

APRIL PREACHING PLAN

April 7th

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Acts 4: 32 - 35
9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Psalm 133
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	1 John 1: 1 - 22
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	John 20: 19 - 31

April 14th

8.30 Lockyer	R Anderson	Acts 3: 12 - 19
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalm 4
10.00 AUC	R Anderson	1 John 3: 1 - 7
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Luke 24: 36b - 48

April 21st

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Acts 4: 5 - 12
9.30 Denmark	P & M Cocks	Psalm 23
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 John 3: 16 - 24
11.00 Mt Barker	E Burns	John 10 : 11 - 18

April 25th

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Acts 8 : 26 - 40
9.30 Denmark		Psalm 22: 25 - 31
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 John 4: 7 - 21
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	John 15: 1 - 8



THE ARC MONTHLY

*ALBANY REGION
CONGREGATIONS*

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



APRIL 2024

*May your day be blessed
by moments of quietness,
light in your darkness,
strength in your weakness,
joy in your gladness,
peace in your stillness.
May your day be blessed.*

John Birch, Faith and Worship

MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE :

If you have wondered at all whether the Israeli government is correct when they claim they are fighting a just war, based on the Hebrew Scriptures, maybe this article by Rev Dr George Browning, retired Anglican Bishop, can help you decide. This is what he wrote on Easter Day this year. (I have adapted the text a little, to make it as clear as possible.)

“The current Israeli government contains people on the extreme right of Israeli society. Many of these people have a history of involvement with unlawful activity, from tax evasion to association with extreme and illegal groups, while at the same time claiming to be ‘ultra-orthodox’. Mr Ben-Gvir, minister for national security recently applauded the killing of a 12-year-old Palestinian boy who let off a fire work in Jerusalem in the direction of Israeli security personnel. He claims killing a Palestinian is doing Israel a service. The following message is addressed to him and Mr Smotrich, minister for finance. Both men have recently been described as terrorists by internal security director Ayalon. Ayalon uses the literal definition “one who incites terror”, not the common definition of “one who objects to having their rights denied or land confiscated”. Gentlemen, you claim to know a great deal about Hebrew history as recorded in Hebrew scripture. You would know the patriarchal period (c1700 BC) is where promise and claims about land have come about. It was a period in which tribal ambitions contested land ownership in the name of their god. Gods and their worship were associated with place. Inter-tribal warfare strengthened or diminished the influence of the tribal god. The land allotted to followers of Yahweh became the place where Yahweh was worshipped. You will know the rise and fall of kings of Israel and Judah (with some notable exceptions) was directly associated with involvement they had with gods of other places. You have identified your Gazan enterprise with the Amalek narrative. The Amalekite threat was not simply about a military

DIARY DATES

THUR 4th APR CRAFT MARKETS, Scots Hall, York St, 9am-3pm daily.
& FRI 5th APR Delicious morning teas & light lunches available,
 enjoy a wander around the stalls.

TUES 9th APR LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12 noon
 AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome,

SUN 14th APR BARGAIN BONANZA, shoebox fundraiser, please have
 goods delivered to Edith by Friday 12th

THUR 18th APR MORNING TEA, Vancouver Café, 10am. All welcome,
 for details ring Mary Noack-Skinner 0427 554 947

SAT 27th APR THE QUIET SPACE, Wesley Church, 2 – 3pm.
 Music provided by local ensemble

DIRECTORY

MINISTER Rev Corina van Oostende 0417 169 544
 Email: Corinamode@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARERS	Denmark	Margaret Cocks	0428 608 620
	Lockyer	Joan Wright	0429 413 759
	Mt Barker	Sue Wilson	0437 184 692
	AUC	Edith Verran	9841 2729
		Heather Bailey	0428 936 824

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Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>RECORDING/ MUSIC</u>
<u>7th April</u>	C Roberts	A Lucas	<u>A Tero</u>	T Reed
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>A Hortin</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	<i>P/Elms</i>
<u>14th April</u>	K Hough	A Glasgow	B Reed	M Little/ S Harris
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Wright</i>	<i>A Hortin</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	
<u>21st April</u>	C Ferry	W Dwyer	C Ferry	M Vertigan/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	
<u>28th April</u>	D Coxall	M Little	A Tero	W Dwyer/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	

Morning Tea, Lockyer only**7th April** *J Dunbar***14th April** *J Thompson***21st April** *S Wood***28th April** *M Hannington*

Please swap with someone if you are unable to take a turn, thanks to those willing to take part to help make services run smoothly.

