

# The Messenger



## NOVEMBER 2022

The MESSENGER is the official magazine of the Anglican Parish of Devonport  
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## From Rev'd Warren Watson's Desk

### Unite around the King



Over the past few years and at this present time, there are many battles happening around the world. Pandemics, wars, environmental and financial battles have and are dominating the news. The Christian life is a battle. I have been following Jesus for four decades. As I look back at these years, they have been years of great blessing. At the same time, there have been many challenges and obstacles. The nature of these battles has varied. There have been internal battles – times of temptation, doubt, fear and anxiety. There have been times of sadness and bereavement. There have been battles over health, sleep, finances, work and relationships. There have been periods of opposition and criticism.

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, is a preacher to the Papal household. He speaks of our battle being against a triple alliance: the world (“the enemy around us”), the flesh (“the enemy within us”), and the devil (“the enemy above us”). Raniero Cantalamessa writes; ‘In the tales of medieval battles, there always comes a moment when the orderly ranks of archers and cavalry and all the rest are broken and the fighting concentrates *around the king*. That is where the final outcome of the battle will be decided. For us too, *the battle today is taking place around the King*: it is the person of Jesus Christ himself that is the real point at issue.’

The theological battles of the twenty-first century are not those of the eleventh century, which divided Catholic and Orthodox churches. Nor are the battles those of the sixteenth-century Reformation. The battle in today's world is the same as the battle of the first century: *is Jesus the universal Saviour?*

This Christmas we will once more celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the saviour of the world. One of the set readings for Christmas is from Luke 1 v 31-35. Luke sets out right at the beginning a number of claims about Jesus:

#### Jesus is our Saviour

The angel says to Mary, ‘You are to call him Jesus’. The name ‘Jesus’ means ‘*saviour*’.

#### Jesus is the Messiah

He is the long-awaited Messiah in the line of David. The angel says, ‘The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end’.

#### Jesus the Son of God

The angel proclaims, ‘He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High’. Jesus’ birth was unique, as is explained by the angel in these verses. Mary was a virgin, and so a ‘normal’ conception was clearly impossible. Instead she was told, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you’. The angel then immediately explains why this is so significant: ‘the holy one to be born will be called the *Son of God*’. We see here how Jesus is both fully human who was born in the normal way, and yet also fully God, conceived by the Holy Spirit.

In this summer season let’s remember and celebrate that Christians from all denominations and churches – Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Pentecostal, all believe that Jesus is our Saviour, the Messiah and the Son of God. May we unite around Jesus the King during Advent and Christmas and pray together, “kia tai mai tou rangatiratanga” (may your kingdom come). As we pray, may Christ’s unity and peace come and bring healing and help to our battle-weary world.

Celebrate Christmas Eve with your children or grandchildren at our traditional

### Christingle Service

Christmas Eve  
Saturday 24th December  
At 5.00pm at Holy Trinity

Suitable for All Ages



## Charmaine's Farewell

Sunday 16th October was Charmaine's last service as Vicar of Devonport. The church was full as many parishioners, family and friends turned up to say good bye. The service was followed by morning tea and then 160 people attended the farewell lunch at McHugh's of Cheltenham. Bishop John Paterson thanked Charmaine for her great work and invaluable contribution to the ministry of our parish during her time with us.

Many Parishioners donated towards a farewell gift and Charmaine bought a new phone, a pair of binoculars and a new golf club. Charmaine takes with her our heartfelt thanks, love and prayers. *We pray God will lead and guide her on the next journey of her life.*



# A Sermon Series for Advent at Holy Trinity

8 am and 9.30 am or online at  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HolyTrinityDevonport>

**Sunday 27th November Advent 1**  
**'Get Ready'**

**Sunday 4th December Advent 2**  
**'A Gift at Christmas'**

**Sunday 4th December**  
**7pm 9 Lessons & Carols**

**Sunday 11th December Advent 3**  
**'Mr Facing-Both-Ways'**

**Sunday 18th December Advent 4**  
**'Wake Up'**

**Saturday 24th December**  
**Christmas Eve**

5.00pm *Christingle*  
10:30pm *Carols*  
11.00pm *Christmas Eve Service*

**Sunday 25th December**  
**Christmas Day**

8.00am *Holy Communion*  
9:30am *Contemporary Communion Service*

## Elected Representatives to the Nomination Committee

On Sunday, 13 November, a large and engaged group of parishioners met with Carole Hughes, archdeacon, to discuss the vision for Holy Trinity going forward under the leadership of a new vicar. Carole led an interesting and good discussion that focussed on our top priorities as a church, our core values, opportunities and challenges, as well as the characteristics we are looking for in our next vicar. She divided the group into smaller discussion groups and was thereby able to engage everyone in the discussion.

There was consensus on the desire to be actively integrated with the community as a church, to grow our congregation and in particular increase the involvement of children and youth, and to ensure the hall becomes a real focal point for the church and for the community.

At the end of the discussion, Jean McQueen, Rosemary Erlam and Michael Walker were elected to serve on the search committee for the new vicar. We wish them well in their important work and pray for a very successful outcome to the process.

Jean McQueen	Michael Walker	Rosemary Erlam
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Combined Churches of Devonport  
& Belmont  
Present

## Community Carol Singing

OUTSIDE ON THE LAWN  
(IN THE CHURCH IF ITS WET)

AT DEVONPORT METHODIST CHURCH  
ON THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER  
CAROLS START AT 7PM

Please invite friends and family to come along and advise them of the change of venue this year. Bring a picnic and enjoy the carols.



**Sunday 4th December**  
**7pm at Holy Trinity**  
LED BY REV WARREN WATSON  
AND THE HOLY TRINITY CHOIR