



The ANGLICAN PARISH of
Leongatha

Sunday 4th October 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

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. Matthew 21:42

Readings

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3
Matthew 21:33-46

Prayer of the Week

Generous God, whose hand is open to fill all things living with plenteousness: make us ever thankful for your goodness, and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty; 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

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



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 Note from the Rector

Believe it or not another year has been completed in the life of our parish. The Lord's faithfulness and challenges have met us in equal measure. Yet we end the year with a genuine sense that Holy Spirit has moved us into springtime as a parish. There is evidence of new life all around. We begin the next church year with a new church website - the former has caused many challenges for us in the past couple of years when it has been inoperative. We have a number of people investigating the possibility of moving into authorised Anglican ministries. We have an ordination to the priesthood of a home grown candidate. We have people enquiring about faith and asking for bibles. We thank God and you his faithful people for persevering through the tough and difficult days. Dates for the Annual Meetings are elsewhere on the pew leaflet. The shape of those meetings will be determined more by the premier than us - we wait for further announcements. However now is the time to consider whether God is calling you to serve as a churchwarden, Parish Council member or in some other ministry. The community of the church is only ever as strong as the commitment brought to it by individual members. Please give thanks for all that God has done and pray that he will continue to shape the future.

New Website!

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Parish Website

www.leongathaanglican.org

We hope that in time this website will encourage more of the community to explore faith and engage in the mission and ministry of the Church.

Thank you to Doug Kelly for developing this important ministry.

Op Shop News

The St Peter's Op-Shop has re-opened Wednesday- Friday. If you are able and would like to volunteer to help with this important ministry please contact Kaye 0409 686 233 or Coral 0409 165 227

Care Packages

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

Ordination

We are delighted to share the news that the Bishop of Gippsland has announced the planned ordination to the priesthood of Belinda Seabrook on November 28 in his Cathedral church. This is very special for our parish. It has been many years since a member of our laity has been ordained to full time stipendiary priestly ministry. Congratulations to Belinda. We rejoice with you and continue to pray for your ministry. Thank you for all you have been for us during this COVID year. The precise format of the Service depends on the premier's announcements during the coming weeks.

Year of Discernment

The Diocese provides a year of discernment during which people can explore whether God is calling them to ordained or enhanced lay ministry. A group meets formally four times a year at different venues and with others from across Gippsland. There is also informal contact between sessions. Leongatha parish members are aiming to meet more regularly via Zoom. This is a genuine opportunity to discern what the purpose of Holy Spirit is for the next seasons of our lives. Contact Graham or Belinda if you would like further information. We view this as highest priority.

Songs & Stories

Songs & Stories have released their 3rd video featuring Mandy Breeze-Kelly from our Wednesday congregation. It is available on the St Peter's YouTube channel or accessed by clicking the link below. Songs & Stories is an outreach ministry of St Peter's and is aimed at sharing the Good News of Jesus with the wider community through testimony and music. Please share with others.

<https://youtu.be/TkQWknPvmws>



Staff on Retreat

Graham and Belinda will be taking a break from ministry and attending the Diocesan Retreat (via Zoom) Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th of October.

Resources for staying active at home

This is a recent resource for exercises & physical activity for older people that can be done at home. We thought this may be helpful for some.

<https://www.safeexerciseathome.org.au/>

2020 Annual General Meeting Timeline

Wednesday 30 th September	Close books and prepare financial returns
Sunday 25 th October	Books and financial papers to parish office (Graham Knott) by 1pm for audit
Sunday 25 th October	All reports posted to PO Box 271 Leongatha or emailed to ministryleongatha@gmail.com by 1pm (for collation)
Sunday 25 th October	Nominations open 9am
Sunday 8 th November	AGM meeting booklet available
Sunday 15 th November	Nominations close 9pm
Sunday 22 nd November	Parish Annual General Meeting 4pm
Sunday 22 nd November	St Peter's Leongatha AGM (directly after Parish AGM)
Friday 4 th December	St Andrew's Tarwin Lower and St David's Meeniyan AGM (time to be advised)
Sunday 13 th December	St Andrew's Tarwin Lower AGM 11:30am (After 10:30am Service)

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 11th October

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalms 106:1-6, 20-24

Philippians 4

Matthew 22:1-14

LET US PRAY

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'

Isaiah 58:9

Praise the Lord for his Love.

