

OCTOBER PREACHING PLAN

Oct 1st

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Exodus 17: 1 - 7
9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Psalms 78: 1 - 4, 12 - 16
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	Philippians 2: 1 - 13
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Matthew 21: 23 - 32

Oct 8th

8.30 Lockyer	E Burns	Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20
9.30 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalms 19
10.00 AUC	E Burns	Philippians 3: 4b - 14
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Matthew 21: 33 - 46

Oct 15th

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Exodus 32: 1 - 14
9.30 Denmark		Psalms 106: 1 - 6, 19 - 23
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Philippians 4: 1 - 9
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Matthew 22: 1 - 14

Oct 22nd

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Exodus 33: 12 - 23
9.30 Denmark	A Hortin	Psalms 99
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 Thessalonians 1: 1 - 10
11.00 Mt Barker	R Anderson	Matthew 22: 15 - 22

Oct 29th

8.30 Lockyer	A Hortin	Deuteronomy 34: 1 - 12
9.30 Denmark		Psalms 90: 1 - 6, 13 - 17
10.00 AUC	A Hortin	1 Thessalonians 2: 1 - 8
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Matthew 22: 34 - 46

THE ARC MONTHLY



*ALBANY REGION
CONGREGATIONS*

*Lockyer, Albany Uniting Church,
Mt Barker, Denmark*

OCTOBER 2023

*Endow us with your power O Lord,
that our mouths may speak your
word,
our hearts reveal your grace,
our lives proclaim your goodness,
and our labours find fulfilment in
Heaven.*

Amen

Sarah Mallet(1764 – 1846) Methodist Preacher

Message from the Manse:

With thanks to Allan McKechnie, Elizabeth Burns, the Tuesday Discussion Group, I introduce to you Dr. Jim Taylor, a theologian and philosopher, experienced Bible translator, missionary, and pastor. He asks himself, and his readers, questions like, "Are all Bible translations created equal? Is there such a thing as a pure Bible, free from error? What does the Bible teach about itself?" This month I would like to share some of his thinking on what he believes and does not believe anymore. He writes:

"My friend and retired minister Bob Thompson described an exercise someone had recommended to him. "You put two sheets of paper up on a wall," Bob explained. "On one sheet you list the things that you believe about God. On the second sheet you list the things you no longer believe about God." Bob laughed. "I think the sheet with things I no longer believe would have far more items on it than things I still believe." I tried it. Bob was right. Initially, the things I believe about God consisted of just two words. "God is." I didn't know how to add to that description. I could have said, perhaps, "God is love," or "God is beauty." I could, in fact, have added every adjective in the dictionary, and still never fully described God. Because every description limits God. It becomes a fence, a wall, a barrier. It implies that God is only this; therefore, God can't be that. So, I settled for those two words. "God is..."

The second page was a lot easier to fill in. I suppose, at some time, I must have believed that God was an old man with a long white beard, sitting on a golden throne on a cloud, strumming on a harp, while occasionally hurling thunderbolts at the mess we humans have made here below. Did I genuinely believe that? Or did I simply reflect common preconceptions I sensed among the people I knew? I certainly don't believe it anymore. I can be more specific. I no longer believe that God sits in judgement over us. God does not keep track of our sins and misdeeds in a giant spreadsheet. Saint Peter doesn't sit at the Pearly Gates deciding whether we passed or failed the test

DIARY DATES

- THUR 5th OCT** } SCOTS CRAFT MARKET in Scots Hall, lower York St,
FRI 6th OCT } open 9am - 3pm daily. Come along, browse through
 the various stalls and enjoy a delicious morning tea
 or lunch and support the volunteer group raising
 funds.
- SUN 8th OCT** Quartet of wind instruments to accompany Morning
 Service at Wesley, 10am
- BARGAIN BONANZA fund raiser for next year's
 Shoebox project. Please get items to Edith by Friday
- TUES 10th OCT** LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12noon
 AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome,
 Contact Joan Stewart 9844 8958 if attending.
- THUR 19th SOCT** FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea, 10am, Vancouver Café,
 ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947

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PRAYER COORDINATOR	Heather Bailey	0428 936 824
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Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:**AUC: Recording/
Music**

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	
<u>1st Oct</u>	C Roberts	C Ferry	C Ferry	T Reed/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Ahern</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	
<u>8th Oct</u>	D Nottle/H Nicholson	B Reed	A Tero	M Little/ S Harris
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	
<u>15th Oct</u>	D Hosking	E Burns	B Reed	M Vertigan/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>A Hortin</i>	<i>J Ahern</i>	
<u>22th Oct</u>	B Bickford	M Little	C Ferry	W Dwyer/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer: M Hannington</i>	<i>A Hortin</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>		
<u>29th Oct</u>	D Coxall	S Harris	A Tero	M Little/ P Elms
	<i>J Wright</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	

Morning Tea, Lockyer only**1st Oct** *J Ahern/J Dunbar* **8th Oct** *J Thompson/M Hannington***15th Oct** *A Webb* **22nd Oct** *J Thompson***29th Oct** *J Ahern/J Dunbar*

Please swap with someone if you are unable to take your turn and inform Lisa at the office of the change. Thank you to those willing to take part, helping to make services run smoothly.

