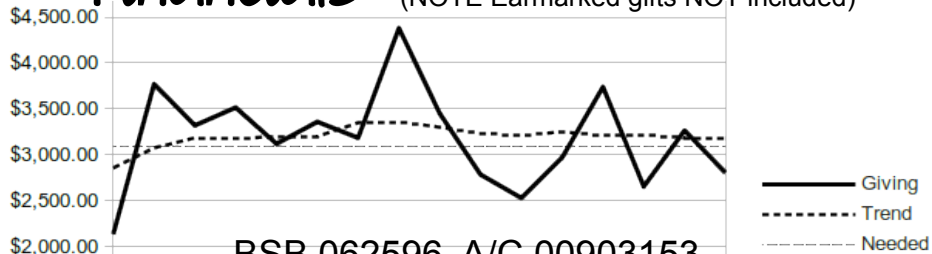


# Financials

(NOTE Earmarked gifts NOT included)



BSB 062596 A/C 00903153

Thank you for your heart of giving and commitment.

## \* Birthdays this week

Monday	Jennifer McGechan
Tuesday	Joanne Baluyut
Saturday	Carol Thomson



## \* Anniversaries this week

Monday	Stuart & Tara Waller
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## Contacts

**For Eldership contact and Pastoral Care:** [elders@rivochurch.com](mailto:elders@rivochurch.com)

Andrew Cowell:	0426 838 948	Linc Marlow:	0490 804 708
Phillip Gummerson:	0414 765 200		

**For Deaconship matters:** [deacons@rivochurch.com](mailto:deacons@rivochurch.com)

Brett Davis:	0409 841 058	Eric Gordon:	0402 066 076
Stuart Waller:	0419 445 660		

**Kids Church:** Rhiannan Morsillo ([rhiannan.cowell@gmail.com](mailto:rhiannan.cowell@gmail.com))

**Youth:** Rhys Morsillo 0411 776 587

**Connect:** Warwick Gummerson ([warwick@gummerson.com](mailto:warwick@gummerson.com))

**Facebook:** Jade Cowell 0450 508 947

**Church & Building Bookings:** ([rivochurch.com/church\\_calendar.php](http://rivochurch.com/church_calendar.php))

**Finances:** Eric Gordon: 0402 066 076

# Connect



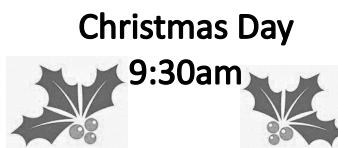
News from Riverstone Community Church

19<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Topic:** Not Long Now:  
Expecting Christ's Birth

**Speaker:** Mitch Cavens

**Chairman:** Andrew Cowell



Christmas Day  
9:30am

*What were they  
thinking?*

Phillip Gummerson  
(Andrew Cowell)

Next Sunday  
*Not Long Now:  
Expecting  
Christ's Return*

Kevin Rosolen  
(Phillip Gummerson)

## The Program (D.V.)

10:00am  
Church which includes:  
Prayer and Praise  
Kids' Spot  
Communion & Preaching

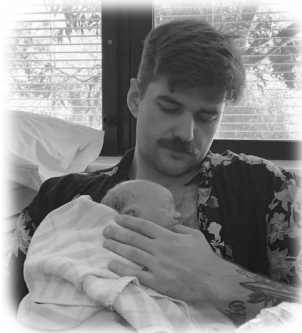
[www.rivochurch.com](http://www.rivochurch.com)  
[www.facebook.com/rivochurch](https://www.facebook.com/rivochurch)  
Visitors – go to [rivochurch.com/new](http://rivochurch.com/new)

# Prayer, Praise & News

## \*\* Babies \*\*

- \* Oskars and Lucy Stubis
- \* Chris and Lena Barrington

- \* Johanna Skelly's new granddaughter;  
Eden Deborah Johanna Johnstone.  
Praise – Born Wednesday morning to  
Jemimah & Scott (8lb 6oz).



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## General Praise & Prayer

- \* Belle Camilleri – Corrective spinal surgery was successful.  
Praise – That the protruding bone has been smoothed out.
- \* Tammy Collins –  
Praise – Purchase of new home in Point Frederick, Central Coast.
- \* Mark Abraham –  
Praise – Final eye surgery was completed last Tuesday.
- \* Covid Restrictions –  
Praise – That most restrictions have been lifted.
- \* Azar & Eghbal (John Grant's friends – Iranian Christians in Turkey).  
– Azar still has the tumour as surgery was halted when the  
Health fund refused to cover her medical expenses  
because their refugee status in Turkey was revoked.  
Pray – That they can come to Australia and continue treatment.
- \* Heather Davis – Tumour has stopped growing – Next scan in January.  
Pray – For complete healing.
- \* Stuart & Carol Thomson – Coming to Riverstone soon.  
Pray – For a stress free transition.
- \* Kentucky Tornado – Pray for those who lost family, friends & property.
- \* Tasmania – Pray for those who've lost children in the jumping castle.

# The First Christmas



God perfectly timed the coming of His Son. He prepared key individuals and events to fulfil His promises and the prophecy of His Word.

On that first Christmas, everything was perfectly set in place for the coming of the promised Messiah. The events and timing were not by chance, but divinely planned. Christ's first advent was God's intentional breaking into history to enact His plan of salvation.

The Jews knew that God had promised to restore His kingdom and usher in a new King. Because of the prophecy contained in God's Word, many Israelites expectantly awaited the Messiah. Significantly, God was at work in preparation for the coming of His Son.

The Lord sent Gabriel to deliver messages to key people who would be involved in the events of the first Christmas. He told Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, would have a child in her old age (Luke 1:11-13). This child would be John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for the Messiah (Luke 1:16-17).

Mary, a young virgin, was told by Gabriel that she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit and give birth to the promised Messiah, who would sit on the throne of David (Luke 1:26-37).

Miraculously, Jesus was born to a virgin. Skeptics scoff at this scriptural teaching, but the virgin birth is a longstanding mark of orthodoxy and doctrine among Christians with significant theological implications if denied.