

DECEMBER PREACHING PLAN

Dec 7th Advent 2

8.30 Lockyer HC	Rev Corina	Isaiah 11: 1 - 10
9.30 Denmark	T Ayres	Psalms 72: 1 - 7, 18 - 19
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Romans 15: 4 - 13
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Matthew 3: 1 - 12

Dec 14th Advent 3

8.30 Lockyer	A Hortin	Isaiah 35: 1 - 10
9.00 Denmark HC	Rev Corina	Psalms 146: 5 - 10
10.00 AUC	A Hortin	James 5: 7 - 10
11.00 Mt Barker HC	Rev Corina	Matthew 11: 2 - 11

Dec 21st Advent 4

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Isaiah 7: 10 - 16
9.30 Denmark	Rev E Sanderson	Psalms 80: 1 - 7, 17 - 19
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Romans 1: 1 - 7
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Matthew 1: 18 - 25

Dec 25th Christmas Day

9.30 Denmark		Isaiah 52: 7 - 10
10.00 AUC & Lockyer	Rev Corina	Psalms 98
Combined at Wesley, Duke St		Hebrews 1: 1 - 4, (5 - 12)
Mt Barker at Anglican or Baptist Church		John 1: 1 - 14

Dec 28th Christmas 1

8.30 Lockyer	Rev Corina	Isaiah 63: 7 - 9
9.30 Denmark	G Wilson	Psalms 148
10.00 AUC	Rev Corina	Hebrews 2: 10 - 18
11.00 Mt Barker	S Wilson	Matthew 2: 13 - 23



THE ARC MONTHLY

ALBANY REGION CONGREGATIONS

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



DECEMBER 2025

Sunday 30th November is the first Sunday of Advent



*As we move through the season of Advent, the end of 2025 approaches and Bruce Prewer had this to say:
“The singing of the birds at dawn and dusk awakens within us the melodies of faith, hope and love, stirring a hunger for the worldwide harmony and peace which you have promised. Saviour God, we thank you, we trust you, we love you, we praise you, and we worship your name, world without end.”*

MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE:

Last Sunday we celebrated Christ the King, or the Reign of Christ. This marks the end of the church's year. We are now in the season of Advent, when we prepare for the birth of the Christ. As in all seasons, an end announces a new beginning. I look back at last year and think of the people we have farewelled as a church community, people who are remembered, and loved. Most of us will also have lost relatives or friends, people who have had an impact on us, people who will also be remembered with gratitude. Our brains are powerful where it comes to remembering, even if short term memory is fading. Most of us will be able to remember images of our childhood, or not just single images, but complete episodes, that can be replayed as a video. Memories are important. They remind us of where we have come from, of how we became who we are today, and of the people who accompanied us on the way, people who fed us, taught us, looked out for us, showed us what is of value in life, people who shaped us. I look back at this year that is now coming to an end. Every year is of course, different from the one before, but this year, for me, was very different indeed. Going back to the Netherlands for four months was quite a feat. I didn't look forward to it much, but in hindsight I do look back on those months with quiet appreciation. Celebrating my 70th birthday with my longtime friend – whose 70th we could celebrate together as well, spending time visiting museums and exhibitions together, catching up with relatives and friends, all were very nurturing events. Of course, living with an old father is not all easy going. However, we both managed to adapt and appreciate each other's company. We shared a lot of memories, did the daily cryptic crossword, and he was part of my daytrips by watching all the photos I brought back. All in all, it was good to be away for all this time, and I came back rested.

I shared some photos with you in the Bulletin and the Magazine but there are some more that I would like you to see. The first one shows a woman's headdress as would be worn on feast days.

DIARY DATES

FRI 12th DEC} SCOTS MART at CWA Hall, Serpentine Rd 9am – 3pm
Come along and say hello, solve some of your
Christmas gift needs and enjoy morning tea or lunch.

All groups now in recess until February 2026
Please let Lisa know when your group plans to start up again in 2026

2026

FRI 9th JAN SCOTS MART at CWA Hall Serpentine Rd, 9am – 3pm

THUR 22nd JAN AUC COUNCIL MEETING Lesser Hall, Duke St, 3pm

SAT 31st JAN THE QUIET SPACE, Wesley Church, Duke St, 2 – 3pm
Adam Grok

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Lockyer	Joan Wright	0429 413 759
Mt Barker	Sue Wilson	0437 184 692
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Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:**AUC: RECORDING/**

