

WELCOME TO

CAROLS

~~AT ASQUITH OVAL~~
AT HOME

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A
WONDERFUL EVENING AND A
MERRY CHRISTMAS

13 Dec
at 7pm

SPECIAL GUEST
COLIN BUCHANAN



www.AsquithCarols.com

 **ASQUITH**
Church of Christ



St. John's Anglican
Church Asquith



CROSSLIFE
CHURCH



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas is almost upon us and with a tough year of COVID-19 restrictions you may be wondering what's happening about Asquith's big carols event. After 10 years of wonderful growth and amazing Christmas entertainment and community interaction, Carols at Asquith Oval has had to strike out and try something new.

Because of current COVID policies, no large community carols gatherings are permitted. However, we feel that our recurring event has been so positive an experience for our community that we want to do everything we can to bring carols to Asquith in 2020. So we are bringing it to your HOME! Yes, Carols at Asquith Oval has this Christmas morphed into Asquith Carols at Home, via the internet.

On Sunday December 13, a live-streamed Carols program will be available to everyone on-line from 7pm. Connection is through our event website asquithcarols.com and will be streamed via YouTube.

Our kid's colouring competition is happening again. This year we're also running a photo competition. See page 11 for more details.

We realise that a carols event where everyone gathers on the oval for food, festivities, singing and socialising – and experiencing fireworks almost directly overhead – cannot be reproduced at home via the internet. For that reason, the program will look a little different, yet seeks to retain some key elements that have made it so good.

7pm on 13 Dec
Join us for Carols Live
AsquithCarols.com



This year we are pleased to have well-known and loved children's entertainer **Colin Buchanan as our special guest** on our Carols program. He joins some of our familiar cast of performers to give this Christmas a fun spin as we celebrate Jesus' birth in Bethlehem around 2000 years ago.

We also realise that one of the attractions of our past carols events has been the opportunity for families, groups of friends and neighbours to hang out together and chat, with the carols on stage as a nice backdrop. It's a bit of a tradition for many as part of the overall Christmas experience. So why should you miss out this year?

Our suggestion is that you tee up your family, neighbours and/or mates to gather at your place on the 13th - put on your own sausage sizzle and run 2020 Asquith Carols at Home. Find us on your smart TV or plug in your laptop. You might even want to set up a TV or video projector outside so you can have your own carols event in your back yard!

How ever you choose to join in to our 2020 carols, we are confident you will find it to be the next best thing to our much-loved Carols at Asquith Oval.

Christmas Blessings!

Rev. Andrew Maxwell,
Senior Pastor of Asquith Church
of Christ and Co-founder of
Carols at Asquith Oval



THE PEACE OF CHRISTMAS



Michael Leong is one of the pastors at CrossLife Church in Asquith. His favourite thing about Christmas is spending time with friends and family.

Even within families, there are arguments, relationship breakdowns and even violence and abuse.

What should we make of all this? Should we just accept it - it's part of the status quo, we can't do anything about it, we might as well not let it worry us? Should we get all pessimistic - the world is just getting worse and worse, we're doomed to make the same mistakes over and over? Or should we try and change it - try and make the world a better place, even though we might not be able to do very much?

There isn't a lot of peace in the world nowadays.

Political parties are getting more and more personal and divisive in their attacks on each other. There's great tension between the nations of the world, economically and in the military domain.



The God of the Bible says to us that we're not made for this kind of conflict. It's not part of His original design for the world. He grieves that people are not able to put aside their differences and get along. Our conflicts with each other are part of the problems of the world - in computer programming terms, they're a bug, not a feature.

God wants us to have peace with each other, and peace with Him. The Bible tells the story of a family breakdown - a younger son who wishes that his father was dead, and does the unthinkable thing of taking his inheritance in advance, even before his father has died. Sadly, then, he goes on to waste the money, losing everything until he needs to go back home.¹

Amazingly, though, the father doesn't kick his son out of the house, or shame the son, or tell his son how disappointed he is. He instead runs out to meet his son, embraces him, restores his status as a son of the house, and acts like nothing happened. The father in the story is not interested in punishing his son or avenging himself - he simply delights that his son has come home. He's interested in peace.

