

Church repair news The scaffolding has been removed from the interior of the Church. It has now been decided that it will not be necessary to externally prop up the east wall of the Chancel. The engineer expects to have his report and recommendations on the repair & earthquake strengthening of the Church completed by the end of January.

A negotiation process about the proposals can be expected after that involving Church Property Trustees, the Parish, the Council, the Historic Places Trust, and the loss adjusters. A new Council planner, Hayley Shearer, has been assigned to the Avonside project.

Columbarium issues The debris that fell from the gable end of the north transept has damaged some columbarium plates, and has made most of the columbarium in that area unsafe and out of bounds. Three families who want to inter ashes there are inconvenienced by this development.

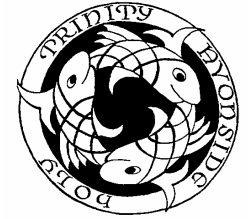
Haiti Appeal Bishop Victoria has sent a card to the parish which reads: *'Dear Friends, Donations like yours to the Haiti earthquake Recovery Appeal will assist the people of Haiti to grow in hope and improve their quality of life. Thank you so much. In Christ, Victoria'*.

Holiday Arrangements The Vicar will be in the office most mornings except Monday, his day off. Colleen returns to work on Tuesday 4 January. The Thursday Eucharists will be celebrated throughout January.

Epiphany Next Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. In Spain they delay Christmas present giving for this feast, popularly known as 'the Kings', so co-ordinating their gift giving in a rather appropriate way with that of the three Magi.

Sermons Sermons preached in this church can be accessed for further reflection either by visiting the parish website, on which they are posted, or by asking the Vicar to be included on his weekly email subscription list, or by uplifting the hard copy from the lectern on the sermon file on the service booklet trolley.

Holy Trinity, Avonside.



The Grapevine

25 December 2010—Christmas Day

26 December 2010—Holy Family

On Angels

All was taken away from you: white dresses,
wings, even existence.
Yet I believe you,
messengers.

There, where the world is turned inside out,
a heavy fabric embroidered with stars and beasts,
you stroll, inspecting the trustworthy seams.

Short is your stay here:
now and then at a matinal hour, if the sky is clear,
in a melody repeated by a bird,
or in the smell of apples at the close of day
when the light makes the orchards magic.

They say somebody has invented you
but to me this does not sound convincing
for humans invented themselves as well.

The voice—no doubt it is a valid proof,
as it can belong only to radiant creatures,
weightless and winged (after all, why not?),
girdled with the lightning.

I have heard that voice many a time when asleep
and, what is strange, I understood more or less
an order or an appeal in an unearthly tongue:

day draws near
another one
do what you can.

Czeslaw Milosz

25 December 2010—Christmas Day—Year A

A Warm Welcome to all who are sharing with us in worship this morning. If you are a baptised member of any Church and would like to receive Communion you are invited to do so. Following the 9:30am Service morning tea will be served

Liturgy: 8:00am 1928 BCP
9:30am The First Eucharistic Liturgy

Collect: Almighty God,
you gave your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him,
and be born of the Virgin Mary;
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 52: 7-10
Hebrews 1: 1-6
John 1: 1-5, 9-14

Hymns: (From the blue Christmas Carol's booklet)
10 Once in Royal David's city.
7 Joy to the world.
2 While shepherds watched.
9 Hark the herald angels sing.

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26 December 2010—Holy Family—Year A

A Warm Welcome to all who are sharing with us in worship this morning. If you are a baptised member of any Church and would like to receive Communion you are invited to do so. Following the 9:30am Service morning tea will be served in the Parish Hall. Please join us.

Liturgy: 8:00am 1928 BCP
9:30am The First Eucharistic Liturgy

Collect: Loving God,
guardian of our homes,
when you entrusted your Son,
to the care of Mary and Joseph,
you did not spare them the pains
that touch the life of every family.
Teach us to rely on your word,
that in our trials as in our joys
we may be clothed in gentleness and patience
and united in love.

Make us every thankful
for the blessings you give us,

Readings: Sirach 3: 2-6. 12-14
Colossians 3: 12-21
Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

Hymns: 542 What child is this.
109 Ding dong! Merrily on high.
395 Of the Father's love begotten.
481 The holly and the ivy.

Parish Notices

New lectern Mr Bertram Rush, furniture maker, has completed the new lectern which is being used for the first time for our Christmas services. Our insurance will be paying for this. Our original lectern was destroyed in the earthquake.