



## Regional Directory

**Minister: Rev Corina van Oostende 0417 169 544**

<b>Secretaries:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>
ARC	Sue Wilson	9851 4450
Lockyer	Anne Hortin	0428 752 325
Denmark	Margaret Cocks	0428 608 620
Mt Barker	Sue Wilson	0437 184 692
AUC	Elizabeth Burns	9842 2636

<b>Pastoral Carers:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Lockyer	Joan Wright	0429 413 759
Denmark	Margaret Cocks	0428 608 620
Mt Barker	Sue Wilson	0437 184 692
AUC	Edith Verran	9841 2729

**Prayer Coordinator:** Heather Bailey 0428 936 824  
**Juniper:** 11 Townsend Street, Lockyer 1300 313 000

## Contact Us

**AUC/ARC Office:** 12 Duke Street, Albany

**Postal Address:** PO Box 5170, Albany WA 6330

**Phone:** 0472 732 441

**Email:** [arc@ucwa.au](mailto:arc@ucwa.au)

**Office Hours:** Tues-Thurs, 8.45 am - 12.45 pm



Uniting Church in Australia  
Albany Region Congregations



## Welcome to our service.

Duke St Church morning tea is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, Denmark Uniting Church & Lockyer have morning tea after their Service.

**2 February 2025.**



## Supernatural?

Religion is sometimes defined as 'service and worship of God or the supernatural.' God, miracles, angels, and demons are seen as 'supernatural'. The Latin word *super* means 'above', so supernatural reality is above the natural reality. Science explains the natural, and not everything can be explained by science. So, many people believe that there are two worlds. The natural and the supernatural. This may work for some Christian believers, but it would not work for any Christians before 1600, when modern science was born. Until then, 'supernatural' meant someone acting in a way that they could not usually act, often applied to human beings acting with the help of God's grace. Obviously, God would never be described as 'supernatural' in those days.

Most of the world's religions don't differentiate between 'natural' and 'supernatural'. In aboriginal religions plants, animals, people, gods and spirits, are simply part of the world. No science describes 'natural' events, so there are no 'supernatural' events left to explain. Gods and spirits may be thought of as having superhuman powers, but they don't live in a separate realm. In the great religions of India and China the distinction between natural and supernatural rarely applies. In Hinduism the cow is sacred. Does that make the cow supernatural? That question makes no sense in Hinduism.

The core of the Buddhist message is how to live a happy life. People need to follow what is the Eightfold Path. This path is not supernatural, and neither are the virtues of Buddhism: compassion, kindness, and shared joy. In

**February 2**

## When I

When I'm sick, and you bring me a meal, I don't care whether you're a Calvinist or Arminian.

When I'm poor, and you give me some food and money, I don't care if you're pre-millennial or post-millennial.

When I'm in the hospital, and you send me a get-well basket, I don't care what your church denomination is.

When you visit my grandparents in the nursing home, I don't care what style of worship music you listen to.

When you're kind enough to shovel my parent's driveway, I don't care what translation of the Bible you read.

When you give my friend a lift when their car breaks down, I don't care if you're Baptist or Catholic.

When you help my grandmother carry a heavy load of groceries, I don't care what you believe about evolution.

When you protect my kids from getting hit by a car when they're running across the street, I don't care who your favorite theologian is.

When you're celebrating my birthday with me, I don't care about your views related to baptism.

When you grieve alongside me during the death of a family member, I don't care if you tithe or not.

When you love others in deep and meaningful and authentic ways — nothing else really matters.

When you idolize belief systems and turn theology into an agenda, it poisons the very idea of selfless love. The gospel message turns into propaganda, friends turn into customers, and your relationship with God turns into a religion.

You may have the most intellectually sound theology, but if it's not delivered with love, respect, and kindness — it's worthless.

