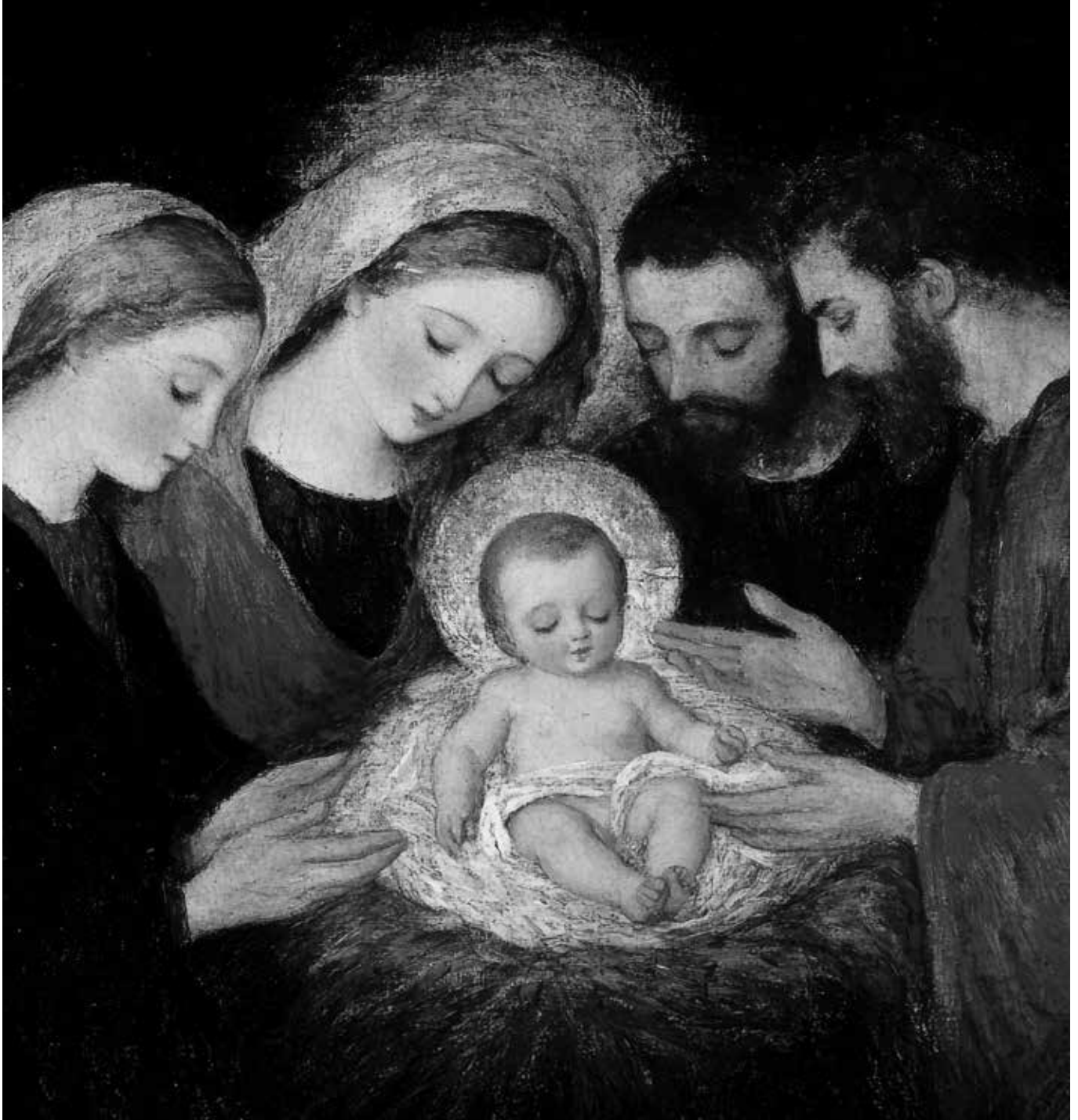




MESSENGER

A MAGAZINE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIANS | DECEMBER 2025

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King*



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To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

2

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

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To respond to human need by loving service

4

To transform unjust structures of society, to
challenge violence of every kind and pursue
peace and reconciliation

5

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation,
and sustain and renew the life of the earth

MISSION 2020+ PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit!

**Give us new confidence in your grace,
new words for the mission we share,
new strength to go where you send us,
new spring in our step, as we set out
to spread our faith in changing times,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.



Reading on your mobile?

The Messenger is also available in a mobile-friendly view.

READ NOW



THE MOST REVD KAY GOLDSWORTHY AO DD *Archbishop*

I guess that many of you, like me, have found yourself around this time of the year, pausing before a nativity scene. It might be the one that has adorned your home for decades, lovingly unpacked each Advent, its figures worn smooth by the hands of children and grandchildren. It might be that it's one that brings to mind a loved one no longer with you, or a country and Christmases celebrated a long way from Australia.

These crèches or cribs come in every imaginable form, carved from olive wood, moulded in clay, or woven from straw. Some reflect the features, dress and culture of the people who made them, reminding us that Christ is born for every land and nation. Today you can even find nativity scenes built from Lego bricks or captured within snow globes – modern expressions of an ancient story.

Still other nativity scenes highlights that even in places of terror and conflict remember that God is near. Many years ago the priest in my parish made a nativity scene using camouflage print fabric as the background, with some barbed wire border around the figures surrounding the crib.

In my home, we also treasure a small nativity set that has accompanied our family through the years. Its simplicity stands in contrast to the deep affection we hold for it. It has become a quiet companion to many Christmases – its presence reminding us, year after year, of the wonder of God's love made tangible and near. Like so many of your own cherished cribs, it speaks not only of a story told long ago, but of the faith that continues to shape our lives today.

Whatever their form, each nativity scene points us to a truth that lies at the very heart of our faith: the profound mystery of the Incarnation. At Christmas we celebrate that the Word became flesh (John 1:14), and that the invisible God has made himself visible in the face, the life, and the person of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world (Colossians 1:15). God chose not to remain distant, but to make his dwelling among us in the midst of our humanity, undeterred by its messiness or its sometimes painful ugliness. Jesus has been born for all.



