

NOVEMBER PREACHING PLAN

Nov 3rd

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Ruth 1: 1 - 18
9.30 Denmark	G Wilson	Psalm 146
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	Hebrews 9: 11 - 14
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Mark 12: 28 - 34

Nov 10th

8.30 Lockyer	R Anderson	Ruth 3: 1 - 5, 4: 13- 17
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalm 127
10.00 AUC	R Anderson	Hebrews 9: 24 - 28
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Mark 12: 38 - 44

Nov 17th

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	1 Samuel 1: 4 - 20
9.30 Denmark	A Hortin	1 Samuel 2: 1 - 10
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Hebrews 10: 11 -14, 19 - 25
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Mark 13: 1 - 8

Nov 24th

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	2 Samuel 23: 1 - 7
9.30 Denmark	T Ayres	Psalm 132: 1 - 12 (13 - 18)
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Revelations 1: 4b - 8
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	John 18: 33 - 37



THE ARC MONTHLY

ALBANY REGION CONGREGATIONS

Lockyer, Albany Uniting Church,
Mt Barker, Denmark



NOVEMBER 2024

Silent Things

*In days of strife and turmoil we do well
to remember the beauty of silent things.*



*The glory of a sunrise,
the wonder of the stars,
clouds floating high,
colour, perfume,*



the unfolding of a flower



*the glow of a sunset,
moonlight-silvery- serene,*



*feathery flakes of snow,
the smile of a loved one.*



*Remember, and give thanks to the God of creation,
whose words in the psalms bids us
“Be still and know that I am God.”*

Message from the Manse: Myths about Religion

John Morreall and Tamara Sonn wrote a book with the intriguing title 'Fifty great myths about religions.' It had been waiting to be read on a shelf for some time, but I made time and read it. Some 'myths' are more misunderstandings or misinterpretations than 'myths', but all issues explored are interesting. I would like to share two of the topics in the book about our own religion, Christianity. Some, maybe many, Christians believe that the Bible says that 'when we die, our souls go to heaven or hell'. It may come as a surprise, but neither the Hebrew Scriptures, nor the New Testament mentions the soul when death is described. None of the Biblical writers thought of the soul as immortal – as unable to die. The words translated as 'soul' or 'spirit' in both Hebrew and Greek mean air, wind and breath. The biblical authors did not think of soul or spirit as something not physical. In ancient times 'spirit' was believed to be a fine, very high grade of matter, like what we now call a gas. A living person breathes, a dead person does not. The conclusion in antiquity was that breath, spirit, soul are what gives life. When breathing ends, at the time of death, breath comes to an end just as the body does. Breath, spirit, soul are not immortal. The Biblical authors describe dead people, but never as going somewhere, and certainly not to heaven to be with God. Some Biblical writers say the dead are "asleep in the dust". Check Ecclesiastes 9:2-6, or the Psalms, or Job. Death is understood as the permanent destruction of the person. Genesis 2:19 tells us, 'You are dust, and to dust you shall return'. Two prophetic visions offer some hope that death may be reversed one day: Isaiah 26 reads, "O dwellers in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a radiant dew, and the earth will give birth to those long dead." In Daniel Chapter 12, we are given a vision about the end of the world and a future resurrection. Jesus believed that death would be reversed at the end of the world, and God would reward or punish the resurrected people. Yet, there is nowhere a mention of souls

DIARY DATES

- TUES 12th NOV** LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12noon
AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 12.30pm for lunch.
All welcome, the last get-together for 2024
- FRI 15th NOV** AUC COUNCIL MEETING, Lesser Hall Wesley, 4pm
- SUN 17th NOV** BARGAIN BONANZA fund-raiser. More goods to sell
are needed. Please get them to Edith by Friday 15th
she will pick up if necessary. This is the final stall for
the shoebox group
- THUR 21st NOV** FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea, 10am, Vancouver Café,
ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947
Last get-together for 2024
- SAT 30th NOV** THE QUIET SPACE with Shamara de Tissera
- FRI 13th DEC** SCOTS MART at CWA Hall, Serpentine Rd, 9am-3pm.
Come along, enjoy morning tea or a light lunch and
catch up with us all.

