

MARCH PREACHING PLAN

Mar 2nd Transfiguration of Jesus

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Exodus 34: 29 - 35
9.30 Denmark	D Laffin	Psalm 99
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 9: 28 – 36 (37 – 43a)

Mar 9th Lent 1

8.30 Lockyer	E Burns	Deuteronomy 26: 1 - 11
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalm 91: 1 - 2, 9 - 16
10.00 AUC	E Burns	Romans 10: 8b -13
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Luke 4: 1 - 13

Mar 16th Lent 2

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Genesis 15: 1 - 12, 17 - 18
9.30 Denmark	T Ayres	Psalm 27
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Philippians 3: 17 – 4:1
11.00Mt Barker	A Hortin	Luke 13: 31 - 35 or Luke 9: 28 - 36 (37 - 43a)

Mar 23rd Lent 3

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Isaiah 55: 1 - 9
9.30 Denmark	E Burns	Psalm 63: 1 - 8
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 Corinthians 10: 1 - 13
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 13: 31- 9

Mar 30th Lent 4

8.30 Lockyer	R Anderson	Joshua 15: 9 -12
9.30	Rev Corina	Psalm 32
10.00 AUC	R Anderson	2 Corinthians 5: 16 - 21
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 15: 1 - 3, 11b - 32



THE ARC MONTHLY

ALBANY REGION CONGREGATIONS

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



MARCH 2025



is a season of preparation and discipline that begins on Ash Wednesday (5th March) and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday (20th April). During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship.

Commentary provided by the Uniting Church of Australia, accompanying the lectionary readings for 2025

Message from the Manse: Faith, Religion and Belief

These days, the English word 'faith' is often used as a synonym for 'religion'. In the same way, the word 'faith' can replace 'belief'. This leads to the conclusion that religions are 'belief systems'. In fact, belief and faith are not the same, and neither can be used to replace the word 'religion'.

In biblical times, 'faith' meant confidence, from Latin fideo, or trust. We can see the same word in e.g. fidelity, trustworthiness or loyalty. The word 'faith' traditionally was used for the relationship with the divine, God. Commitment to the divine can be expressed in many ways, including ritual, art, ethical behaviour and service to the community. The word 'faith' could also be used in explanations or church teachings about the divine.

'Belief' today means intellectual agreement to ideas for which there is no empirical proof. 'Belief' in this sense, is neither in the Bible nor in the Koran. Instead, the word 'belief' meant 'to hold dear', or 'to value highly', in other words: 'to love'. Belief in God did not mean believing in a supernatural being. It meant committing one's life to the service of God. 'Belief' could only be expressed in actions. It could never be a set of statements, dogma or doctrine. Christianity moved away from voluntary commitment, which was based on what they were taught. Being a Christ follower became a requirement for citizenship in the Roman Empire, and Christianity became politicized. Members of the community were identified by their affirmation of a list of specific claims. We know these lists, which were made over a long period of time – because there was a lot of disagreement within the church – as Creeds. The word creed comes from the Latin 'credo' meaning 'I believe'. In the late 4th Century, the Code of Theodosius required everyone in the Roman Empire to believe in the Trinity. Those who did not were 'foolish madmen'. Within five years the first heretics (misbelievers) were beheaded. This happened not because of what these people did, but because of something they believed. Sadly, this was parallel to the reasons early Christians were

DIARY DATES

- TUES 11th MAR** LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12noon
AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome
- FRI 14th MAR** SCOTS MARKET at the CWA Hall, Serpentine Rd,
open 9am - 3pm. Come along and support us,
browse among the stalls and enjoy morning tea
or a light lunch whilst there. Park in the street or
behind the library
- THUR 20th MAR** FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea,10am, Vancouver Café,
ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947
- THUR 20th MAR** AUC COUNCIL MEETING, 3pm Lesser Hall

DIRECTORY

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Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:

