

Minister : Mark Stevens:

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Blog: www.revdmarkstevens.blogspot.com.

Mark's day off is Monday : Please contact one of the Elders if you have a Pastoral need.

Church Office:

Tel: 8370 6006

Email: admin@happyvalleychurchofchrist.org.au

Website: www.happyvalleychurchofchrist.org.au

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ELDERS:

Andrew Bowden

James Bowden

Roz Park

Juanita McCallum

Jill Richardson

Janet Riessen

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FAMILY WORSHIP AND COMMUNION SERVICE: 9.30am Sunday

OFFERING:

061209: **\$ 1014.35**

GRAPEVINE EDITOR'S:

Janet and Des Riessen Tel: 83882002

Email: coobarie@bigpond.com

GRAPEVINE DEADLINE:

Thursday at noon

Who is leading Worship on

SERVICE PREP:

WORSHIP LEADER:

MUSIC:

PROJECTION:

CHURCH PRAYER:

READING:

COMMUNION PREP:

SERVERS:

TEA & COFFEE:

SOUND:

GREETER:

FLOWERS:

OFFERING:

CLEANING:

20th Dec 2009

Baggs

T Anderson

B Long, D Whitman

N Wellstead

Baggs

M Fitton

Main

T Parker, L Bailey

J Long, Holmesby

Wilson

R Park

N Baggs

S Fitton, W Riessen

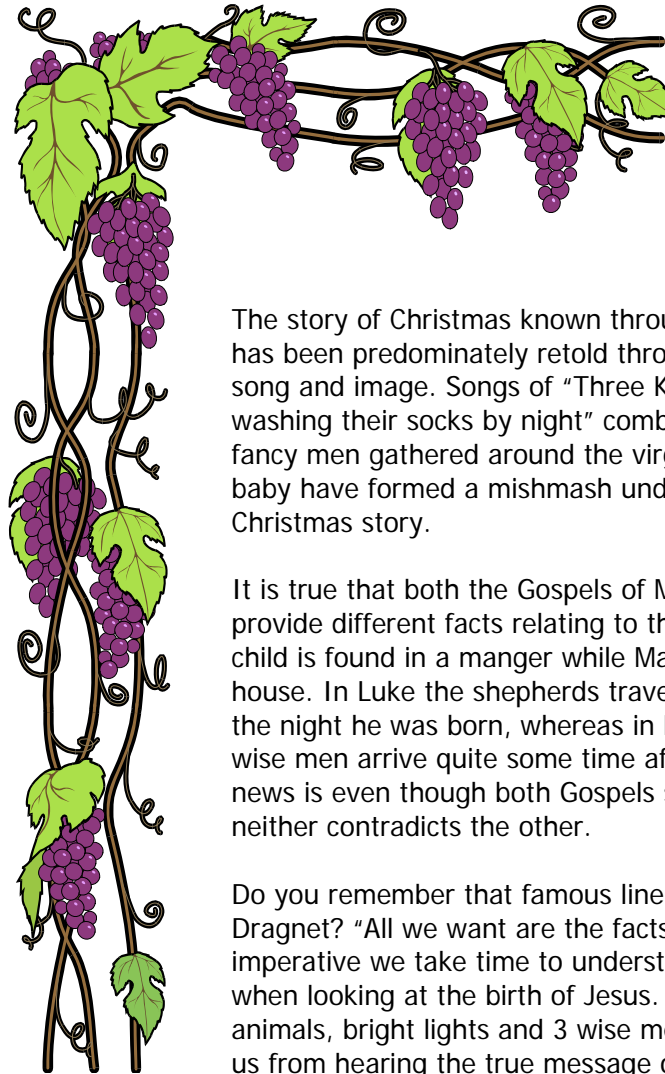
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THE GRAPEVINE

13th Dec '09

HAPPY VALLEY



The story of Christmas known throughout the world today has been predominately retold through the mediums of song and image. Songs of "Three Kings" and "Shepherds washing their socks by night" combined with the images of fancy men gathered around the virgin mother and glowing baby have formed a mishmash understanding of the Christmas story.

It is true that both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke provide different facts relating to the birth of Jesus. Luke's child is found in a manger while Matthew's is located in a house. In Luke the shepherds travel to meet the child on the night he was born, whereas in Matthew's gospel the wise men arrive quite some time after his birth. The good news is even though both Gospels share different accounts neither contradicts the other.

Do you remember that famous line from the 70's TV show Dragnet? "All we want are the facts please mam!" It is imperative we take time to understand fact from fiction when looking at the birth of Jesus. Fanciful stories of animals, bright lights and 3 wise men may actually distract us from hearing the true message of Christmas which, in Matthew's Gospel at least, reminds us that people from all corners of the world will come to worship the Messiah any way they can and it issues a challenge to us who know the story so well to do likewise at Christmas!

Shalom
Mark