

December 16th 2018

welcome!

Our regular services are:

8 am at St. Paul's
Classic Anglican service

10 am at St. Paul's
All age service with children's
programs

3 pm at St. Stephen's
All age service with children's
programs

ministry contacts

Senior Minister
Mark Smith 0430 393 414
mark.smith@lpachurch.org.au
Not available Thursdays

Children's & Youth Minister
John Young 6352 4347
john.young@lpachurch.org.au
Not available Wednesdays

Community Pastor
Terry Smith 0449233862
terry.smith@lpachurch.org.au
Not available Tuesday & Friday

Wardens
Robert Hookham 0403506693
John Stevens 6355 1337
Eric Young
0429664436

Office Administration
Corinne Ogg 6351 3070
office@lpachurch.org.au
Wednesday & Friday 9 - 2

for children and youth



Youth Group
for yrs 6- 12
During School
Term Fridays
7:00 – 9 pm



K – yr 6
During School Term
Fridays 5pm – 6:30 pm

growth groups

Small groups for adults to
grow in Christ.
*details on back of bulletin or
phone office.*



Knowing Jesus • Serving Jesus • Proclaiming Jesus

Dear friends,

Welcome to church! As we continue to prepare for Christmas, we recognise that this period isn't always a time of joy for all. Brittany Salmon writes helpfully on 'celebrating Christmas with a broken heart':

A few years ago I walked into the holiday season with fresh wounds, and I was blindsided by how a season I once found comforting brought additional pain. That calendar year had brought so much suffering: we had lost loved ones, our marriage had been through a rough season, our adoption plans had been halted, my husband was in the middle of a career change, and we were walking through a family crisis. I'd even been diagnosed with PTSD from all the shock and change. Sin, death, and brokenness seemed ever-present, and the raw grief prevented me from celebrating the holidays like I used to.

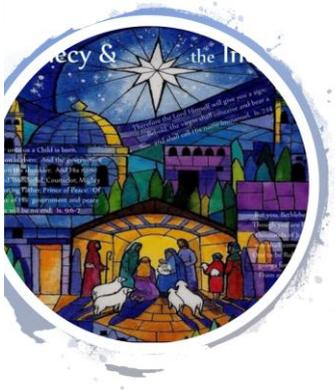
Fighting for Gratitude. It's easy to be thankful when God ordains seasons of joy and plenty, but it was an ugly fight for gratitude when he ordained suffering. Looking back, however, that holiday season is one of my favourites because I can see how suffering unveiled my eyes and enabled me to celebrate the holiday's truest meaning. The coming weeks can be excruciatingly painful for those in the midst of grief—whether due to a loved one's death, job loss, infertility, infant loss, devastating diagnosis, or a family crisis. But rather than just getting through the holidays, might I offer another suggestion? What if instead of merely pushing through, you resolved to fixate on what really matters? Because although you can't change what has been tainted, broken, or taken away, you can celebrate the holiday's true meaning in the midst of your pain.

Here are [two] tips to help you focus on what matters this Christmas season.

1. **It's Okay to Do Christmas Differently This Year.** In the wake of grief, emotions are heightened and traditions that used to bring joy can produce deep sadness. Give yourself the freedom to let things go. Looking back on that difficult holiday season, I'm thankful for suffering, because it allowed me to strip away holiday excess and focus on its truest, simplest meaning. I didn't realize it at the time, but suffering puts sentiment in its proper place. As the frills and fluff of the Christmas season grew strangely dim in light of my suffering, the holiday's ultimate meaning was lifted out of the ashes of grief. Focus on those and let everything else that triggers despair fall to the wayside this year.
2. **Surround Yourself with Truth.** Exhausted by physical side effects of grief, envy and discontentment slithered their way into my heart. I was jealous of people I normally would cheer on. I wanted their beautiful family stories, their flashy jobs, their amazing holiday traditions. I confessed my sin to close friends and a beloved counselor who advised me to be mindful of the images I was taking in. Surround yourself with people and resources that will lovingly minister to you. Choose music, podcasts, and books that will edify and point your eyes to what you already have in Christ, rather than resources that tether your gaze to what you lack. To put it simply, fill your home, your mind, and your relationships with life-giving truth—truth that gives room for both pain and joy to sit together in the light of gospel grace. [...]

Believer, God came to earth to make broken things whole. It's okay for you to be broken this holiday season *because* of the baby in the manger. It's okay to walk through the holidays without denying your wound, but allowing your wound to point to a greater story. May you find great peace amid great sorrow, resting in the knowledge that the God of the universe sees your pain and draws near to the brokenhearted. May the celebration of the birth of Jesus, who came to earth for the broken, bring you comfort and hope in these sad days.

In Him, Mark Smith



readings

of Hosea 11 (page 642)

nt Matthew 2: 9 – 15 (page 682)

Responding to God's Word in Practice:

1. HEAD: What did you learn?
2. HEART: What did God say to you?
3. HANDS: What will you do?

word of encouragement:

What's your story?

Name: Deirdre Culla

Family: Only child of Harry (Johnnie) and [Eleanor] Nancy Walker. Dad passed away aged 55 in 1965 – he had suffered Rheumatoid arthritis since he was 21 years old. Mum remarried in March 1970 to Gus Dobbie who died later that year. Mum died 2017 aged 103 years. Happily married to Brian for nearly 56 years; Mother of Mark and Louise; Grandmother of Rachel (step granddaughter), Matthew and Sarah.

School: Started school at Westmead infants before moving and attending school in Young, Albury and finishing in Condobolin in 1955. We moved with Dad's job in the Justice Department. At a tertiary level, I attended TAFE in Albury for a year.

Work: Spent 6 months working for a solicitor in Condobolin before moving to Lithgow with the family in 1957.

