

Spicer

Matters



April 2016

From Judi



Today is Easter Sunday.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

This is something I declare every Easter Sunday. It is something I firmly believe.

But it seems preposterous in this day and age.

When faced with the incredible proclamation that Jesus rose again from the dead, one can be agnostic and cynical - saying that you don't know and you don't care.

Or one can deny it. The whole thing is fiction, fantasy, a crutch for people who need it but something that never really happened.

Or one can move past the shock toward acceptance. But let me warn you: if you are going to accept the truth of the resurrection, you need to let it change you.

We who gather on Easter Sunday to sing and say that "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" do so not because we have discerned some mystical key to the Scripture, or found some unassailable piece of historical evidence.

We believe in the resurrection because the disciples believed and passed the word along all the way into the present, prompting people like us, to say what we believe.

The resurrection changed the disciples – from scared men and women hiding in a locked room – to people who went out and proclaimed the message that Jesus Christ – the love of God in flesh - had risen to overcome death and ensure eternal life for us all.

We are an Easter people. The resurrection should change us into people of hope – sharing love and peace with the world.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Spicer Community Lunch

As our usual third Thursday of the month meeting date fell right in the midst of our Spicer Easter Sights and Sounds production, we simply invited all our members not actually in the cast and crew, to join in on the 12 noon Thursday tour, and then have pizzas to eat for the lunch to follow (see photo). Michelle Moore helped with the organisation of the 1st lunch and special visitors were the two actors playing Jesus and Judas. Our Community Lunch members in the cast and crew were only able to eat their pizzas once the last of the Children's Tours had ended. A great time had by all.

Our next meeting on 21st April will be to have a Finger Food lunch in the hall at 12 noon, and then travel into the Botanic Gardens to enjoy Judy and June showing us the Biblical Plants. Margaret Barrows is kindly doing the organisation for this meeting. If you would like transport throughout, please phone 8363 4295. Office enquiries 8362 3771.



Easter Sights & Sounds



Imagine, if you can, that just outside there are walls, and inside the walls a marketplace with food, bread, pottery, weaving, carpentry, a synagogue with Rabbi, a harpist playing, with noise and children waving palm branches as Jesus arrives in Jerusalem to fulfil his destiny. See the donkeys, yes there were two walking with Jesus as he came into the town, and the mother who brought her children forward to be blessed, despite Peter's protest.

The children even met Zaccheus who told them how Jesus had changed his life.

Wonder where Jesus and his disciples are being taken by a man carrying a water jug. Witness the plotting by the High Priest and soldiers, helped by Judas's betrayal and then watch as Jesus, in his humility, washes Peter's feet and then shares the Last Supper, instituting the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Watch in disbelief as Peter denies Jesus before the cock crows thrice. See Jesus judged by Pontius Pilate and the fickle crowd shouting for his death, then hold your breath as Jesus is crucified.

Share with Mary her joy at finding the empty tomb and rejoice with John and Peter as they realise that Jesus is alive.

To all those who were involved in Easter Sights and Sounds we don't have to imagine this. We were here to witness it and be part of it, to share the real meaning of Easter to approximately 900 school students, and around 100 people on Friday night. On Friday, at the end of each session, Mike pronounced (sang) the Aaronic blessing in both Hebrew and English.







Another wonderful time of witness was made from the Spicer Uniting Church this year with the production of the Easter Drama to over 1000 students and adults, over a period of three mornings and one night. After watching this event unfold, many spoke of how moved they had been.

A huge effort was mounted in the weeks prior by many in the congregation, and months before by our Coordinator Margaret Just – we thank them all. Also to the many from outside Spicer who came to help in a myriad of ways.

Filling acting positions, sets to prepare, costumes to get ready, crafts to devise for the children in the hall afterwards, with a drink and Easter biscuit for all etc, etc, etc. The marketplace at the opening was a hive of activity, bringing the lifestyle of the time to the present.

The two donkeys for the entrance to Jerusalem scene were from Brownhill Creek, and the owners donned costumes and participated happily throughout, ensuring the animals were safe at all times.

We were blessed with beautiful weather until a storm on Thursday night created havoc in the marketplace. With many helpers, these settings were transferred inside into the Atrium for the Friday night performances.

A big thank you to everyone involved.



Donkey at home again

For your April calendar

Sun 3	Messy Church	4.30 pm
Tues 5	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
	Movie Group	TBA
Sat 9	Eat Pray Care	10 am
Tues 12	Playgroup	10 am
	Lunch	11.45 am
Wed 13	Just COS	10 am
Sat 16	Spicer Church Dinner	6 pm
Mon 18	RAD	7.30 pm
Wed 20	Church Council	7.30 pm
Thurs 21	Spicer Community Lunch	12 noon
Wed 27	Just COS	10 am

Spicer Annual Dinner 2016

Saturday 16th April, 6.30 pm

***** *New Date* *****

Come dine with us

Bring your friends and family, and enjoy a great night of nibbles, roasts, salads, dessert and coffee.

Although we will be having a pretty "Aussie" meal, bring your favourite photo(s) to show and tell from any of your travels, either near or far.

Same great price as last year:

Adults (over 13 years) \$15.00, \$10.00 concession, Family \$40.00

Kids, babies very welcome. Vegetarians will be catered for.

Bookings essential. Tickets available from the office and at church from Easter Sunday.

Like to help? Phone Pam 0419 830 246, or Steve 0417 801 670



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hrs: Tue–Thur 9am–3.30pm; Fri 9am–2.30pm



Deadline for next issue

Please have all articles to Anne by Sun 24 April