The Gifts of Christmas**  
Part 1: **"Gift of Hope"**

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## Ipswich Lutheran Church

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# | Upcoming Dates

Thu	07/12	6.00pm	Year 6 Graduation Evening (Bethany)
Wed	13/12	7.00pm	Myanmar Mission Trip Info Night (St John's Meeting Room)
Sun	17/12	4.00pm	Christmas Carolling

# | Today

Thank you to Stephen Wood (St John's 8am), Gavin Sephton (St John's 9.30am), Bob Weiss (Grace) and Paul Modra (Bethany) for leading us in worship today.

# | Happenings & Notices

**Advent Devotions** These will be available on the church website each day through advent. [www.ipswich.church](http://www.ipswich.church)

## **Women's Guild – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Ladies, please note the lunch planned for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December has been cancelled.

**Myanmar Information Night** If you are interested in the mission trip to Myanmar (to take place 28<sup>th</sup> February – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018) then please come along to an information evening on **Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> December from 7pm in St. John's Meeting Room (located under the front of the church)**. Find out more about the trip, ask questions and learn more about the mission opportunities. All are welcome.



## *Christmas Services*

### ***Christmas Eve 24/12***

**St John's 9.00am (HC)**

**Bethany 6.00pm**

**Grace 7.00pm (HC)**

**St John's 7.00pm**

### ***Christmas Day 25/12***

**Bethany 8.00am (HC)**

**St John's 8.00am**



**Plant Pots Needed** All sizes, plastic or other, needed for avid gardeners to pot up plants for fundraising eg. Tabeel, Myanmar. Leave anytime behind Church Office near bins. Phone Margaret 0417564990 or Lee 0407648962 if you would like some pots to get potting.

**Christmas Carolling** Yes folks, it's that time again to give the gift of song to others for Christmas. If you would like to participate the Christmas Carolling will be held on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December meeting at St John's at 4pm**. Sign-up sheets will be at the back each worship centre. For more information, contact Paul Modra.

**Church Office Closure** The office will be closed over the Christmas break from **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018**. If you need Pastor Ben urgently, please ring office number to receive automated message for alternative numbers.

**Gold Coast Accommodation for Commonwealth Games** Alan Hauser and his daughter Jessica of Bethany congregation are looking for accommodation on the Gold Coast as they fulfil their role as volunteers for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. The dates are from **approx 4th April to 15th April 2018** and we would only need somewhere to sleep and preferably close to public transport. If anybody may know someone who can assist us in this matter please contact Alan on 0401 095 139 or email Jess on [jess@hauser.com.au](mailto:jess@hauser.com.au). A suitable remuneration would be forthcoming. Many Thanks - Alan & Jess.

**Available from worship centre foyer** LLL Calendars & Together in Mission News

# Giving & Attendances



Giving



Attendance

# | Prayer

## Prayer Points

- that the leaders of the church would keep watch over those in their care
- that those who live without hope would hear God's word
- that the leaders of our nation's governments would have the wisdom to look beyond the here and now
- that we would see our lives from God's perspective

## Connect Card & Submitted Prayer Requests

- Lord thank you for the recent rain.
- For Ben as he begins leading the Parish.
- Lord be with the homeless that they may find shelter.
- Lord thank you for your continued love and forgiveness.

## General Prayers

- Please continue praying for
  - the Pastors, staff team and leaders of the Church
  - all upcoming meetings around the Church
  - worship services across all our locations (beforehand and as they take place)
  - specific events as they arise (i.e. funerals, weddings, baptisms etc.)

# | Stay Connected

**Want to know more about Jesus?** Head to 'Next Steps' on our website: [www.ipswich.church](http://www.ipswich.church) or alternatively, speak to one of our pastors. We would love to hear from you and help you if you want to continue in your faith walk, learning more about our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Guests** – we trust that you have drawn closer to God in worship today. Our church is blessed by your presence today. Please stay and enjoy a 'cuppa' with us after worship and make yourself known to us. We'd love to answer any queries you may have, and be able to bless you with a special welcome pack & gift – just for you!

**Help Us To Care** - if you know of someone who has fallen ill or who is suffering in any way, please let the Pastoral Care Coordinator or one of the Pastors know by contacting the parish office so that appropriate care and follow up can occur.

**Thinking Of Joining This Church?** – We would love for you to make that commitment with us, as you make a conscious decision to be part of something bigger than simply yourself. If you have been worshipping here regularly and are not yet a member, the pastors would be happy to talk to you about 'making our Church home - your Church home.'



## Worship Times

**8am**  
**St. John's**  
*(32 Roderick St.  
Ipswich)*

**9am**  
**Bethany**  
*(86 Raceview St.  
Raceview)*

**9.30am**  
**St. John's**  
*(32 Roderick St.  
Ipswich)*

**10am**  
**Grace**  
*(19 Ipswich Rd.  
Riverview)*