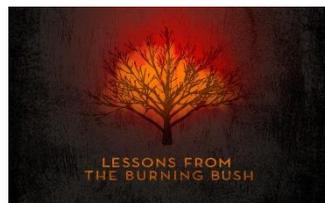


I've sadly lost Mary Ericson from the list of volunteers at AUC, as she has moved to Perth but I was pleased to have the chance to catch up with her for a coffee and chat on a recent visit to Perth. She has settled happily and attends a church near her home. They have made her feel welcome there but she is always glad to hear from Albany friends and sends greetings to all. Clare Ferry

of life. That tells me too that I no longer believe in a hell where God sends those who have been judged as naughty, not nice. And not believing in hell casts doubts about its counterpart – heaven. Especially a heaven with streets paved with solid gold. Because if God does not hand out punishments, I don't believe God hands out rewards either. God does not reward a chosen few with abundant life, prosperity, and endless happiness. God does not play favourites. I believe that God is impartial. As one Bible verse says, "The rain falls on the just and the unjust." (I suppose that could go on the first page.) You see, I believe that God is in everything, of everything – including me. I am one of the agents through which this universal God works to evolve this world into something more kindly, more beautiful, more intelligent... But there I go again, adding adjectives. The obvious question is, if I don't believe all those traditional images of God, does that make me an atheist? No. That is why I insist that "God is." Because there is something that drives me, that motivates me, that shapes my attitudes and perspectives. I am not simply a dust ball blown around by Hamlet's 'slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.' I don't know what that 'something' is. But I do know I will spend the rest of my life to grow a closer relationship with it. God IS. That is enough for me."

Have your images of God, of hell and heaven remained the same throughout your life, or have they changed, like Jim's have? It might be a good idea to put two sheets of paper up on the wall and work out for yourself how your beliefs have changed. When God speaks to Moses from the burning bush, God says, "I AM (who I am)". Ancient Biblical wisdom is, for me, the basis to say, with Jim, "God IS". I would love to hear your thoughts!

Blessings, Corina



BITS FROM BARKER:

Overall, it seems to have been a quiet month but I had a pleasant surprise early in the month when my daughter Rachel came for a short visit.

Philip travelled to Perth recently for a medical procedure which left him rather battered and bruised but I'm pleased to report it was successful. His sister Valerie returned with him to stay for a few days and it was lovely to catch up with her at church.

It is good to see the manse looking well cared for as it makes a difference to the entire church property when the surrounds are neat and tidy.

Milly managed to come along to the monthly church service Nita and I hold at Overton. It was great to see her and have a chat with her.

We were pleased to have Alan Hortin come up to conduct a service recently and we enjoyed the catch up with both Anne and Alan. Our numbers are down but those who attend are appreciative of the worship services. Special thanks go to Nita who provides us with music each week. We do not have the strength and volume to carry a tune without her.

Doug recently arranged to provide a few of our copies of Together in Song to the Kojonup congregation who had made a request to anyone who had spare copies.

I hope you are all enjoying the warm and sunny days we have between the colder and wet ones. The gardens are looking colourful and a walk in the bush at this time of year is always rewarding.

Blessings, Sue Wilson

LOCKYER NEWS:

As usual there has not been much change at Lockyer though we haven't seen Jan for a few weeks. She was laid low by the terrible wog that has been doing the rounds and from what I hear, she had a short sojourn in hospital. I trust she was able to have a rest there,

An article from the Christian newspaper Challenge:

Jazz music is not everyone's first choice – it is a unique style of music. In many concerts you may actually be treated to music that no-one has ever heard before because within many jazz pieces, there is the opportunity for free expression.

It is very important to realise that this is within limits. If all the musicians playing at that moment did exactly what they wanted, you would not have music, it would just be a conglomeration of sounds. The ability of jazz musicians to play extemporaneously is in fact within strict limits. The freedom to play and experiment with the music is freedom within the bounds of the moment, the band and the music. Freedom in this life is just the same. We have the freedom to live in a relationship with God, but God does not say that our freedom has no boundaries. Life with no boundaries is like music with no boundaries. It's a disaster. Discover the freedom God has for you. A life lived to its maximum potential, but within the boundaries of God's Word to us.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: The above article took my attention, particularly the conclusion and it also fits with the articles contributed by Corina, Seb and the pictures of April and Arthur. As we all grow older we often find ourselves looking back and the phrase "I can't do as much as I used to do" is uttered often. That may be true, but hopefully we have grown wiser with maturity and so the things we believe and no longer believe change too. Dr Jim Taylor provides us with interesting points to ponder. Seb has explained the way music, played quietly in the background can lead us into a quiet place in which to meditate and connect with God's word to us. April and Arthur are examples of children joyfully living to their maximum potential but within boundaries. They embraced the full range of stories, songs and activities at Messy Church with enthusiasm, always politely said thank you at the end and are a delight to know. They are a good example of accepting the restrictions of age and just doing their best.

