

The ANGLICAN PARISH of *Leongatha*

January 24th 2021 – Third 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

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel. Mark 1.15

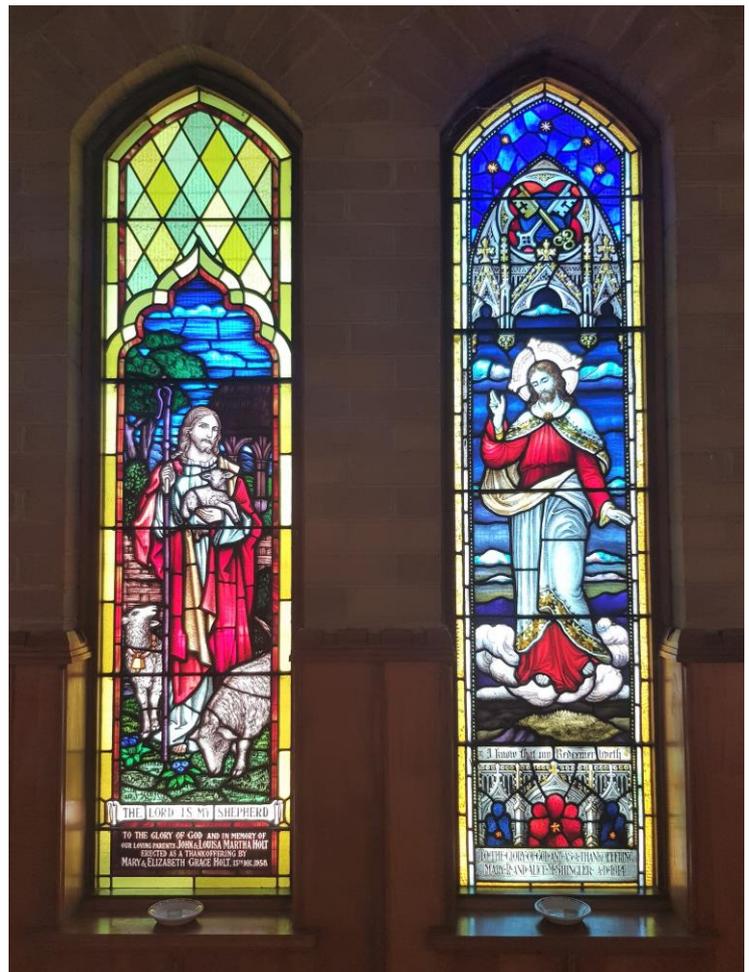
Prayer of the Week

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you: mercifully accept our prayers, and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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



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

672ii Lord of earth and all creation
589 [525] Jesus calls us o’er the tumult
598 Dear Father Lord of humankind
213ii Father whose everlasting love

Readings

Jonah 3:1-10 Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

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- Vision Sunday

Vision Sunday takes place on the 7th February when I plan to set before the congregations what staff and Parish Council believe God is leading us towards during 2021. This is a very important day in our life together as we also give thanks to God for all that was fruitful during 2020. There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit has been leading us through challenging and difficult times and we continue to look forward to God's presence, enabling and guidance in the coming months. I hope you will continue to pray that God will lead us all, helping us to distinguish prayerfully between good ideas and God's purposes and to flourish in ministries to which Jesus is calling us and for which the Holy Spirit is equipping us.

Alpha

Interested in Alpha in 2021? Contact Barry Savage for more information on 0400 100 505

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.

Refreshments and Live Music

Today after the 10:30am service stick around for a chat and enjoy some live music whilst enjoying some light refreshments.

Welcome Dinner – Tonight!

We are planning to have the next Welcome Dinner on Sunday 24th January at 6pm. 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

3rd February- GEMS Meeting

The inter-church men's fellowship group GEMS (God's Ecumenical Men's Servants) will resume in 2021 with a meeting for dinner followed by a speaker at the Leongatha RSL on Wednesday 3rd of February beginning at 6:30pm. Sam Nicita will be the speaker – "Sam's First Return to Italy". Talk includes some history of Pisa and Venice.

3rd February- All are Welcome at the Table

Our weekly Wednesday Community Lunch will be recommencing 11:45am Wednesday 3rd February (Covid Permitting). Spread the word.

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

Contact Sam Nicita for more information about entering as a performer. 5664 9306 samnicita@outlook.com

Changes to Masks

Masks are not currently mandatory but may be worn during services.

