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

Church Office:

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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:

131209: **\$ 1190.50**

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:

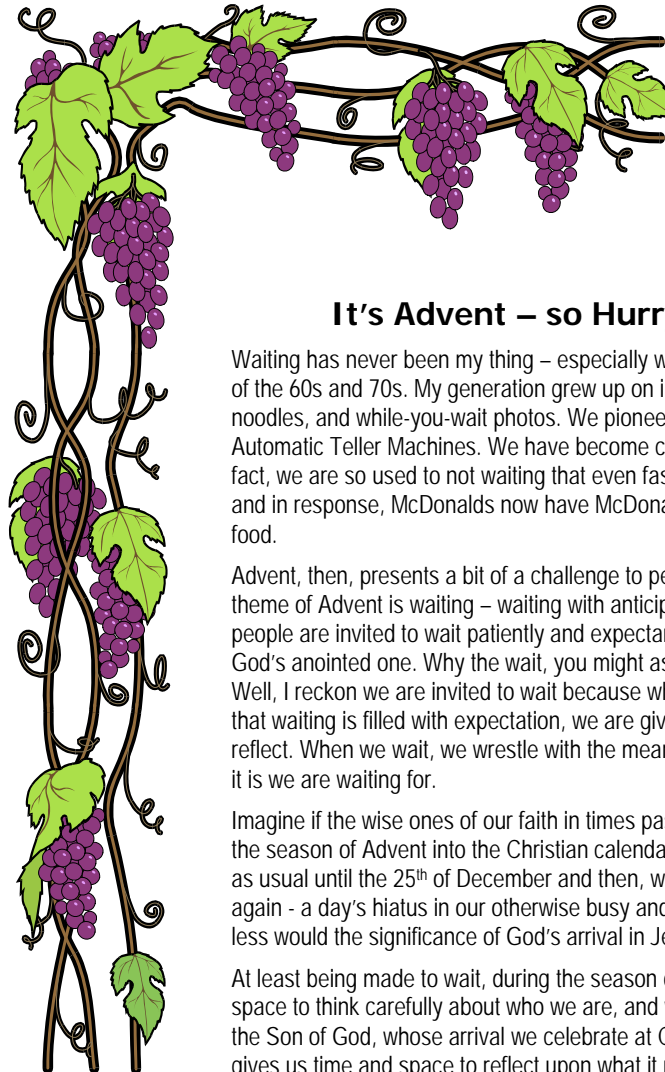
CLEANING:

**PLEASE CHECK THE
ROSTERS OVER THE
BREAK TO SEE IF AND
WHEN YOU ARE ON**

THE GRAPEVINE

20th Dec '09

HAPPY VALLEY



It's Advent – so Hurry up and Wait

Waiting has never been my thing – especially waiting patiently. I grew up a child of the 60s and 70s. My generation grew up on instant coffee, fast food, 2-minute noodles, and while-you-wait photos. We pioneered the credit economy and Automatic Teller Machines. We have become conditioned to not having to wait. In fact, we are so used to not waiting that even fast food is no longer fast enough, and in response, McDonalds now have McDonalds Express – even faster fast food.

Advent, then, presents a bit of a challenge to people like me, because a key theme of Advent is waiting – waiting with anticipation. During Advent, God's people are invited to wait patiently and expectantly for the arrival (advent) of God's anointed one. Why the wait, you might ask?

Well, I reckon we are invited to wait because when we stop and wait, and when that waiting is filled with expectation, we are given time and space to think and to reflect. When we wait, we wrestle with the meaning and significance of whatever it is we are waiting for.

Imagine if the wise ones of our faith in times past had never bothered to introduce the season of Advent into the Christian calendar. Imagine if it was just business as usual until the 25th of December and then, wallop, Christmas was upon us again - a day's hiatus in our otherwise busy and preoccupied lives. How much less would the significance of God's arrival in Jesus have an impact on us?

At least being made to wait, during the season of Advent, allows us the time and space to think carefully about who we are, and whose we are, in relationship with the Son of God, whose arrival we celebrate at Christmas. At least the waiting gives us time and space to reflect upon what it means to be his disciples, bringing to life his miraculous arrival in the way we relate to the world around us.

So, as much as I find it hard to wait, I am grateful that Advent gives me that opportunity, and pleased that no one yet has decided to make an instant Christmas! My prayer is that you too will appreciate the waiting and expectation of Advent, and that in this wonderful season you will be renewed in your faith and restored in your spirit.

Please stay safe over the festive season. We at the State Office wish you a very blessed and peace-filled Advent and Christmas.

Mark Butler