



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

Sunday 13th September 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

If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Psalm 130:3-4

Readings

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114

Romans 14:1-14

Matthew 18:15-35



Prayer of the Week

O God, without you we are not able to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pastoral Care

For pastoral care needs please contact
Rector of Leongatha- Graham Knott
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Assistant Curate and Response Coordinator- Belinda Seabrook
0438 622 721 ministryleongatha@gmail.com

Financial Stewardship

Leongatha Anglican Church

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

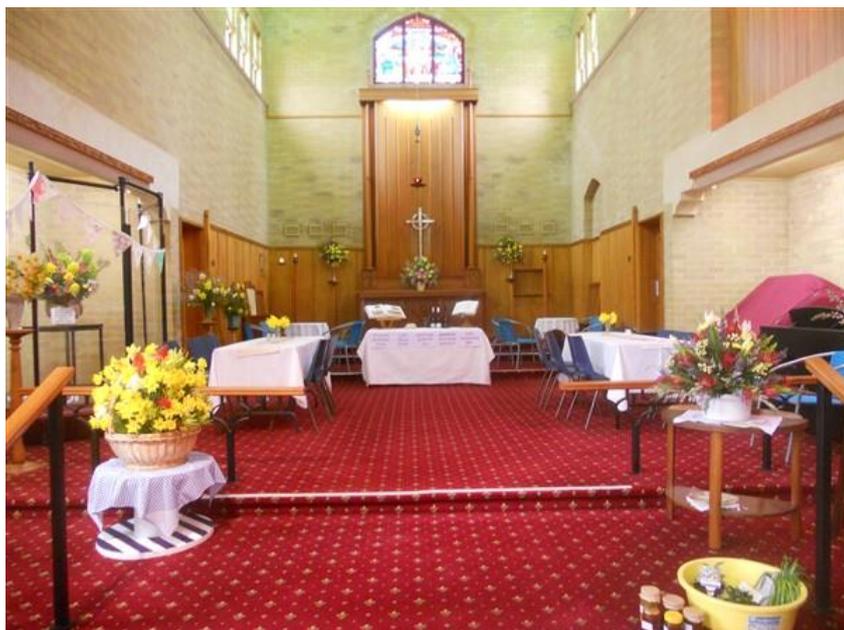
Cheques may be posted to PO Box 271, Leongatha, Vic 3953. Payable to 'Leongatha Anglican Church Parish Council Parish Account'.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

A Message from the Rector

A couple of weeks ago I was doing a doorstep delivery on the Saturday and the person said, 'Normally we would all be very busy doing the Daffodil Festival today.' So many events, births, special birthdays, wedding anniversary celebrations, and end of life events have all been disrupted this year. In the midst of all this it seems that the daffodils and blossom are all the more especially beautiful. All these special events that we have missed are gone forever. Many people are saying that they will get together to celebrate once the restrictions and threats are past but the reality is that this will rarely happen. Our lives move on and trying to hold numerous Memorial Services or birthday parties way after the event will simply not work.

We are people in exile echoing the words of Psalm 137 - 'how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?' How can we know the joy of worshipping with our fellow Christians sitting in front of a computer? How can Holy Communion have meaning when we must sit alone? How can we know the joy of serving alongside and with others? The psalm pictures people weeping as they remember what has been lost because in the midst of the loss it is very difficult to imagine that God may have something even better in store than that which has been lost. The truth is that normal will never quite be the same again. When we gather for Easter or the Daffodil Festival next year we will surely have a new found appreciation for the times we missed out. We will remember.....and in that remembering it may well be that the daffodils and other things which we have come to take for granted in years past will shine with a fresh intensity for us. Exile in a strange place for the Lord's people is to sit in the birthplace of hope.



