

## SEPTEMBER PREACHING PLAN

### Sept 7<sup>th</sup>

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Jeremiah 18: 1 - 11
9.30 Denmark	G Wilson	Psalms 139: 1 - 6, 13 - 18 <b>or</b> Psalm 1
10.00 AUC HC	Rev Corina	Philemon 1: 1 - 21
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 14: 1 - 10

### Sept 14<sup>th</sup>

8.30 Lockyer	Rev R Vertigan	Numbers 21: 4b -9
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalms 98: 1-5 <b>or</b> 78: 1-2, 34-38
10.00 AUC	Rev R Vertigan	1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 24
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	John 3: 13 - 17

### Sept 21<sup>st</sup>

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Jeremiah 8: 18 – <b>9</b> : 1
9.30 Denmark	E Burns	Psalms 79: 1 – <b>9 or</b> Psalm 113
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 Timothy 2: 1 - 7
11.00 Mt Barker	A Hortin	Luke 16: 1 - 13

### Sept 28<sup>th</sup>

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Jeremiah 32: 1 - 3a, 6 - 15
9.30 Denmark		Psalms 9: 1-6, 14 -16 <b>or</b> 146
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	1 Timothy 6: 6 - 19
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Luke 16: 19 - 31



# *THE ARC MONTHLY*

## *ALBANY REGION CONGREGATIONS*

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



*SEPTEMBER 2025*

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*Spring is here!*



All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful-  
the Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty  
who has made all things well.

Together in Song 135, Photo courtesy Alan Glasgow

**- Locum Minister (July-August 2025)**

As you welcome back your Minister Rev Corina Van Oostende from her long service leave after spending time with her family in The Netherlands, I would like to wish our congregations at Wesley Albany, Lockyer, Denmark and Mt. Barker all the very best for the future, as you journey in worship and witness together.

I am quite taken aback by the energy you all exhibit in your commitment to the tasks set, from worship preparation, taking services, offering your musical talent and generally caring for each other through visitation and prayer. There is much to be thankful for.

We are all aware, sometimes painfully, that we are as susceptible as anyone else to the ravages of ageing. Fighting it, as we would prefer to do, still produces the same result. Some of the pain of ageing is looking back on the life of the Church as we once knew it, with plaques and photos in our congregational buildings highlighting Sunday School achievements, major choir events and success in musical competition, to name just a few. I can look back on the names of ministers past, most of whom I have known since my first arrival in WA in 1966. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us.

Our Uniting Church is at something of a crossroads, as congregations dwindle and support in ministry is increasingly unattainable. We also have to face the financial realities that without income from various properties we hold in stewardship on behalf of the wider church, the future may well be bleak.

However, I am one who strongly believes how we continue to witness and respond to the challenge of the Gospel is the defining benchmark of the success of any congregation, rather than simple bricks and mortar. We cannot define a future we will not be part of, but we can indicate the nature of the legacy we wish to leave for those who will come after us.

Praise and worship in song is part of that legacy and it is why our

## DIARY DATES

- TUES 9<sup>th</sup> SEPT**      LOCKYER LADIES FELLOWSHIP, Lockyer UC, 12noon  
AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm. All welcome
- THUR 11<sup>th</sup> SEPT**    AUC COUNCIL MEETING, 3pm Lesser Hall
- FRI 12<sup>th</sup> SEPT**      FUNERAL SERVICE for Ruth Coxall, 10am  
at Bethany Chapel, 1 Prior St, Albany
- SCOTS MARKET at CWA Hall, Serpentine Rd,  
open 9am - 3pm, come along and support us and  
enjoy morning tea or a light lunch whilst there.
- THUR 18<sup>th</sup> SEPT**    FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea, 10am, Vancouver Café,  
ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947
- SUN 28<sup>th</sup> SEPT**      SHOEBOX DEDICATION SERVICE.
- SAT 27<sup>th</sup> SEPT**      THE QUIET SPACE, featuring Patrick Elms

## DIRECTORY

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**Roster for AUC and Lockyer:**