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
PRAYER COORDINATOR	Heather Bailey	0428 936 824
AUC OFFICE	Open Hours: Tues – Thurs 8.45 – 12.45pm	
	Phone 0472 732 441	
	Email : arc@ucwa.au	
	Address PO Box 5170 Albany WA 6330	
MAGAZINE	ferry@omninet.net.au	

first of three stages. We hope to be allowed to progress this and get funds to take our vision to the next level. We sincerely thank local musician and strategy professional Susan Kay for her help with this.

Please note everyone, the Albany Choral Society concert that was originally planned for November 30th has been cancelled, so we have reinstated The Quiet Space with Shamara de Tissera instead. She has said she intends to play harps, but being so multitalented who knows what else we'll hear...

Thanks everyone, Seb

Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:

AUC: RECORDING/

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>MUSIC</u>
<u>3rd Nov</u>	C Roberts	W Dwyer	A Tero	J Pell/
<i>Lockyer</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>J Ahern</i>	P Elms
<u>10th Nov</u>	A Gunther	A Tero	M Gunther	W Dwyer/
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	S Harris
<u>17th Nov</u>	D Hosking	C Ferry	C Ferry	M Vertigan/
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	P Elms
<u>24th Nov</u>	D Coxall	E Verran	A Tero	M Little/
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>A Hortin</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	P Elms

Morning Tea, Lockyer only

3rd Nov *J Dunbar* **10th Nov** *J Thompson*
17th Nov *S Wood* **24th Nov** *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.

With a heart full of love, you will express your highest potential, while also fulfilling your soul's deepest purpose: to love and be loved. Anon

existing separate from the body. To Jewish people, including Jesus, soul, spirit, breath gives life to the body, and no one thought that a soul could travel to heaven where it would count as a person's being in heaven. This idea crept into Christianity in the first four centuries AD, when Greek philosophy gained more influence, especially the thinking of Plato. He taught that human beings were made up of two parts, the essential part, the soul, spirit, or mind, and the body, the non-essential part. The body was destroyed at death, but the human being would live on because the soul lives on. In the fourth century Augustine of Hippo said things that would have astounded Jesus, such as "a human being is a rational soul using a mortal and earthly body". In due course the idea that immortal souls go to heaven (or hell) was widely accepted. All Saints Day (November 1st) and All Souls Day (November 2nd) were celebrated around 1000 AD by some Christians. Both these days involve thinking of souls as if they are equivalent to persons. Both celebrations assume that the dead are somehow alive in heaven and purgatory. The ancient authors of the Bible would have been surprised by these ideas. They thought of the dead as 'asleep in the dust', not as souls which were transported to heaven or hell.

Many Christians today believe that Jesus preached family values. The Family First Party in Australia bases its policies on this idea. Family First, and Christians following the same ideas, are associated with e.g. anti LGBTQIa+ issues, anti-pre-marital sex and anti-abortion. These are 'family values' of our day. Jesus said very little about any of these matters, in fact hardly even mentioned the nuclear family, the modern family institution we refer to now. In first century Palestine, a person's descendants and their ancestors determined who they were. Every adult was expected to marry and to have children. The way of life Jesus taught was also very different from the modern nuclear family. Today, one or both parents work in full time jobs, but there is no evidence that Jesus ever had a job at all. The family life valued by Christians today is in a stable home,

ideally a house they own. The gospels don't tell us that as an adult, Jesus had a home, he had no place to rest his head... This lack of a job or a home is not described as his personal choice of lifestyle. Rather, he advocated poverty for his own followers too. In Luke we read "Blessed are the poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God". The word used there is not the word for poor peasants, but rather the word for destitute beggars. Jesus' focus is on economic and social conditions. Nowhere in the New Testament are we told that Jesus promoted stable families. "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, even life itself, cannot be my disciple." What about, "let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God"? There are other examples of Jesus attacking family values, quite a few, actually. Put God and the kingdom before family, is the core message here.

Jesus associated with all people. Nothing is said about the sexual orientation of these people. Jewish society in his time did not widely accept gay and lesbian people, but neither were they particularly welcoming to Samaritans, people with skin diseases, Roman soldiers, or independent women. Jesus reached out to all of these people, treating every man, woman and child as valuable and worthy of love. There is no reason to believe that he would support today's 'family values' way of thinking, which excludes groups of people on the basis of misunderstanding his teaching as related in the Gospels.