Ordination

One of the hymns we love to sing has the chorus: *"Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord If you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."* We are invited to consider what those words mean for each of us on Vocations Sunday, 20 September. Vocation is a very precious and individual quality offered by us as individuals to the church for the service of all. Perhaps God is calling you to ordination, lay reader ministry or some other authorised ministry in the church. If so Bishop Richard or Graham Knott (0490045581) would be very pleased to hear from you. How or God calls us is not the most important thing. The important thing is responding and holding the care and nurtures of God's people in our hearts.

Online Prayer Meeting

Friday 18th at 7:30pm Jose's small group is hosting another online prayer meeting. If you would like to attend please email him on josenoel2008@gmail.com

Care Packages

In the coming weeks we will be delivering special items to Parishioners including, Holy Communion, The Gippsland Anglican and shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child (Samaritans Purse). We will be in contact by phone over the next week or so to say hello and take delivery requests. If you know someone who may not be on our Parish Roll but would appreciate a care package please let either Belinda or Graham know.

**Deliveries continue throughout the Parish, thanks for your patience and encouragement.

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is a structured half hour service that includes Old and New testament Bible readings, a time for reflection and discussion of the Scriptures and a time to pray together. Morning Prayer is offered Monday to Friday at 9am via Zoom. It is easy to join and a special way to meet and worship together in the current lock down.

If you are interested please contact Belinda or Maryann Ashton – maryannashton423@gmail.com



HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY

St Peter's Church is currently connecting via, home phone, mobile phone, email, website, Facebook, YouTube and Zoom. If you need some help with technology please be in touch, we would be happy to help you.

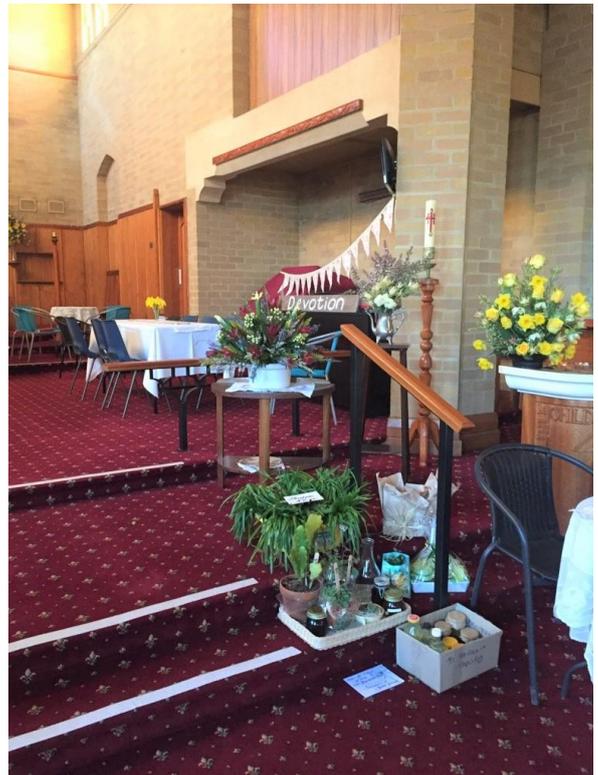
Readings for next week 20th September

Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1 Matthew 20:1-16

The Gippsland Anglican September Edition

The Gippsland Anglican is now available online

https://www.gippsanglican.org.au/assets/00TGA/2020/TGA_Sep_20FINAL.pdf



LET US PRAY

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though it's waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Psalm 46:1-3

Let us pray to the Lord,
who is our refuge and stronghold.
For the health and well-being of our nation,
that all who are fearful and anxious
may be at peace and free from worry:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound,
that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families,
our schools and young people,



and all in any kind of need or distress:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For a blessing on our local community,
that our neighbourhoods may be places
of trust and friendship,
where all are known and cared for:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for
whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

(From www.churchofengland.org)