	<b><u>DOOR/</u></b>	<b><u>READING</u></b>	<b><u>FLOWERS</u></b>	<b><u>RECORDING/ MUSIC</u></b>
<b><u>7<sup>th</sup> Sept</u></b>	A Glasgow	W Dwyer	C Ferry	M Vertigan/
<i>Lockyer: J Thompson</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	<i>Anne Hortin</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	P Elms
<b><u>14<sup>th</sup> Sept</u></b>	A Gunther	M Little	M Gunther	W Dwyer/
<i>Lockyer: Alan Hortin</i>	<i>Alan Hortin</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>J Thompson</i>	S Harris
<b><u>21<sup>st</sup> Sept</u></b>	D Hosking	C Ferry	A Tero	M Vertigan/
<i>Lockyer: J Dunbar</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	<i>M Hannington</i>	P Elms
<b><u>28<sup>th</sup> Sept</u></b>	D Coxall	E Verran	C Ferry	M Little/
<i>Lockyer: Alan Hortin</i>	<i>Alan Hortin</i>	<i>Anne Hortin</i>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	P Elms

**MORNING TEA,** Lockyer only

<b><u>7<sup>th</sup>Sept</u></b>	<i>J Dunbar</i>	<b><u>14<sup>th</sup> Sept</u></b>	<i>Anne Hortin</i>
<b><u>21<sup>st</sup> Sept</u></b>	<i>???</i>	<b><u>28<sup>th</sup> Sept</u></b>	<i>J Thompson</i>

Please swap with someone if you are unable to take your turn and if it involves the reading, please contact the preacher for that day. Thank you to those willing to take part, helping to make services run smoothly.

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**PRAYER PROMPTS:**

Please keep in your prayers the families of Sue Wood (Lockyer) and Ruth Coxall (AUC), who have both passed away in the past few days. Please continue to keep Allan & Judy McKechnie and Garth Roberts on your prayer list. Garth is improving and it is great to see him back at church. Also keep praying for the people of Gaza, Ukraine and the warring African nations, and also pray for the shoebox project worldwide.

Hymn Fest on 31<sup>st</sup> August was so important. Many of you responded with naming a particular hymn that was part of your faith journey and in compiling the hymn list, I found myself reflecting on the lyrics of each hymn requested and wondering how your faith journey featured in your choices. We all have a story to tell - and sometimes when we open the window to our world and sing, we are enlivened and can find hope once more.

Thank you again for welcoming my wife Beverley and myself into your midst. It has been enriching for us and hopefully we have engendered some hope in you.

May God's grace, mercy and peace be with you all.

Rev Wes Hartley

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### **EDITORIAL COMMENT**

Lockyer will be the first of the Region to welcome Corina home though depending on how she is adjusting to Albany's weather and time zone she may not enjoy the 8.30am start. She will conduct Holy Communion and I'm sure she will share in Lockyer's grief over the passing of Sue Wood. AUC will then have their turn to welcome her back, and perhaps hear a little about her time away and also some comforting words regarding the passing of Ruth Coxall and several other long-term members who died during her absence. I'm sure Corina will enjoy hearing the organ again, especially when Patrick plays at the conclusion of the Service. Denmark and Mt Barker will have their turn on 14<sup>th</sup> September to catch up with Corina and bring her up to date with what has been happening in their congregations.

Rev Wes Hartley certainly did his bit, going about the region and getting to know as many as he could. He was ably supported by his wife Beverley when she could join him. Beverley came into her own making sure the luncheon following the hymn fest ran smoothly, with an abundance of food. Their final Sunday was a triumph. The hymn fest was well attended, the singing was enthusiastic and Patrick was at his very best on the organ. The general enthusiasm

carried over to the luncheon as people had a chance to catch up with friends, whether from their own church or those they knew from other churches. Thanks are due to the many who helped to set up, to bring food, to pack up and also to clean up when it was over. In the big picture, as we look back over the last three months, we can see that life goes on regardless with its ups and downs but through it all, we have many to thank. There are the lay-preachers Elizabeth, Alan and Ross who filled the gaps in the preaching plan. Then we had two retired ministers to call on, Rev Ruth Vertigan who conducted two funerals as well as several worship services. For the past two months Rev Wes Hartley carried the main load to see us through the highs and lows, and I can vouch for the empathy he has for people in times of distress, so thank you Wes for your boundless energy and enthusiasm and the care you gave to the members throughout the Albany Region.

