



Regional Directory

Locum Minister: Rev. Wes Hartley 0412 425 058

Secretaries:	Name	Phone
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

Pastoral Carers:		
Lockyer	Joan Wright	0429 413 759
Denmark	Everyone	
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

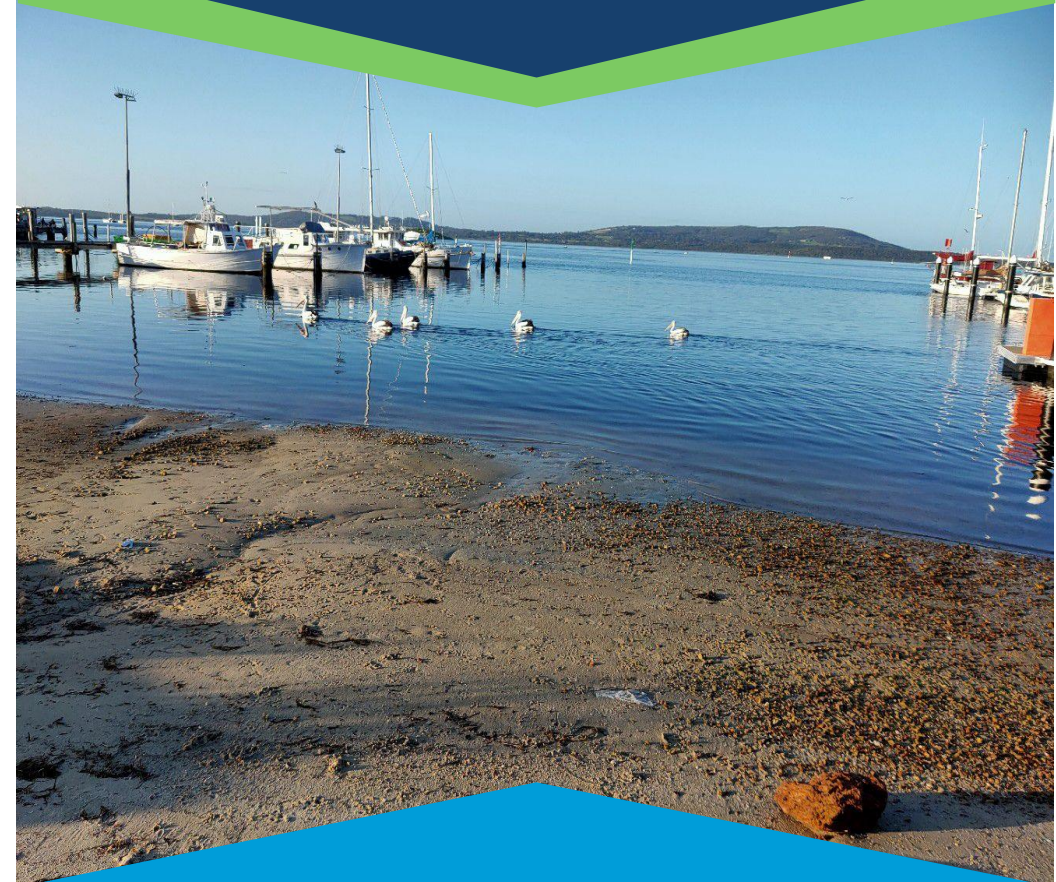
Phone: 0472 732 441

Email: arc@ucwa.au

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 3rd Sunday of the month; Denmark Uniting Church & Lockyer have morning tea after their Service.

17 August 2025.

Today's Gospel has all the hallmarks of "fire and brimstone" sermons of former times: *"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptised and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!"* (Luke 12: 49-51)



In many respects religious writers of former times were not all that different to scriptwriters or playwrights in our own time. From the Hebrew Scriptures the Prophet Isaiah used the analogy of a vineyard, something quite familiar to us in these parts. *"Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?"* (Isaiah 5: 1-4)

Isaiah's testimony was his declaration that God had given everything to his people, including the Promised Land itself, but when it came to assessing the yield of the vineyard it was only fit for the fire. What followed was a litany against a privileged people who abused power, bent the law to suit their own purposes, oppressed their neighbours, cared little for the poor and were closed to the word of the Lord. The Song of the Vineyard was an indictment and judgement after choices had been made - the bad grapes were evident for all to see; all that remained was a decision concerning what to do with the bad investment.

In light of the carnage we see nightly before us in Gaza, a key part of what was once described as *"The Holy Land"*, the prophecy of Isaiah and today's Gospel from Luke 12 are as timely as any news broadcast. It ultimately all boils down to whether we are able to hear that Word - and respond.