**AUC :Recording/
Music**

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	
<u>2nd March</u>	C Roberts	M Little	C Ferry	M Vertigan/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	
<u>9th March</u>	A Gunther	A Glasgow	M Gunther	W Dwyer/ S Harris
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>Anne Hortin</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	
<u>16th March</u>	C Ferry	W Dwyer	A Tero	M Vertigan/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>Alan Hortin</i>	<i>Alan Hortin</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	
<u>23rd March</u>	K Hough	E Verran	C Ferry	W Dwyer/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>S Wood</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	
<u>30th March</u>	D Coxall	C Ferry	A Tero	M Little/ P Elms
<i>Lockyer:</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	

MORNING TEA, Lockyer only

<u>2nd March</u>	<i>J Bowman</i>	<u>9th March</u>	<i>J Dunbar</i>
<u>16th March</u>	<i>J M Hannington</i>	<u>23rd March</u>	<i>S Wood</i>
<u>30th March</u> <i>J Thompson</i>			

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.

Changing Times

When world events seem to spin so fast that I am afraid of losing my foothold, when the rate of change tosses me about like bulldust in a willy willy, come to me O spirit of quietness and gather me up into the great stillness of your unflappable love, joy and peace.

Bruce Prewer

persecuted in pre-Christian Rome. When a particular religious ideology becomes the basis of lawful political rule, people who think differently will suffer.

Acceptance of the statements in the creeds became a main feature of Christianity. Questions about the source of the Holy Spirit – one of three persons of the single God – were central to the split between Western and Eastern Christianity in 1054. The later split of Western Christianity into various denominations in the sixteenth century pivoted on the question of the importance of belief and good works. Protestants settled on 'faith alone'. They meant that correct belief about God, rather than good works, is all that is necessary for 'salvation'. (What is meant by 'salvation' may need further exploration, maybe in the next edition of this Magazine.)

This is, in a nutshell, how the modern meaning of 'belief' came to be the same as 'faith'. It also explains how 'faith' or 'belief system' became synonymous with religion' – in Christianity. People in no other World Religion see their religion as a system of beliefs. In Judaism and Islam, members of their communities are identified based on their following of divine law, Torah and Sharia, respectively. These religions stress correct action, rather than accepting correct teaching.

The religions of South and East Asia are even less 'systems of belief'. In Hinduism, there are many gods (as many as there are believers, people sometimes say). Some people are devoted to one of them, like Shiva or Vishnu. Other people worship some of the major gods and turn to minor gods for help in specific matters. Some follow the ancient tradition centred on Brahman, Ultimate Reality, which is described as 'beyond the gods'. Being devoted to one or more gods, or to none, does not mean rejection of the existence of other gods. Whatever god a Hindu commits to, there are no official doctrines attached, which could be comparable to the statements about Jesus in Christian creeds.

Like Hinduism, Buddhism accepts many world views and many ways

of life. Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of the tradition, started as what we now call Hindu. He did not teach about the gods. His concern was with overcoming suffering. He taught people to practice the Eightfold path: right understanding, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness and contemplation. Buddhists strive to live according to the essential virtues: kindness, compassion and sympathetic joy. Siddhartha is revered as the Buddha, the Awakened One, not because he is a god or because these teachings are divinely revealed. He is the Buddha because the method he taught has been effective in dealing with suffering and achieving happiness for millions of people over the centuries. The Eightfold Path and the essential virtues are not doctrines or creeds, but techniques that many people – including Christians – find useful. Buddhism and Confucianism are both about human problems rather than gods or beliefs. Confucius grew up in China in a time of war and social breakdown. He asked how society could restore social harmony of earlier centuries. His ideas were not divinely revealed, and he did not claim that they had to be accepted as absolute truth, based on faith. He looked back through Chinese literature and found human wisdom which had effectively guided people toward social harmony. The model he found was based on treating others with the respect, obedience and care that good children show their parents. His teaching spread across China and became its most important tradition. However, it exists in harmony with other traditions as well. Taoism, for instance, arose in China about the same time. It takes a different approach to what people need to be happy. The focus is not on social relationships based on respectful service, but on people's fitting into the patterns and rhythms of the natural universe, the Tao. The main virtue in Taoism is wu-wei, living in harmony with the Way, rather than trying to force events to fit our own desires. Now, there is a thought worth pondering...