BITS FROM BARKER: We were pleased to have our congregation increased by three people at the start of last month when Barbara & David Gray (members of our congregation before moving back to Guildford) and Rev Rob Douglas attended our service prior to a meeting of the Albany Regional Council at Lockyer. Otherwise not much to report, except that Pauleen attended the annual CWA Craft weekend recently, Anne & Tom Mackie now own a new hybrid car and Carolyn is still in Queensland. We continue to pray for Eileen, her grand-daughter and son, all of whom have health issues. Belated greetings to the members of the other congregations in the Region, we hope Easter was a safe, healthy and blessed time for all.

incursion, it was about the subversive influence of their god, Baal, on Hebrew people. Saul was in trouble because he brought 'booty' back from his victorious fight with Amalek. In doing so, he was potentially bringing the influence of Baal back with him.

The Hebrew people did begin to worship only one god (Yahweh) during exile in Babylon. Forced out of Judah and Jerusalem, the prophets encouraged the people to understand that Yahweh could be faithfully worshipped in Babylon or beyond – for there is only one God, not confined to place. Monotheism is a denial of God only having power in a particular place. In the West a growing number of people, perhaps the majority, find it impossible to believe in God. However, if belief is to be contemplated, there can only be one God, in whose likeness all people are to find unity. Your Zionist narrative is belief in a tribal God, the god of your tribe, whom you apparently believe advantages you at the expense of others. This belief is clearly causing enormous pain and devastation to others. Therefore, this narrative must be rejected by the world community. This tribal belief also conflicts with Christian faith, so you should not receive comfort from the American Christian conservative base.

From creation narratives onward, Hebrew scriptures struggle with competing claims of universality and particularity. In the 21st century we continue to struggle with these competing claims. We remain powerless to deal with major issues like climate change, global inequality, mass migration, refugees etc, because powerful particularities prevent outcomes for common good. Zionism is a particularity that has no place in the 21st century. Zionism is a denial of the most important promise to Abraham and any who would claim descendancy from him, i.e. chosen-ness only has meaning in as much as we become a source of blessing to others.

It appears you are wilfully ignorant of the writings of your prophets, particularly the 8th century prophets. They understood moral and ethical obligations of belief took priority over religious claim and practice. Also, 6th century prophets taught Hebrew faith was not

tied to place but could be practiced in Babylon and beyond. The true mark of monotheistic faith is not distinctive identity, but virtue inherent in that identity, which is a source of blessing to all with whom we share commonality despite our different identities.

You are not strengthening Israel's security but undermining it with such severity many now wonder if Israel has not written its own death warrant. How so?

First, any national or community identity must be based on a moral code, a set of values. It appears that those of you who currently lead Israel have no discernible moral code, other than the expansion of national identity at the expense of the identity, land, and culture of other people. A moral code is founded not on a diminished self, but on less attention paid to self. Individuals and nations grow and mature through relationships with others. The number of nations now prepared to clearly walk with Israel into the future has shrunk to very few.

Second, I cannot imagine what now defines the 'soul' of Israel. How can the country's young men and women live the rest of their lives with the scar of involvement in atrocities like the burial of children alive in the rubble of their homes? How will they deal with memories of the painful and disgraceful death of thousands of others through starvation?

Third, you are not defeating Hamas, you are creating Hamas with your hatred and loathing of young Palestinians and their supporters globally.

There is no place for tribalism in the 21st century. Judaism is not in and of itself tribal. It is a religious, cultural, and ethnic identity through which enormous individual contributions have been made to the global community.

The brand of Judaism you are supporting, or trying to create, leads to a pariah state.

The late Rabbi Lord Sacks was guest speaker at the 2008 Lambeth conference of Anglican Bishops in Canterbury, guest of his friend

that. (hence this is under Wesley Music News) Another major change is that rather than a total prohibition of liquor and tobacco consumption on the premises (which was unenforceable and has been ineffective,) hirers may now seek Council approval for liquor consumption under certain conditions. For example, if a yoga group are having an end-of-year break-up, they can share a glass of wine together without breaking the rules. In the same way, we have a newly-designated inconspicuous smoking area behind Lesser Hall where it is away from entry doors. We are preparing to have an ash tray installed to reduce the risk of fire in our normal bins, and signage to indicate the areas where smoking is, and not, allowed. That way we can follow the law and maintain a healthy environment while still showing that we genuinely welcome all people, regardless of their habits or lifestyle choices. All hirers have been informed, and as they start the new agreements, we have so far had no feedback on the changes.

