

December 9th 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 in this Advent season (from the Latin 'adventus' – 'coming') we make the most of this period of expectant waiting & preparation to celebrate Christ's coming to the world. Kevin De Young suggests ten ways we can remember to be Christians this Christmas (bear in mind, he writes from the Northern Hemisphere, so don't be too distracted when he encourages us to find time to be quiet and 'look at the snow'):

1. Sing like you mean it. Sure, there are a some Christmas carol clunkers, but there are some amazing hymns too (see *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, Of the Father's Love Begotten, Let All Mortal Flesh*, and many more). Belt them out with gusto. Smile and take delight in the familiar sounds of the season. You may not hear them for 11 more months.

2. Say thank you. Over the next week you'll get gifts someone picked out for you, and eat food someone prepared for you, and enjoy hospitality someone laid out for you. We're told to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thess 5v18). Surely, this includes Christmas. Stop to offer a sincere "thank you" to your mum, your husband, your kids, your aunt, your grandma, whomever—it will be good for your soul, and it may just make their day.

3. Put the phone down. Go ahead and take a few pictures and post a few updates, but let's not turn our Christmas experience into another commodity for mass consumption. Look people in the eye. Be present in the moment. Let the world's tragedies and scandals and funny monkey videos take a back seat for a day.

4. Enjoy some cookies. Oh, the dreadful holiday pounds. Sure, we need to be on guard against gluttony. But we need to be on guard against censorious asceticism too. God created food to be received with thanksgiving. Eat up and don't feel bad about it. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected that is made holy by the Word of God and prayer (1 Tim 4v3-5).

5. Talk to your family. Why not put in five minutes' worth of thought on the way to your grandma's house to think of five questions? Maybe conversation flows easily with your family. But for many people, it takes some effort to engage our relatives, especially those we don't see often and those with whom we have little in common. Give people the gift of your curiosity.

6. Find time to be quiet. At some point, get away and be still. Even if just for 10 minutes. Even if it's in your bed after everyone else is asleep. Go on a walk. Take a long shower. Get up early. Sit in the dark. Look at the snow. Stare at the tree. Just be quiet, ponder, and pray.

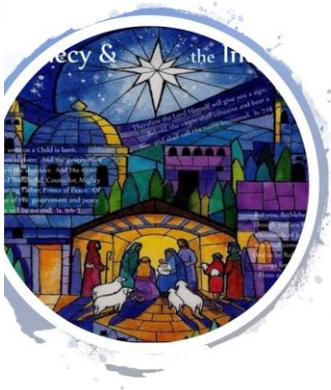
7. Pray for opportunities. What if we prayed for at least one opportunity in the next two weeks to share the gospel? I bet God would honour that prayer. Maybe we can talk to a friend or family member. Maybe we'll find a surprisingly open door for conversation at the mall, or out to eat, or on the plane. Maybe we have not because we ask not.

8. Make a year-end gift. Your church is probably trying to make budget. So are rescue missions, crisis pregnancy centres, Christian schools, mission agencies, and dozens of other kingdom causes. Go ahead a be generous. We won't out-give God.

9. Quit complaining. Something will go wrong this Christmas. Someone will hurt your feelings. Your parent's house will be too hot. Your brother's house will be too cold. A meal will be barely edible. Your obnoxious friends will be extra obnoxious. Still, God is more pleased with gratitude than with grumbling. If we learn to overlook a few offenses, we'll be happier too.

10. Rejoice to hear the Story one more time. Matthew 1 and Luke 2 are coming at you. So are Isaiah 7 and Isaiah 9, Micah 5, and many of the same passages you hear ever year. No bother: "To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you" (Phil 3v1). Let us pray that God gives us ears to hear, again and again, with fresh wonder that God came down to be with us, and that he is with us still.

In Him, Mark Smith



readings

of Micah 5 (page 658)

nt Matthew 2:1 – 12 (page 681)

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?

Terry Smith (our Community Pastor)

I am continually encouraged in my role as community pastor by what God is doing in this parish and would love to share some of what I have seen happening.

During the second half of the year I had the pleasure of leading a growth in Wallerawang. Our first night we had five people and we have now grown to twenty-three. As a result of the growth we have had to split in two. My prayer would be that God would continue moving in this way and our groups would keep growing and needing to split to fit everyone in. Twelve people in our groups were not involved in our church life before. The growth has come through building relationships through door-knocking and fresh food Sundays. It is wonderful to see many of these people coming to a greater understanding of who God is and the need for him in their lives.

I have been out door-knocking with five church members so far. Each time this has been incredibly encouraging to see them stepping out of their comfort zone and willing to learn ways of sharing their faith and sharing it. Two of these church members have been out with me almost weekly and they have both grown so much. It is so exciting to see.

I have been involved with Thursday Club in Wallerawang for most of year. This is run for infants and primary aged kids Thursday nights and has around 30 kids every time. This is a fantastic time for the kids to play games, do craft and hear about Jesus. A number of them have stood up this term to say they want Jesus to be their Lord and saviour and that is awesome to be a part of.

This is also a good opportunity to share with you that I have resigned from teaching SRE at Lithgow High. I finished up due to my body not holding up to handling both these positions. It was a role I found challenging but incredibly rewarding and important. Please continue to pray for the youth in the high school.

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.*

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.

10th Dec Reflect on the gift of Christ, in light of Micah's promise: "*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.*" Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace. (Micah 5v2-5a)

11th Dec Praise God for His generous provision – both spiritually & physically. Pray for the Holy Spirit to grow in all Christian people deep generosity & protect us from gluttony & greed.

12th Dec As Christmas approaches, praise God inspired by these lyrics:

*Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

13th Dec Remembering the freedom Jesus brings – pray for all who are enslaved. Pray for those physically enslaved around the world. Pray for those spiritually enslaved by their sin & Satan

14th Dec Give thanks for the privilege of knowing Jesus. Pray for all who will hear the good news at our Carols & across our Christmas services, that we would genuinely know & live for Jesus.

15th Dec Praise God for His creativity – that His creation is both beautiful & functional. Give thanks for the arts, music & pleasure. Pray for those who work in the arts to recognise & reflect the true God.

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.

Removed for
privacy

bible readings

of Hosea 11

nt Matthew 2: 9 – 15

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)

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



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