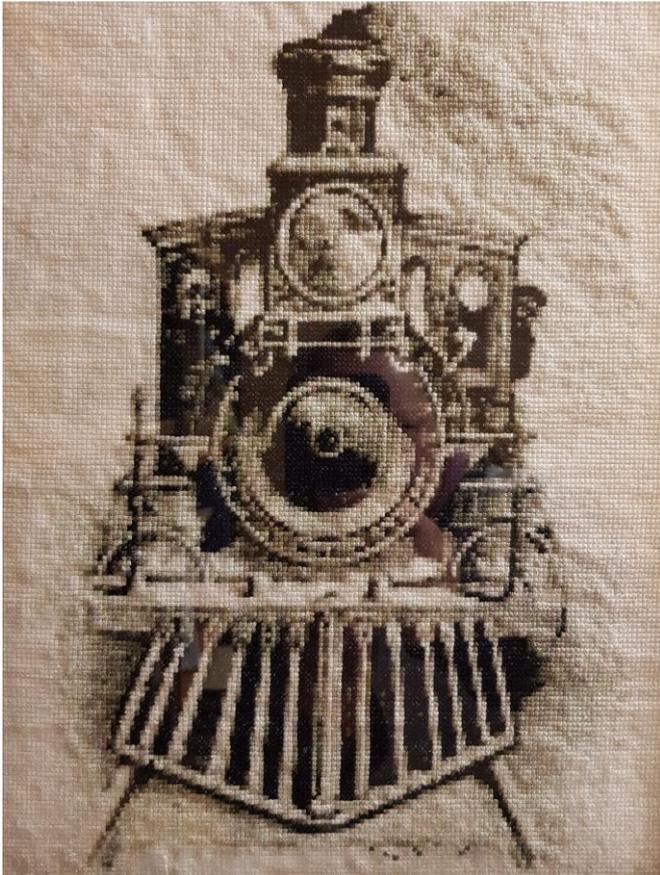




The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

February 7th 2021 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



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. A new vision for 2021 will be announced on the 7th February.

Sentence

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles. Isaiah 40.31

Prayer of the Week

Father of all, who gave your only-begotten Son to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross: give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory; where he 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- Belinda Seabrook
0438 622 721 ministryleongatha@gmail.com

1 | ST. PETER'S, LEONGATHA - ST. ANDREW'S, DUMBALK
ST. DAVID'S, MEENIYAN - ST. ANDREW'S, TARWIN LOWER

Weekly Services of Holy Communion – St Peter’s Leongatha

Sunday

Holy Communion - 8am, 10:30am

Wednesday

Holy Communion - 11am followed by a Community Lunch

Service of Holy Communion- St David’s Meeniyan

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

Service of Holy Communion -St Andrew’s Tarwin lower

2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month 10:30am

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’.

8am Hymns

474 Gather us in

236 Jesus’ hands were kind hands

[590] God, whose giving knows no ending

611 [201] God of grace and God of glory

Readings

Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-111

Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

A Note from the Rector

Vision Sunday provides the possibility for us to anticipate where the Holy Spirit is leading us and to commit ourselves as one community to that vision. Vision is rather like a train which carries us forward. All on the train are heading in the same direction yet carry their own situations with them. There are those who feel extremely joyful and optimistic, others who carry sadness and pain, others who are simply involved with the routine of how life is. In fact, there

are people at all stages and ages of life on the train. The important thing is that all of us are on the train and heading out of the station we have been in and onto the next under the direction of the Holy Spirit. 2020 was a year of extremes for us - we faced great pain and greater blessing for the kingdom. We believe we are on the threshold of breakthroughs for the kingdom and have been encouraged in that thinking not simply by shoots of growth but by numbers of prophetic words from those within and unknown to our community. During February we also encourage all members to review their financial giving in support of the vision and their service to build up the Body of Christ. The bible often talks of the tithe - 10% of income as the basic commitment to God's ministry. The reality is that many of us have yet to achieve 5% in our giving. We want everyone to be involved and to feel a valued part of our congregational support. Many people like to support the ministry of Christ electronically. Details of how to do this are elsewhere on the pew leaflet. May this year be one of developing fully into our potential.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent is on 17 February. It is a good opportunity for us to reflect on the past year and our walk with God during 2020. We take the opportunity to bring the brokenness of that year for forgiveness and healing. There are two events planned - the 11.00 Service followed by our Community Lunch; and 7.30pm. Each Service will involve the invitation to be marked with the ashes of previous years' palm crosses and to receive Holy Communion as a sign of hope. We look forward to seeing you.