Blessings, Corina

Peace -Maker Blessing

May peace reign in your heart, as you endeavour to be a peace-maker and life-giver. Spread peace wherever you are. Centred in calm, and mindfully present, may you maintain an internal quietness, surround those near you with the light of peace, seek to build bridges of harmonious connections, trust that love can hold anyone, no matter what the circumstances. Shaun Dowling-Horgan

As it happens, as I write this the Albany Choral Society is preparing for a concert with Darlington String Quartet at Wesley, which I'm sure will be great (albeit too late to let you all know, sorry!). Albany Sinfonia will also present a concert "Alpine and Verdant" conducted by Adam James Cook (yes, the same one) with music by Sibelius, Grieg and Schubert. The concerts will be at 7:30pm Friday 15th and 2:00pm Saturday 16th November at Wesley. I can tell you I and many of our regular musicians are in it!). Please see the website paperbarks.com.au or visit Paperbark Merchants bookshop on York St for more details, as we are only involved as the venue managers and not in organising.

I did receive criticism recently, that we had not shared the details of a concert held at Wesley. It's important to note two things about this. Even though it is our venue, hirers often simply make their booking, then handle all other details independently. We do not currently impose non-property-related obligations on them, such as sharing their event details etc. Unless we are presenting the event ourselves, we don't have that level of control. We hope you can all understand (and help others understand) that we do our best to support others, but have limits on what we can control. We wish we could share much more information than we currently can!

Further to that, you may also know that Wesley Music is not a legally-constituted organization – it exists only as an initiative within Albany Uniting Church. While we have made changes to support the goals such as Patrick's wonderful instrument work, adapting floors to suit performance etc, all of these are still under the AUC umbrella. In fact, we even have limited control over the room booking process, venue use and other aspects. However, this could change: We have submitted an application to UCWA's Future Mission Fund to conduct a study on whether we could develop it from an informal initiative to a fully-fledged organisation, and make much more of a difference on the community. It was a lot of work to prepare this application and it will be considered on 11th November in Perth, but note it is only the

Wesley Music News – November 2024 So much to tell you this time!

For my own reasons I can barely remember October, but The Quiet Space in September was just wonderful. David Rastrick played solely brass instruments, with a flugelhorn, special kind of trumpet (I can't remember the exact name, let's call it a special trumpet or strumpet for short) and finally a surprise conch shell. With his cheeks of steel he let forth a haunting series of tunes, improvising exquisitely and seamlessly. Our monthly time to settle and still our minds was very welcome, as we have seen such turmoil in the world and needed it. We also had the three Burgess daughters Jean, Lily and Amelia (forgive me if I've spelled those wrong!) play for our service on 14 October. For those who don't know them they're members of our congregation and skilled classical guitarists, who played three lovely contrasting pieces to complement our service. While impractical to have them play hymns it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear them play like that. Their mother Carmen, who – apart from raising these three wonderful girls - kindly helped us make the arrangements, was pleased and has every right to be proud of them. In fact, we've since decided to ask them to play at The Quiet Space on 26th January. Being students, I'll work with Carmen and the girls to help them form a suitable playlist and prepare for what sounds like is their first paid performance. Helping students' development is a cornerstone goal of Wesley Music, and this includes building confidence, stage skills, performance opportunities and leadership. I'm looking forward to it.

October was yours truly, and apart from piano, voice, organ and offstage bassoon, I dusted off my accordion for the first time, and to celebrate Barbara Lister's joyful 105th birthday I played her autoharp. I was surprised how easy it was to find songs that would suit it, and I think others were as thrilled as I was that she joined us on the day. Singing a song in public with it was a challenge she set me – and just like when I forgot parts of my own compositions when I was playing them, I think I got away with it!

BARKER BITS: Not much change to report on besides the satisfaction of having the necessary work on the manse completed. We manage to maintain much the same numbers in attendance each week, Dudley has attended our service recently and a couple spending time at the local caravan park during a break from the city visited one Sunday. We enjoyed having Ross preach last Sunday. His wife Shirley and Anne Tero came with him and it was lovely to catch up with them all over lunch after the service. Blessings, Sue Wilson

LOCKYER NEWS: I was most dismayed when I phoned Joan today to learn that she is in hospital. She had visitors with her plus staff running in and out so we were unable to have much of a chat. Anne Hortin then kindly filled me in on Lockyer's news, the main items being the sadness at the passing of Margaret Pinchback, who dates back many, many years as a faithful member of the congregation, and the anxiety concerning the future of Lockyer as numbers continue to fall and those who do attend regularly are finding the early service time difficult, particularly in the winter months. After much thought and discussion, they have decided to continue as they are for the time being. I have always found the Lockyer people a friendly lot who really look out for one another and step up without a fuss to help out if something needs doing or fixing. I do wish them well and hope a solution can be found that all can embrace. Clare

PRAYER PROMPTS: Please keep Allan & Judy McKechnie in your prayers as neither are doing so well at present. Remember too Garth & Colleen Roberts, Margaret Youngs, Elizabeth Burns, Joan Wright and Doug & Ruth Coxall. It was good to see Doug on his feet again and back at church on Sunday. Include in your prayers those who have lost loved ones recently to age or illness, particularly the Pinchback family and John Archer. Please also be aware of how ex-Scots members feel as they come to terms with Scots Church up for sale. Some have 70+ years of memories of worshipping there. Edith

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS: Sunday 17th November will be our final Bargain Bonanza fund-raiser so please look out for saleable items for us as it will be your last chance to pass them on. As mentioned in last month's notes we will still be packing 150 boxes in 2025 but will rely on what we have already put aside for next year, plus donations to make up the shortfall in what we need. I have done an inventory of what we have and what we still need to fill 150 boxes and the list is as follows:

Large coloured pencils- we need 7 packs of 30, that is 210 pencils in all. We have enough small coloured pencils and HB pencils.

Coloured biros – we have enough blue and black ones but we like to include a coloured one as well.

10 Pencil sharpeners.

Marbles -we need 700 (7 packs of 100)

Tennis balls – we need 80, the best buy is at K mart.

We have enough knitted balls.

Exercise books – we need 150 the best buy is usually at Office Works at the beginning of the year when they are around 20c each. They also sell the pads we need for the 2-4 years-old. We need 25 pads.

Tooth Brushes – we have quite a lot already but as we are no longer allowed to include soap, we will probably double up with tooth brushes, wrapping them in hankies and face washers which Wendy sews for us. We will divide up whatever the number we have when it comes to packing the boxes as apparently the children are happy to share with their families.

Undies- we will still try to put two pairs in each box and the best buy is still at K Mart at end of rows with 7pairs@\$5.50. The sizes needed are 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 for boys and girls.

We don't need pencil cases and only need 50 large bags with handles which we hope Esma will sew for us.

We still need small toys – dinkies, skipping ropes etc, Keith's small wooden toys for 2-4s, and some jewellery. We have enough marble and jewellery bags. Please keep this list handy!

As some of the boxes from WA go to Cambodia, I have included an article on the work Samaritan's Purse do there to improve the schooling the children receive.

Last year, Samaritan's Purse Australia and New Zealand constructed three schools in Cambodia as part of their School For Kids project, totalling 46 schools that have now been built over the past decade. These additional schools will provide a further 1,072 children access to quality, safe, classrooms and school environments and offer them an education to break the cycle of poverty. "I'm so excited to have a newly renovated school, the classroom, feels safe and looks new. I'm happy to study here," said Nisa, smiling broadly. Nisa is 12 years old and lives with her aunt in Banteay Meanchey province. She has one older brother, her father works as a cook, and her mother works in a garment factory in Phnom Penh. Nisa is a grade 3 student, attending the Kecheay Primary School. She wants to be a teacher when she grows up so that the next generation would become knowledgeable, with good jobs and high income. When she started going to school, she was really scared because her school building had many cracks in the walls and floor, and everyone feared that it could fall on the children. It became a big concern for the whole community who requested the government to fix the building. No answer was received. Samaritan's Purse, through the SFK project, renovated the whole school building by fixing the foundation, repairing the walls and slap floor, building a new ramp for students with disabilities, and repainting the infrastructure to make the school look like new. "I've been scared of the damaged building for more than two years. Now I have a new building. I'm so excited and feel really safe being in the classroom, it makes me even happier to learn. I will help to take care of this building. Thanks to Samaritan's Purse and staff for renovating my school" said Nisa.

God Bless, Edith