One of the Prayer Book's collects for Christmas Day reminds us of this when it invites us to pray:

God Most High,
whose eternal Word chose a dwelling
among us,
that we might live in your presence:
grant us a spirit of wisdom
to know how rich is the glory you have
given us,
and how great is the hope to which we
are called
in the Word made flesh.

And how quietly the eternal Word came! Not with spectacle or splendour, but in humility, in poverty, and in the beautiful ordinariness of daily life. The Child of Bethlehem reveals a God who stoops low to lift us high, who enters our world so that no part of our lives is beyond his redeeming love and influence.

May the nativity scenes in your homes and churches, however simple or elaborate, draw you again to adore the One who comes to dwell with us.

I wish you and those you love a holy, peaceful, and joy-filled Christmas.

Reflecting on my first Synod

PROFESSOR STEPHEN HOUGHTON *Parish of Swanbourne-Mt Claremont*

Following my invitation (and reluctant acceptance) to be a Synod representative I wondered what the day would entail. I had overheard conversations between previous representatives, and to be honest, I was not looking forward to spending a whole day at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle.

Even though we arrived early at the Esplanade to secure parking, Synod was in full swing. Organisationally, everyone knew their role, where they should be, and how they should direct attendees. From the outset there was an air of positivity, warmth and reassurance and after many handshakes and welcoming conversations Synod began with prayers.

Approximately 400 Synod members attended the day, which ran from 8.00am until 6.00pm. Seated at round tables provided plenty of opportunity for discussion, networking and fellowship. Expertly chaired by Her Grace, Archbishop Kay, the 10 hours flew, and I can assure everyone they can rest easy. The Diocese is in safe hands! Contrary to my expectations and the overheard conversations I mentioned earlier, I thoroughly enjoyed the day! According to one of my fellow Synod representatives, Synod 2025 was the least contentious of the 10 or 12 he has attended. And I thank him, and my parish priest, for cajoling me into what was one of my more fascinating Saturdays for a long time.

On reflection, Synod has a strong team with complementary skills, including the Diocesan Secretary, Mr Keith Stephens, who seems to be a very efficient and knowledgeable operator. Then of course, there is the important matter of finances, and this area was presented with clarity by Mr Torsten Marsden, Chief Financial Officer.

Of course, as with most meetings there were disagreements in the room, but these were discussed with respect under the watchful eye of Archbishop Kay. Individuals were given the opportunity to present their points and further discussion was encouraged on these

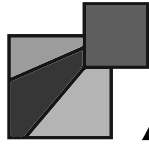
points where necessary; then they were voted on. The topics that generated most interest and discussion included the limited number of priests available for parishes, the budget for Wollaston Theological College (in the light of other financial demands around the various parishes and especially the limited number of priests available), a change to a five day working week for priests, the current status of abuse cases and financial recompense, and domestic violence. These are all important issues and were laid bare and discussed with honesty and respect. The excellent work being conducted by Diocesan schools, agencies and commissions was also presented.

It is not easy arranging such a day, but everything seemingly went smoothly so I congratulate the organisers. The new voting system using smart devices has its benefits, and I would urge future Synods to use it more frequently than we did this year.

In conclusion, I reiterate that the Anglican Diocese of Perth is expertly guided by dedicated people and is in safe and trusted hands.

Did Synod 2025 live up to what I expected? Certainly not! It was **more** than I expected, which is why I am looking forward to Synod 2026.





Anglican Community Fund

Helping Anglicans be Financially Stronger
Giving back to the Anglican Community since 1966



**Warm wishes for a joyful
Christmas and a peaceful
festive season.**

Thank you for the continued support
from your team at the
Anglican Community Fund.



We advise our Christmas Holiday hours for 2025

Normal hours will apply until Christmas, except on the following days

Friday 19 December 9:00am – 11:00am (Opening Hours)

Wednesday 24 December 9:00am – 12:30pm (Opening Hours)

We will be closed for Christmas from

Thursday 25 December to Friday 2 January 2025.

We will reopen on Monday 5 January 2025, and resume normal hours
(9:00am – 4:00pm)

Disclosure

Anglican Community Fund (Inc) is not prudentially supervised by APRA; and any investment in the Anglican Community Fund (Inc) will not be covered by depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959 or the Financial Claims Scheme. All financial services and products are designed for investors who wish to promote the charitable purposes of the Fund.



Advent and Christmas

THE VERY REVD CHRIS CHATAWAY *The Dean of Perth*

Your Cathedral is here for all this Advent and Christmas.

No matter where your regular place of worship is, St George's Cathedral is where all may come together and dwell in the anticipation and celebration of the birth of Jesus.

As the Mother Church of the Diocese of Perth, it is our privilege to gladly offer worship both in person and by live-stream on our YouTube channel, reaching to the farthest parts of our Diocese and beyond.

Whoever you are, and wherever you worship, you are welcome to come and experience the seasons of Advent and Christmas through words, silence, and music at one or more of our services and events.

No matter how familiar the story may be for us, the joy of our Church liturgical year allows us to

once again hear the message of the angels and, be invited in heart and mind to go to Bethlehem and discover the Christ Child born for us anew.

Whether you intend to join us for one of our special services of worship, to visit and enjoy the delight of the Christmas Lights Trail by the City of Perth which we offer our building as a backdrop, or to tune in and join us online, all are welcome to what is your Cathedral.

Further information and descriptions of each service and event are provided in our seasonal booklet, which is available on our website, as well as events and services posted on our Facebook page.

www.perthcathedral.org

www.facebook.com/StGeorgesCathedral



ADVENT COURSE 2025 Visions of Hope in the Prophets

Sessions led by The Rev'd Dr Sue Boorer
Cathedral Scholar & Chaplain to Wollaston Theological College

9.30 - 10.30am | Lower Burt Memorial Hall

Saturday 6 December

Session 1: What is Hope and Who Were The Prophets?

