

# 'THE BRIDGE'

*Newsletter for*

March 3rd 2024  
3<sup>rd</sup>. Sunday in Lent

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH of  
ST. PETER'S OCEAN GROVE**

35-37 Draper St. Ocean Grove.3226

**& ALL SAINTS' BARWON HEADS**

61-63 Hitchcock Ave. Barwon Heads 3227

VICAR : Rev. Liz Rankin ;  
0419 581 792

Liz Rankin vicar@ogbha.org.au

HON. ASSOCIATE PRIEST: REV Jill Poole; 0437 450 329 jillrpoole@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE; St Peter's, Draper St. Ocean Grove 5256 2446 or

PO Box 683 Ocean Grove or parish.office@ogbha.org.au

PARISH TREASURER: parish.accounts@ogbha.org.au

PARISH WEBSITE: [www.ogbha.org.au](http://www.ogbha.org.au) ZOOM 488 270 257 anglican

## Regular Service Times

**SUNDAY** 8am. FOLLOWED BY 9.30am at St. Peter's O.G. (& on Zoom)

11am at All Saints' B.H

**TUESDAY** 9.30am. Prayers at St. Peter's O.G

**WEDNESDAY** 8.30am. Morning Prayer at St. Peter's &

10am. Holy Communion

**SATURDAY** 9am. Prayers at St. Peter's- all welcome.

We worship on the land of the Bengalat clan of the Wathaurong people, and we acknowledge and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

## TODAY'S READINGS

Exodus 20.1 -17 Ps. 19 1 Cor. 1. 18 -25

John 2. 13 -22

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY March 10.

Numbers 21. 4-9 Psalm 107.1-3.17-22 Ephesians 2. 1-10

John 3. 14 -21

LOVE IS OUR HARVEST

**Vicar's Voice.** Greetings church,

As time flies by so quickly, we are well into our journey together, as Vicar and congregation, and we are well into the season of Lent. I've been encouraging you to spend some time this Lent to take stock of where your faith sits in relation to what's unfolding in your lives. How does your faith influence your path through life, the sideswipes and challenges, the joys and celebrations, where does God fit within these areas?

Within our Lenten study we are being presented with some stories of people who have processed through seasons of tragedy in their lives, and in hearing these stories, we are engaging with our own hurts and painful seasons that we all have encountered in different times. For some these times are taking place right now. Many who have been attending the study are finding the discussion with others insightful, and helpful in the processing of such pain.

You may be thinking, why on earth do we want to be spending time looking at and discussing such painful and challenging times of life? My response to that is on two levels, firstly as we prepare and journey toward Easter, it is a good spiritual practice to delve deeply into the pain, challenge and ugliness of our Lord Jesus' crucifixion. When we allow ourselves to truly enter this traumatic story, we gain a greater understanding of what Jesus went through, for MY sake, what Jesus went through for YOUR sake, what He went through for the sake of the world. He gave his life, and it was painful, challenging, and ugly. Yet we know on the other side of His death, the power of the Holy Spirit raised Him to life eternal.

Secondly, it is in Christ's crucifixion that we gain a model and understanding of how we too can process through our own pain and challenges, so that new life may abound. My own story bears witness of this; therefore, I know personally that it is possible, and I know that is it God's desire that we process through these painful times, not shoving them down deep in our core, instead facing and dealing with them in order to be released into new life. It is good to remember that Jesus understands our pain and is compassionately with us through these times and the same Spirit that rose Jesus from the dead, is the same Spirit that empowers us into new life.

We were encouraged through this week's study to find purpose out of our pain, and in spite of our pain, that we may bring Glory to God. Saying all of this, I do understand that some of you may be feeling very uncomfortable, as it may be a

foreign practice for you. Please know I am available to speak with. I'm open to you sharing your discomfort with me, know that you don't have process this journey alone.

I'm really proud of how many of you have chosen to engage in this space, and I'm excited to see all that God is doing in the life of this faith community. You are all in my prayers, stay strong in faith and give thanks to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the blessings being bestowed upon us all at this time.