Submitted by A Hortin



8.30am	<b>LOCKYER HC</b>	Rev. Corina
9.30am	<b>DENMARK</b>	G. Wilson
10am	<b>DUKE ST HC</b>	Rev. Corina
11am	<b>MT BARKER</b>	S. Wilson

### February 9

8.30am	<b>LOCKYER</b>	R. Anderson
9.00am	<b>DENMARK HC</b>	Rev. Corina
10am	<b>DUKE ST</b>	R. Anderson
11am	<b>MT BARKER HC</b>	Rev. Corina

## Dates every week

**Museum:** Open 9-11am, Tuesday-Thursday.

**Tuesday Discussion:** In recess until Feb 2025

**Wednesday Prayer group:** Meets at 10am at Heather's place. All welcome.

**Thursday Bible Study group:** Meets at 10am, Lockyer UC, Townsend St. All welcome.

### February

February 11 Lockyer Ladies Fellowship, Lockyer, 12 noon

February 11 AUC Ladies Fellowship, Handasyde's, 2pm

February 14 Scot's Craft Markets, 9-3pm, CWA Hall

February 20 Fellowship Morning Tea, 10am Vancouver Cafe

## News & Notes

Hinduism and Buddhism both, people believe in a kind of reincarnation, but this is not 'supernatural'. The bliss of the end of all suffering comes by living according to the way described in Hinduism and Buddhism alike, and by practising the essential virtues. Similarly, the indigenous religions of China are about how people should live to be happy. Confucius taught an ethical system in which people respect and care for each other. The central virtue in Taoism is living in harmony with the Way of the cosmos, rather than trying to force events to one's will or desire. The Tao is the Way all things happen; all things and events all around us. The spirits of the deceased may surround us, along with those of rivers and mountains. These too are part of 'nature'. I believe that God, the Holy Spirit is in everything and everyone. There's nothing supernatural about that either. It does make life sacred! Blessings, Corina

## Prayers of the week

**AUC:** John Archer, Bob Ashfield and their families.

**Lockyer:** Alan & Anne Hortin, Rod Marsh and their families.

**Mt Barker:** Sue Wilson, Nita Clarke and their families.

**Denmark:** Dorothy Laffin, Anne Mackay and their families.

**Synod:** St Luke's Carnarvon Uniting Church

Synod of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

**Photo:** Orchids -Marchien van Oostende. If you have a photo, you would like featured and is appropriate for the front page, please send it in. Email: [unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com](mailto:unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com) Hard copy photos will also be accepted.

**Albany YouthCARE** Council is taking part in the **Containers for Change** scheme. Our registration number is **C10331167**. Take your eligible containers to either IGA Spencer Park, or Container Recycling Depot, 93 Stead Rd, Centennial Park and **quote our number**. <https://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa>

**Homeless Project Denmark (HPD Homeless Project Denmark)**

The main source of income for the **HPD** is a fundraising stall at the Denmark Sunday markets. Please leave items you want to donate in the Duke Street vestry, marked HPD. Corina will see to it that they find their destination.

<https://www.facebook.com/homelessprojectdenmark?mibextid=WkWL>

**Offerings** we gratefully accept financial contributions ("offerings") to continue the work of the Church. Cash or cheques may be placed in the offering bowls at Sunday services. Direct bank transfers (EFT) are also welcome. For Albany, please use the details below:

**BSB: 086 554 (National Australia Bank)**

**Account Number: 496 865 760**

**Account Name: Albany Uniting Church**

**Reference: Offering or Youthcare**

**For Denmark, Mount Barker and Lockyer** please contact your treasurer for details. All offerings are anonymous. Feel free to ask for envelopes if you wish.

**Uniting World.** If you would like to donate to Uniting World. Donations will be used to provide urgent assistance, supply & support longer-term recovery. To donate online, go to

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/donate-now>

**Connecting** people who cannot attend worship, can still stay in touch with us from anywhere in the world. You can receive the monthly Magazine, the weekly Bulletin and the Order of Service by email or in print. We also record Sunday services which can be sent on CD. Just contact Corina or Lisa.

**AUC Ladies Fellowship** Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00pm in the Party Shed. Rev Corina will give us Communion **BEFORE** we eat. Please go to the Shed on arrival. All ladies welcome.