Saturday 13 December

Session 2: Hope in Jeremiah and Ezekiel

Saturday 20 December

Session 3: Hope in Isaiah



All are welcome to join our regular services in the Cathedral prior to the weekly sessions -

8.00am | Morning Prayer & Holy Communion

Celebrating the dreams of our community



STEPHANIE BUCKLAND *Chief Executive Officer, Amana Living*

As we enter the Christmas season I would like to give thanks to the Amana Living community - our wonderful residents and clients and also our compassionate and dedicated staff

Recently, we celebrated the outstanding contribution of our colleagues at our annual Amana Living Awards night. This year's theme, Circus of Dreams, highlighted the importance of dreams and the role we play in helping to keep those dreams alive. The older people we support and care for have lived full, varied and interesting lives. They may have achieved many of their hopes and goals yet still have dreams to realise in their final years.

Our Amana Life Awards recognise individuals and teams who have gone above and beyond to help our residents and clients continue to dream and to lead meaningful, fulfilling lives.

Deborah Wingate from Moline House was celebrated for her remarkable impact on a resident who had lost interest in eating and was losing weight, after a necessary diet change. Deborah



Deborah Wingate (center) with Chair Sue Wilson (left) and CEO Stephanie Buckland

created safe, flavourful meals that revived his appetite almost immediately and lifted his mood by bringing back the taste, comfort and joy of eating food that felt like home.

Our team award recipients - Dawn Timmerman, Dani Kyrwood, Kristy Waterhouse, Priya Ragam, Natasha Wallis, and Tammy Wilford – were recognised for their diligent review of our much loved Kites and Clubs services. Their work created more places for clients, and improved accessibility and responsiveness, enabling more older West Australians to participate in activities that foster social connection, community, and inclusion.



Recipients of the Amana Life Team Award

Leading with kindness and compassion, Lee Ann Reyes from Kinross Beach House was acknowledged for creating a positive, joyful and uplifting team culture. Families have also regularly expressed heartfelt gratitude for the way Lee Ann includes and supports them throughout their loved one's care journey.



Lee Ann Reyes (center) with Chair Sue Wilson (left) and CEO Stephanie Buckland

We also honoured Emily Raynor, who has received countless words of thanks and appreciation from clients, carers and families for her genuine kindness, concern and practical help in the



Emily Raynor (center) with Chair Sue Wilson (left) and CEO Stephanie Buckland

Short Term Restorative Care program. As one client said: 'the reason we chose Amana Living as our Home Care Package provider is because of the amazing care Emily provided'.

Finally, Maintenance Officer Paul Duffy was recognised for his exceptional kindness and compassion toward a resident whose deteriorating health meant he could no longer see to finish his book. Noticing this, Paul took the time to read the remaining chapters aloud, offering comfort and companionship in the resident's final days.



Paul Duffy (center) with Chair Sue Wilson (left) and CEO Stephanie Buckland

On the evening we also celebrated more than 90 staff members who have reached between 10 to 30 years of incredible service at Amana Living. Their dedication is at the heart of who we are and the care we provide.



CEO Stephanie Buckland with Brenda Fenton, one of the 30 Years Service Recipients

Together, these moments of recognition remind us of the profound impact our team has on the lives we touch every day.

I am deeply grateful to work alongside such dedicated people, and for the lasting difference we create together in our community. On behalf of everyone at Amana Living, I also give thanks for the many people throughout the Diocese who support our work, and wish you and your loved ones a safe, healthy and joyful Christmas and New Year.

Anglican Church Diocese of Perth

Lenten Study

ABRAHAM

A journey through Lent
MEG WARNER

A study offered through the Anglican Diocese of Perth App, centred on Dr Meg Warner's book 'Abraham: A journey through Lent.'

Small groups in parishes, schools and agencies around the Diocese will engage with the book, and through the app provide responses to weekly reflections. As the study progresses, these reflections will be shared, digitally gathering together participants around the Diocese.

Commencing Ash Wednesday, 18 February 2026.

Further details - including how to order the book - are in the Anglican Diocese of Perth app. Download now:

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Christmas Magic

Written by JENNY DAVIS OAM

7.00pm | Tuesday 16 December 2025
St George's Cathedral, Perth

\$45 ADULT | \$40 CONCESSION
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Ticket includes refreshments during interval

Presented By: St George's Cathedral Perth, THEATRE 180

Proudly supporting: AnglicareWA

100% of funds raised will support 'Street Connect' AnglicareWA's youth outreach service that provides support, advocacy and referrals to young people (15-25yrs) who are street present or at risk of homelessness.

QR Code | Tickets via TryBooking
Scan the QR Code or go to www.trybooking.com/DGOPZ

When Christmas Hurts: Giving Hope to Children in Crisis



THE REVD CHRIS THOMASON *Chaplain*

Christmas is often portrayed as a season of joy, family togetherness, and celebration. But for many families, this time of year brings anxiety, tension, fear, and deep sadness. Tragically, the Christmas and New Year period is one of the most dangerous times for family and domestic violence.

The Hidden Victims

Children are often the unseen victims in these crises. In Western Australia, one in three reported domestic violence incidents involve children witnessing abuse. A home ruled by fear steals safety and love, and it teaches children that violence is normal. These experiences cast a long shadow, echoing into adulthood and doubling the likelihood of future partner abuse.

Yet, with the right care and support, healing is profoundly possible.

A Path to Peace: Young Hearts

Anglicare WA's Young Hearts program provides specialised counsellors who walk alongside children who have experienced trauma, helping them feel secure enough to process their experiences, heal, and ultimately break the cycle of violence.

Young Hearts supports children and young people aged 5 to 18 who have been impacted by family and domestic violence. Counselling takes place in a safe, supportive environment, using creative methods such as art, drama, play, dance, and talking.

The program helps children:

- Identify and express feelings about family violence
- Develop and strengthen safe family relationships
- Gain life and social skills that build confidence and resilience

Olivia's Story*

At just four years old, Olivia had already endured foster care, reunification, and abuse. Today, at ten, she feels safest with her foster family and sister. Through Young Hearts counselling, Olivia discovered her artistic gift, a creative outlet that brought peace to her mind and became a cornerstone of her healing journey.

Confidentiality and Access

Young Hearts is a free service, funded by Telethon, Austal, and generous donors.

Counsellors are bound by an Oath of Confidentiality, which may only be waived if someone's safety is at risk. Children are assured they can share at their own pace, and group sessions are designed so everyone involved has had similar life experiences.

