

A 20 Year Tradition Continues

It was back in 1996 that Rev. Chris Chattaway, the music planning group and the choir, presented the first Lessons and Carols at the Church of the Resurrection.

Last Sunday 11th December, the tradition continued. Even though the congregation is now smaller than in 1996, due to the superb individual efforts of many parishioners, another large congregation enjoyed a joyful evening.

The evening commenced with a delightful presentation of “Silent Night” by our young, eager children. Each year there is a different theme. This year the theme was “An Upside Down Christmas,” meaning an Australian Christmas is upside down compared to Christmas in the northern hemisphere. However, Zinkoo, in his sermon, was also able to make the connection that the birth and ministry of Christ was so upside down compared to what people of that time expected from the coming of the Messiah.

Due to this year’s theme, most of the carols sung by the choir had an Australian focus. Some of those carols included “Carol our Birds,” “The Three Drovers” and “Noel-Time.”

This Lessons and Carols service has only continued due to the generosity of so many as listed inside the front cover of the service booklet. However, a few extra special efforts need to be acknowledged. Firstly, many choristers from several neighbouring parishes, join our local choir to make an augmented choir that can answer the challenge of presenting carols such as John Rutter’s “Angels’ Carol” and Anna Page’s “Candlelight Alleluia.”

The standard achieved is a direct result of Edith Webster OAM (2013). Edith has the musical knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and encouraging techniques to lift each choir member to their best possible standard. Each choir member is so grateful for all of her efforts.

Behind every presentation, there are some committed workers. Very few of us realise how much time and effort Chris Bowes donates with leading the music planning group, playing the organ throughout the practices, setting up the folders for each choir member, compiling the service booklets and constantly considering all aspects of the presentation process.

We are also so fortunate to have James Clay, who skilfully sequences all the music for any new carols. His wife Joanne, presents each choir member with a practise C.D. so, we are grateful to both of them.

After the success of last year, the choir are also doing a repeat presentation of the Lesson and Carols at St. Bede’s Church Semaphore on Wednesday 14th December.

So often, after the presentation, members of the audience state “I am really in the Christmas spirit now!” That is the reward for all the hard work of so many.

Joan Standish