Prayer Chain

For prayer chain requests please contact Maryann Ashton on 0438 644 315



GRAHAM'S GEMS **13th September 2020**

I have written lots about friends and friendship this year. Perhaps isolation from others makes us think more of friendship. Perhaps because a number of my older friends are ill or have died in recent months. However, it seems that I'm not the only one who is thinking about the subject. Earlier this year I received a message from a friend; *'I have just realized that I had a couple of my long term 'friends' all wrong. The most astounding revelation was their lack of compassion. One was 'gaslighting' me; the other 'stonewalling'. It left me at the other end feeling bewildered. When things no longer make sense, it's time to move on.....One 'friend' referred to an incident of forty years ago, moved the goalposts and drew a line in the sand and put me out with*

the trash. Nothing worth salvaging: no explanation offered. Stonewalling is abusive. You don't expect that from your friends. His actions do not require forgiveness as I hold no grudges. I just have to walk away because he has proven to be the type of person I would not choose to have as a friend.' Much more recently someone said to me, 'Graham, you have to keep your friends.' What struck me were the words, 'his actions do not require forgiveness because I hold no grudges.' There remains a genuine sense of being bewildered and hurt which are evidenced as not being solved by forgiveness. Likewise forgiveness will not apparently heal the fractured relationship. The second statement got me thinking about who friendship is for. Me? The other person? Us? Can any friendship between failed human people ever be truly 'us'? What are the boundaries to friendship? Is the first or second friend the healthier? Is keeping friends more important than holding apparent 'friends' accountable for their destructiveness towards us? Is it possible to keep a friend, as the second person said, when 'you are put out with the trash?'

I find all this very interesting when considering the short conversation between Jesus and Peter in this Sunday's Gospel reading, "'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" Peter seems to have in mind someone with whom he has a relationship – a 'brother' who could be a fellow believer, friend or even literal brother. The answer of Jesus is essentially, 'always forgive.'

The issue then becomes, does forgiveness restore, rebuild or change the relationship at all? Perhaps forgiveness actually liberates the one sharing it rather than the other person. Perhaps forgiveness speaks of my ability to let things go in such a way that I am free to develop further healthy friendships without carrying the burdens and baggage of the past failed relationship. Perhaps a worked through forgiveness with the current friend can lead to a deeper friendship on a more sound foundation. The adage to 'forgive and forget' rarely works in practice if the hurt



occasioned matters. We are hard wired to be cautious of those who inflict deep pain thoughtlessly upon us.

Keeping friends is clearly important. We do not want to be friendless nor do we want to be those who cause others pain. Perhaps the best friendships have an honesty and a negotiation about them which takes some time to build. Perhaps we should learn to speak more about the things that really matter to us and the things that hurt us and can possibly destroy the friendship. Friendships cannot be taken for granted. Friendships are also becoming much more complicated in contemporary society where every relationship is deemed to be sexual and value is placed on level networking rather than depths of intimacy. News on Facebook is shared with my whole network not simply with my closest – my friends. During 2020 continue to develop genuine friendships. Space apart provides space to build or to pull away. Let's endeavor to build and deepen friendships this year and deepen the foundations such that they become rather more than skin deep.

The beautiful Revd. Kate Bottley is a media figure in the UK appearing on numbers of tv shows and has developed quite a following. Andrew Brown, the media reporter in the Church Times, 17 July 2020, reports the following, *'The Revd. Kate Bottley tweeted out a picture of herself on her lawn looking delighted in a rather gorgeous pink dress, and was rewarded with 11,000 likes and 592 responses. Here next tweet read: "If it's OK with you, I'd prefer if you didn't comment on my weight. I know you think you're being kind but thinner isn't necessarily better or more beautiful and the size of my arse is the least interesting thing about me."* That, by contrast, got 131 likes and 3 replies.'

In a world such as this it becomes easy to be cynical about much of what passes for friendship. In the example above which are you aiming for – 11,000, 592, 131 or 3? I didn't read any of the responses but I'm guessing the 3 may turn out to be the genuine friends.