Young Hearts operates across Western Australia, including Albany, Gosnells, Joondalup, Mandurah, and Rockingham.

To access the service, call 1300 11 44 46. The process begins with a parent or caregiver meeting the counsellor, followed by an appointment for the child.

The Need for Support

If you or someone you know is experiencing family or domestic violence, please call 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732).

This Christmas, you can help a child like Olivia find safety and hope. Donate today at [Anglicare WA Christmas Appeal](#).

(*Name changed for privacy)

End of Year Reflections on Swan Valley Anglican Community School



THE REVD PETER LAURENCE OAM *CEO, AngliSchools*

As we move into Advent, and the conclusion of the school year and 40th year of AngliSchools, I reflect on the extraordinary work across our schools in 2025. There are many highlights of our 40th anniversary.

One story that stands out this year is Swan Valley Anglican Community School, which has just been recognised nationally with two significant honours: The Educator Australia 5-Star Innovative Schools Award and the National ACEL Leadership Award.

Awards are always welcome recognition, but they tell a deeper story. These two awards show a school community committed to innovation, guided by leadership that is courageous and collaborative. They remind us that when communities of faith and learning are aligned, great things happen.

From Vision to Reality

This story began in 2002 when AngliSchools saw the Upper Swan Valley as the perfect location for a new Anglican school. By 2004, plans were underway. I walked the empty field a number of times, envisioning a school full of children and teachers one day filling the space. We acquired the land from Multiplex and after some years of planning, Swanleigh Anglican Community School, as it was known in its first year, opened on 1 February 2006 with 127 students, growing to 200 by the end of the year.



The first week saw the Archbishop of Perth speak at an opening Chapel service for the school community, bringing his running shoes as a visual aid to illustrate how the students might 'Walk in the Truth', in accordance with the School's motto.

The second year of the school (2007) opening with a new name - Swan Valley Anglican Community School - reflecting its deep connection to the local community.

As time went on, thoughtful ideas became the sort of traditions that really turn a school into a place of belonging. One of my favourites is the annual Year 12 farewell gift of the Dr Seuss book: 'Oh, the Places You'll Go!', accompanied by a video featuring students from every year level and the School Principal reading it out.

Building for the Future

As the Swan Valley Community and enrolments continue to grow, the School is investing in spaces that bring people together. The current major capital project, soon to be completed, will see the construction of 'The Collaboration and Creativity Centre'. The Centre will include a new resource centre (library), specialist art classrooms and IT laboratories, a pastoral care hub for secondary students, and a Year 12 study area; all complemented by a stunning outdoor amphitheatre by the lake. These spaces are designed with one purpose: to help students and staff thrive.



Drawing to a Close

Advent invites us to pause amid the busyness, to open our hearts to God's quiet work of renewal, and to ready ourselves for Christ's coming light in the birth of Jesus. May these weeks leading to Christmas draw us into deeper prayer, stir in us a renewed trust in God's promises, and awaken within each of us a hopeful anticipation for the One who is always drawing near.

I wish you a peaceful Advent, a joyous Christmas, and a New Year filled with hope, purpose and renewed inspiration for the year ahead.

Here's to a new year of possibility, and to our AngliSchools... learning communities built on Faith, Inclusion, Respect and Excellence.



Standing with Children Through Life's Storms

This year, Parkerville Children and Youth Care supported over 12,700 children and young people across Western Australia - guiding them through life's toughest challenges, from child abuse, family violence, and youth homelessness to the long-term impacts of trauma, neglect, and other adverse childhood experiences. Behind every number is a child whose life has been transformed, a family strengthened, and a young person given the chance to heal, grow, and thrive.

2025 has been a year of growth and vision for Parkerville. The Midland Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub opened this year, creating a welcoming space for children aged 0-12, along with their families, carers, and kin, to access free mental health and wellbeing support. With on-site psychology, occupational therapy, counselling, workshops, and help connecting with community services, the Hub is helping children thrive, supporting healthy development and strong social and emotional wellbeing.

We have secured long-term funding for our Multi-Agency Investigation Support Team (MIST), enabling us to support even more children who have experienced sexual abuse to heal and feel safe. In 2025, we also launched our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan and new cultural resources, deepening our commitment to inclusion, cultural safety, and respectful partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Through our newly launched Family Support Network and Intensive Family Support Service, families are receiving hands-on support to stay safely together, building stability, connection, and hope at home.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to open Parkerville Grove School in 2026. As part of our Therapeutic Education Services, the school will provide children who need extra support with a safe, nurturing environment where therapy and learning come together. Students will receive individualised therapeutic support alongside

their education, helping them build confidence, manage emotions, and thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. It will be a place where every child can feel safe, supported, and empowered to reach their potential.

At Parkerville, we walk beside children and families facing difficult times. Our teams listen, care, and help them feel safe, build confidence, and grow stronger, always working in ways that respect everyone's culture, story, and needs.

A safe bed shouldn't be a Christmas miracle

At Christmas, we are reminded that a home should be a place of safety, warmth, and belonging. But for many children, that isn't the reality.

Seven-year-old Maddie knows this too well. In the past six months, she and her dad have relied on relatives and temporary accommodation. On two occasions, with nowhere else to turn, they slept in their car.

Through Parkerville's Supported Accommodation and Community Support (SACS) service, Maddie and her dad received food, warm clothing, and short-term housing - but more importantly, they found people who took the time to listen, care, and build trust. Maddie was seen not as a problem to be solved, but as a bright, curious young girl whose world had become unsafe.

Sadly, Maddie's story is not unique. Across Western Australia, families face housing insecurity, the rising cost of living, and the

lingering effects of trauma, violence, and hardship.

This Christmas, your gift can bring safety, stability, and hope to children like Maddie - children who deserve to laugh, to learn, and to experience the joy of the season. Your gift will support them as they recover from trauma, no matter its cause, giving them the care, guidance, and love they need to heal and thrive.

Please, make a special Christmas gift today and light the way for a child in Western Australia who needs it most: www.parkerville.org.au/maddie

From all of us at Parkerville Children and Youth Care, thank you for walking with us. May your Christmas be filled with love, laughter, and joy, and may the year ahead bring hope, peace, and blessings.



