



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

Christmas Day & Sunday 27th December 2020

PARISH VISION

Preparing the way for the love of Jesus Christ to reach all people.

A YEAR OF MISSION

On Vision Sunday the Rector designated 2020 to be a Year of Mission.

Sentence

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. Luke 2:30-32

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the light of your incarnate Word: may this light, kindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Pastoral Care

For pastoral care needs please contact Rector of Leongatha- Graham Knott
0490 045 581 rectorleongatha@gmail.com

Assistant Curate and Response Coordinator- Belinda Seabrook
0438 622 721 ministryleongatha@gmail.com

Weekly Services of Holy Communion – St Peter’s Leongatha

Sunday

Holy Communion - 8am, 10:30am

Wednesday

Holy Communion - 11am

Service of Holy Communion- St David’s Meeniyan

Friday 7:30pm – 1st and 3rd Friday of the Month

St Andrew’s Tarwin lower- To be advised

There is now **no need to pre-register or “book in”** for a service. It is still a government requirement however that we keep, for a temporary period of time, the name and a contact number of every person that attends a service. This can be provided at the door on the day you attend.

Financial Stewardship

Leongatha Anglican Church

Electronic banking details **BSB Number** 083 735 **Account Number** 515883623.

Cheques may be posted to PO Box 271, Leongatha, Vic 3953. Payable to ‘Leongatha Anglican Church Parish Council Parish Account’.

Readings Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98

Hebrews 1:1-12

John 1:1-14

Readings 27th December

Isaiah 61:10-62.3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

8am Hymns- TBA

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

Community Christmas Lunch- All Welcome

Excited to announce that this year St Peter’s will be hosting Community Christmas Lunch at St Peter’s Church at 12 noon. If you would like to come please **register your name** with Belinda Seabrook 0438 622721 for catering purposes. This lunch is open to community so please encourage others to come and share, especially those who may be on their own this Christmas.

Service New Years Eve

There will be a service at St Peter's on NYE at 6:30pm

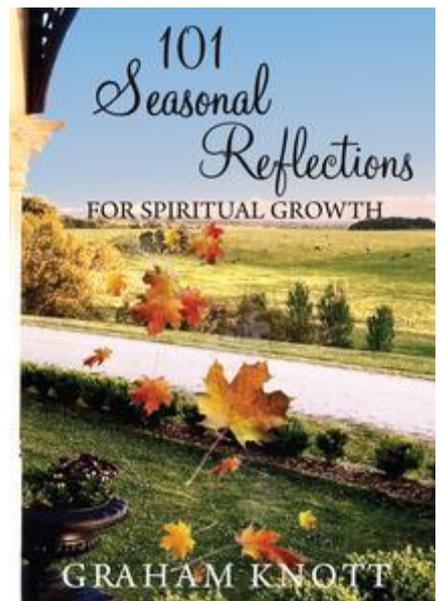
Parish Council News

When the Parish Council met at the end of November we discussed Mission Support for the coming year. In a challenging financial environment we wanted to affirm our commitment to supporting the Mulherin family as they begin mission service. Accordingly, our allocation to CMS has risen by \$2,000 to \$12,000 per year. We have asked CMS to set the support for the Mulherins, Beers and the family in central Asia to \$4,000 each. Our commitment to and support of other mission partners remains unchanged. Marion Dewar was appointed Secretary and Hugh Chisholm as Treasurer for the forthcoming year. Consultative meetings with the congregation will be held during the year. Barry Savage and Geoff Coulter will be preparing Agendas for these. The Parish Council is spending a day together in January to consider vision for the future. We hope that members will be admitted to the Parish Council on Sunday 17 January - all having completed their Safe Ministry clearances

101 Seasonal Reflections

Congratulations to Graham as his first book has now been published- 101 Seasonal Reflections for Spiritual Growth.

Books are available for \$20 and can be purchased after public services in Leongatha or by contacting David Bishop on 0429 888 017. A great Christmas present for friends and family.



Home Communion

If you or anyone you know would like to receive Holy Communion at home please let Graham Knott or Belinda Seabrook know.

The Gippsland Anglican December

[TGA December 20FINAL.pdf \(gippsanglican.org.au\)](#)

Hard copies Anglican are available in the Narthex after Church services.

Tween Bible Study and Group

A leadership team is currently working on developing a program for 2021 for those aged 10-14 years. If you would like more information please see a member of staff.

A Special Thank You

A special thank you to Dayna and her very talented musical friends for the beautiful music outside church before the Traditional Service of 9 Lessons and Carols last Sunday. Thank you to all who helped make the event extra special.



GRAHAM'S GEMS 25th -27th December 2020

During December Graham's Gems will feature some poems by Rosemary Hector from her book 'A Quickening.' (Muddy Press: Edinburgh, 2019) Rosemary takes various themes relating to Advent, the conception and birth narratives of Jesus. Rosemary has the gift of infusing every word with rich meaning.

"Cloth

*She swaddled him in lengths of cloth;
Rough linen cloth to dry off dew.
She lifted him up high, then held him tight.
She took his fragile form and bathed
Him free of blood, her tears.
She swaddled him in lengths of cloth.
She smiled, she kissed his head
And rubbed his tiny forehead free from frowns.
She lifted him up high, then held him tight.
She brushed the fabric free from straw
And swaddled him in lengths of cloth.
She cradled him and sang
The song of his arrival.
She lifted him up high then held him tight.*

*She knew there was a time ahead
When he would be held high, then wrapped in white.
She swaddled him in lengths of cloth.
She lifted him up high then held him tight."*

May Christmas 2020 be a special time of blessing and celebration for all God's people as we focus on the wonder of the birth of Jesus. During 2020 we have all faced our anxieties and vulnerabilities – life has brought us face to face with who we are and what really matters. We have been humbled by a virus which has revealed the frailty of human plans and visions for what lies ahead. Experiences such as this take us to the heart of the context when Jesus was born.

The warm, cosy images of many a manger scene were far from the reality. Infant and child mortality rates then were around 30%. That's without a despotic, neurotic king who is pursuing and destroying all the male babies perceived to be a threat to him. Babies were often born in poor health due to the poor health of their mothers. Illnesses such as malaria, leprosy and tapeworm wreaked destruction on very young children. There was no well-resourced maternity ward, no doctors, no midwife's care in Bethlehem. Vulnerable – Jesus and his family were vulnerable.

It was about faith and trust which couldn't always make things better but walked alongside. It was about learning to celebrate in the midst of the vulnerability and uncertainty. For them as for us – the deeper wonder and reality was and is 'Emmanuel – God with us.' God with us in the midst of pandemic and uncertainty. So in 2020 we celebrate Christmas not superficially or in our cocooned world sheltered from reality in our wealth and health. We celebrate the wonder of God with us in the midst of the pain, the uncertainty, the grief and the anxiety. We celebrate for God is never nearer than when the world is darkest. We celebrate in the midst of reality. May Jesus be with you in all your celebrations this Christmas and may he fill you with healing, saving love and hope which can never be extinguished.