Praise Him for who he is, his death and resurrection.

Praise Him for the gradual lessening of Covid numbers in Metropolitan Melbourne.

Praise Him for the gradual lifting of restrictions across the country.

Pray for the Prime Minister, Premier and all in government.

Pray for those who have to make hard decisions.

Pray for the countries of the World where there is political unrest.

Pray for America as it heads toward election and the President, as he has tested positive for Covid.

Pray for Armenia and Azerbaijan as the area of Nagorno-Karabakh falls further and further into violence and conflict.

Prayer Chain

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

GRAHAM'S GEMS

4th October 2020



"We can't be friends with him. His father stole our father's promotion." So went the conversation with twins in the youth group I led when we were talking about another member of the group. What was interesting to me was that these lads had no real argument with each other – they were living out what had happened between their parents. It was the familiar story of one person taking the credit for another person's work and getting the glory, the promotion and the pay rise! And these two boys evidently got caught up in the injustice of it all and could not break

into a different future. Those of us who have worked for a while know that this happens all the time. There are many people who haven't an original, creative bone or cell in their bodies. They get to where they do either by intellectually stealing from others or by forming alliances with those who can keep them in the apparent place of power. It is easy to become hardened, cynical, or even to 'visit the sins of the fathers on the children' as in the case above.

What was interesting was that I knew both fathers quite well. The strangest thing was that the father of the twins remained quite easy going, did not seem bitter and was great fun to be around. The other father was grasping his position, demanding recognition, and evidently punching above his weight in several areas. He appeared to be a second rate performer trying to be the prima donna! The only way he could hold onto his position was to live continually with dishonesty. In fact dishonesty became a way of life such that he no longer saw the situation. However now that he was nearer the top, as it were, there was nobody to cover for him. It took increasing amounts of energy and stress for him to try to stay where he was. He was quite simply punching beyond his weight.

Bible Readings from Matthew during the last few weeks have focused on the increasing and stark division between religious leaders in Jerusalem and ordinary people. Ordinary people apparently had very little difficulty in discerning the voice of God. They had been able to grasp the new wave revealed in John who had immersed the people in water promising that one would come after him who would immerse people in Holy Spirit. So it is that crowds of ordinary people found in Jesus the answer to their thirst for God.

The religious leaders were losing ground faster than they can imagine. 'Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.' (Matthew 21:31-32)

Quite simply the religious leaders had promoted themselves above the revelation of God both in John and Jesus and had tried to create a secure place for themselves. They used the achievements of God in the past to help them hold onto an abusive and empty system. Jesus bulldozed his way (literally at times) through it all. He would have nothing to do with a system that lived on a fake piety that excluded the needy.

The problem for those religious leaders was that they were trying to punch far above their weight. They could not control John or Jesus or the people finding healing. The Jesus movement was unstoppable. The only thing they could do was maintain their position becoming more and more extreme – ultimately killing Jesus in the fruitless attempt to maintain control.

What Jesus says to such people is "I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit." (Matthew 21:43) At the same time as the kingdom has been given to those whom the religious leaders thought were nobodies, it was being taken from them. For one reason. Their lives were spiritually fruitless. That is an astonishing statement! The Temple in Jerusalem was vast with enormous activity happening day after day. 'Fruitless,' says Jesus.

The religious had pinched other peoples' promotion. The promotion should have gone to the former tax collectors and prostitutes now bearing fruit for Jesus. Nothing changes. The religious have children. The ordinary people have children. The children of both groups have nothing to do with each other. The fake piety of some have no fruit to demonstrate for their religiosity. It gets blown away in a puff of wind for they are into position and self-glorification. Meanwhile the children of the kingdom see new life breaking out around them. They enjoy the kingdom of God as much as possible now. In the youth group or the church the two sets of children will never be reconciled for they cannot be. Choose to be immersed in John's water. Choose to be immersed in Jesus' Spirit. Grow fruit.