This Christmas,
help a child like
Maddie
find safety and hope

www.parkerville.org.au/maddie

3-20 MAY 2026

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THROUGH
MALTA & SICILY**

Step into centuries of
devotion as you travel
through the heart of
Mediterranean Christianity



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AN AUSTRALIAN LECTIONARY 2026 (APBA)



Next year's Lectionary Year A 2025/2026
is available now RRP \$16.95, with a
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St Johns Books is distributing these by post, at
the discount price of \$14.00, with postage at
cost. Payment preferably by bank transfer.

(Pick up can sometimes be arranged from
Fremantle Flying Angel Club if needed)

Please order via email
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Any enquiries please email Shirley at
books@stjohnsbooks.com.au

Why Reconnecting Lives Matters This Christmas



SAMANTHA DRURY *Chief Executive Officer*

Every day at St Bart's, we meet people who remind us that no matter how hard life has been, hope, dignity and joy are all still possible. Ms B is one of these people.

Her story is one of a difficult life. She is honest, courageous and has immense strength.

Ms B's journey, from violence and trauma in the UK to safety in Western Australia, is a powerful reminder of why our Reconnecting Lives Program is needed now and into the future.

'St Bart's got me a home. They helped me rebuild my life.'

'I grew up in a violent and unstable home in the UK. There were moments of light - like being accepted into a fine arts degree and drama school based purely on my merit as an artist. But without financial support, survival came first. I worked dangerous jobs just to get by.

Then my father died, and everything fell apart. I lost more than stability - I lost direction, identity, and hope. As challenges mounted, I began to realise something unusual was happening inside my head.'

For Ms B, that chaos shaped everything. She made the heartbreaking decision not to have children, determined to break the cycle of trauma but unsure how.

'In 2012, sick of feeling like a refugee in my own neighbourhood, I made the bold decision to start over in Australia.'

In a new country, Ms B found something she had never experienced before - real support. A hostel helped her assess her mental health and finally gave a name to the chaos: bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. 'This diagnosis didn't define me, but it gave my pain a name and helped me see that this is part of my journey - not my whole story.'



But the road was still hard. Medication left her feeling unlike herself. She needed independence. That's when she found St Bart's.

'After an interview, I was assigned a case manager. With their support, I secured housing and finally felt safe.'

Through the **Reconnecting Lives Program**, Ms B discovered what she hadn't had in years - if ever: stability, dignity, and a place to call home. Her case manager even helped her obtain citizenship, opening doors to a new future.

Now, at 61, Ms B is financially independent, supported by St Bart's, and thriving through her music, writing and art.

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5)

Advent



THE VEN MANDY HERRIMAN *Deacon, Parish of Kingsley-Woodvale*

**'I wish it need not have happened in my time,' said Frodo.
'So do I,' said Gandalf, 'and so do all who live to see such times. But that is
not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time
that is given us.'**

JRR Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

'All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.' As a devotee of Tolkien's trilogy, this has long been one of my favourite quotes. I have had cause to revisit this quote many times over the past year. What to do, how to be, how to respond in a world which seems to spiral further and further away from God. How do we live out our faith and hope in the incarnational God who continues to be present among the struggles of the world, our communities and our lives, even though it might feel at times as though God is deaf to our prayers – for peace, compassion, harmony.

As we approach the season of Advent and look with hope to this new season of the church in the world, so we turn to the scriptures we will read in order to decide what to do with these times that are given us. How to search for, and rediscover, the hope that God reminds us of when we place ourselves at the foot of the manger in the shadow of the cross.

Isaiah invites us: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths' (Isaiah 2.3) and then just a little further on: 'they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!' (Isaiah 2.3-4).



Called to be Christ's disciples in this world, the invitation is clear. Come to the Lord that we might learn of God's ways, walk in God's paths, speak peace and be a light to the nations.

What, we might ask then, are God's ways and what are the paths we might walk in order to be peace-dreamers and peace-makers? What is the light of the Lord within which we are invited to walk?

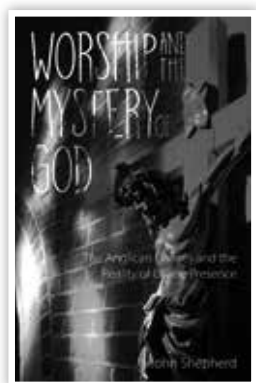
We turn for our answer to the incarnational God who came as a vulnerable babe into this world that reviled him, rejected him, abused him, oppressed him, beat him, mocked him, exiled him and dehumanised him.

And we hear his words in response to a test question from a lawyer: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets'" (Matthew 22.35-40).

It is as simple and as easy as that. In all we do, in everything we say, in every deed, every act of mercy, every welcome extended, every encounter we are blessed to have; is measured against this law of love. No conditions, no lens of prejudice or bias, no filter of fear, no weight of judgement, no apologetic exclusions. Love God, love your neighbour, love yourself.

It is as easy . . . and as difficult. . . as that. It is the answer to the decisions we must make about responding to and within this world in these times.

'All **we** have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.'



Worship and the Mystery of God: The Anglican Divines and the Reality of Divine Presence

John Shepherd
Sacristy Press, Durham 2025

REVIEWED BY THE REVD DR DAVID WOOD

John Shepherd's meticulously researched book takes us on a journey through centuries of Anglican liturgical worship and doctrine experienced and explored within our distinctive Christian tradition, a generous and informative gift for this household of faith.

In a world where every stranger becomes family whether we like it or not, justice and peace depend on knowing who we are and why, what we believe and why, what creed we actually strive to live by, where we have come from and what it might mean if we discover how to live and walk together as friends rather than enemies into the future.

Asked who we are and why, Anglicans instinctively reach for the *Book of Common Prayer*, perhaps for those with a bit of English Reformation history the first book composed by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer issued in 1549, or certainly the 1662 BCP after brutal and bloody Reformation controversy settled somewhat. Practically unchanged, BCP 1662 was still the official service book shaping Anglican life around the world until just fifty years ago, and remains the standard of doctrine and discipline in the Anglican Church of Australia today.

