

FEBRUARY PREACHING PLAN

Feb 1st **Epiphany 4**

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|-----------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 8.30 Lockyer HC | Rev Corina | Micah 6: 1 - 8 |
| 9.30 Denmark | G Wilson | Psalms 15: 1 - 6 |
| 10.00 AUC HC | Rev Corina | 1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 31 |
| 11.00 Mt Barker | S Wilson | Matthew 45: 1 - 12 |

Feb 8th **Epiphany 5**

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|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 8.30 Lockyer | E Burns | Isaiah 58: 1 - 12 |
| 9.00 Denmark HC | Rev Corina | Psalms 112: 1 - 10 |
| 10.00 AUC | E Burns | 1 Corinthians 2: 1 - 16 |
| 11.00 Mt Barker HC | Rev Corina | Matthew 5: 13 - 20 |

Feb 15th **Transfiguration of Jesus**

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|-----------------|------------|----------------------|
| 8.30 Lockyer | Rev Corina | Exodus 24: 12 - 18 |
| 9.30 Denmark | A Hortin | Psalms 2 or Psalm 99 |
| 10.00 AUC | Rev Corina | 2 Peter 1: 16 - 21 |
| 11.00 Mt Barker | R Anderson | Matthew 17: 1 - 9 |

Feb 22nd **Lent 1**

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|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 8.30 Lockyer | Rev Corina | Genesis 2: 15 -17, 3: 1 - 7 |
| 9.30 Denmark | D Laffin | Psalms 32 |
| 10.00 AUC | Rev Corina | Romans 5: 12 - 19 |
| 11.00 Mt Barker | S Wilson | Matthew 4: 1 - 11 |



THE ARC MONTHLY

ALBANY REGION CONGREGATIONS

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

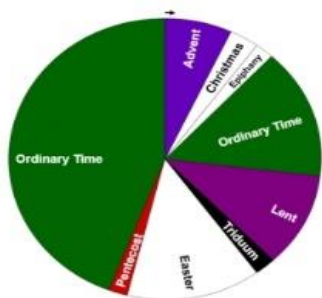


FEBRUARY 2026



*O God, In this confused and fragile world,
strengthen our faith, increase our love
and let your peace flow through us,
that we might become an ocean of calm
in what has become a restless sea.*

John Birch, Daily Prayers from Faith and Worship



As most of you will realise, the church follows its own – circular – calendar. What may not be that commonly known, is that our calendar runs neither from the 1st January to 31st December, nor from Christmas to Easter to Christmas. Our church year – or liturgical year – begins with the celebration of Christ the

King, moves through Advent past Christmas to the Transfiguration, after a period of ‘ordinary time’ through to Easter – the Passion, Death and Resurrection (also called the Triduum) – on to the Easter Season and Pentecost. After a period of ‘ordinary time’ it ends (and starts again) with Christ the King, leading us once again into Advent. We use different colours to symbolise the various Liturgical Times. These colours can be seen on the Altar Table, in the bookmark in the Bible on the Table, and at times, like at Pentecost, in the clothes the people in the congregation wear: bright red. With ‘ordinary time’ we mean the weeks or months devoted to Scripture readings about what it means to be Jesus’ followers. Not ordinary at all, really.... As you probably have noticed, the colour of the current season is white. We are in the season of Epiphany. These days, the word is commonly used to describe some important realisation, or insight. In the New Testament the word ‘epiphany’ is used to describe the appearance of Jesus as Christ, beginning on 6th January with the story of the Magi in Matthew 2:1–12. The four gospels tell us how Jesus came to be recognised as Christ in different ways. The season of Epiphany ends with Transfiguration Sunday (this year on 15th February). Our readings in 2026 are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary, year A. So, we hear from the Gospel of Matthew, mainly. In the Liturgical years B and C, we read from Luke and Mark, who relate the Epiphany events differently, as is to be expected. John’s Gospel is entirely different from the other three.