And this is how God relates to us as well. We've all rejected God - we want the good things that God gives us, but we'd rather not have the responsibility we owe to God as His creation. But even though we've turned away, God wants peace with us. He wants us back. And at Christmas, we remember that God sent His Son Jesus into the world to make it possible for us to come back to Him - and He did it by dying on the cross in our place.

God wants peace with us. And that's why, at Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus has brought peace. And because we have peace with God, Jesus encourages us to have peace with each other - *Blessed are the peacemakers, Jesus says, for they will be called sons of God.*²

So what do we do about the conflict we see in the world? Jesus encourages us to be peacemakers - doing our best to bring peace between people, in whatever situations in life we find ourselves in - and we do it because God has brought peace with us.

May God give you peace this Christmas.

¹ You can find the full Bible story in Luke 15:11-32

² Matthew 5:9

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THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS



Andrew Maxwell is the pastor of Asquith Church of Christ. His favourite thing about Christmas is that the entire world has a day in the year where

God is remembered for sending His Son to earth to be our Saviour.

When Joseph learned the news that his beloved, Mary, was with child, he was devastated. But God, in His kindness and mercy, sent an angel to Joseph with the incredible news that this baby was none other than the Son of God.

The angel said “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Feelings of desperate hopelessness for Joseph were transformed with the news that the longawaited Redeemer was about to make his appearance on earth.

Centuries before, the Israeli prophet Isaiah gave the promise from the Lord: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,



and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). The world awaited the appearance of the Son of God, and Joseph and Mary were the first to meet him, now around 2,000 years ago, in an animal’s stable in Bethlehem, Israel.

The damage caused by mankind’s personal rebellion against God was about to be corrected by one solitary life – the baby boy, Jesus, God in a human body (God with us). He was prophesied to save his people from their sins/ misdeeds, and 33 years later, Messiah Jesus - the Anointed One of God (“Christ”), willingly went to the cross and died in our place

so that we could be cleansed, forgiven and granted eternal life in heaven after we die.

It is at Christmas that the world looks back and celebrates the coming of God to earth. He came, not to be served, but to serve us through his atoning death, to give us rescue from sin and to turn our hopelessness into an everlasting Hope.

Embrace Jesus and you embrace the Hope of Christmas.

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THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS



Brian Heath is the Rector of St John's Anglican Church, Asquith.

Luke 2:10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Let me ask you a question: 'Are you feeling joyful?' You might say take a look at the calendar! How can anyone be joyful in the year that we have had bushfires, floods, COVID, and endless US election coverage. Joy is something that even in the good times seems elusive. It is often for others but not for us. You get stuck on the wrong table at the wedding. All your friends are a few tables over enjoying themselves while you are with a distinctly uninteresting bunch of strangers. Your sports team loses the final and so while your opponents celebrate you are feeling morose. You go to your

child's presentation night and the same group of children get all the prizes but yours and many others miss out. Your best friend's marriage seems as strong as ever but joy seems to have seeped out from yours years ago. Joy is not always easy to find.

When it comes to Christmas, a season that is supposed to involve joy, it also has its many challenges. Do we really have to invite Auntie Jean-she always drinks too much and makes an embarrassment of herself. I'm sick of going to the in-laws each year, why aren't they prepared to come to us. I don't want to line up at the fish markets at 5 am anymore-and besides I don't really like fish.

Remarkably the Bible tells us two very important things about joy at Christmas. Firstly, it is a time of potentially great joy. And secondly, it is joy for all the people. Great joy, and for all the people-now wouldn't you like to be a part of that?

This message was delivered not to some King's palace, not even to some celebrity of the day but to working class shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks at night. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12)

The news of great joy is that a Saviour was born for them. This Saviour will be a King (Christ), the Lord. He will be able to save because he will be a mighty Ruler. This King will save people from all the powers of evil in the universe, and he will be able to rescue us from our rebellion (sin).

How can the shepherds know that this message is true? Answer: the angel gives them a sign. And a funny sign at that. "You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (verse 12). A baby certainly isn't a sign of power-they are dependent for everything. The only thing they can do really well is keep their parents up at night! Furthermore, this baby will be found in a manger (an animal's feeding trough). Certainly, nothing powerful about that.

