

St^{the} Stephens Belmont



Winter warmer
from Leunie

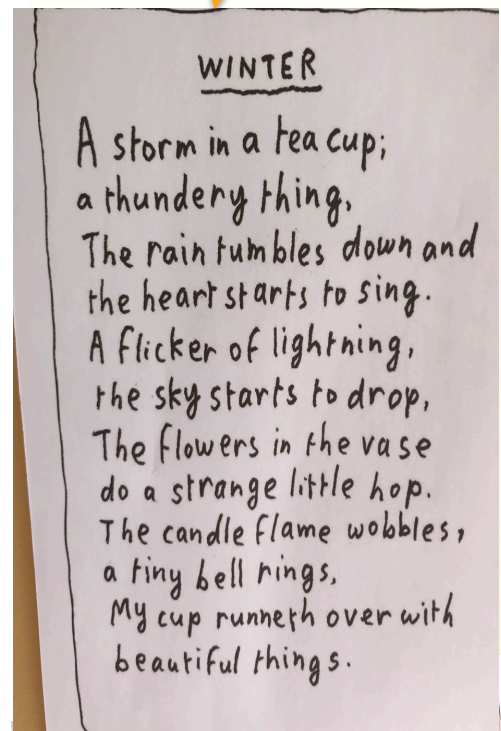
Looking out of my window as I sit to compose this newsletter, It is looking very wintry and indeed is quite a cold day.

However there are little bursts of Spring peeping through, daffodils, wattle, the flame tree is budding and the birds are busy building their nests.

It is a reminder that seasons come and go, and that this strange world of Covid 19 that we are experiencing won't be forever.

If this season of challenge and lockdown is getting you down, remember that you are loved, that you can find peace and even joy in the midst of trials and tribulations.

If you need help or are concerned about anyone, we are just a phone call or email away. Ststephensang2@iinet.net.au



Save the Date!

Messy Church
Sunday 30th Aug
Following Jesus
Jesus Love Me
10.30am

Messy Church
Sunday 27th Sept.
Creation,
God's world
10.30

Messy Church
Sunday 25th Oct.
TBA





I was so delighted to see all the children join us for messy church last Sunday. Not quite sure but I think there were 16 children with their parents participating. Kate, Jane did a great job engaging the children and the craft packages were an obvious hit with the kids. Our thanks to Kate, Jane, Anne and Pam for putting together and delivering. If you know of anyone who might like to join us just invite and see what happens. We are planning Messy Church for the last Sunday in each month and to join on zoom is quite simple. If you or anyone you know is interested, let the team know

Acts 16:22-26

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten . After they were severely flogged they were thrown into prison and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. On receiving such orders he put them in an inner cell and fastened their feet in stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake and the prison doors flew open.....

Stripped, flogged severely, in prison in chains, it could not have been much worse.... Me I would have been in tears fearful, and no doubt crying over my lot and asking God what he thought he was doing. Paul and Silas provide a great example for us as we navigate these dark days. They were **praying & singing hymns** and the miraculous happened. Note the other prisoners were listening to them. We too can be a witness to others in the way we respond to this crisis. Praying and singing not only releases us, and helps us to find peace and joy, but others too may find their salvation by the way they see that we are living in this difficult time.

Sometimes it is difficult to keep our heads above water and that is where being part of the body of Christ is sooo good.

We should and do love and support one another. If you need help then call out, ask, if you are struggling in any way, emotionally, physically or financially, whatever, please contact us at the church.

Pastoral Care: Helen McLean
0408 025 204

Myself, Locum Rev Liz
0437 524 865

or anyone on Parish Council,
The mobile numbers are in Link each week

We are planning a Parish Phone List to be available to members, if you **do not wish to be included, please advise Helen ASAP**