



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

Sunday 6th December 2020 – Second Sunday of Advent

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

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together. Luke 3:4; Isaiah 40:5a.

Prayer of the Week

Merciful God, who sent your messenger John the Baptist to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed his warning and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of our Redeemer, 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 Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 41:17-29

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

8am Hymns

272 Come Thou long expected Jesus

222 Rock of ages

600 O my Saviour lifted

275 Hail to the Lords anointed.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS- MINISTRY UPDATE

Christmas Lunch

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.

Christmas Services

Following the easing of restrictions we are now able to plan for Christmas. Please note the dates and times now and especially think of family and friends who you would like to invite. Let's all play our part to make this a really special Christmas after a challenging year. We still need to decide where services in Meeniyan and Tarwin Lower will be held- it may be that some events are held outside because the church premises are too small.



- Sunday 20th December:** 3pm Traditional Service of 9 Lessons and Carols at St Peters Leongatha
- Tuesday 22nd December:** Evening Carol Service at Tarwin Lower
- Thursday 24th December:** 5pm Crib Service at St Peters Leongatha
Evening Meeniyan Service
11pm Holy Communion St Peters Leongatha
- Friday 25th December:** 9am Holy Communion St Peters Leongatha
12 noon Community Christmas Lunch

Book Launch- Sunday 13th December

Congratulations to Graham as his first book has now been published and will be available from next Sunday 13th December. Due to restrictions a formal book launch is not possible so there will be a short presentation after each service. Thank you to all those who have pre-ordered books, your order will be available after next week's services and Graham is happy to sign any copies.

Books are available for \$20 and can be brought on the day. A great Christmas present for friends and family. For more information please contact David Bishop on 0429 888 017.

Andrew Aldous

This morning we welcome Ministry Associate Andrew Aldous to Leongatha Parish in person after the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. Welcome Andrew!

Songs & Stories Episode 4- Dolgnerde

Song & Stories is an outreach ministry of St Peter's Leongatha. An opportunity to get to know Christians in the local community and hear about their faith and the songs that have touched their lives.

<https://youtu.be/NaPA8iu-c-k>



AGM Election Results

Church Wardens- Maryann Ashton, Hugh Chisholm and Aaron Brown
Elected Parish Council Members- Geoff Coulter, James Noorbergen, Barry Savage and Peter Finlayson.

The Gippsland Anglican November

https://www.gippsanglican.org.au/assets/00TGA/2020/TGA_Nov_20_FINAL.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.

Working Bee

Thank you to all who have helped so far with improving the church and Op-shop grounds. An amazing job! A 5th working be will be held on Wednesday 9th December 9am-11am focusing on the Op Shop gardens Church grounds in preparation for Christmas. Contact Brigid Kennedy for more information 0404 912 370.

Thank you from Belinda

A heart felt thank you to everyone who helped make my Ordination last Saturday such a special occasion. I appreciate all the support and love as I step forward into the next part of my journey with God. Thank you so much for the generous gift of money towards priestly vestments, that is a huge help for me and I look forward to going shopping!

Advent Sermon Series

There will be a short Sermon Series during Advent entitled 'Freedom is Coming' based on a Nick Baines book of the same title. 29

November: Voice of Comfort (Isaiah 40:1-11, 31); 6 December: Any Dream will do (Isaiah 41:17-29); 13 December: Fear and Faith (Isaiah 41:10-14, 48:6-7); 20 December: Joy finds a way (Isaiah 54:1-11).

Readings for next week 13th December

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 41:10-14, 48:6-7 Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 John 1:6-8, 19-2



LET US PRAY

Return to the stronghold you prisoners of hope. Even today I declare that I will restore double to you. Zechariah 9:12

- Give praise and thanks to God for the beautiful creation around us.
- Praise His name for his love and faithfulness.
- Give thanks for those who lead our worship, pray that the Lord will bless their hands and voices as they lead us into His Presence each week.
- Give thanks for those who lead us. Pray for our Government, state and federal. Pray for our Bishop, for Graham, Belinda and Andrew. Pray for those who lead small groups and children's work within the church.
- Pray for those awaiting surgery and those who are in hospital or sick whether physically or mentally. Pray for those who are still separated from their loved ones.



GRAHAM'S GEMS 6th December 2020

During Advent 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.

"Lament

*.....oh I cry for our country a bank with no money
A shop with nothing to sell a sandpit not safe to play
Because of litter and needles and dog s***
Oh I weep bitter tears for our country ...*

*Isaiah's metaphors were for different times: he wrote
Of neglected vineyards, deserts, burning straw, as he wept
For Israel, God's lovely nation. It was the same observation
As today: a failure of justice. Rightness offended.*

A prophet's lament is not personal, nut mirrors

*Things as they are. It speaks to those in power,
Nor does it offer an answer, provide a neat narrative
With a rhyming conclusion. The call is to consider, return.*

*Say 'sorry' and attempt to restore all that is broken.
Yet within his descriptions of darkness and woe a small voice
Slips in, light. There will be a child. Named 'God with us.'
With us, in all our metaphors. In all our times."*

It seems increasingly to me that Advent is a season of many voices. The voices of the prophets call us away from the noise and distraction to the desert – that abandoned place that in the emptiness we may rediscover what matters. The voice of the church itself is often confusing – am I preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas, the Second Coming of Jesus in all his majesty and glory or the reality that Jesus promised consistent presence with seasons of increased intensity when the Holy Spirit falls in renewal and revival? The voices of families and organizations calling me to celebrate at the end of a difficult year. The many voices of the same child looking for gifts, affirmation, time, and increasingly reassurance following a turbulent year. Somehow it is the prophetic voice that returns insistently calling us aside and away to something different when we apparently have the least space to listen. God's voice is so intrusive and inconvenient at times! Yet hearing and following that one voice is the thing that matters. God's voice is described in numerous ways in the bible. The one thing we can safely say is that we cannot describe how God will speak to us next time. What we can say is that God knows and has the best voice to get our attention. Rosemary Hector reflects on the discussion that occurred in the heavens before Gabriel was sent to share the news of the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb.

"Messenger

*A prophet would be too obvious
And the wrong type to visit.
Prone to halitosis and poor sight, whiskery, too terrifying for a girl
Who has never had attention –
Been the focus of any gathering.
Prophets speak to nations, not girls.
Imagine the gossip if one turned up.
No, it has to be one of the specials
From here, not with earth-encrusted feet.
Sweet-breathed, yes, with a smile,
Of indeterminate age, neutral dress,
A little fluttery, perhaps, but personal, straight-from-God. Yes, Gabriel."*

SERMON NOTES: