

## DECEMBER PREACHING PLAN

### Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Advent 1

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Jeremiah 33:14 - 16
9.30 Denmark	G Wilson	Psalm 25: 1 - 10
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	1 Thessalonians 3: 9 - 13
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 21: 25 - 36

### Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Advent 2

8.30 Lockyer	E Burns	Malachi 3: 1 - 4
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Luke 1: 68 - 79
10.00 AUC	E Burns	Philippians 1: 3 - 11
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Luke 3: 1 - 6

### Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Advent 3

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Zephaniah 3: 14 - 20
9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Isaiah 12: 2 - 6
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Philippians 4: 4 - 7
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 3: 7 - 18

### Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Advent 4

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Micah 5: 2 - 5a
9.30 Denmark	D Laffin	Luke 1: 46b - 55
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	or Psalm 80: 1 - 7
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Hebrews 10: 5 - 10
		Luke 1: 39 - 45 (46 - 55)

### Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Isaiah 52: 7 - 10
<b>10.00 AUC &amp; Lockyer</b>	Rev Corina	Psalm 98
<b>Combined at Wesley, Duke St</b>		Hebrews 1: 1 - 4, (5 - 12)
Mt Barker at Anglican or Baptist Church		John 1: 1 - 14

### Dec 29<sup>th</sup> Christmas 1

8.30 Lockyer	R Anderson	1 Samuel 2: 18 - 20, 26
9.30 Denmark	M Cranny	Psalm 148
10.00 AUC	R Anderson	Colossians 3: 12 - 17
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 2: 41 - 52



*THE ARC MONTHLY*

*ALBANY REGION  
CONGREGATIONS*

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



*DECEMBER 2024*

## *ADVENT*



*Lord, we ask you to grant us hope, peace, joy and love in our homes, in our churches and in our hearts, while the world around us spins out of control. Help us to stay focused on You this Advent season, and always. Amen*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE:**

Last month I wrote about two myths, or misunderstandings, about Christianity. Since this is the month in which we Christians celebrate Christmas and Jewish people Hanukkah, this time I will share another myth, from the book I mentioned in November.

Many people think that Christmas means the same for Christians as Hanukkah does for people of the Jewish faith. You can google 'Chrismukkah' and get answers and images like this one, in which the menorah and Santa's hat are combined. The holidays are presented as interchangeable. They are not. The celebrations do



fall in roughly the same timeframe. Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, runs for eight days, beginning on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month Kislev in the Jewish calendar. This year the Festival happens to begin on Christmas Day, and it will end on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025. A menorah with seven candle holders was used in the temple in ancient Jerusalem. It



is prohibited to use a menorah like this outside the temple. Therefore, the menorah used at Hanukkah has nine branches with candles – one for each night of the Festival and the ninth, the centre candle, to light the others.

Both holidays, Christmas and Hanukkah, involve light, like other religious traditions which began in the northern hemisphere in the darkest part of the year. Hanukkah and Christmas are both social events as well, with special food and songs. Gift-giving is part of Christmas, and in the USA, gifts are given – especially to children – at Hanukkah as well. This is a recent development, to prevent Jewish children from feeling disappointed about not being like the other children... The merging of Christmas and Chanukkah may be a positive thing, from the point of view of social relations, in particular bearing in mind the horrible legacy and persistent existence of anti-Semitism. However, the two traditions are different, and these differences need to be respected.

**DIARY DATES**

**FRI 13<sup>th</sup> DEC** } SCOTS MART at CWA Hall, Serpentine Rd 9am – 3pm  
Come along and say hello, solve some of your  
Christmas gift needs and enjoy morning tea or lunch.

All groups now in recess until February 2025

**SAT 28<sup>th</sup> DEC** THE QUIET SPACE, Wesley Church, Duke St, 2 – 3pm  
Music provided by Patrick Elms

**2025**

**FRI 10<sup>th</sup> JAN** SCOTS MART at CWA Hall Serpentine Rd, 9am – 3pm

**THUR 16<sup>th</sup> JAN** AUC COUNCIL MEETING Lesser Hall, Duke St, 3pm

**SAT 25<sup>th</sup> JAN** THE QUIET SPACE, Wesley Church, Duke St, 2 – 3pm

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**Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:****AUC: RECORDING/**

	<b><u>DOOR</u></b>	<b><u>READING</u></b>	<b><u>FLOWERS</u></b>	<b><u>MUSIC</u></b>
<b><u>Dec 1<sup>st</sup></u></b>	C Ferry	S Harris	C Ferry	J Pell/
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>A Hortin</i>	J Dunbar	P Elms
<b><u>Dec 8<sup>th</sup></u></b>	A Gunther	A Lucas	M Gunther	M Little/
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Ahern</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	J Thompson	P Elms
<b><u>Dec 15<sup>th</sup></u></b>	C Ferry	M Vertigan	A Tero	M Vertigan/
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	S Harris
<b><u>Dec 22<sup>nd</sup></u></b>	D Hockey	E Verran	C Ferry	M Little/
<i>Lockyer</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>J Ahern</i>	P Elms
<b><u>Dec 25<sup>th</sup></u></b>	?	S Harris?	?	S Harris
<b><u>Dec 29<sup>th</sup></u></b>	D Coxall	M Little	A Tero	
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>A Hortin</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	/P Elms

**MORNING TEA** *Lockyer only*

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>** *J Ahern*      **Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** *J Thompson*      **Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** *M Hannington*  
**Dec 29<sup>th</sup>** *J Dunbar*

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**The joy of unselfish giving:**

Time is not measured by the years that you live, but by the deeds that you do and the joy that you give.

Each day as it comes brings a chance to each one, to love to the fullest, leaving nothing undone that would brighten the life, or lighten the load of some weary traveller, lost on life's road.

So, what does it matter how long we may live, if as long as we live, we unselfishly give.

Submitted by Doug Coxall

Christmas –on the one hand – is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the human baby, who embodied God more than any other human has ever done. It is one of the two most important days in the Christian calendar, the second being Easter, when Christians celebrate the resurrection. Hanukkah, on the other hand, is a minor Jewish holiday, not one of the seven Biblical holidays God gave to Israel through Moses (see Leviticus 23). Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees (Jewish fighters) over their oppressors, the Greek/Assyrian Empire, in 167 BCE. The Temple was rededicated after this event, and this too is remembered during the Festival of Lights.

The second difference between the two celebrations is that we learn about the birth of Jesus in the New Testament, but the revolt of the Maccabees and the rededication of the temple are not mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures, simply because these events happened almost two centuries after the 'Old Testament' was completed. Most importantly, there is an ideological clash between what Christmas and Hanukkah are about. Christmas celebrates the birth of a Jewish man who became known as the founder of a religious tradition that started out Jewish. Over time, the tradition developed into a separate religion, becoming the official state religion of the Roman Empire, which persecuted Jewish people.

Hanukkah celebrates the refusal of Jewish people to assimilate into the culture of the predecessors of the Romans, the Greek Syrian Empire, even at the cost of their own lives. The candles on the menorah represent the eight days that the lamp stayed lit during the rededication of the Temple after the Maccabean Jews recaptured it from the forces who had defiled it, and who had killed Jewish people who refused to worship Greek gods. So, Hanukkah represents the struggle of Jews to remain faithful to their God and tradition, rather than practice another religion. Mixing the celebration of Hanukkah with the celebration of another religion – any other religion – makes little sense

The Hanukkah candles are lit and displayed in the window, to show the world that people are proud to be Jewish, Jewish people celebrate who they are. In spite of thousands of years of persecution and hatred, Jewish people are still alive today and living out their faith and traditions.

These days, with the terrible violence going on in Gaza, Israel, the Occupied Territories, and the wider region, it can be difficult to remember that this is not a religious conflict. The war is not about Jews against Muslims or others, but about a nation fighting real, as well as perceived threats to its future existence. Please pray for the region, as well as for the people who use this war to spread anti-Semitic sentiments. We are called to love our neighbour, even if our neighbour seems to be an enemy.

Merry Christmas everyone! Corina

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**BITS FROM BARKER:** November is passing by quietly, it is hard to realise that Christmas will soon be upon us We were pleased to welcome a young mother and her two young children on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec which was Corina’s day to lead our monthly Communion Service. It was nice to have some young faces among us. Nita and I continue to hold a Communion Service at Overton Aged Care each month.

We will attend either the Baptist or Anglican Church on Christmas Day, which is what we have done for a number of years. As this is the last magazine for 2024, we would like to wish everyone a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year. Sue Wilson

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**LOCKYER NEWS:**

Lockyer news is not good news, it is 6 months since Joan had her fall and any progress she makes towards recovery is very slow. The Thursday bible studies have continued in spite of the falling numbers at Sunday services, although they are now in recess until February 2025. The monthly roster is a guide only, yet the jobs get done and

country with strong laws that safeguard our heritage, so that the key aspects of this landmark – which on the Albany Wikipedia website is listed as one of the main heritage features – can be preserved for generations to come.

Please note everyone, Shamara de Tissera has become unavailable for 30<sup>th</sup> November Quiet Space after all, so I (Seb) will fill in. Forgive me if it's a bit of "catch as catch can"...

And as we move towards Christmas, I'm sure we're all looking forward to the joy of carols and other Christmas music. I know the Choral Society will have music for their own (private) Christmas wind-up... maybe now's the time to join!

Speaking of Christmas, if you were looking forward to hearing Shamara again, Swanharp and Adam James Cook will present Nine Lessons and Carols at Wesley on 20<sup>th</sup> December 7pm – 9pm then at Denmark Civic Centre on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 7-9pm. Please see the below link for details, or scan the QR code if that's your thing. You can also contact [swanharp@protonmail.com](mailto:swanharp@protonmail.com). Early bird ticket rates apply until 30<sup>th</sup> November, plus family, child and concession rates (too many to list here)



**Wesley Church Albany, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 7-9pm**  
<https://tinyurl.com/4ytdn4zv>



<https://tinyurl.com/37zsy59s>

**Denmark Civic Centre, Saturday 21 December 7-9pm**

NB: This event is not organised by Albany Uniting Church and we do not have further information.

Finally, note that The Quiet Space on 28<sup>th</sup> December is with none other than the musical paragon and pillar of so much of our music, -- Patrick. I'll be there, and I hope you will too. Thanks everyone! Seb



manufacture, assemble and pack the wheelchairs before they are dispatched worldwide. Supported by generous donors, long time partners and suppliers, WFKA has distributed over 60,000 wheelchairs to children in more than 90 countries, bringing hope, smiles, and brighter futures to children living with disabilities.

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A brief reminder: I need some cards to make the little picture books for next year's boxes and I still collect egg cartons for Foodbank. Finally, I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. God bless, Edith

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**Music News – December 2024**

Grant application update: We have received a response from the Uniting Church in WA Synod's Future Mission Resourcing Committee, who considered our application for funding for our Wesley Music Feasibility Study. Unfortunately, it was not successful and in its current form our initiative will not meet their criteria to proceed to the next steps. We're now considering where to go next, if we continue with it.

Many of you would also know that Scots Church on York Street was recently listed for sale, with offers closing in November. This has been a big decision for all of us to come to terms with and we have had to take care with each other, to think through what it means to each of us, and every wonderful thing that happened there, not least the music. This month I learned a lot about its history thanks to those who know more about it than I. The work of Cor Storm with arranging for the organ, and all the musical action our community has seen in this venue, including the organ. I can remember so many beautiful events there even in my short years in Albany. I'm sure you'll all join me in treasuring your own memories of Christian and musical life there. While our faith is in God, we still appreciate the material gifts that allow us to live that faith and serve the community, as Jesus did. I'm so grateful that we live in a stable

no-one complains. Over the next month, I sincerely hope that the messages of Advent – hope, peace, joy and love – find their way into the hearts and minds of all members of all the congregations in the Albany Region and that the challenges of 2025 are met with optimism, good cheer and a willingness to reach out to one another, however and whenever we can. Clare

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### **How to tell you are growing older:**

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.

You feel like the night before and you haven't been anywhere.

Your children begin to look middle aged.

You get out of breath playing chess.

Your mind makes contracts which your body cannot meet.

Your back goes out more than you do.

You know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.

You look forward to a dull and quiet evening.

Your favourite part of the newspaper is "Fifty Years Ago Today."

Grandchildren take much delight in becoming taller than you, some are only 10.

Things that were in your hand minutes ago disappear after you put them down.

You give thanks that you don't need a pin number to operate your microwave or any other appliance, remembering one for your bankcard is hard enough.