Kids Church

Kids Church begins again today led by Rachel and Justin Abicare. Please take your children aged from 3-11 to the hall immediately upon arriving at church on the first three Sundays of the month. All children will return to the worship area in time for a blessing or to receive Holy Communion with their family and the congregation. The Fourth Sunday will be an All Age Service where the whole community will be together in church throughout the Service. There is a contact form which needs to be completed once annually for each child. Please fill this in on arrival in the hall. Please arrive promptly; so that Kids Church is able to begin at 10.30am. They have a full and exciting program and need to start on time.

World Day of Prayer 2021 - Vanuatu

Friday 5th March at 10:30am and 7:30am at the Uniting Church Peart St Leongatha. Followed by light refreshments.

Changes to Masks

Masks are **required** to be worn during public worship services.

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.

Homey Roast Dinner Night- Welcome Dinner

Our next Welcome Dinners will be held on 20th February and the 20th March. If you know of anyone who is new to the Parish or community and would like to attend please contact Belinda 0438 622721

Tween Bible Study and Group

Bible Study and tween group will be commencing on the 14th February for ages 10-14years. This group will run every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30am service and the Friday night before the 4th Sunday of the month. A leadership team is currently working on developing a program for 2021. If you would like more information please see a member of staff.

REPEAT NOTICES

St Peter's Small Groups are Starting Again for 2021

We would love for everyone to be part of a group. It's a great way to connect with like-minded people, learn more about being a Jesus person and get involved with serving the community together.

We have existing groups that all have room for new people, but also there is plenty of scope for new groups to be formed. New, this year, are 2 day-time group on Thursday's in Koonwarra and Friday afternoons in Leongatha.

If you have a passion for some activity you would like to do with brothers and sisters from St Peters speak to me about how to get that happening. Options include a fishing group, meeting with other families with young children, music, 4-wheel drive group etc. There are many more ways we can do life together and invite others to join in. Please be prayerful about where the Lord is leading you.

See the existing groups listed and contact the leader listed for more information or me, Lesley, on 0408 624 434.

Tea & Coffee Roster 10:30am

Volunteers are needed to help this important ministry, if you are able to help please contact Pam Bishop on 0448 140 8

Mother's Union

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships. Our members are not all mothers, nor all women - they are single, married, parents, grandparents, and young adults just beginning to express their social conscience. For all 4 million members what Mothers' Union provides is a network through which they can serve Christ in their own community.

St Peter's Mothers' Union will hold its first meeting for 2021 on Wednesday 24th February, at approximately 1.00 pm - after the Wednesday 11.00 am service and Community Lunch.

Everyone welcome - if you have questions about Mothers' Union, please contact Heather Scott 0438 292 325 or Maryann Ashton 0438 644 315

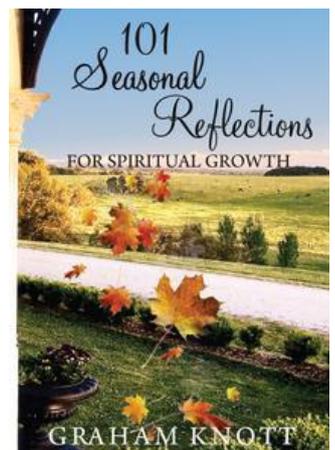
28th February 2pm - Local Talent Exhibition and BBQ Ecumenical Church Mardan

Entry to event by donation. Contact Sam Nicita for more information about entering as a performer. 5664 9306 samnicita@outlook.com

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.