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>	<u>MUSIC</u>
<u>Dec 7th</u>	C Ferry	A Lucas	C Ferry	W Dwyerl/
<i>Lockyer: Alan Hortin</i>		Alan Hortin	J Dunbar	P Elms
<u>Dec 14th</u>	A Gunther	C Ferry	M Gunther	M Little/
<i>Lockyer: M Hannington</i>		J Dunbar	J Thompson	S Harris
<u>Dec 21st</u>	A Glasgow	R Vertigan	A Tero	M Vertigan/
<i>Lockyer: J Dunbar</i>		M Hannington	M Hannington	P Elms
<u>Dec 25th</u>	C Ferry	E Verran	C Ferry	M Little/
<i>Lockyer: Combined Service with AUC at Wesley 10am</i>				S Harris
<u>Dec 28th</u>	A Glasgow	M Little	A Tero	M Vertigan/
<i>Lockyer: Alan Hortin</i>		Anne Hortin	J Dunbar	P Elms

MORNING TEA *Lockyer only***Dec 7th** *J Dunbar***Dec 14th** *Anne Hortin***Dec 21st** *J Bowman***Dec 28th** *M Hannington*

GIVING

Do all the good you can,
 by all the means you can,
 In all the places you can,
 to all the people you can,
 as long as ever you can.

John Wesley

The way in which you give
 is more important than the gift.



I have no idea how the women made these pleats. They had no sewing machines and no steam irons. If cleaning them took three days, imagine how much time would have been involved in making one from scratch.

The second picture shows another headdress from a different region, also the front, the frill part of another one.



The lace would have been handmade, maybe by the woman making the cap, or possibly by someone else, perhaps the lady whose portrait is in the background?

I add a close-up picture of the rim too.

Last, but definitely not least, have a look at this elaborate bridal hat, bonnet, cap, veil, or whatsit. Just like all the other headdresses, a black or brown cotton cap is fastened to the hair, and then the white work of art is pinned to that inner/liner one. You can see this when you look at the bride's reflection in the mirror. Sometimes the outer cap would be fastened with gold or silver pins, with or without precious stones added. Depending on the wealth of the family, other jewellery would be worn as well. Intricate, decorative, expensive (pieces of) costumes like this were kept in specially made boxes, decorated by hand in colours, patterns and designs specific to the town or region the owner lived in. Christmas and Easter would be occasions to get them out and joyfully wear them with pride. In some places in North Holland there are still people – male and female – who can be seen wearing their folkloristic dress on special occasions.



The end of this year is in sight, Christmas is coming, the Church is glad to sing. Wear your best (even if that is a pair of old jeans) if you can make it to church on Christmas morning. You can come as you are and rest assured that you will be welcome. Blessings, Corina

EDITORIAL COMMENT: At least up until Christmas Day, the month of December looks like passing very quickly. Indeed, right up until now, the year has passed quickly and it has been hard to keep up with all the change - in our personal lives, in our community, and in government, State, Federal and worldwide. Even the weather has not followed its usual patterns and I do wish weather forecasts for WA would include more detail more often as Perth's weather is very different from that of Albany. There have been good times and hard times, some have had severe health problems, others put a lot down to the aging process. It is certainly interesting looking back over this past year, treasuring the times a small act of kindness or help in a difficult situation has restored our spirit to carry on. When we are faced with constant scenes of the suffering and destruction during the nightly news, we realise just how much we have to be thankful for. As you read through the magazine, count how many times thanks are offered or there is some positive news.

Corina has supplied us with many interesting photos from her time away and the photos in this edition of the magazine really show us the difference between today's fashion and the high fashion of old, with the enormous amount of work and time that would have been put into each creation. A similar experience can be had with a visit to Judy's amazing collection of bridal wear over the decades. In the end we do have to accept change, and make the most of every opportunity that comes our way with a positive spirit and a loving heart, trusting in God who loves us.

As this is the last magazine for the year, I would like to thank all who help me get over the finish line each month. Sue Wilson, in spite of many demands on her time is always the first with her Barker Bits, Anne and Alan are not far behind with the Lockyer roster and news. It has been a delight to add Margaret Cocks from Denmark to the list, Corina never fails me and Edith and Sebastian have filled many pages. Last but not least is my faithful proof-reader, Denise, who not only proof reads, she delivers to the outer congregations. Clare Ferry

future for the next generation. In **Zimbabwe**, Act for Peace is supporting communities to become more resilient to the impact of climate change. Through programs like climate resilient farming, wetland regeneration and community gardens, families are rebuilding their lives and securing their futures.

Envelopes for donations to the Christmas Bowl appeal are available in the entry porch to Wesley Church. Donations of cash or cheques (payable to Act for Peace Ltd) can be placed in the envelopes and left with the weekly offerings. They will be recorded separately and the money banked. A cheque for the total amount collected will then be forwarded in January or February. If you require a receipt, Please fill in the Donation Details Form.

The Christmas Bowl has become an enduring ecumenical tradition, raising significant funds for humanitarian aid, transforming lives, and reminding us that generosity can ripple through generations.