Whatever we know about Prayer Book tradition, however, even those who remember handling the BCP at every Eucharist or Evensong, know little about behind-the-scenes debates and decisions. Who had a say? Which biblical or liturgical scholars were consulted? Can faith ever be individual or silent or easy when human beliefs and behaviours are endlessly contested? Needless to say, John Shepherd is a trustworthy guide in this world, a place where we may have yet to spend much time.

Fundamental theological positions enshrined in the sixteenth-century Prayer Books were

vigorously contested ... particularly those concerning the so-called fatal corruption of humanity, the inability of anything other than a spiritual offering to be acceptable, the impossibility of the offering of worship being united with Christ's offering, and the aversion to any sense of the divine presence being embodied in worship. Any idea of worship constituting a unity of heaven and earth had been dismissed as illusory. As a result, there was no attempt to realize a sense of otherness or transcendence, for there was no otherness or transcendence to realize. The point of worship was not to embody Christ's offering but simply to remember it.

Scholarship that emerged in critical response to the theology of the reformers demonstrated that it was possible in worship to be brought into a living experience rather than a simple remembrance of the divine, thereby investing the offering of worship with a significance far removed from the predilections of the reformers.

The worship of heaven being imbued with a holiness in which the quality of beauty is inherent, so increasing attention was paid to beauty in worship, for beauty being inherent in holiness meant that holiness was inherent in beauty. The realms of beauty and holiness became intertwined. (pp 268-9)

The joy of this book is meeting new people and discovering new truths, building on what we think we know, opening to fresh insights, listening to different voices, debating respectfully. John Shepherd introduces us to famous Anglican 'divines' as well as names unknown. Some are giants by any standard: Matthew Parker, Richard Hooker, Lancelot Andrewes, John Donne, William Laud,

John Cosin, Jeremy Taylor, along with many lesser-known Divines, all of them priests and bishops who cherish properly authorised rites.

Anglicans, both lay and ordained, will find John Shepherd's timely book enlightening and refreshing.

REVIEWED BY MONSIGNOR KEVIN LONG PHD *St Joseph's, Subiaco*

John Shepherd's magisterial work deserves to be read and pondered by a wide audience. Those who worship within the Anglican Tradition will find their liturgical, theological and devotional lives much enriched by this text. For clergy and those preparing for ordination and parish ministry, it should be compulsory reading.

Many Roman Catholics believe the Roman Rite began with the 1969 *Novus Ordo*, and was, like the priest Melchizedek, without ancestry. Dean John seeks to help Anglicans avoid similar liturgical and theological ignorance about their own tradition.

Ignorance of the abiding importance of the *Book of Common Prayer* (1662), its antecedents, its comprehensiveness and its theological foundations, risks being found amongst those whose liturgical experience is limited to *A Prayer Book for Australia*, or worse still, amongst those who have abandoned liturgical forms of worship.

Shepherd takes his readers through a thorough examination of the liturgical and theological frontiers of the late medieval Church. He examines the daily devotional, liturgical and spiritual experiences of our medieval forebears. Against this background, where so much reform is needed, he then takes us through half a century of almost constant liturgical reformation.

The reformed and Protestant convictions of the early Anglican Fathers are clearly presented. Their insistence that beauty risked being an impediment to godly worship, that edification and proclamation of the pure Word of God was always primary, and their abiding anxiety that Christ's Sacrifice, made once and for all upon the cross for our salvation, risked losing its unique place through ritual and sacramental expression in the Lord's Supper, are demonstrated by a litany of Protestant Divines.

Reformation, reform and renewal are not static ecclesial realities. While both Rome and Canterbury experienced deeply felt liturgical changes in the 16th century, neither communion

remained unaffected by subsequent liturgical and theological influences. Despite the liturgical reforms of the Council of Trent, Roman liturgy fell either under the imprisonment of rubricism or pious devotional excesses unconnected to the Church's liturgical richness.

While remaining faithful to its Reformation inheritance, Anglican scholars began to move away from the limitations of liturgical rationality with its suspicion of music and ritual. Shepherd examines the liturgy of the *Book of Common Prayer*, its rubrics and its varied expressions, especially during the long reign of Elizabeth I. The reader is introduced to authors who understood the evolving Anglican position as being, at the same time, faithful to Reformation rationality and yet open to allowing beauty, music and ceremonial to be restored to the worship of God's Church, but always with sober reformed moderation. Such authors articulated a reformed, Catholic appreciation of right liturgical order, with an understanding of the foundational reformed doctrines of justification and the sufficiency of Christ's Sacrifice finding liturgical expression within the beauty of holiness.

Evangelical and Catholic Anglicans will find many of their theological and liturgical heroes within these pages. Shepherd shows a profound respect for each tradition yet clearly argues both traditions need to be nurtured by the other.

Shepherd's book is deeply Anglican. I suspect John Shepherd, and the authors he considers, might consider Anglicans celebrating the Roman Rite, together with Anglicans who have walked away from any Prayer Book Liturgy, as standing against the richness of their Anglican Tradition.

While the 16th and 17th century liturgical giants of Anglican Tradition find a place in his book, John Shepherd introduces us to many, fascinating, lesser known scholars and theologians. These authors and their sources make this an invaluable work of pastoral and theological scholarship.

Nor'West Postcard



JOCELYN ROSS OAM

Geraldton Anglican Cathedral heads the *Postcard* after the special Sunday service which included the baptism of a toddler, Andre, by the Dean, two water baptisms of an adult brother and sister, Ryan and Jess, by our assistant minister Malachi, and Tanaka's confirmation by the Bishop who was also leading the service. And an amazing sermon on Jonah's turnabout and obedience to God.



St Andrew's Day, 30 November was the 60th anniversary of Archdeacon Bill Ross's deaconing in January 1965 and priesting in November 1965. He led the two morning services at Geraldton Anglican Cathedral, with his first curate, The Revd David Mansfield (1978-79 in Karratha), coming from Wollongong to preach on John 1:35-42.



If you are travelling north or know anyone travelling through the north west, maybe to visit family (as it is too hot to holiday), please visit the closest church as it is such an encouragement for these small in numbers churches in the isolated towns in our Diocese.

But glory to God, these churches are planning community carols, often in conjunction with other denominational churches to make every town aware of the true story of Christmas. Christmas carols, eg Karratha Parish on Sunday 7 December at 6.30pm in Dampier at Hampton Oval, then a Kids' Nativity on 14 December at the Karratha Anglican Church and a service with carols on 21 December.

