

December 2nd 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! Today is the first Sunday in 'Advent' (from the Latin 'adventus' – 'coming'). In this time of expectant waiting & preparing to celebrate Christ's coming to the world, we focus today's services on thanks to our generous God. In our newsletters we continue to look at ways to maximise Advent. The following are 5 I find helpful:

First, Reflect. Reflect on what we are celebrating at Christmas time. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus is also given the name 'Emmanuel' – 'God with us'. In the grace of God, he didn't look at us from afar, but came & genuinely shared in our plight. Not least because he longed to save us. Anselm of Canterbury wrestled with the weight of our sin. Anselm saw that our 'debt was so great that, while man alone owed it, only God could pay it, so that the same person must be both man & God.' He argued it was necessary for God to become one of us, if anyone was to be brought back to God. Again, in Anselm's words about Jesus, 'the life of this Man was so sublime, so precious, that it can suffice to pay what is owing for the sins of the whole world, & infinitely more.' Take time to reflect on the wonder the Creator would become creation. Don't simply rely on getting to church, but carve out time to re-read a gospel (no need to stop at the birth narrative).

Second, Maintain gratitude. Christmas is a time of pressure. The temptation is then to give in to the sins of grumbling & complaining. Not only does this add to the pressure those round you feel – but it undermines the first point of reflecting the wonder of God becoming one of us. We make the most of Christmas by having our emotions express the truth of what we are remembering.

Third, Express delight. Delight in all of God's good gifts. We must keep Christmas a 'Christ-centred' celebration – but that doesn't exclude enjoying God's generosity in creation. Gifts like family, food, friends & Christian fellowship. Make plans to ensure you can have joy at Christmas time as an expression that you understand God's generosity (even if that means choosing to miss some events).

Fourth, Share Kindness. Knowing Christ became one of us to bring us into his family, it would be inconsistent to take this chance to share His kindness with others. The father of modern Christmas, Charles Dickens, described it as: 'a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people . . . as if they were fellow-passengers.' He captures that Christmas – like the gift of Jesus – should primarily be other-person centred. The gifts we normally give are often obligations – given because we know we must. Ask the question: Who are you being generous to as a pure gift? Take advantage of 'Christmas & Beyond' in our local community or TEAR's 'World's most useful gift catalogue' (or similar great organisations). Invite others to share a meal with you.

Fifth, Prepare for Christ's coming. His second coming. The Book of Common Prayer's collect for this season recognises that Christ will come again to judge & that we need to be found ready. While Jesus is on the hearts & minds of our society, it is also a great chance to help others be prepared to (whether it is inviting them to our Christmas services, a gentle chat or a relevant book as a gift). Postcard invitations are available with all our Christmas details – making inviting even easier:

Carols by 'Candlelight' for all ages: 6:30pm Friday 21st December at St Paul's, Lithgow. A service of classic carols and the timeless Christmas Story. Followed by family fun with face-painting, balloons, a bouncy castle, activities & food.

Christmas Eve: Monday 24th December: 6pm at St Stephen's Anglican, Portland. All are welcome for a relaxed outdoor service of classic carols & readings.

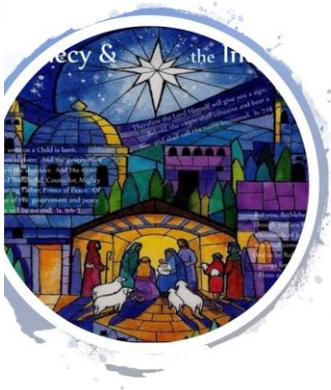
Christmas Day: Tuesday 25th December:

8am at St Paul's: Carols, Bible readings in a classic Anglican style.

10am at St Paul's: Carols, Bible readings and Kids spot.

In Him, Mark Smith

www.lpachurch.org.au • office@lpachurch.org.au • PO Box 192, Lithgow • (02) 6351 3070
St. Paul's: Railway Parade, Lithgow • St. Stephen's: Williwa St, Portland



readings

of Psalm 100 (page 427)

nt I Corinthians 15:50 – 58 (page 815)

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?

Removed for privacy

2nd Dec Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us in great humility; that on the last day, when he comes again in His glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

3rd Dec Give thanks for the Youth & Children Ministry team: aiming to make youth & children in our town & church disciples of Jesus. Pray for leaders & the ministries on Sundays, GLOW (K-6 Friday), SRE in schools, ONE (Friday Youth Group); & the Ambassadors in Football camp.

4th Dec Give thanks for the Mercy ministry team: serving spiritual needs by meeting physical & emotional difficulties. Give thanks for all who serve in this area & pray for the ministries established: Fresh Food Days, Aged Care Church services, Bereavement ministry, Annual Winter Appeal, Emergency Food & CAP (Christians Against Poverty's home budget course)

5th Dec Reflect on the gift of Christ, in light of Isaiah's promise: *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.* (Isaiah 7v14, 9v6-7)

6th Dec Give thanks for the Reaching Out Ministry Team: aiming to make disciples of Jesus from this town & the world. Pray for all who serve in this area & pray for the ministries of Christianity Explored courses, Discipleship Explored courses; Promoting Mission partnerships, making the most of Christmas & Easter, Church missions & BBQ Churches

7th Dec Give thanks for the Blessing Relationships Ministry Team: strengthening relationships in our community. Give thanks for those serving in this area, & pray for the ministries it seeks to grow of the Marriage Course, the Parenting Course, seminars on singleness & creating ways of our church family knowing one another better.

8th Dec As Christmas approaches, praise God inspired by these lyrics:

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;

Christ the everlasting Lord;

Late in time, behold Him come,

Offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,

Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

9th Dec Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: grant us so to hear them, read, mark and learn, and inwardly digest them, that, encouraged and supported by your holy word, we may embrace and always hold fast the joyful hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.*

Removed for privacy

9th Decembe r 2018

bible readings

ot Psalm 100

nt I Corinthians 15:50 – 58

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

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)

THANK YOU

I would like to offer my grateful thanks to Mark, the 8am Congregation and my Growth Group for their kindness and prayers shown to me during this difficult time .. Unfortunately I am still incapacitated and unable to attend Service or GG .. thankfully my recent stay in hospital has sorted that problem out .. I just need to gain some weight and become stronger and so by God's help I know I will .. God Bless you all .. sending love Yvonne Maguire.

Portland Men's Breakfast –

Saturday 8th December 8-30 –10:30am at the Portland Garage .
Theme- Books and Pictures. A display of Christian books will be on sale

Support for Tracy, Mick and Rene Staines

Tracy, Mick and Rene are serving in the Arise Orphanage in the Philippines. A box of goods to provide practical support for the Staines is being organised to send in December. If you'd like a list of items needed, contact Peter Avery. Collection day for donations is today, 2nd December. Please give items (and perhaps a small donation to cover freight) to Peter Avery or Julie Roberts.

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.