DIARY DATES

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|---------------------------------|--|
| SAT 31st JAN | THE Quiet Space, Wesley, Church, 2 – 3pm Musician: Adam Grok |
| TUES 10th FEB | AUC FELLOWSHIP, Handasydes, 2pm, All welcome |
| FRI 13th FEB | STALL for Shoeboxes, C.W.A. Hall Serpentine Rd 9am – 3pm, teas and lunches available |
| THUR 19th FEB | FELLOWSHIP Morning Tea, 10am, Vancouver Café, ALL WELCOME. Details from Mary 0427 554 947 |
| SAT 28th FEB | THE QUIET SPACE, Wesley Church, 2 – 3pm Musician: Patrick Elms |
| FRI 6th MAR | WOMEN'S World Day of Prayer, 10am AUC Duke St |

DIRECTORY

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| MINISTER | Rev Corina van Oostende | 0417 169 544 |
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Rosters for AUC and Lockyer:**Recording/**
Music

| | <u>DOOR</u> | <u>READING</u> | <u>FLOWERS</u> | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <u>1st Feb</u> <i>Lockyer</i> | C Ferry | W Dwyer <i>M Hannington</i> | C Ferry | M Vertigan / P Elms |
| <u>8th Feb</u> <i>Lockyer:</i> | A Gunther | M Little <i>Alan Hortin</i> | M Gunther | W Dwyer / S Harris |
| <u>15th Feb</u> <i>Lockyer:</i> | A Glasgow | A Lucas <i>J Dunbar</i> | A Tero | M Vertigan/ P Elms |
| <u>22nd Feb</u> <i>Lockyer:</i> | D Coxall <i>J Bowman</i> | E Verran <i>Anne Hortin</i> | C Ferry | M Little/ P Elms |

Morning Tea, *Lockyer only*
Joint effort by those available

With severely reduced numbers able to attend Lockyer services compared to only a year ago, you may notice that only the readers are included in the Lockyer Roster, mainly for the convenience of the preachers involved. Other duties are taken care of by whoever is available to help on the day. Thanks are extended to Meg Hannington and Joy Dunbar of Lockyer for bearing the brunt of those tasks with frequent help from Anne and Alan Hortin when Alan is not preaching elsewhere. The Lockyer members appreciate the willingness of Rev Corina and others to continue to preach at Lockyer which now has the intimacy of a house church, allowing for discussion at times and other variations such as reading the hymns if no music is available.

AUC is in a better position when it comes to setting up a roster each month and I am most grateful for those who are able and willing to participate, but always happy to have more people on the list, Clare

One could say that this entire Gospel is a book of epiphany revealing the divinity of Christ...

The Gospel of Matthew texts we've heard so far, and will hear in the coming weeks, tell us about prophecies come true, about dreams and angels protecting the (unborn) child; about the birth of Jesus and about Jesus' baptism, with 'the heavens opening' and the Spirit/Spirit of God/Holy Spirit descending on Jesus like/as a dove. At that occasion, we are told, a voice comes from heaven, speaking to Jesus, or to the people present, saying: 'You are my beloved son, with you I am well pleased.' (In the Gospel of John, the dove descends from heaven and remains on Jesus, or the Spirit enters him, depending on the translation.) Next, we hear about the adoration of the newborn child – recognised as a 'King' by the wise men, or magi, and the angel, dream led flight to Egypt and settling in Nazareth (again, to fulfill prophecy). John the Baptist announces the coming of the saviour promised through the prophet Isaiah. He informs the people of the one to come, who will ignite the kingdom life within people, a fire within them, the Holy Spirit within them. He will be the bringer of truth, of new life. After Jesus is baptised, the Holy Spirit leads him into the desert to be tested. We learn that he is ready to refuse all temptation of worldly power, by the strength of his faith, the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is no ordinary man, and the revelation – epiphany – continues with another fulfillment of prophecy in Isaiah, about people seeing a great light, and the calling – and instantly following – of the first disciples. Jesus begins to teach in the synagogues, saying the Kingdom of God had begun. He starts healing people suffering from all kinds of sicknesses, mental, emotional and physical, and speaks like a prophet in the Sermon on the Mount. He blesses people, telling them what the meaning of their life is: to be salt, to be bearers of light. He calls people to be generous with their lives. By opening up to others, they will prompt people to open up with God, the generous Father in Heaven. The author of Matthew goes on to demonstrate that Jesus is a man with