But here's the thing - a seemingly powerless baby, in an unimpressive bed is the perfect sign. For this baby would grow up and die a powerless death on the cross and in so doing defeat all the powers of evil and will be the Saviour of all who trust in him.

Now that is a message of great joy! And it is for all-the rich and the poor, the coloured and the white, the old and the young, those who love Christmas and those who don't.

As the famous Christmas Carol puts it 'Joy to the World, the Lord has Come, let earth receive her King.'

So this Christmas, why not take a moment to read the story for yourself in the gospel of Luke, or look up one of the sponsoring churches websites and sign up for their Christianity Explored course, pray a prayer for God to be your Saviour. It really will be a time of great joy and joy that will persevere when the Christmas lights have well and truly been turned off.

Wishing you all true joy this Christmas as we remember the birth of the Saviour.

Brian Heath

PREVIOUS CAROLS



Join us for
Carols Live
7pm on 13 Dec
AsquithCarols.com

COMPETITIONS

PHOTO

We're having a photographic competition this year, open to children of all ages! We're looking for photos from our local area.

There are two categories;

- **Landmark** (something instantly recognisable as coming from Hornsby Shire)
- **Landscape** (a photo that showcases the natural beauty of our area).

Best photo in each will get a prize!

COLOURING

Colour in the picture on the next page. If you prefer to print your own version, you can download the picture at www.asquithcarols.com



HOW TO ENTER

Email your colouring or photo to carols@asquithcarols.com or post/hand-deliver to Asquith Church of Christ, 3 Amor Street, Asquith, 2077 by noon on Friday, 11 December 2020.

We'll announce the winners during the live carols.

Child's information to enter either competition:

- Child's name
- Parent's phone number
- Gender
- School year





SING



-A-LONGS

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O Come All Ye Faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels

Chorus:

O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, glory in the highest

Chorus

Yea Lord we greet thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to thee be all glory given
Word of the father,
Now in flesh appearing

Chorus

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the World! The Lord has come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Joy to the World! The Lord has come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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SILENT NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia.
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy Holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel, the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Chorus:
Noel Noel
Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the Earth, It gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.

Chorus

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Chorus

Then entered in those wise men three
Fell rev'rently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, The baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest Heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"



There are so many community groups that are part of our Carols. Thank you all for your ongoing support for Carols and our community. We look forward to the next Carols when we can enjoy RFS and Asquith Soccer's famous BBQ and purchase a ticket for the 1st Asquith Scouts Raffle.

For the past few years we have supported the Hornsby Women's shelter. Please consider supporting them again this year by donating to them directly and all the amazing work they do at hkws.org.au

Thank you to our amazing Asquith community and the way you all support one another. Stay Safe!

O HOLY NIGHT THE STARS ARE SHINING

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.

