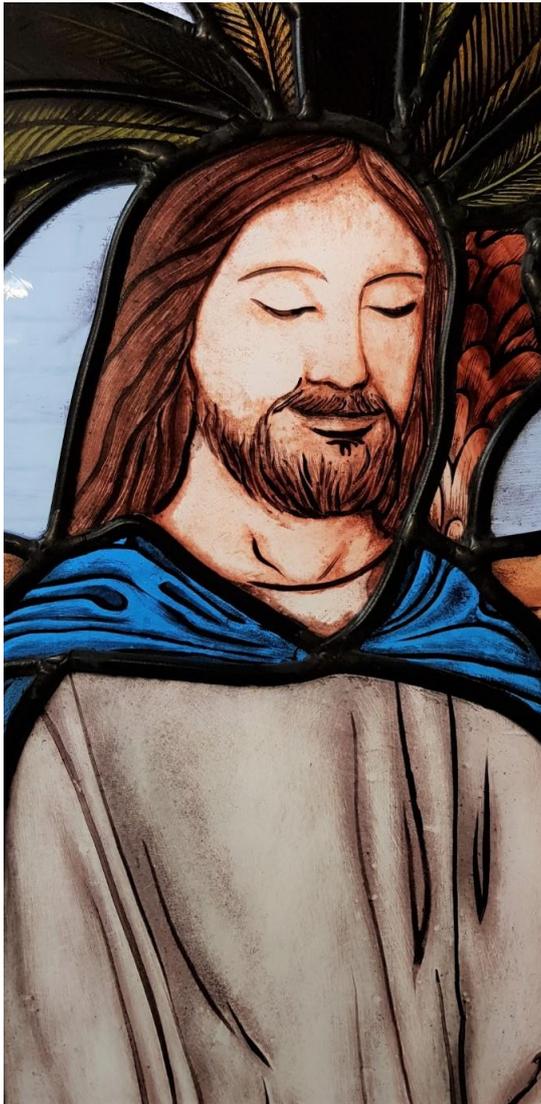




The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

January 17th 2021 – Second 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.

Sentence

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the king of Israel! John 1:41, 49

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service: Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-5, 12-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

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

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

658 I the Lord of sea and sky

... [679] Will you come and follow me?

... [341] Christ is the one who calls

210 O for a thousand tongues to sing

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

Mainly Music Team Members Needed

Do you enjoy spending time with pre-school children and their parents and carers? **mainly music** is our ministry program reaching out to families in the community with pre-school children. Our program is accredited by *mainly music* Australia, and consists of a half hour planned program of songs, rhymes, music and dancing, followed by a half hour of free play for children and social time for adults. In 2021, we will be meeting on Friday mornings. St Peter's **mainly music** team is looking for new members who feel called to this ministry. Safe Ministry requirements, including a current Working with Children Check, apply. Please contact Heather on 0438 292 325 or Bev on 0427 623 841 for more information.

A Note from the Rector

The Parish Council met together yesterday to discern vision and activity for 2021. We will endeavour to build on all the good that was achieved during 2020 and pray for sustained growth during 2021 as we live our parish vision: 'preparing the way for the love of Jesus Christ to reach all people.' During 2021 we believe that we are to encourage all members to develop in line with the shape that God has created them to be. This helps us all to develop towards our full potential in Christ. Vision Sunday will be on 7th February when more details of our vision for this year are clarified. During last year God continued to bless us with growth however there were inevitably challenges to many of our ministries and groups. During these weeks of January we are discerning what God would have us do this year and when.

On another note there is a lot of administration happening behind the scenes to ensure all involved in any activity in church are fully compliant in terms of Safe Ministry. There are now five areas where it is needful for each individual to demonstrate compliance. I am thankful to those who respond swiftly and without complaint when I get in touch. These are national requirements over which we have no choice. We all have a part to play in providing safe environments for children and vulnerable adults.

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.

February- March Rosters

Rosters for February- March are now available in the Narthex or via email (on request). If you are unable to fulfill your upcoming rostered duty please let a member of Staff know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Welcome Dinner

We are planning to have the next Welcome Dinner on Sunday 24th January. If you know of anyone who is new to the Parish or community and would like to know more about becoming a member of St Peter's please ask a member of staff.