Blessings, Rev. Wes Hartley - Locum Minister

The Choice

"Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

(Martin Luther King)

It seems so wrong to say that Jesus' came to fan the fires of family and social conflict and division, but those are his own words! He said, "I came to set the earth on fire". But didn't Jesus come to bring peace on Earth and goodwill amongst all people (Luke 2:14)? "No" is Jesus own answer in today's Gospel reading - "I came to bring not peace, but division", he said. How can this be? The key is to understand that Jesus knew that the fires of conflict would be kindled and lit by his own coming "baptism". This 'second' baptism (he had already been baptised into his life mission by John) was Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus knew he would be 'frustrated' until his life was fulfilled by his death. But Jesus also knew that his death would light the fires of continuing conflict and division, Jesus could see the signs and knew what was coming. He was warning his friends that the fires that would soon consume him would also have consequences for them. They could look at the clouds, note the wind direction (or open an app) and know there was rain coming. "Why can you not see this coming conflict?" Jesus asks. Jesus' here teaches us that the choice for love and truth will also *always* be costly, because others will choose selfishness, hatred and lies. Jesus knew when we choose love we also kindle the fires of division and hatred. But there is a truth here that Jesus also taught - light is stronger than darkness, love is more powerful than hate, resurrection is stronger than death. Only you can choose for yourself. Will you 'take up your cross' and follow Jesus? Or in fear, loneliness and isolation choose your own desires for security, control and esteem? Jesus' wisdom is "Can't you see the signs? The 'meaning of the present time' is (always) an urgent call to choose love. So if you see darkness coming, you know what to do. The question is "Will you do it. Will you choose the light of love or the darkness of hate?"

R. Marsh



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August 17

8.30am	LOCKYER	Rev. Wes Hartley
9.30am	DENMARK	Rev. E. Sanderson
10am	DUKE ST	Rev. Wes Hartley
11am	MT BARKER	S. Wilson

August 24

8.30am	LOCKYER	R. Anderson
9.30am	DENMARK	Rev. Wes Hartley
10am	DUKE ST	R. Anderson
11am	MT BARKER	Rev. Wes Hartley

Dates every week

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

Tuesday Discussion: Is in recess till the 9th September.

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.

August 21 AUC Fellowship, Vancouver Café 10 am

August 30 Quiet Space, Wesley Church, 2-3 pm

September

September 9 Lockyer Ladies Fellowship, Lockyer, 12pm

September 9 AUC Ladies Fellowship, Handasyde's, 2pm



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Special Notes from our Locum Minister

Again I wish to thank those who have graciously received me into their homes and lives during pastoral visitation. In my remaining limited time with you I am making appointments for this week through to 23rd August. For example, I will be in Denmark all day on Tuesday 19th August.

Please continue to be encouraged to contact me directly if you wish to receive a pastoral visit, or to discuss aspects of the church's life on M: 0412 425 058 or by Email: whh@westnet.com.au

The Plantagenet (Mt. Barker) congregation, in response to comments already received, are excitedly looking forward to formal, active collaboration with not only the All Saints Anglican community, but also with the wider civic community under the auspices of the Shire of Plantagenet, in a combined initiative along for their visionary response to the future, in seeking ways to develop social outreach and welfare initiatives. The Anglican Diocesan Trustees will be considering a proposal at their meeting on 28th August, so things are beginning to move.

Our Combined Service Hymn Fest and Celebration at 10.00am on Sunday 31st August at Wesley Albany, followed by the Fellowship Lunch, is coming along at a pace. I wish to thank those who already have indicated their favourite hymn, or added their chosen culinary contribution for the Fellowship Lunch. We are having a feast of hymn requests, so may not be able to include them all. With Patrick Elms, our organist at Wesley, I am formulating a format for the service, with a blend of contributions. I feel sure it will be a great morning of fellowship.

As we will have visitors from other congregations joining with us, please make a point of wearing a name badge.

Rev Wes Hartley - Locum Minister

News & Notes

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 box HPD. Corina will see to it, so that they find their destination. <https://www.facebook.com/homelessprojectdenmark?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

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, Lockyer and Mount Barker 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, supplies & support longer-term recovery. To donate online, go to <https://donate.uniting-world.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.

Prayers of the week

AUC: Lesley Whittle, Val Winfield and their families.

Lockyer: Annette Webb, Vera Wellstead and their families.

Mt Barker: Pauline Hordacre, Caroyln & Doug Lincoln and their families.

Denmark: Dorothy Laffin, Anne Mackay and their families.

Synod: Penrhos College, Wesley College and Hospital Chaplains. Uniting Network Australia.

Photo: Pelicans- M. Little. If you have a photo, you would like to feature and it is appropriate for the front page, please send it in. Email: unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com Hard copy photos will also be accepted.