As we continue on now with Corina at the helm, let's not drop our bundle and leave everything to her to see us through the worrying times ahead. We need to continue to have faith in ourselves, to talk with one another in a positive way and see what we can do to make the church a welcoming place where people can find peace and love.

Clare Ferry

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### **BITS FROM BARKER:**

We will miss having Milly at our Aged Care Service but wish her all the best in her move to Craig Care in Albany. Her daughter Leslie lives in Albany so it will be much easier for her to spend time with Milly, but harder for Milly's many friends in Mt Barker.

We are looking to Corina's return from leave though we enjoyed the ministry provided by Wes during her absence. It was good to have Beverley and Roslyn come with Wes when he celebrated Communion with us. We then took the opportunity to all go out to lunch together which was most enjoyable.

The Mt Barker congregation express our deepest sympathy to the

The Presbytery Team suggested that both regional council as well as each congregation come in prayer, asking our creator God to lead us into the future, and what it is going to look like. Another meeting is planned to take place towards the end of 2025.

This report is presented by Ross Anderson

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### **Springtime by Bruce Prewer**

Most wonderful God all your works praise you,  
speaking your glory and singing of your grace.

***We thank you, most resourceful and generous God.***

For the changing mood of nature,  
with the promise of springtime and it's signs around us,

***We thank you, most resourceful and generous God***

For the golden canola fields and pink heath in our hills,  
for the growing cheerfulness of birds singing their songs

***We thank you, most resourceful and generous God.***

For the renewing pleasures of human love and friendship

For friends returning from holiday and for loved ones close to us,  
for messages telling us of births, engagements, weddings and travel,

***We thank you, most resourceful and generous God.***

For the deep-down spring times of heart, mind and soul,  
spiritual insights, new joys, music, art, prayers, books, the holy Bible  
and the uplift of a congregation singing the new songs of faith,

***We thank you most resourceful and generous God.***

For the call to new life of Jesus Christ,  
the word that gives challenge and encouragement.

the life that awakens the hopes of the world,

***We thank you most resourceful and generous God.***

For the ministry of the Holy Spit right now,  
for the divine love at hand to forgive and renew like living water,  
washing away all that is sordid, and unlovely and allowing the new  
growth of faith and hope to take over,

***We give you thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord.***



## **“THE SPECIAL MEETING REPORT”**

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025 the Albany Regional Church Council had a meeting with the Presbytery personnel who represent “The Strategic Priority and Vitality Group” including Church Mission and Property. The representatives were as follows: Rev. Ana Leaaetoa (Group Leader) Rev. Luke Williams (Presbytery Minister for Mission) and Tim Fallows (the Executive Officer for Property).

The first meeting for the whole region started at 11.00am and the three questions asked, to set off discussion, were as follows:

1. Where is our church at the present time?
2. Where do we think the church feels God is leading us?
3. How can the Presbytery best support us at this time?

Each group was able to discover their own God given strengths and how they could use them to support their congregation should the region not continue in the future with ministry as we know it.

The fact that Rev Corina has talked about her plan to retire mid 2026 caused us to look ahead to plan the possibility of a part-time minister in the future and consider what this would look like as well as the availability of a supply part-time minister, should one be called. The part-time ministry is due to the fact that the income of the region has been reducing over the last two years, to the point that a full-time minister could not be afforded.

A break for some lunch and coffee at Duke Street was then made with much discussion continuing during that time.

At one thirty in the afternoon, the Presbytery Group then met with the AUC Executive for a discussion about the future, in particular, that of the Wesley church in Albany, taking into account the three questions and what had arisen from the earlier discussion. For Albany, a partnership with another Christian group was suggested and will be looked at by Rev Luke Williams. It was suggested that there would be great changes in our future ministry should we not be-able to grow as a congregation, or not be able to afford a part time ministry.

Lockyer congregation and the family of Sue Wood. She will be missed by many.

Regards, Sue Wilson

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### **LOCKYER NEWS: In Memoriam: Sue Wood**

Sue Wood, a cherished and faithful member of our community, passed away peacefully at the Albany Regional Health Campus on 28<sup>th</sup> August, after a battle with cancer. She was known for her faithfulness, generosity, cheerfulness and unwavering commitment, always ready to lend a helping hand, both within the Church and beyond. Her daughters were by her side at the time of her passing. We remember those who are unwell, and those possibly nearing the end of life, and we offer our prayers for them.