Lastly, we look forward to hosting the annual Albany Eisteddfod at the Duke Street Complex. Education, including teaching, experience and exposure, is central to the goals of Wesley Music. We're very pleased that we can play a part in community events like this one. Look out for more information coming in May, including the Showcase Concert!

We wish you a lovely April, Seb Harris, Music Coordinator.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: My thanks to the faithful contributors to the magazine, Corina, Seb, Edith, Sue and Joan. Without being prompted, they have supplied interesting messages, news, rosters, and dates to be noted so that all I had to do was piece it all together. My apologies that the month is already well underway before you get to read this, which was unfair to Sue in particular, the first to send in her bits, then due to lack of space had some left out. I have been swamped with family, nearly missed the deadline, but have tried my best. I'm hoping for a better outcome in May. Clare Ferry

AUC Music News:

We had a wonderful Quiet Space on 30th March with Denmark's Shamara de Tissera and Friends. Various kinds of harps, a carefully prepared sacred choral, and vocal solos gave roughly 60 attendees' Easter Saturday, a special sparkle. We are so pleased this is gathering pace, although the cushions many of them brought with them, served as a reminder of Wesley's disadvantage, in comparison with other venues in town!

Following our first ensemble Quiet Space, on 27th April, we have Ross "Rosco" Dwyer, a jazz, rock and blues guitarist, also based in Denmark. Ross often plays in bands with David Rastrick, but has a rare sensitivity and an ability to move seamlessly between styles. He has toured across Australia and overseas, so we're getting the best musicians from the Region. Ross is very excited, as are many of our Artists, with the freedom he will have to try new things and bring his unique strengths to the fore – something he isn't always free to do elsewhere.

Looking further ahead: **25th May** – Tony King – acoustic guitar and vocals, but very different to Ross Dwyer!

29th June – Cancelled due to Albany Choral Society Concert.

While we miss out on The Quiet Space in June, it will be wonderful to have our regulars, Albany Choral Society mounting Gabriel Faure's "Requiem" with orchestra and soloists at Wesley. As far as we know this was last performed in Albany in 2014, when our dear friend, the late Margaret Gunson was still with us.

In "back office" business, Church Council approved a new agreement form for room hirers at the beginning of the year. While many of you won't notice a difference, it was a good achievement for us as it is now more modern, relevant, accurate and clear, to be more appealing to the community and demonstrate our values of acceptance, wisdom, innovation and respect. The prompt was several occasions when Patrick didn't have enough notice to tune the piano for events, and now we have an arrangement to cater for

Rowan Williams, then Archbishop of Canterbury. In a Qand A following his main address he was asked what he made of Jesus? His response was: 'what I make of Jesus is determined by what I make of *you* who claim to be his followers. At your best you have brought love to the whole world which we, even at our best have failed to do'. What are we to make of the Israel that is now created?" What would Jesus say? Maybe nothing. He would most likely just weep. Jerusalem, o Jerusalem... We live in hope for peace.

Blessings, Corina

LOCKYER NEWS: Autumn greetings to everyone! A drop of rain would be nice, I'm sure the farmers would welcome it. As we could see no way to restart Messy Church, representatives from Lockyer and Wesley met at Clare's home to discuss the dispersal of Messy Church assets. Ross has done a mighty job of sorting the cupboard in the Lockyer Hall and the little shed but we had to decide on what to do with the money we were left with. It was not a huge amount and those of us in attendance agreed to pass it on to the school chaplains, to help support their work in outlying schools. Thank-you Clare for the use of your home for occasional meetings and cups of tea.

Tenebrae was once again a very uplifting service with Anne and Corina leading us. Thank you both for a job well done.

Once again, we had a busy Easter with family and Jessica's 40th birthday. If you haven't been to a predominantly Italian birthday/afternoon tea, you haven't experienced a peak level of food or noise, both are there in abundance and we did enjoy ourselves. No meal was required that evening and it was nice to come home to peace and quiet. Fortunately, they think I'm too old to do a lot and I'm happy with that. Now it's nose to the grindstone.

God gives us children for a time, to train them in his way,

To love them and to show them how to follow and obey. -Spurgeon

Cheers for now, Joan.