Readings for Next Week- The Transfiguration of our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-12 Mark 9:2-9

LET US PRAY

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, all who follow his precepts have a good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalm 111:10

- Praise God for his goodness to us as a nation, and as individuals.
- Praise God for rain.
- Praise God for open borders within Australia.
- Pray for our government, Federal and State and Local. Pray for honesty and integrity.

- Pray for our church, our Bishop Richard, for Graham and Belinda, for the Parish Council and all those in Leadership.
- Pray for Mainly Music and the Sunday children's programme. Pray for leaders and participants that the message of God's love would be seen in action.
- Pray for various groups as they begin a tentative beginning after a time of closure or change of meeting.
- Pray for our World - the countries where the numbers of deaths and new cases continue to rise. Pray for the roll out of vaccines which seems to be causing argument and tension. Pray for fairness and justice to reign.
- Pray for World leaders that they would choose paths for justice and peace of all their citizens.
- Pray for countries where there is unrest whether political, economic or social.



GRAHAM GEMS **February 7th 2021**

When you're travelling in the outback something will appear in the distance on the horizon. It is many kilometres away but because of the flatness of the terrain the object is plainly visible although its precise shape is unclear. As we draw closer and closer we can identify plainly what it is until we can touch, smell, engage with the reality in full measure. Such might be a naïve understanding of vision. We understand where God is leading us and we can easily see the way to get there. We simply have to keep moving forward.

In any vision it is never that simple. We are rather more in the rolling hills of South Gippsland. We may know where we want to get to but we can't see the way there. Before us lie many ups and downs, twists and turns and obstacle to be overcome. Such is the way of true vision. To know where we want to get to is often the easiest part. Navigating the journey well is rather more challenging. Achieving vision has a cost and generally those visions easily reached are of little worth. The journey through the outback may appear to make reaching the destination easier but there we are surrounded by inhospitable conditions that all too easily become life threatening. Life may be more easily generally sustained in South Gippsland but the journey still has many challenges.

Jesus begins his ministry with a simple proclamation of his life's vision, "The time has come, the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good

news." He proclaims the vision and begins to gather a group of disciples in whom he will invest and to whom he will entrust the vision.

The first challenge is that Jesus has to go it alone. He holds the vision but the people gathered around have little understanding initially of what it means – 'What is the kingdom of God? What is the good news?' – At this stage the disciples have no idea. So Jesus must hold, introduce and persevere with the vision alone.

Jesus teaches the vision he receives with insightful authority such that people are amazed. The most ordinary people become extraordinary when they pursue a vision they truly believe in. I have seen many people who the world describe as 'ordinary' achieve extraordinary things for God because they believed passionately that God had given them a purpose and a life task. In Jesus we see so much more of this because he is God's Son. Your vision is not your vision until you are able to pursue it and communicate it clearly to other people.

From the outset Jesus demonstrates in small and large ways what his vision means. A demon possessed man is delivered, Peter's mother in law is healed, crowds are healed. There is clear demonstration of what the kingdom of God means but, as yet, it is only Jesus who does the ministry.

The vision is birthed, released and sustained in prayer. We are told that after an extremely crowded and fruitful day, Jesus withdrew to pray all night. No vision of the kingdom can be fulfilled without sustained and apparently costly prayer.

Then Jesus would not be diverted from the key elements of the vision. The people wanted him to be their great healer, staying in their midst and ministering to their community but Jesus moves on to pastures new to proclaim his vision there and to continue developing the understanding of the disciples. The things the people wanted were all good but they were not God's vision at that moment for Jesus. Too often the vision of God is deferred because people get diverted by good things rather than the clarity of the vision.

Oh...and all the way through there were the demons causing people to cry out and to oppose the vision – the good vision that Jesus came to share.

Indeed, Jesus would teach us that if everyone agrees with who we are and what we are doing then we have missed his vision. The vision of the kingdom always divides. There will be opposition. Do not look for this, do not cause this but be ready for it when it inevitably comes.

Having the vision may be the simplest thing – achieving it the hardest. May we give ourselves to understanding the ways Jesus fulfilled his vision – communicating, equipping and releasing others into our part in the joyful proclamation, "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news." For whatever vision Holy Spirit releases within and around us it will be under this overarching umbrella vision of Jesus.