

November 25th 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! We are a month today from celebrating Christ's birth. For those who use the church calendar for the Christmas season (not just shopping catalogues) will know that Advent is upon us. Today is 'Sunday next before Advent' – also known as 'stir up' Sunday. Some know this Sunday as the day you need to start stirring your Christmas puddings so they'll be cooked & rested in time. The stir up really derives from Book of Common Prayer's (BCP) collect for today:

Stir up, Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that they may produce abundantly the fruit of good works, and receive your abundant reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

It's asking God to work powerfully in us this Christmas period – that we wouldn't just receive God's generosity in Christ – but it would flow through us. Since 'Advent' (from the Latin 'adventus' – 'coming') is a time of expectant waiting & preparing to celebrate Christ's coming to the world – there are many ways to lead up to this celebration. Our sermons will be looking at the Old Testament backdrop to Matthew's Christmas account – a great way to see God's faithful planning & intent behind the first Christmas. In our newsletters over coming weeks we'll look at various ways to maximise Advent.

The starting place to make the most of this time, is lean more heavily on God & remember to **pray**. The classic 'Christmas' prayers from the BCP are a great guide. For centuries the BCP structured not just what would happen at a church on Sunday, but gave structure to the whole year. The 'liturgical calendar' highlights certain seasons of focus in Christian life. The following prayers are from the 'Advent' season. You may find it helpful to read over the prayers, then re-word them keeping the sentiment – after all, prayer is never about parroting, though models of prayer from godly people are often helpful. Feel free to use them as personal preparation – or pray them with your Growth group or family.

Prayer 1 – *'Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness & 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 & the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, now & forever. Amen.'*

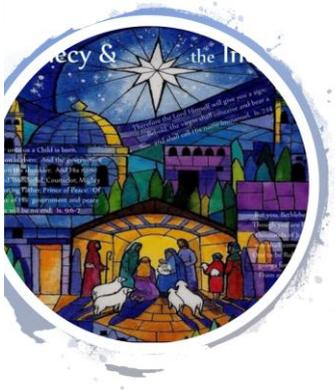
Prayer 2 – *'Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: grant us so to hear them, read, mark & learn, & inwardly digest them, that, encouraged & supported by your holy word, we may embrace & always hold fast the joyful hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.'*

Prayer 3 – *'Lord Jesus Christ, at your first coming you sent your messenger to prepare the way before you: grant that the ministers & 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 & reign with the Father & the Holy Spirit, now & forever. Amen.'*

Prayer 4 – *'Raise up your great power, Lord & come amongst us to save us; that, although through ours ins we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your plentiful grace & mercy may speedily help & deliver us; through the sufficiency of your Son our Lord, to whom with you & the Holy Spirit be honour & glory, now & for ever. Amen.'*

In Him, Mark Smith

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St. Paul's: Railway Parade, Lithgow • St. Stephen's: Williwa St, Portland



readings

ot Isaiah 7 (page 488)

nt Matthew 1:18-25 (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?

word of encouragement:

Reflections on 'Single-minded' Conference.

A few months ago, we live-streamed a conference from Sydney that dealt Biblically with the realities of singleness. It wasn't just for those who are single – but for all. These reflections are from some who went (more will follow for our encouragement). Both of whom are married – but still gained great value from the talks:

Peter Avery: *I found it great to be reminded that marriage is not ultimate, is for this life only (Matthew 22:30) and never meant to solve all of one's problems, but is a picture of the relationship God has given us in Jesus, the ultimate marriage of Christ and his radiant bride, the church in glory! I must say I came to see singleness in a far more positive light, rather than thinking like our society that they're somehow missing out, but that both marriage and singleness is a gift, and that singleness is what we will all be in glory, the Bible points to a pro-singles future! The need to encourage our singles to see they can now focus on the Lord's affairs without the "worldly concerns" that come with marriage (1 Cor 7:32-35). But for me, the most important thing, is whether you're married or single to find our identity in Jesus in God's family building strong relationships, I need that as a married and our singles need that.*

Kathy Thomas: *The conference was enlightening and thought provoking; helpful in ways to best serve one another with respect and understanding of one another's circumstances. We were spurred on to love and serve one another, continuing to have conversations as how best to love all our brothers and sisters in Christ (married, single, divorced, widowed, younger and older). Remembering that we are brothers and sisters now and in eternity. We were strongly challenged:- if we are going to use the term "church" FAMILY, then we should love one another as a family should. See our church family as a gift... all different from one another with a willingness to care for and embrace one another's differences and circumstances... ALL being made in the image of God.*

The Talks are still available to listen to with this link

https://www.singlemindedconference.com/?utm_campaign=02535dc7-ed4d-4708-b22a-ba4bc034e396&utm_source=so

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

25th Nov Stir up, Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that they may produce abundantly the fruit of good works, and receive your abundant reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

26th Nov With a month before Christmas, praise God inspired by these lyrics:

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

27th Nov Thank God that he welcomes those who do nothing but depend - & calls the children to come to him. Give thanks for the children in your life (family, neighbours or those in the local school) & pray that they might know & follow Jesus.

28th Nov Remember our mission partners: Mark Muss (Chaplain at Lithgow Correctional); the Goscombes (Wickham WA); the Blairs (Cambodia); the Staines (Philippines); Howard & Michelle (Philippines)

29th Nov Pray for our church to live out who we are in Jesus: *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. (1 Peter 2v10-11)*

30th Nov Give thanks for the leadership of our diocese. Pray for our Archbishop (Glenn) & Bishops to grow in the grace & knowledge of Christ. Uphold our Bishop, Ivan, in his continued desire to make Christ known as he undergoes cancer treatment.

1st Dec Come before the LORD, reflecting on Psalm 131: *My heart is not proud, O LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have stilled and quietened my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and for evermore.*

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.

Removed for privacy

bible readings
of 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

Hampers for Farmers

In partnership with Anglicare, we have hampers of food & toiletry essentials ready to give to those affected by drought. Contact Terry Smith to get these hampers to those you know who are in need.

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

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 Sunday 2nd December.

Please give items (and perhaps a small donation to cover freight) to Peter Avery or Julie Roberts.

Christmas and Beyond

This is provided for free to participants, an example of caring community of Lithgow in action to those less fortunate or finding themselves without community or family with which to celebrate the gift of Christmas. Any financial assistance for the event can be paid to Christmas and Beyond. Account Details on the bottom of the page.

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.

Direct Giving details

Account Name - ANGLICAN PARISH OF LITHGOW DIRECT GIVING

BSB - 062591

Account No. - 10085204