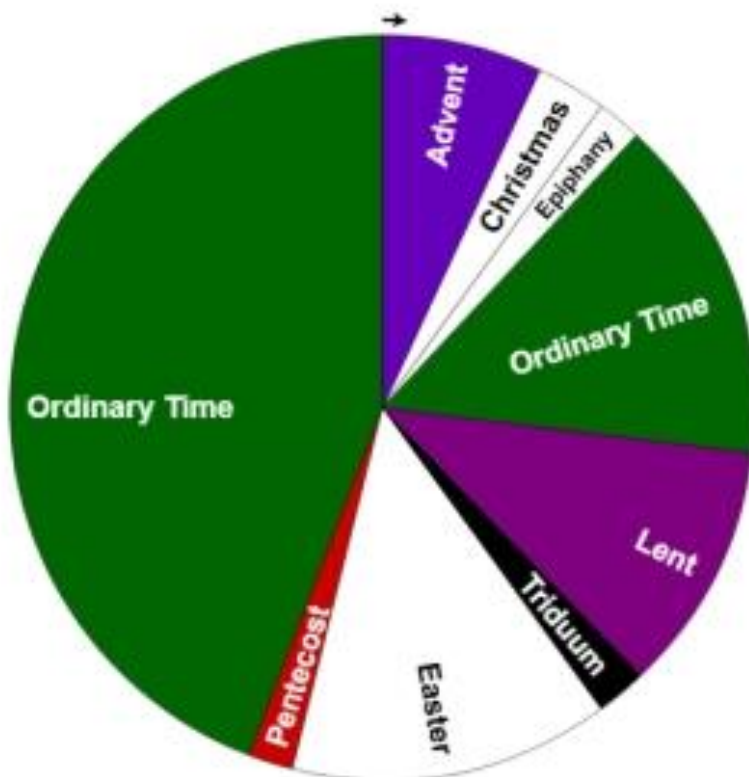
the divine gift of Wisdom, preaching about the Ten Commandments and taking them a step further, Eg 'love your enemies'. He teaches people to pray, and commands them to lead a life of worship. Jesus tells his followers – so we are told – to “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.’ Jesus is portrayed, revealed, in this Gospel as a Holy Spirit filled man, loved by God, loving God, a prophet, teacher, healer, servant leader, who inspires hope in people, and helps them to turn their lives around (to repent) and live as inhabitants of the Kingdom of God. The time is near...

The time has been near for thousands of years. The end times have been upon us all that time. Has nothing changed? Maybe we can all take a look at history from a positive perspective, to find another epiphany. Truth be told, life on earth has not become perfect. However, countless changes for the better have come about over many generations. Please think of some for yourself. I can start you off with giving thanks to God for all the people who put the 'other' first, rather than themselves.

Blessings, Corina

BITS FROM BARKER: Well, Christmas and New Year have been and gone, the year ending with almost unbelievable speed. Most of the members of our congregation attended the local Anglican Church Service on Christmas morning, including my son who spent a couple of weeks with me over Christmas.

It was good to have the new Moderator visit us when he came with Corina recently. I can't remember when we at Mt Barker were last visited by a Moderator and we felt blessed to receive a visit from David at the beginning of his appointment. We are always pleased to see Corina when she conducts the monthly Communion Service. Following the Service some of us took the opportunity to go to a local café for lunch.



Back to School Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed with our families over the summer, now we pray for the children as they begin the new school year. Bless them with excitement at the new experiences, joy as they interact with classmates and grant them a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing any fear with confidence, anxiety with peace and tiredness with energy as they settle into the daily routine. Bless their teachers and grant them wisdom, patience and understanding as they impart knowledge and guide their students through the year ahead.

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

When I signed off on the December 2025 magazine I was looking forward to a relaxing period ahead, with family time, catching up on indoor tasks and plenty of time in the garden which was desperately in need of attention, but it didn't quite work out that way. I am pleased to report that I am completely recovered, my new hip is working well, allowing me the freedom to drive again, which gives me back my independence. It took me a little while to get back into the mind set necessary to compile the first magazine for 2026, but everyone I contacted soon had their contributions in my inbox and it was such a good feeling to be back in contact with everyone again, and so encouraging to find all congregations are finding ways to connect not only with each other but with the general community as well. Denmark's achievements with their Homeless Project are particularly commendable.

I had a bit of trouble fitting in the pie chart Corina had included to illustrate the church calendar, as including it in her message meant it was difficult to read the titles of each section, although it painted the general picture well. I have therefore used page 8 to allow a larger version which you may like to follow throughout the year, keeping up with the changing colour of the cloth on the Altar Table. I then found it somewhat alarming to find that by the time we get to 22nd February, a whole quarter of the church calendar year will have passed since my accident. I will have to make sure I make good use of the rest of the church year.

My thanks to all who contribute to the magazine and my best wishes to all for 2026.

May God's love surround you,
 God's Spirit guide you,
 God's whisper cheer you,
 God's peace calm you,
 God's shield protect you,
 God's wisdom arm you,
 wherever God may lead you.