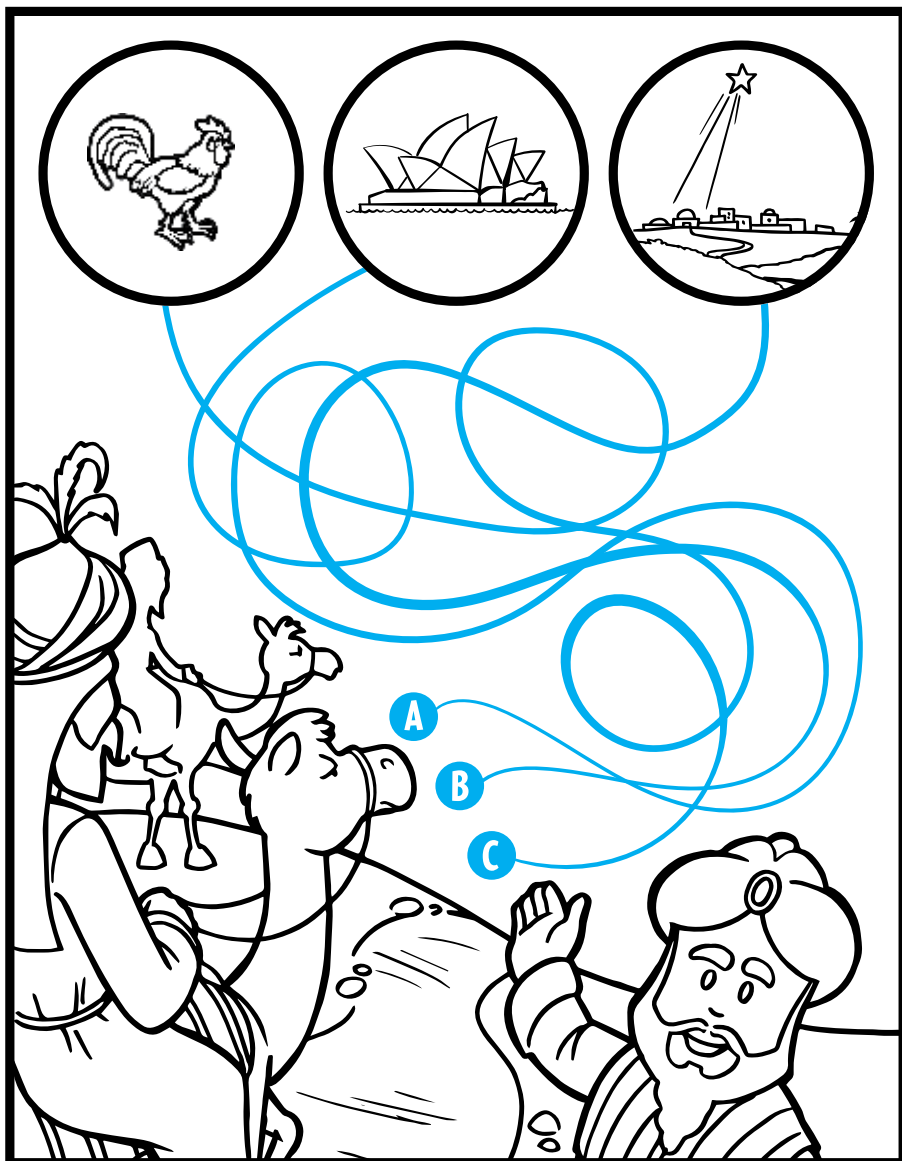
He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

7pm on 13 Dec
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AsquithCarols.com

**Help the Wise Men find Bethlehem.
Which path should they take?**



A T B J O U R N E Y Q W E R T B Y U I O P P
 A S R D F L G S H E P H E R D H A J K L R A
 Z B X E G O D C F V B N M Q W J E B R T I S
 Y E U I E V A S D R G F G H J E K L Y Q N Q
 S T A B L E R C H R I S T M A S O T Y U C U
 Z H L I G H T A H S F E P W C U U H O P E I
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 B M A P W O N Q W P R E S E N T C E H G P J
 D Q P C O U V G Y J W Y A E U H P G N T Y O
 F V A X E R V X L A M B R B S T P A R K O Y

CHRISTMAS
 BETHLEHEM
 GIFT
 JESUS
 PRESENT
 KING
 ASQUITH
 PARK
 FRIEND
 TREE

MARY
 CAROLS
 STAR
 WISE
 SHEPHERD
 STABLE
 BABY
 LAMB
 LIGHT
 JOURNEY

PEACE
 LOVE
 JOY
 HAPPY
 JOSEPH
 ANGEL
 HOPE
 GOD
 PRINCE
 SAVIOUR

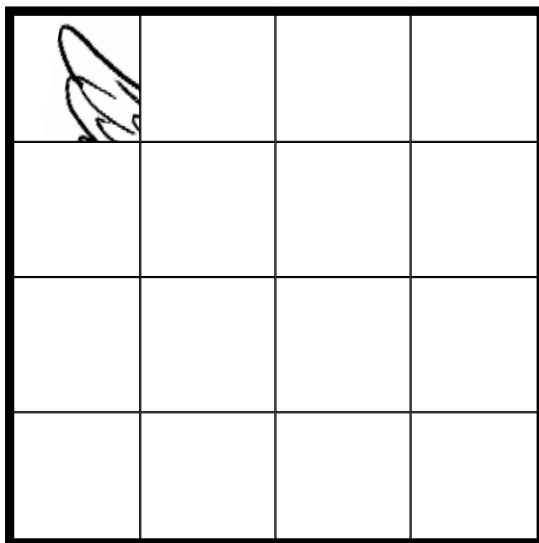
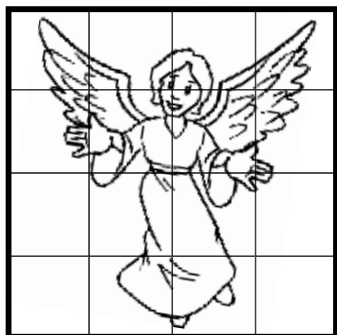