Blessings, Corina

the winners but recall that Lester Coyne won several well-deserved awards as did Steve Marshall, the pastor of the church that holds the free Christmas lunch each year. We were all made a fuss of and each received a certificate to remember the day by.

All those who were nominated could only have done what they did with the backing of friends etc who supported us. When we finish doing Shoeboxes towards the end of this year our group will have been doing them for 22 years. I have always been very thankful for all the help and support you have given us. You have also supported Wheelchairs for Kids and I was very pleased when its founder was given the Australian Senior Citizen of the year award.

As I've mentioned before, I plan to keep on with my stall at the Craft Mart and will donate the proceeds to Samaritan's Purse. What box items we have left will be donated to others doing boxes. That way I will be able to clean out my garage, as well as rooms in the house. Yet still have some connection to the Christmas Shoebox project and I'll also continue to keep in touch with Wheelchairs for Kids.

COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP AWARD NOMINEES		
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR	YOUTH	SENIOR
Gary Greenwald	Felicity Ericsson	Edith Verran
Annie Arnold	Adrian Hardy	Lester Coyne
Jennifer McRae		Kerry Anne Oakley
Mark Jamie Steele		Steve Marshall
Steve Marshall		
Atlanta Veld		
Stephen Edmonds		
ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AWARD - COMMUNITY GROUP OR EVENT	ANNETTE KNIGHT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP MEDAL NOMINEES	
Albany Pride	Carol Pettersen, OAM JP	
Free Community Christmas Luncheon	Lester Coyne	
Albany Women's Centre Kare Kits	Steve Marshall	
Two Rivers Garden Group	Averil Dean	
Albany Turtle Trackers		

PRAYER PROMPTS:

Please continue to pray for those members of our congregations who are not well at this time. Please also pray for our many members who now live in nursing homes and remember to include our ordained and lay leadership in your prayers. In this very troubled world, please continue to pray for all those who are suffering due to the consequences of violence and war, particularly for the children. Pray for wisdom for those in positions of power that they use their power for the good of all.

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS:

I was asked to write a few words about my nomination for Albany Senior citizen of the year which I hadn't mentioned to many, as there were a lot of nominations and I felt it was an honour just to be nominated. My thanks go to Doug Coxall who did that, for all the visiting of nursing homes and the hospital that I used to do to as well as my work for Samaritan's Purse and the shoebox appeal. I feel I am just one among many who take part in activities to help folk with no expectation of thanks, it is a part of our Christian discipleship but all the same, it is nice to feel appreciated. I had never been to an Australian Day award ceremony before and found it very interesting, including seeing those folks who are now Australian citizens. I was a little disappointed that neither of my children were there but was very pleased that Esma made the effort to come and sit with me which I really appreciated. I can't remember all the details regarding



BITS FROM BARKER:

Unfortunately, we start with the bad news that about a week ago we discovered that our church building had been vandalised, with the window to the crying room at the rear of the church found to have several holes in it. The team from Pardelup cut a large flax shrub back to make access with a ladder possible, enabling Doug to block the holes to protect the carpet inside. Rain had been forecast for this week so although we were all looking forward to that for our gardens, we didn't want more damage before repairs could be made.

Some good news is that Pauline is back from her trip up the Murray which she enjoyed, but in spite of her return, our numbers continue to be low, due to other reasons such as Tom Mackie spending some time in hospital recently. Fortunately, he is home again and we pray he continues to make a full recovery. Meanwhile, Nita and I enjoy catching up with Milly when we visit Overton for the monthly church service, and Nita also keeps the church garden alive with a weekly thorough watering, which she does after our Sunday service.

