

history. For in worship and study we celebrate the 'mighty acts of God' in the midst of the turmoil of human affairs across the ages. We recall and acknowledge the gracious power of God in challenging arrogance and forgiving sin in the life of the Jewish people and, supremely, in the crucified and risen life of Jesus. The astonishing thing is that, despite the terrible evil done by human beings to others, God and themselves, history is given meaning in God's triumphant suffering love for every person.

The past events in which this purpose has been disclosed do not stay in the past. They become present in the worship, teaching and pastoral care of the Church so that our lives and the life of the world are taken up into the gracious providence of God. Because we need to be reminded of God's calling and our responsibility, I hope that you will be present for the Covenant Service at which 'we enter into or renew our covenant with God'.

Grace and peace to you all,

Rev. Dr. Max Champion.

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THIS SUNDAY 7 February: COVENANT SERVICE and HOLY COMMUNION
Good News Time for children also starts this Sunday as does *Choir practice* which is at 9.30 am sharp. The service is followed by a *parish lunch* at the manse. BYO meat and drinks.

Sub-committee on the feasibility of an 'Armadale Centre for Christianity and Society' meets on Tuesday 9 February, 8.00 pm in the Reta Barry Room.

Future of the Denbigh Rd Church Property: The Resources and Development Committee of Nepean Presbytery has called another meeting on 11 February to discuss the options for using the property. Bruce McMullin and Rev Dr Max Champion are representing the parish. It is expected that a final decision will be made soon.

Combined Elders' & Parish Council meets on Wednesdays, 17 February and 17 March at 8.00 pm. Among the important items of discussion will be the decision of the *National Assembly* to do away with separate councils at local level. There will also be a report on its decision to change the way in which ministers will be appointed to parishes. Council will consider a proposal for a parish Website and receive an update on the 'Armadale Centre'.

Annual Parish Meeting will be held after church on 21 February. Reports should be handed to the minister no later than 14 February.

Uniting Church Fellowship meets on Tuesday, 23 February at 1.30 pm when the program will include a short service of commitment. Further information from Deaconess Lesley McMullin.

Nepean Presbytery meets on Tuesday, 23 February at East Malvern church.

The *Lenten Study* this year is called '*For our sake: Reflections on the Easter Faith*'. We will discuss what it means today to believe in Christ crucified, risen and ascended. The group will meet after church on 28 February and 7, 14 & 21 March from 11.30 am to 12.15 pm.

World Day of Prayer is on Friday 5 March at the Malvern Salvation Army at 75 Union Street.

First *Sunday program* will be held at the church on 7 March. The service of holy communion and the *lenten study* will be followed by BYO lunch in the hall.

Snippets: *Canterbury Family Centre* has sent a letter of thanks for our Christmas donation of gifts for young families and children with severe financial problems. Thanks to all who placed presents or goods under the tree.