PRAYER PROMPTS:

Please keep Ukraine in your prayers as well as the Gaza strip especially the children living in these war zones. Not only are they losing loved family members, they have no peace or opportunity to have good medical care, schooling and food. As more and more Palestine children die of starvation pray that more provisions get to them and more care shown by the Israeli army following the missile strike, killing 7 innocent people when they were doing their best to distribute food in spite of the dangerous conditions. Pray that the remaining Israeli hostages still alive, are set free. Man's inhumanity to man has never been more obvious.

My thanks for prayers for myself – my pain is more or less under reasonable control at present so I am planning to run our fundraisers as usual, with my grateful thanks to Cam McKechnie's help, with loading and unloading my car. Don't forget the next **Bargain Bonanza** on Sunday 14th April. Please get goods to me before Friday 12th April.

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS: Thank you to all who have donated goods and money to me recently – you are a marvellous bunch, making my job that much easier! It is also easier now that we are only doing 150 boxes this year, which means 25 less for each age group.

The present list of needs is as follows: tennis balls and the small knitted balls, marbles, hair elastics (Spencer Park Cash & Carry store sell 48 for \$4), soap (Coles & Woolies own-brand packs of 8 are cheapest) toothbrushes, jewellery and small toys (dinky cars, yoyos skipping ropes, etc). We have enough undies now and also stationery items, thanks to all who have supplied those. Esma is still sewing the big bags with handles for us and Margaret and others continue to knit little teddies and other toys! I have received a thank you certificate form Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeal which I share with all of you! (providing it fits in the magazine)

God bless all, Edith



Certificate of Participation

Albany Uniting Church

Participant's Name

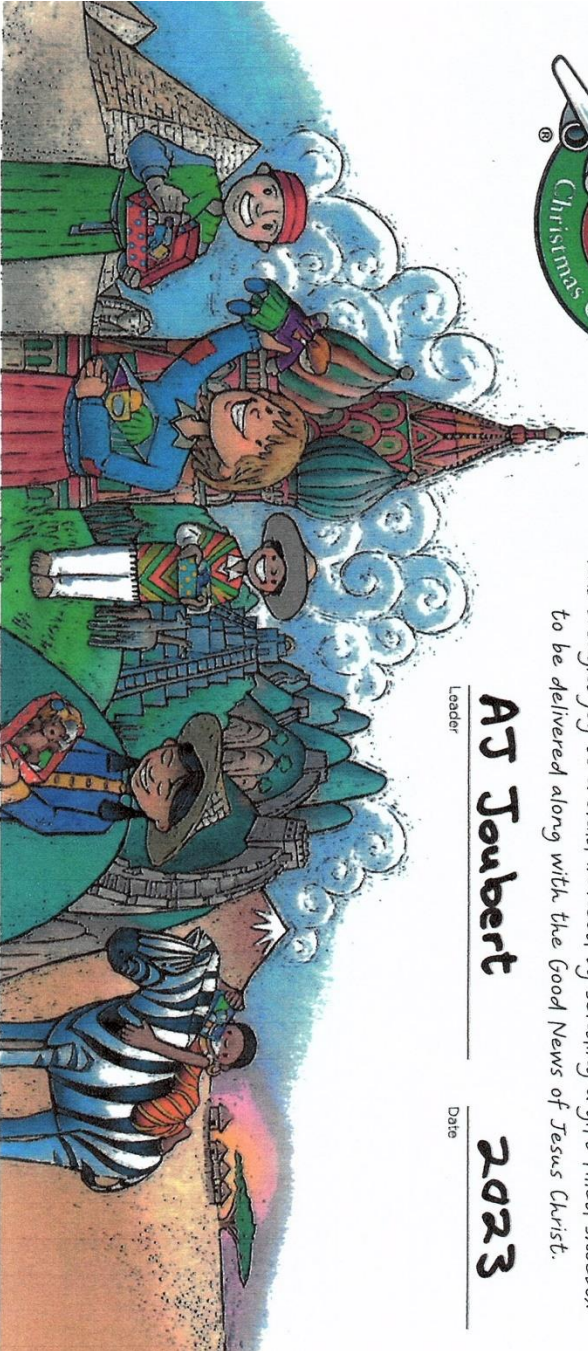
has brought joy to a child in need by sending a gift filled shoebox to be delivered along with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

AJ Joubert

Leader

2023

Date



"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'" Matthew 19:14, NKJV