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.

All are Welcome at the Table- Wednesday Lunch

Our weekly Wednesday Community Lunch will be recommencing Wednesday 3rd February (Covid Permitting). Spread the word.

The Gippsland Anglican December

[TGA December 20FINAL.pdf \(gippsanglican.org.au\)](https://www.gippsanglican.org.au/TGA_December_20FINAL.pdf)

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

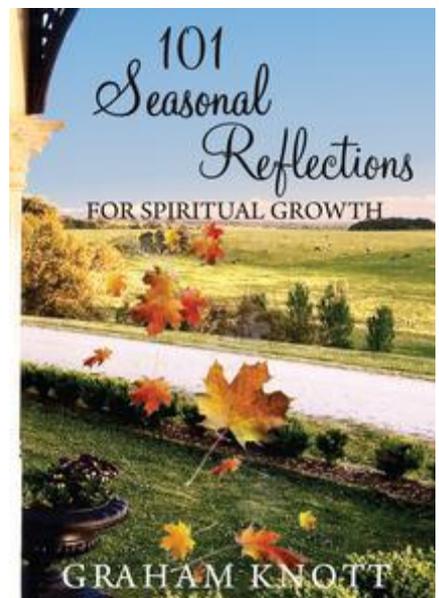
Tween Bible Study and Group

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.

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- Third Sunday of Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20



GRAHAM GEMS

May 17th 2020

In 1974 I had two firsts at the same time – a strawberry milkshake and a serve of French fries. Someone who spent a lot of time in the USA took me to the first McDonalds in England. From that day I became a devoted follower. I spread the word and took many of my friends along to the ever spreading food phenomenon. For the next twenty five years in numbers of different countries I would be found with the strawberry milkshake and different manifestations of hamburgers with two growing boys who also enthusiastically embraced the message of super sizing their order. Now many years later the overwhelming majority of the products taste just as they did in 1974. I have realised that my metabolism has slowed down and reluctantly have realised that my days for fast food are generally past. Yet I can still remember that first milkshake and those fries. Enthusiasm for something fresh spreads like wildfire. Generally people want to go and experience what is going on and spread the message with interest. I have watched the interest shown by passers-by as the store across the road from church is rapidly transformed from one chain to something different. People have stopped to look and during the coming weeks most people in town will go to look at what emerges and will share their opinion with others either with enthusiasm or disappointment.

Such enthusiasm is evident when Jesus calls his initial team together. There is immediacy in the responses recorded such that the new disciples are described as following Jesus without much hesitation. Nathaniel expresses caution but that is soon quelled and he joins Team Jesus. There is a possibility that the Gospel writers only included the times when Jesus received a positive response. After all, what would be the point of including the refusals? Yet the narrative does not really allow for that possibility. The momentum is such that the phenomenon of Jesus is rather like the strawberry shake and French fries of many centuries later. Jesus appears to be unstoppable. There are several reasons why phenomena begin to lose their attraction. The first is that we become self-conscious about being identified with the product. In the case of food we may become more aware of the nutritional value or we may find that we don't quite fit the packaging any more. Someone in their sixties or seventies walking down the road with a milk-shake and straw doesn't quite fit. Hard to say why but that is reality. Perhaps we become self-conscious about the message of Jesus. Initially we had great

enthusiasm such that we shared the message by letting go of ourselves. Then we become self-conscious.

Sometimes the actual product becomes obscured by what surrounds it. On entering the fast food restaurant I am now confronted with banks of stations where I order and pay for my food online. If I had no awareness of the restaurant or computers I would be unlikely to persevere. Perhaps Jesus has become obscured by numbers of things making him less easily accessible. The first disciples apparently didn't lose their enthusiasm for Jesus. He remained central. Perhaps asking what we have allowed to diminish or obscure the face of Jesus in our lives is the place to start. After all, if we are less enthusiastic about the call to follow Jesus, we are hardly going to be able to share the message with others.