



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

January 3rd 2021 – The Epiphany of Our Lord

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

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen
upon you.

Prayer of the Week

O God, by the leading of a star you
manifested your only-begotten Son
to the Gentiles: mercifully grant,
that we, who know you now by
faith, may after this life be led to
the vision of your glorious
Godhead; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **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 Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

Changes to Masks

Due to government regulations, masks are required to be worn indoors again and are required during public worship. Please remember to bring your mask along if attending a service.

Stay Informed

Please keep reading your emails and newsletters to keep up to date with the changing and evolving Covid-19 situation in the state as well as the Leongatha Community. If you know of anyone who would appreciate being on our email mailing list please encourage them to forward their contact to Belinda or Graham.

Happy New Year

Wishing all of you a Happy and safe New Year full of the Lord’s blessings.

A Huge Thank You!

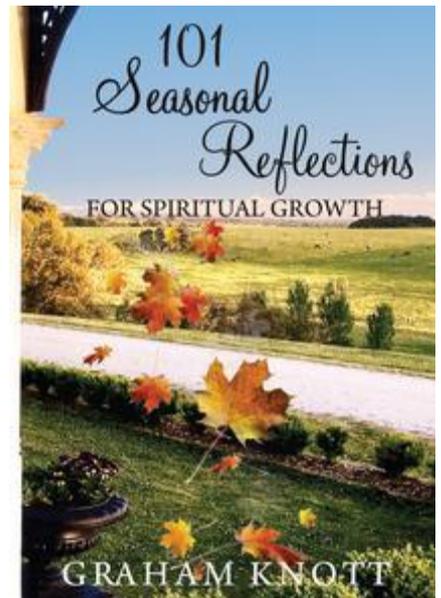
Thank you to all who helped to make the Christmas season extra special and for all who work behind the scenes to enable ministry to continue during this time. It has been so encouraging to watch the selfless giving and encouragement of others in the Parish. Community Christmas lunch was enjoyed by approximately 40 people. It was a wonderful event and there are already plans to run the lunch again December 2021. Thank you to the St Peter's Op Shop for the very generous donation that enabled us to care for so many Christmas day.



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.



GRAHAM'S GEMS

3rd January 2021

As we stand on the threshold of 2021 the Magi encourage us to scrutinise the way we make decisions and plan for the future. These wealthy, influential and knowledgeable people make decisions in three ways but always with one intention.

They initially use what they have learned and observed and that knowledge equipped them for part of the journey. They pursued the star which they understood to indicate the birthplace of the king of the Jews. We are not told why such an event was important to them. The fact that it was indicates the magi had deeply enquiring minds, were willing to change and develop and to pursue their experiential learning regardless of the impact of that on them. The journey took them many, many months becoming somewhat similar to the quest for the end of the rainbow. Yet the star was always present making them thirsty to know – to reach the destination. Most reading this will have learned much about the Lord Jesus Christ, the Scriptures and through their Christian experience. Examining how much we have applied what we already know about God is a great way to start a new year. Theoretical Christian knowledge is of no worth. Faith always demands that we follow the star of what we have learned – the journey must be practical. At a difficult spot on the journey the magi follow their human reasoning and logic when the knowledge they had couldn't carry them through. If one is looking for the birthplace of a new king, the obvious place to enquire is in a palace. Little do the magi realise that this is the worst place in that context. King Herod, far from encouraging the magi in their quest, is determined to make the object of their journey pointless in his own ruthless holding onto and grasping for power. What is initially plainly obvious to the magi is ultimately the most dangerous and threatens the whole of their pilgrimage. Examining how much we allow logic to define our faith journey is a great way to start a new year. Christian faith is inherently unreasonable. Fortunately God is not the prisoner of the human mind with its capacity for great good and equally great evil. The way of God's love involves both cradle and cross neither of which make intellectual sense. Faith involves moving beyond the limits of our reason and into the heartbeat of God.

Finally as their journey for home begins the magi follow a God given dream. We don't know how many magi there were. We don't know how many dreamed the dream that warned them to change direction and avoid King Herod. We are told that this dream was sufficiently compelling for them not simply to share the story over breakfast but to change their plans. We are not told what the other route home they took was like. It is a fair assumption that it was either not the most safe or direct route because they would have taken that on the outward journey if it was. Examining what it would take for us to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit is a great way to start a new year especially when that prompting makes life a little more challenging and difficult. God communicates in the way God chooses to communicate. The birth narrative of Jesus is filled with visiting angels and numerous dreams. Every person involved followed the prompting of the Holy Spirit. As we stand on the threshold of 2021 are we bringing the same desire to hear and to follow through where the Holy Spirit leads.

The one intention of the magi which lies behind all their decision making is to bow down and worship Jesus. That is incredible. These magi were people of influence, wealth and power yet they bow down and worship the infant Jesus. They had visited King Herod yet they discerned that he was bogus despite his having all the right externals – pomp, splendour, influence wealth and power like them. They knew he was not the king they were seeking. They did not bow down and worship King Herod. AS we stand on the threshold of 2021 it a good thing to ask whether bowing down and worshipping Jesus is our one intention. We, after all, have the advantage of knowing Jesus as miracle worker, agent of the kingdom, Saviour and Lord of all. The magi had promise in the midst of a peasant reality. Yet they discerned the truth. These great people revealed that they were worthy of true greatness for they knew where and when to bow down and worship. This one intention behind all the decisions made is ultimately the one thing that really matters.