We enjoy having people come up from Albany to conduct our services, including the regular monthly visit from Corina, and on Sunday 9th March we host the next meeting of the Albany Regional Council, following the church service, so we look forward to that.

Regards, Sue Wilson

LOCKYER NEWS:

We are fortunate in having lay and other leaders fill in when Corina is unavailable to lead our worship, and with Corina taking Long Service Leave in May/June, we will be dependent on these valuable volunteers.

Not only, do we have these leaders, we do have so many helpers that fill in the various rostered positions. Even if anyone is not able to assist physically, it is important and most helpful if they pray for us. Prayers for us, our families, our congregations and the wider

church and world are just as important as being able to volunteer on the rostered positions.

The church and hall at Lockyer are available for hire (\$10 per hour) and are often hired out to external people. Following our Sunday Service, a Karen Congregation (originally from Burma) worship in our church. They have quite a large following and often hire the hall for other functions. Several dance groups use the hall as does a Tai Chi group. Birthday parties and similar celebrations also can take place with prior booking.

The grounds are kept mown and somewhat tidy by a contractor. From a recent inspection, there are several issues to be attended to, however, getting tradies in for minor jobs can be problematic! The sound system was recently attended to and generally works well now if people do not change the settings on the control box.

We do pray for those who are not so well these days. There are those we know who are unwell, but also those who may be suffering mental illnesses, or have concerns with families and friends, they need our prayers too.

Alan Hortin

WESLEY MUSIC NEWS:

The Quiet Space on 25th January was quite the event. The entire Burgess family came along to support their daughters, Amelia, Jean and Lillian, who played as Misty Gem, a classical 'sister trio' of ambient guitar music. The Albany Advertiser ran a comprehensive artist profile on these rising stars, with two full pages and photos – a real feel-good story as everyone loves to see promise and progress. It was not all easy either – they had to put a lot of work into preparations and perhaps aren't used to public attention, but they seemed to wear it well and The Quiet Space was a success.

You may remember I announced an ad hoc arrangement last month, however the Council Executive prefers an ongoing arrangement throughout the year except for December. Elizabeth and Kathy have formed a kind of subcommittee to review how its managed, co-

ordinate it jointly rather than just through me, and set out our plan for the year. We've sent out a call for musicians to nominate themselves and I am looking at which volunteers may be interested in helping us. At the time of writing, we are preparing for The Quiet Space again on 22nd February with Dave Rastrick. We look forward to sharing the details of the rest when they're confirmed.

Finally, there has been some surprising feedback which was helpful. Please feel free to send any comments, complaints, compliments or questions to wesleyalbany@protonmail.com Any feedback is fine, it helps us on the way. Best wishes, Seb Harris

EDITORIAL COMMENT: As we enter into the season of Lent, we are called to take some time out, and focus on the life and ministry of Jesus. Corina has given us some interesting reading regarding faith, belief and religion, what each means and how, over time, some bits merge, others change, but the love of God and His love for us is enduring, as are the teachings of Jesus and the examples set of how we should live in harmony with one another. In the Lockyer News, Alan has talked about the importance of prayer, which we should all use, for peoples far and wide, not just for our nearest and dearest. Mention is also made of volunteers who are appreciated far and wide in many fields, and as any mother knows, a helpful task done without having to even ask, let alone nag, is appreciated so much more than one done grudgingly. A common trait of most volunteers is that they act without expectation of praise or glory, but now and then it is appreciated when acknowledgement is given for dedication shown over many years. Edith Verran is one such person so this month I asked her if she would share with us the thrill she received when she learned she had been nominated for a Community Citizen of the year award. Edith has worked tirelessly for many years, not just supporting Samaritan's Purse and other projects, but anyone needing help, a visit or a phone call. Congratulations Edith! Keep up your good works, but at an easier pace. Clare Ferry