We live in complex and often sad times. It is vital to stay mindful of the suffering taking place around the world, where countless innocent lives are lost or forever changed. In these moments, the importance of prayer for the many troubled regions cannot be overstated. We remember that God dwells within all of us, and that Jesus called us to love our neighbours, our enemies, and especially those who are vulnerable.

As we navigate life together, faith reminds us that our lives are interconnected, not only in joyful occasions but also in moments of vulnerability and transition. Each daily struggle - be it the trials of aging, uncertainty about health, or the need for support - holds sacred meaning when we share them in community.

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### **Hope in Community:**

Through the sharing of stories and the practice of gentle care, hope endures among us, strengthening and sustaining us through each season of life.

"After two thousand years, Jesus is still a revolutionary symbol, revelation, and reality. He turned theology upside down and taught, in effect: God is not who you think God is. The enfleshment and suffering of Jesus reveals that God is not apart from the trials of

humanity. God is not aloof. God is not a spectator. God is not merely tolerating human suffering or instantly just healing it. God is participating with us in it. Living it alongside us and with us. That is what gives us eternal purpose and hope." - *Richard Rohr*

Blessings Alan Hortin

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### **WESLEY MUSIC NEWS:**

We look forward to the imminent return of Sebastian Harris from his time in Japan, hoping he found his own Quiet Space in the northern mountains and benefitted greatly from the experience. He will be disappointed that he had to miss The Quiet Space with Adam Cook in July as well as The Quiet Space on 30<sup>th</sup> August with Julie Parish and Patrick Elms. I am usually struggling to get the magazine ready for distribution on Sunday and can't make it to The Quiet Space, but with this issue a week late, I was able to be there last Saturday and let the harmonious and gentle music carry me away to the Quiet Space I badly needed. 48 people attended, with the numbers gradually increasing each time, suggesting more and more people are appreciating the opportunity to connect with the music, and find it to be a calming experience in contrast to the pressures of daily life. It is proving to be a worthwhile outreach to the community.

Patrick Elms will be our September musician.

Clare Ferry

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### **NEWS FROM DENMARK:**

Some of us have been away, but tomorrow we should be back to full strength, Teresa is back from enjoying family in Melbourne, Toowoomba and Brisbane; Anne and Dorothy from camping at Camel Soak, near Perenjori, Wooramel Gorge north of Murchison, and Gladstone Beach south of Carnarvon; and Elizabeth from a weekend course in Perth "Christian Spiritual Direction". It's a pity they missed the Hymn fest, but the seven of us who were there thoroughly enjoyed the event, and sang until we were hoarse. After the Working Bee a few weeks ago, the refurbished garden is

looking good, with snowflakes blooming in the pots, thanks to Robyn and husband Nick, and inside the church, windows are sparkling and cobwebs gone, thanks to Judy, Graham and Teresa.

Our church is still being used by other groups, the two choirs, the Village Singers and Eklektika ,who hold their practices once a week, and on 28<sup>th</sup> September Buddhist teacher, Ajahn Brahm will be giving a talk and leading meditation.

Best wishes, Margaret Cocks

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### **SHOEBOX SNIPPETS:**

We have completed our packing for the final time and Corina will conduct the final Dedication Service on 28<sup>th</sup> September. I have contacted the state manager and arranged for any surplus items to go to Perth with the Albany boxes where the items can be used as fillers when the boxes are checked. I have contacted an Anglican, Ethel Halliday, (a previous local co-ordinator) who will do boxes next year and have arranged for her group to have what they can use first, with the remainder going to Perth. We are also donating some of the bigger beanies to the local library's appeal for the homeless. Please remember I will still do the monthly C.W.A. craft market stall to sell my biscuits and any nice items donated to us and I will send the money raised that way to the organisation. Also, I will still collect medium size fluffy toys and the metre square knee rugs for Wheelchairs for Kids and through their local co-ordinator, send them to Perth 3 times a year. Once again, I will repeat my heartfelt thanks to all of you who have supported this project so diligently over the past 32 years that we have been participating. We have calculated that we have done in the region of 8,000 boxes in that time! Really amazing when you think about it! I have requested that Samaritan's Purse continue to send me their Newsletter and I have just received the September issue but will hold it until next time.

God's richest blessings be on you and yours, Edith