Clare Ferry

It really feels like summer now and when the weather is particularly hot, we feel blessed that our church building is so very cool. The church grounds are looking neat again thanks to the team from Pardelup and also thanks to Doug who keeps a constant eye on things and waters the trees planted by the shire. A recent bushfire came uncomfortably close to Mackie's farm but all ended well. All the best to everyone for 2026 and we hope you will all be blessed in all that you do.

Sue Wilson

LOCKYER NEWS: "COMMUNITY"

There are certain words we use which feel good to use but often defy accurate meaning. One of those words is "community." An author once said the word community is:

"An aerosol word, popularly sprayed into discussions, giving a sweet scent and a hint of mist, clouding analysis."

That is a harsh statement, but I agree with the point being made.

We can talk about community and get misty-eyed about the concept, but what is it really? We can only experience community when we give up our self-centred attitudes, as that ruins true community. Community is created when we put others first.

The church was designed to be a community. I believe the church has the opportunity to be a sociologically impossible gathering of people who only function as a community because they have a faith in Jesus. This can happen because the love of God brings people together with the purpose of serving the world and each other. Only the Spirit of God can truly equip people to live in community.

Daily Nudge by Karl Faase and Olive Tree Media

This is the Lockyer Congregation. We endeavour to live, worship and work within this meaning of "community". A possibly high ideal, but never-the-less, it is something we aim at. Alan Hortin

DENMARK NEWS: Christmas and New Year passed uneventfully with a few visitors. We were delighted to welcome Ann and Gavin Gray at one service though, especially as they joined their old choir in singing 'Across the Bar' which is one of Gavin's favourites because it has a good bass part. Adam, who gives regular piano lessons in our church, has revealed a hidden talent, offering to steam-clean the church carpet, which was done yesterday. Thank- you Adam. The Homeless Project has had a good start to the year. Good things are happening here due to an increase in community awareness. One young man, homeless for years, has been offered a room in a house belonging to a well-wisher, and after the first week, he has been invited to stay! Another person offered for a caravan and homeless person to live on their block. So, the Homeless Project has offered \$4000 towards the cost of a caravan and the property owner will pay the extra \$1000 for an older man, a long-time resident of Denmark, to live safely on his land. This rise in community awareness is due largely to interactions at the Sunday markets in the High School, where the Homeless Project always has a stall.

We all wish our fellow congregations health and happiness for 2026.
Margaret Cocks and Rev E Sanderson

AUC NEWS: It is Women's Day of Prayer on 6th March, an event when the Bible Society of Australia will partner the Bible Society of Nigeria to support internally displaced people and slum residents affected by violence and poverty. AUC is to host the Church Service and Morning Tea afterwards on that day. This may seem a long time off, but there is planning involved to have the event run smoothly. Marian Little and Maxine Gunther have kindly offered to set things in motion and would be very pleased to hear from anyone able to help in any way. Clare Ferry

PRAYER PROMPTS:

Please keep those you know who are ill or recuperating in your prayers, especially Betty Reid who has been in hospital for some time now, making progress, albeit slowly. We have lost quite a number of our congregational members recently so please keep their families also in your prayers. Continue to pray for peace in this very troubled world, for Gaza, Ukraine and Iran in particular. Include in your prayers the Iranian people who believed the promise that the US, who encouraged them to rebel against the Iranian regime, would provide support, yet that support was not forthcoming. Pray for the American people who suffer from a leadership which seems to put power and wealth ahead of common sense in the drive to make America great again. Lastly, pray for the safe delivery of the shoeboxes and for the children who will receive them. May the boxes bring some joy into the lives of those children.

SHOEBOX SNIPPETS:

I have recently obtained some of the figures relating to the boxes sent from WA and New Zealand. Our WA boxes all went to the Philippines this year. There were 25,343 boxes from WA and together, Australia and New Zealand sent 212,406 boxes. Thank you to those still giving me items to sell at the monthly stall in the C.W.A.Hall. These markets are starting to pick up, with folk beginning to find us. I have raised \$500 for the shoeboxes so far and our church treasurer will send on this money electronically for me. The last two stalls raised approx. \$100 each which was a great outcome so I would appreciate more items to sell if anyone has any they would like to donate. I imagine most of your homes have been cleaned out by me already, though you might have some things you no longer want, but no clothes please. I get quite a lot from the Salvation Army from their overload of donations, and what doesn't sell, I pass on to the Denmark Uniting Church for their stall to raise money for the homeless.

God's blessings to you all, Edith