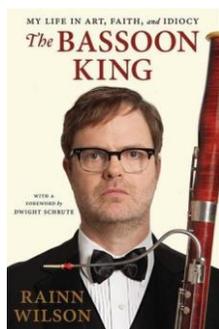
Clare

WESLEY MUSIC NEWS:

September saw our test run of The Quiet Space. This is a new initiative where we opened Wesley Church to the community as a secular “come any time” safe space for peace and reflection with meditative background music. We were delighted to welcome 33 people, and we could see from the eighteen survey responses it was warmly received, with our wonderful Patrick Elms lulling us through, on organ and piano. Many mistook it for a concert so we hope to make the purpose clearer as we look to launch it as a regular event. For news on the next event, email wesleyalbany@protonmail.com to join our mailing list. If you don't have email you might like to find a friend who can keep you posted on our occasional messages, or just speak to Seb.

Sunday 8th October: Our wind-playing friends Alan Burnfield, Jocelyn Bathgate and Michelle Jones will join our own Sebastian Harris again for our regular service, this time as a quartet of oboe, cor anglais, my soul, based on Finlandia by Jean Sibelius. We hope to see you there.

We also held a meeting between some community musicians and AUC Council members to discuss Wesley Music's future. We're still considering what form this will take considering the limits of our resources, but if you'd like to be involved in some way, please contact Seb.



as hospitals are not the most restful of places, and hopefully we will see her soon. Judy has also been unwell.

One of Sue's daughters lives in South Australia so Sue is off soon to join up with her and then travel together to Melbourne by car to meet her great- granddaughter.

June meanwhile is having some well- earned family time with family members from Queensland as it is some time since she saw them so maybe there has been a bit happening after all.

Following on from the advice on moving house in the Bulletin (17/9), may I suggest we all try some decluttering and take a look in our cupboards. When we find things we haven't used for a while, why not give them to Edith for her stall. Also, subject to his approval, I would like to know if Doug accepts plants or cuttings for his fundraising and where would be a good drop off point.

I promised you last month a photo of April and Arthur at book-week



April as Annie from the book Runt Arthur as the fox version of Robin Hood
Cheers, Joan

PRAYER PROMPTS:

Elaine Archer is very ill at present and needs our prayers. Please also pray for the safe delivery of the shoe boxes and for the children who will receive them. Also pray for all the children in war torn areas in this troubled world of ours, thinking in particular of Natalya, the little 8 year-old, living in a Ukranian orphanage, who received the 200 millionth shoebox.

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS: Thank you to Corina for the great dedication service on the 17th Sept. Thank you also to those who donated to the second offering – the \$375 it raised is a great start for next year. As already mentioned, we have decided to cut down to 150 boxes next year. We were all really weary after doing up the 250 this year, but next year should be easier. Mandy, who picked up all the boxes from my place again, said how lovely our boxes are and that the final total of 270 boxes was the biggest number she had picked up to date.

I have been asked to give a talk to the C.W.A. on Sunday 1st October, when you are probably reading this. I don't find public speaking that easy, however I have written up my talk and hope it goes over ok.

Our next **Bargain Bonanza Stall** will be on **Sunday 8th October** so if you have any saleable goods, please get them to me by Friday 6th. I will pick up goods if necessary.

I have chosen an article on the clean water programme that Samaritan's Purse has provided in the Philippines that I hope will be of interest.

God Bless, Edith

WITHOUT WATER, LIFE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE :

Drinking disease-ridden water hurts tens of thousands of children in the Philippines, especially in rural areas, and millions worldwide. The impact is staggering. Already-limited incomes are stretched to breaking point because ill parents can't grow food or work. Sick children are chronically in and out of class and therefore robbed of an education. In the worst-case scenarios, water, sanitation and hygiene related illnesses take the lives of the most vulnerable, who

are usually children under five. It happens about twice every minute. Samaritan's Purse have set up a project to bring safe water to schools by installing large-scale water filters and hand-washing stations. After an enormous blue container with a bio-sand filter and a hand-washing station had been installed at one school, the principal, Mr Ramos, wrote to Samaritan's Purse. "Undeniably, without water, life would be impossible", he began, "Everyone needs safe water, clean and safe water. The presence of the large BioSand Water Filter gives delight not only to the school, teachers, parents, and learners, but to the whole community" he went on. "I cannot believe that the thing I have been dreaming of, having this kind of water facility in our school, would come into reality. I am forever grateful to Samaritan's Purse for this project and to the individuals who were instrumental in its realisation."

The individuals are the donors who give and pray so that children like Abby (below), Mr Ramos and thousands of others in the area have safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene. Work continues to bring safe water to five more schools in Mindanao giving children like Abby the chance to play, learn, grow up and become who God calls them to be.

Abby says "The safe water will help us to have good health and immunity." She dreams of one day becoming a teacher, "I want to help children" she shared.

Abby fills her container with safe, clean drinking water from school to take home to her family.