At Lithgow I've had various positions - 2 years assistant nurse at Lithgow; 18 months at the Small Arms Factory, and for 4 ½ years, a Dental Nurse. Oh and I was a Tupperware and Avon rep for a while. Other than that, there was work at the school canteen, President of the Coerwull Mother's Club and a member of the committee of the View Club for 26 years - I'm coming up for my 50 Year anniversary with View Club.

Things you love doing: Gardening and knitting

Fond memories: Dancing ☺ First – tap dancing, which was a lot of fun but I had 2 left feet and this only lasted a few months. Then Highland dancing and lastly ballet - we had a Russian ballet teacher called Boris Romanov! I remember being sewn into my tutu for one performance because the zip broke and I had to travel home on the bus without getting changed!

My time with Mother's Union (25 years) is another fond memory. There was a time when once every three months I would get on the train at 6:30 in the morning and go to the Anglican Cathedral at Town Hall for a meeting and then trek back home. Brian would pack the kids off to school that day.

How did you come to know and believe in Christ?

I started Sunday school at St. Barnabas at Westmead when I was about 4 years old - Mum and Dad would drop me off. During high school I attended ISCF and under their leadership, accepted Christ into my life. I was confirmed at St. Matthews at Albury around the same time.

How has your faith in Christ changed you?

Ever since, I've been committed to being part of a church family and have been at St. Pauls Lithgow since 1957. I have taught Sunday school in Albury, Condo and Lithgow and been part of the church choirs. It has been my pleasure to do the flowers in church here at Lithgow since the 1970's.

I attend Growth Group and Women's Fellowship and in the past Young wives (once called Women's Evening Group).

How are you growing in faith?

I feel that I focus more on others now and not myself – there has been a heart change toward this. Prayer is becoming more natural now – I may see a need and immediately pray about it.

How could we pray for you?

Health and patience with Brian as we get older together ☺

News to share or point for prayer?

If you would like the church family to hear of recent news, or request prayer for yourself, please contact the office by phone or email. *Due to privacy laws we can only publish names with permission of those people.*

prayer points

16th Dec Lord Jesus Christ, at your first coming you sent your messenger to prepare the way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the ways of the righteous, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

17th Dec Give thanks 'The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit' (Psalm 34v18). Mindful of that, pray for sufferers of disaster & Sufferers of other's wickedness.

18th Dec Give thanks that all around the world, church services will be full of people gathering because of Jesus. Pray that each service would faithfully proclaim the wonderful gospel. Pray for every person attending that they might truly encounter the living Jesus & live to worship Him

19th Dec Praise Christ, reflecting on these Carols lyrics:

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart Prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing*

20th Dec Reflect on the wonder of the Son becoming human & let John's words shape your prayers:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fulness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No-one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. (John 1v14-18)

21st Dec Spend time reflecting on how God has grown you as Christ's disciple this year (think about the ways He's deepened your knowledge of Him & changed your character to better reflect Him). Give thanks for that great work of the Holy Spirit!

22nd Dec Praise Christ, reflecting on these Carols lyrics:

*Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy*

23rd Dec Raise up your great power, Lord and come amongst us to save us; that, although through our sins we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your plentiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the sufficiency of your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

roster reminders for next week

23rd December 2018

Removed for
privacy

bible readings

ot Jeremiah 31:15

nt Matthew 2: 16- 23

Thank you for serving.

*If you are unable to fulfil your rostered duty please
organise a swap and let the service leader and
the office know*

Growth Groups

Mon pm Senior teens	Lithgow
Tues am mixed	Lithgow
pm mixed	Lithgow
Wed pm Women's	Lithgow
pm Men's	Lithgow
pm Mixed	Wallerawang
Thu am Women's	Lithgow
pm mixed	Lithgow
pm mixed	Portland
Fri am women's	Lithgow
pm Mixed	Lithgow

Direct Giving details

**Account Name - ANGLICAN PARISH Of
LITHGOW DIRECT GIVING**

BSB - 062591

Account No. - 10085204

notices

Christmas Carols 2018: 6:30pm Friday 21st December

A service of classic carols and the timeless Christmas Story
Our annual Carols are a great celebration of Christ's coming,
open to all the community. This year we are holding them on a
Friday night at St Paul's (rather than Sunday).

Followed by family fun with face-painting, balloons, a bouncy
castle, activities & food.

Christmas services 2018

6pm Christmas Eve BBQ Carols at Portland

8am Christmas Day at St Paul's

10am Christmas Day at St Paul's

Services over Summer

Dec 30, Jan 6, 13, 20 & 27 –

8am & 10am at Lithgow,

Portland will have BBQ church at special time of 5:30pm
(no 3pm service those Sundays)

Christmas and Beyond

Volunteering

Christmas and Beyond has an expectation that volunteers have a
great time as well. The work is not hard, with volunteers helping
with the setup of the hall on the 23rd Dec (3 p.m. to 7 p.m.) ,
serving and cleaning up on Christmas Day (from 8:30 a.m. till
about 4 p.m.) Christmas and Beyond expect volunteers to give of
their time as they can, be that all day or 1 hour.

**A bus driver is needed for Christmas day. A standard C class
licence is required, but the position will require a commitment to
be available from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Should you know someone who would like to meet this
commitment, please contact**

Craig on 0456 560 018 or email craig@craiggrayner.com for
further information or to confirm your willingness to help with
this event.

Fresh Food Days

Dates for 2019

NO JANUARY FRESH FOOD DAY!

10 February

10 March

14 April

12 May

16 June

14 July

11 August

15 September

13 October

10 November

15 December



Find us on
Facebook

please return bibles to the back of church at the end of the service. thank you!