Shalom, your Vicar, Liz

### DAILY READINGS BEGINNING MONDAY March 4th

MON	Pss.11;12	Jeremiah 32. 1 -15	Hebrews 10. 5 -18
TUES	Pss. 15;16	Jeremiah 32. 16 -35	Hebrews 10. 19 -31
WED	Ps. 18. 1-31	Jeremiah 32. 36 – 33.9	Hebrews 10.32 -39
THURS	Ps. 19	Jeremiah 33. 10 -26	Hebrews 11.1 - 12
FRI	Pss. 20; 21. 1-7	Jeremiah 34. 1 -22	Hebrews 11. 13 -28
SAT	Ps.22. 1-22	Jeremiah 35.	Hebrews 11. 29 - 40

### PRAYERS

-for **all** of our unwell friends, that they may remember the love God has for them and be comforted and strengthened by that knowledge.

*Anne, David Bayne, Pat Brady, Alison Fane,  
Lyn Carey-Nicholson, Tom Hudson, Doris Loewy,  
Jenny Maxwell, Alli McLaren, Janet Paisley, Deb Podbury,  
Elizabeth Polley, Glenys Russell, and Dot Sutcliffe.*

-for those with illnesses which medication no longer helps, and to their loved ones give courage, strength, and comfort in their faith of the joy of eternal life.

-for those recently bereaved - give comfort and strength.

-for our members in residential care give peace, comfort & contentment.

*Barry Aitken, Ron Cameron, Shirley Dodgshun,  
Lorraine Holbrook, John Hoult, Stella Scheiner,  
Beth Ward and Jenny Wood.*

**'He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge'.**

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Passion for Jesus is what we often miss the mark on .  
Passion for Jesus is what we need--not just admiration!

**MISSION NEWS** Churches are always looking for innovative ways to engage people in considering the good News of Jesus.

At Lightning Ridge, the Bush Church Aid (BCA) missionaries - Kurt and Bec Langmead have formed a "Bible Disco" group (short for Bible Discovery Group).

It centres around Bible storytelling:

- \* The group sits in a circle and a Bible story is told.
- \* Then the group retells the story.
- \* After that they play Bible Disco, which is run like a gameshow - questions are asked and it can get a bit competitive.

Most of the group are men and unbelievers who live 'off the grid in' camps.

10-15 attend Bible Disco and 15-30 come for the dinner that follows.

These people now know that the Christian faith is not just religion but a story they are part of.

Kurt and Bec are now searching for the next step to see these people come into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Please pray for wisdom for them and the Lightning Ridge Community Church congregation, as they look to see Bible Disco members take the next step.

This story comes from the Autumn edition of the BCA magazine "The Real Australian".

If you would like to receive a quarterly copy (free) and read more stories of the work of BCA, go to

[bushchurchaid.com.au](http://bushchurchaid.com.au)

or write to BCA Society, GPO Box 5389, Sydney. NSW, 2001

## **DIARY DATES - WHAT'S ON & WHAT'S COMING UP**

Lenten studies	Sundays @ St. Peter's 5.30 – 8pm	bring finger-food meal
	Tuesdays @ St. Peter's 2 – 4 pm	bring afternoon tea
	Thursdays @ All Saints' 2 – 4pm	bring afternoon tea
3 March	Barwon Heads Focus Group after church.	

## **WHAT'S ON AND WHERE - regularly each week**

MON	Hearts and Crafts 10 – 1. BYO lunch.	St. Peter's Old Church
TUES	Prayers-personal 9.30 ish -12 with John & Dawn	St. Peter's Foyer O G
WED	Staff meeting 9 - 9.50	Parish Office O.G
WED	Op shop 9.30 - 1 Jigsaw Library 10 - 12	All Saints' Hall B.H
FRI	Op Shop 9.30 - 1	All Saints' Hall B.H
SAT	Op Shop 9.30 – 1 Jigsaw Library 10 - 12	All Saints' Hall B.H
DAILY	All Saints' church is open 9 – 5.	All Saints' Ch. B.H

**All Saints' church is open 9-5 - with Way of the Cross and Lenten Meditation Space.**