Can you spot the 10 differences?



Use the grid to
try and draw the
Christmas Angel



Try and unjumble the Christmas words

PEACE

E C E P A

F G T I

T S R A

S U S E J

H P E D R H E S

In the box, draw
a gift you want
for Christmas



OUR COMMUNITY



Best wishes from Joanna, James, myself and my team. 2020 has been a very trying year but its great to see

the Asquith Carols at the Oval tradition continuing, even though its from the safety of our own homes.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous start to 2021.

Julian Leaser MP
Federal Member for Berowra



Thank you to the Asquith Churches for putting this wonderful event on for the community each year.

We will miss the community festivities at the oval this year but we can join the celebrations online with our families at home.

I want to thank the community for adhering to restrictions and continuing to stay COVID safe.

For all the latest from the NSW Government as we fight the COVID-19 Pandemic please visit www.nsw.gov.au

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Matt Kean MP
State Member for Hornsby
Minister for Energy & Environment

OUR USUAL TEAM

Ian Fisher, Moving Bodies Centre, Albert & Meyer, Kylie & Carmel & Jim Jam Music, Danni da Ros & Famous Performing Arts, Kennards Hire, Time Zone, Foti International Fireworks, St John Ambulance, Rural Fire Service, 1st Asquith Scouts, Hornsby Council, Local Church Volunteers, Matt Kean MP and Julien Leaser MP, Hornsby Council, Triple H 100.1FM, Asquith Church of Christ Op Shop, Asquith Public School Band & Choir, Key Music Australia Honours Band, Asquith Soccer Club, Asquith Rugby League Club, Rainbow Facepainting, Asquith Boys and Girls Wind Ensemble.

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ASQUITH MAGPIES

Asquith Magpies Rugby League Football Club have loved being part of the Churches of Asquith's Carols In The Park for many years and will miss seeing everyone at the oval this year. We are looking



forward to joining in the virtual celebrations for the event this time.

From the Asquith Magpies Family we wish all our wonderful community groups, families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2021.

www.asquithmagpies.com.au

ASQUITH SOCCER CLUB

Asquith Soccer Club wishes you a very merry Christmas and Happy



New Year. Sincere thanks to Churches of Asquith for keeping this wonderful community event happening in this trying year.

We'd love to welcome you in to our friendly inclusive club. If you'd like to know more about us follow us at www.asquithsc.org.au

1ST ASQUITH SCOUTS

Hello to our Asquith Community. We love taking part in Carols on the Oval each year and although we can't be involved in person this year we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Thank you for supporting 1st Asquith Scout Group, we are proud to be part of the wonderful Asquith community.



www.asquithscouts.com.au

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US CAROLS LIVE ONLINE



Join us for carols online

www.asquithcarols.com

13 December at 7pm

featuring
Colin Buchanan



CHRISTMAS AT CHURCH



3 Amor Street

24th Dec
Christmas Eve
8pm

25th Dec
Christmas Day
Service
9am

For more information
please call Andrew on
0408 094 868
asquithchurchofchrist.com



St. John's Anglican
Church Asquith

6 Royston Parade

24th Dec
Kids Christmas to
be announced
(stjohnsasquith.org
for details)

25th Dec
Christmas Day
8am Communion
10am Christmas
Celebration

For more
information please
call 9482 3282
stjohnsasquith.org



CROSSLIFE CHURCH

8 Wall Ave

20th Dec
Christmas
Celebration
5pm

25th Dec
Christmas Day
Service
10am

www.allc.org.au