Newman Anglicans have had children practising for quite a while in a choir to perform songs at the Carols service on 7 December.



Kununurra Combined Christmas Carols entitled Follow the Star, with EKC Primary choir, Christmas Story, a Candy Cane Hunt, and Puppet Show are on 7 December.

Karratha church is sadly farewelling Gabrielle Spackman who has been teaching at Bayton West Primary School for the last three years. She is now moving to Perth for training in gospel ministry, as an apprentice at the University of Western Australia, serving alongside the students and staff at the UWA Christian Union seeking to proclaim Jesus to the 25,000+ students on campus. If you would like to partner with her, both prayerfully and financially, her email is: gabrielle.spackman@afes.org.au



Our CMS missionary, Chris Webb, a wizard on the guitar is now joined by his two sons, forming a band called Arachnids. We heard them play recently at the Fellow Workers' Conference at Camp Wattle Grove. They have played locally in Broome for quite a few months. So gifted!! Chris's ministry includes visiting aboriginal communities teaching and growing Christians in their walk with Jesus.

Helpful things that came out of COVID!! Our Diocese recently held Synod this year online. For our Diocese many dollars are saved in travel and accommodation for a seven-hour meeting.

Anglican Churches in the North West 2026 Christmas Appeal this year plan to raise \$15,000 to support the Diocese of Karamoja in Uganda. We are to fund two key projects in partnership with ARDFA (Anglican Relief and Development Fund): Gospel promotion about clergy stipends, clergy/lay leader training, theological scholarships mission outreach, Diocesan support and Community development which is to restore St Philip's Centre for community hub, emergency shelter, conference rental and training.

'O, come let us adore Him, Christ the LORD!'

For more news about the North West visit anglicandnwa.org | [@northwestanglicans](https://www.facebook.com/northwestanglicans)
or sign up to receive the *NorthWest Network* magazine

Bunbury Bulletin

THE VEN GEOFFREY CHADWICK *Archdeacon*

Christ the King



The Diocese hosted the theological students for their Intensive training weekend on 21-23 November. Several students joined recently, which takes the total number (including our recently ordained Deacons) to 14! How wonderful it is to have so many willing to test God's call on their lives! Topics included Theodicy, Altarcraft, Getting the Most out of the Bible, and Theological Reflection.

The weekend coincided with the Feast of Christ the King when the Diocese focusses on its Ministry Training Fund supporting the training of theological students. The students took part at the Cathedral Eucharist on the day with the deacon and dean wearing the so called 'Coronation Robes' that the Cathedral has in its collection. The Ordination Council will soon be meeting to discern what God's future may be for each of the students. Watch this space!

To contribute to The Ministry Support Fund, please deposit your donation at:
BSB: 706 001 Account No: 30009675

Hub Meetings

Recently, regions of the Diocese centred around Dumbleyung, Coodanup (Mandurah), Bridgetown and Oyster Harbour (Albany) gathered to discuss how best to provide sustainable ministry in their regional contexts. Many ideas were discussed, including training, sharing on-line resources, youth ministry, ministry to older men in the rural regions, being less Sunday-centric, roving ministries, understanding local demographics, the Anglican five marks of mission and so on.

Once collated, this information will be distilled into a new Vision and Strategy for the Diocese.

Preliminary results suggest a theme of Prayer, Praise and Proclamation. The aim is to set this in place before Bishop Ian's retirement on 28 August 2026.

Country Hospitality

Recently a certain Archdeacon and Diocesan Registrar found themselves broken down on a lonely stretch of road



in the Great Southern. Whilst waiting four hours for the recovery vehicle to arrive, at least half-a-dozen farmers stopped to see if they were okay. Realising that holy oil would not fix the problem, it was kind of one farmer to return with water for the holy pair. Shades of the good Samaritan!

Blessings from Bunbury,
Archdeacon Geoff

Ministry Opportunities in the Bunbury Diocese

The Bunbury Diocese is seeking:

- A full-time chaplain for Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School
- A part-time priest Narrogin
- A full-time priest for Denmark/Walpole
- Clergy willing to visit the remote parts of the Diocese which extend from Hyden to Hopetoun
- Clergy looking for a short or extended 'tree-change' in a beautiful part of the world

Please contact Archdeacon
Geoff Chadwick
E: archdeacon@bunbury.org.au
Ph: 08 9721 2100

What in the world is Perth Mothers' Union up to?

CHRISTINE BRAIN *Member, Perth Mothers' Union*

Mothers' Union Perth, along with members across the globe, acknowledge Advent in many ways, such as by making special collections of food and gifts for families suffering hardship, by assisting in Advent and Christmas services for families and by making prayer a particular focus.

During the global '16 Days of Activism' campaign, which runs from 25 November-10 December each year, people around the world unite to raise awareness about gender-based violence, challenge discriminatory attitudes and call for improved laws and services to end violence against women. MU Perth members warmly invite anyone who wishes to join us in acknowledging our need for God's help in eliminating this scourge to join us for a service to be held at 10.00am on Saturday 6 December at St Columba's Church, Scarborough.



If you would like to use the Bible readings and prayers, such as the one below, which have been written for this period, they can be found at www.muaustralia.org.au/resources#SocialIssuesandActionDepartment

2025 Theme Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,

We pray to you with hearts burdened for those who suffer from gender-based violence, especially women and their children. We pray for the victims of such abuse and ask that you will heal, renew and guard them. We ask that they will bring their cares to you, who cares for them, and that churches everywhere will welcome and support them. We pray that we may see the end to such evil and a new day of peace and sacrificial love in all our homes. And this we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

'But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble' (Psalm 59:16).