Rev (Deacon) Sandy Boyce

PRAYER PROMPTS:

Please pray for the family and friends of Doreen Keding as they face the reality that she is no longer here with us. She has left a fine legacy behind her, memories of times spent with her and of her many achievements in her 98 years+9days.

Pray for those in aged care, for those who tend to them and family and friends who do their best to support them.

Pray for those caught up in the recent cyclone and for those who serve the community putting things to right again.

Be thankful for many blessings. Even when things aren't going so well, there is always someone worse off than you are.

Pray for those in war torn countries, especially Ukraine and the Gaza strip. As we move through December and light the candles for Advent, pray for hope, peace, joy and love throughout the world.

BITS FROM BARKER: A few of us have been on the move this past month. Doug and Caroline have been travelling to Perth and back during the month on family matters, Philip visited family in Perth recently and Nita joined her family on a trip to Esperance last weekend.

We continue to meet as a small group each week and thank those who travel from Albany to support us, including Corina. Thanks to each member of our congregation for their loyalty and commitment and also to Clare for her commitment to this magazine.

Our congregation wish to send sincere condolences to the family and many friends of the late Doreen Keding who will be sadly missed.

As this is the last magazine for 2025, we would like to wish everyone a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Sue Wilson

LOCKYER NEWS: It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Doreen Keding. When Anne and I first arrived in 2005, Doreen was still actively leading Sunday Worship, including services held at Lockyer. In addition to her commitment at Lockyer, Doreen also led Worship at Glenn Craig (now known as Craig Care) among her fellow residents. Her dedication and presence will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

The Lockyer Church has seen important improvements over the years to ensure accessibility for all members. Many years ago, Malcolm Crouch, along with the Men's Shed fellows, installed a ramp leading up to the front door. This ramp was essential for accommodating those using wheelchairs and walkers. However, after years of use and exposure to the elements, the ramp had begun to rot and deteriorate. Recently, it has been replaced with a sturdy sheet of marine ply and finished with a non-slip coating. We extend our thanks to James Bond from Bondwood Service for his work in making the church accessible and safe.

Currently, our congregation often gathers in a semi-circle in front of the Worship Leader. This arrangement creates a more intimate and connected atmosphere, although we occasionally rearrange if we have an influx of visitors - which does not happen very often! We greatly appreciate Louise, our organist, whenever she is able to join us. On occasions when Louise is unavailable, we either sing together without accompaniment or simply read the hymns. Reading the hymns can be particularly beneficial, as it allows us to focus more closely on understanding the words being used. Cheers, Alan Hortin

DENMARK NEWS: Graham's ankle is mending satisfactorily so our small choir will resume practices this afternoon, in time to revive some of our favourite Christmas music. He's not ready to dance yet, but can certainly sing.

We're happy to report that numbers attending our Sunday services this month have been augmented by caravanners and other visitors. Denmark Homeless Project is busy preparing Christmas hampers, and would welcome donations at this time, its busiest of the year. We wish you, our brothers and sister congregations, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and share with you the words of Shirley Murray:

There is not one of us who could not be more giving,
and in the giving more loving,
To light a star for peace, to light a star for peace.

Margaret Cocks

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS: Edith continues to bake and sells her biscuits at the Markets held at the CWA Hall each month. She also enjoys sorting through the bits and pieces people still give her for her stall there, so she still feels part of the Shoebox project, donating her profits to them, but glad to have respite from the physical effort that

was wearing her out. She will give us the facts and figures regarding the 2025 shoeboxes as soon as she has them to hand. Clare Ferry

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From one small act of compassion 76 years ago, a movement of hope was born. Since its beginning, the Christmas Bowl has been about love in action and has become one of Australia's longest-running and most unifying expressions of Christian witness, as it turns generosity into a living tradition of hope.

Every gift matters. What you donate, whether large or small, helps to meet urgent needs and continues this legacy of compassion. Together, through the Christmas Bowl, we can shine Christ's light into some of the darkest places in our world.

ACT FOR PEACE is the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia and is responsible for the Christmas Bowl appeal. The dove is a sign of the hope and peace shared across the world and may it remind you to pray for families seeking safety and belonging, and also to give thanks for the love that connects us across every distance.



By contributing to the Christmas Bowl, you help to provide vital emergency relief, foster education and promote peace in regions where hope is scarce. Your faith and generosity provide tangible change that offers displaced families not just aid, but a renewed sense of dignity and belonging. By supporting local organisations in many countries, the Christmas Bowl and the work of Act for Peace, change your love into action, bringing comfort, care and the promise of peace to those who need it most ..

In **Gaza**, it provides vital assistance to displaced families, through mobile clinics, emergency cash support and hygiene kits, thus helping to restore dignity and hope. In **Pakistan**, Act for Peace is

empowering girls and women to break the cycle of poverty by providing education and vocational training, building a brighter