The Gippsland Anglican December

[TGA December 20FINAL.pdf \(gippsanglican.org.au\)](#)

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

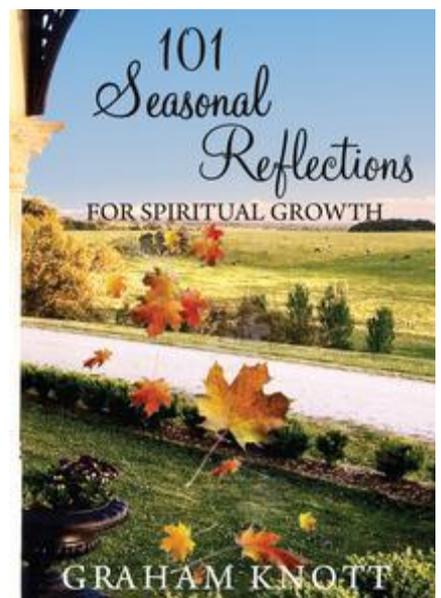
Tween Bible Study and Group

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- Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

LET US PRAY

Do not fear I have overcome the World.

- Praise and thank God for his goodness.
- Praise Him for sun and rain that fills our rivers, dams and tanks.
- Thank Him for holidays.
- Pray for students as they return to school this coming week. Pray for those for whom the disruptions of last year have left their mark. Give thanks for teachers and pray for them as they meet new students and begin a new year.
- Pray for Australia as Australia Day is celebrated.
- Pray for the United States as a new President begins his administration and picks up a country torn by dissent, suspicion and anger and the Covid virus.
- Pray for the UK for its Health Service and those who work in it, stretched to breaking point because of Covid deaths. Pray that the vaccination program will be completed and that those catching the virus would lessen.
- Pray for our World that leaders would govern with fairness and integrity.
- Pray for those you know who are sick, awaiting operations or treatment.
- Pray for those who have been bereaved.



GRAHAM GEMS **January 24th 2021**

People are set apart at particular times for particular purposes. Our Prime Minister and Premier wouldn't have had a clue that the pandemic was coming when they were elected to office. We can surmise endlessly about whether they would still have chosen their position but nobody, probably not even they, knows for sure what they would have done had they known the pandemic was coming. However global leaders generally have stayed in their position and navigated their way through as best they could using the evidence available to them. The effectiveness of their response, in part, depends on doing things at the right time. If things are done too early or for too long the electorate loses confidence and the effectiveness of measures taken is diminished. If things are done too late the scale of infection becomes uncontrollable and the electorate also loses confidence. The secret for living well is to develop the best sense of timing that we can. We can do the right things at the wrong time and fall flat on our faces exhausting ourselves. We can also become more defined by past failure than what the current time is saying. Many people say, 'We tried that twenty years ago and it didn't work then' as a reason for not doing the same thing at a later time. Likewise some people think that to do now the thing that was successful twenty years ago will automatically grant success. 'It worked then so surely it will work now,' is the thinking. Such people are offended when the activity fails and will often hold onto outmoded activities well beyond their use by date with an unreasonable tenacity. Timing is crucial.

As the ministry of Jesus gets underway the context is one of his being aware of the right timing. His first public words are, 'The time has come.' However we are not told how Jesus discerned that. Why was it the right time this day and not last week or next month?

The bible gives us a few hints. The foundations have been put in place. Jesus is baptised and is revealed as secure in his identity before God. He enjoys the full love and pleasure of God. Security in personal identity is vital if we are to develop in understanding God's timing. Then the identity of Jesus was strongly tested in the lengthy period of personal temptation in the wilderness. His identity was tested in every way. Being able to hold onto our identity in Christ even under the strongest pressure is vital if we are to understand God's ways and timing. The bible also sees the arrest and imprisonment of John the Baptist as a liminal moment beyond which Jesus was released into public

ministry. We are all aware of apparently unrelated things coming together in such a way that we can say with some confidence, 'The time was right.' Three aspects then – security, the discernment to differentiate between true and false voices and occurrence of significant events.

The thing about the timing of God is that it is generally disruptive and rarely tidy. Baptism is a statement of chronic disruption in our lives – a shifting from the order of this world to that of Christ's. Intense temptation is very disruptive because it shakes up everything. The events which release the kingdom of God always appear disruptive and messy – the cross of Jesus Christ was an awful spectacle of deepest suffering yet it released enormous potential for good. At some unstated level the imprisonment and execution of John the Baptist released the good of the kingdom. Now as Jesus gets underway - four people were called away from their normal everyday pursuits. For Simon, Andrew, James and John this was just the right time. In each case they made an immediate response to Jesus and his urgent word to follow. The right timing for them was incredibly disruptive. Yet that proved to be unimportant because they were with Jesus.

Not many of us have such a clear and urgent sense of calling as those first disciples. We are called to the harder discipline of discerning God's timing without often changing our work or address. The important response for us is to develop our sense of identity as a child of God, strengthen our commitment as we make Jesus choices, be aware of the spiritual implications of what is happening around us and, as a result, to be in the place where we can hear Holy Spirit say, 'Now is the time.'