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In spite of the frustrations of growing older, there is still much to be thankful for such as the treasure chest of memories built up over the years, a hug and a grin from those tall grandchildren, and as Barbara Lister has done for an ever-increasing number of years, being thankful as she greets each new day with a sense of joy and wonder at what that day will bring. Be gracious when help is offered, be mindful that the Lord walks with you, wrinkles only indicate where the smiles have been. Best wishes For Christmas and the New Year, Clare Ferry

**PRAYER PROMPTS:** Requests are similar to last month but please keep Allan & Judy in your prayers as they face further treatment and please pray for the well-being of Ruth & Doug Coxall, Garth Roberts, and Joan Wright. Continue also to pray for the safe delivery of the shoeboxes, and pray for peace in this troubled world.

**SHOEBOX SNIPPETS:** Thanks to all those who donated items for our final Bargain Bonanza stall on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. We did very well, raising \$432.80. Thank you, Jeff & Sandra for bringing me last Sunday's Bulletin, it was greatly appreciated. I will continue to take a few items to the CWA stall but for now I look forward to clearing out my garage, sorting out what is fit for other op shops etc. Someone is interested in taking some card tables, I will keep the nice ones to use when we pack next year's boxes. I must own that I am glad to be finished with the Bargain Bonanzas as I was up at 2.30am to get our good spot and I have been very weary since last Sunday's effort. I've greatly appreciated the help given to man the stalls, Dot (who was also up at 2.30am), Lyn, & Kath on Sunday, and also Wendy, Antonia and Alistair who have helped in the past. Cam McKechnie deserves special thanks. He packs and unpacks for me and I rely strongly on him because of my spine. We are hoping that someone in the CWA may take on the project, even in a small way, and use up any items left after we finish packing our boxes for the last time in 2025. Otherwise, I will pack up any leftovers and send them to the Perth warehouse along with our 150 filled boxes. They will be very useful as "fillers" so anything donated will still be used as planned. With your help, we are very hopeful of meeting our target of 150 boxes in 2025. My personal plan for now is to continue with the Scots Mart. I have a lot of friends there and it will get me out of the house. I will continue to sell my biscuits, donating proceeds to Samaritan's Purse, at most Bargain Bonanza stalls they made up to \$100. The Marts are pretty slow at present, of course we don't have the passing traffic now, but the meals are doing very well as some of the businesses

have discovered us and come for lunch.

As I continue to collect rugs and medium sized fluffy toys for Wheelchairs for Kids, I thought you might be interested in some facts and figures from the local co-ordinator who rang me a few days ago. We have sent 286 rugs this quarter, 780 for the whole year and 1940 over the past 3 years – a terrific support for this voluntary organisation. The following is an article from the Wheelchairs for Kids magazine

### **60,000 Life changing Moments**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Wheelchairs for Kids celebrated the production of the 60,000<sup>th</sup> wheel chair. We reflected on all the lives that have been positively impacted since WFKA started in 1998. WA Premier Roger Cook MLA, our Patron Graham Edwards AM, dedicated volunteers and honoured guests joined in celebrating this significant milestone, but let's look back at how the journey began. Established in 1998, WFKA started after Queensland Rotarian Des LaRance visited Fiji and saw the urgent need to help children living with disabilities. Initially, wheelchairs were made using old bicycle parts and plywood. Realising the need for a more efficient solution, the Rotary Club of Scarborough sought the expertise of Brother Olly Pickett, who at the time ran a steel workshop for youth who had left the mainstream schooling. Br Olly Pickett with the help of Bob Sheridan and Beppie de Kuyer, designed and manufactured a more practical wheelchair using readily available materials. The first batch of 20 wheelchairs was sent to Fiji, laying the foundation for WFKA. Today, WFKA operates with the support of over 250 factory volunteers, alongside countless others who sew accessories or knit blankets. Occupational Therapists assist in fitting wheelchairs to meet the unique needs of each child. Central to this is "The Adjusta" wheelchair. Designed in 2010, it is the 9<sup>th</sup> Model, designed by a team of volunteers who followed the guidelines of the World Health Organisation. This all-terrain wheelchair is fully customisable to each child's specific needs. Volunteers, predominately retirees,