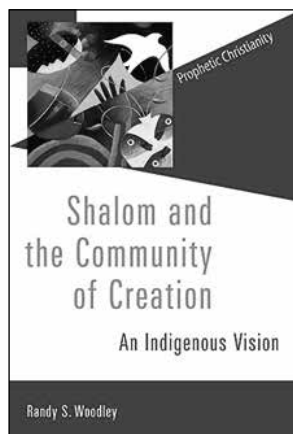
Other resources for use during Advent can also be found on the AMUA website at www.muaustralia.org.au/resources

The Use and Benefit of Creative Modalities in Spiritual Direction



THE REVD ROSS JONES *Director of the Tree of Life Programme*

The Tree of Life focuses on 13-15 February 2026, 'Medicine Wheel Spirituality', with Kathie Riddle at St John of God Retreat Centre, Shoalwater



Spirituality in indigenous culture offers many valuable insights that contribute to the human community. An important role is being an anti-structural space where new ideas and lifestyles are developed, leading to a change

in consciousness. Another critical role of spirituality is the sense of deep belonging and connectedness.

The living generation receives life-giving influence from their ancestors as they, as a community, participate in their natural environment, the land and sea. The natural environment is a divine reality, with every aspect carrying the divine message and presence that is immediately experienced.

Another vital role of indigenous spirituality is the extended family group as the setting for spirituality, characterised by fellowship, community, hospitality, and social justice, through participation in the ancestral way. All that exists has its origin, meaning and termination in the divine.

Tacey states that this crisis of human consciousness has arisen from a failure to view the physical world as sacred. The issue is spiritual, with our thoughts connected to a sacred universe that our bodies engage with, part of the animated creation.

We require spiritual guidance for the growing interest in the reality of the spirit and its healing effects on life, health, community, and overall well-being. Spiritual directors are to be earth

literate and read the earth's sacred text and its role in the directee's life.

The research conducted by Ruffering into participants' prayer experiences demonstrated that the new cosmology aligned with their experiences of the divine in nature, interpersonal relationships, and communal rituals. The sense of the natural world's sacramentality deepened the participants' understanding of themselves within the universe, the human community, and the faith community.

Randy S Woodley, a prominent Native American theologian of Cherokee descent, has dedicated his life to bridging Indigenous wisdom and Christian theology. His book, *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision* (2012), emerges from his lived experience and scholarly engagement with both Native American traditions and Christian faith. Woodley's central aim is to challenge dominant Euro-American paradigms and invite readers into a holistic, relational, and restorative vision for creation, community, and spirituality. His perspective is shaped by the Harmony Way, a Native American framework for living well, and the biblical concept of Shalom, which together offer a compelling alternative to Western dualism and compartmentalisation.

Woodley introduces the Native American Harmony Way as an all-encompassing path of living in right relationship with oneself, others, the land, and the Creator. It emphasises balance, reciprocity, and respect across all aspects of life. Paralleling this, the biblical concept of Shalom is far richer than the standard translation of 'peace'; it encompasses wholeness, justice, well-being, and the flourishing of all creation. Both Harmony Way and Shalom are communal, relational, and restorative, offering frameworks

for life that honour interdependence and mutual care.

Woodley asserts that both the biblical concept of Shalom and Native American Harmony Way worldviews reject individualism and fragmentation, instead promoting a vision where all creatures coexist in a web of relationships marked by respect and responsibility.

Woodley insists that Shalom and the Harmony Way demand practical action. True peace requires justice, which entails addressing economic inequality, racial injustice, environmental degradation, and the broken relationships that perpetuate these issues. He discusses restorative practices such as ceremonies, restitution, and community healing, drawing from Indigenous traditions that emphasise repairing harm and restoring relationships. These practices are echoed in biblical calls to love one's neighbour, seek justice, and care for the vulnerable.

Woodley demonstrates that both traditions affirm the sacredness of the land, the importance of community, and the necessity of holistic well-being. Woodley argues that Christian theology can be enriched by Indigenous wisdom, particularly in its emphasis on relationality and the interconnectedness of all life. This integration challenges Western notions of spirituality as private or abstract, grounding faith in everyday relationships and responsibilities.

Woodley offers a thorough critique of Western dualism - especially the tendency to separate spirit from matter, sacred from secular, and humans from the rest of creation. He identifies anthropocentrism (placing humans at the centre of the universe) and compartmentalisation as root causes of ecological destruction, social fragmentation, and spiritual emptiness. In contrast, both Harmony Way and Shalom reject these divides, affirming that the spiritual and the material are inseparable. That true well-being depends on the health of the whole community - including land, animals, and plants.

Drawing from Indigenous traditions, Woodley describes ceremonies and practices that restore relationships and bring healing to communities. These include rituals of reconciliation, acts

of restitution, and communal gatherings that address harm and promote forgiveness. Such practices are mirrored in biblical calls to confession, forgiveness, and making amends, highlighting the shared commitment to restorative justice and communal well-being.

Central to Woodley's vision is a creation-centred spirituality that recognises the land, animals, and all living beings as sacred. He calls for a renewed relationship with creation, rooted in respect, gratitude, and stewardship. This approach challenges exploitative attitudes and invites people to see themselves as part of a larger community of creation, responsible for its flourishing and care. Woodley draws on both Indigenous and biblical teachings to argue that spirituality is not just about human concerns but about the well-being of the entire earth community.

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Tree of Life
Centre for Christian Belief,
Spirituality and Australian Culture
Wollaston College



For further information on the Tree of Life programme, please contact the Programme Director: The Revd Ross Jones on 0404 233 780 or rossj6508@gmail.com

Appointments

The Reverend Karen Lewis	Chaplain (Deacon), Amana Living	01.12.25
The Revd Peter Hotchkin	Assistant Chaplain, Peter Moyes ACS (in addition to Priest-in-Charge, Quinns-Butler)	01.01.26-31.12.26
The Revd Sarah Stapleton	Assistant Priest, Kalamunda (in addition to Priest-in-Charge, West Nedlands)	01.01.26-30.06.26
The Reverend Brett Gibson	Priest-in-Charge, Spearwood	01.02.26

Area Deans

The Reverend Gemma Baseley	Gwaya
The Reverend Galal Bashir	Darlmoorluk
The Reverend Johnsan David	Marli
The Reverend Pat Deeny	Keela
The Reverend Stuart Fenner	Kyooya
The Reverend Barry Moss	Wagyl
The Reverend Des Smit	Koolbardi
The Reverend Ben Underwood	Djiti-Djiti

Locum Tenens

The Reverend Dr Peter Brain	Maddington	02.12.25-30.04.26
The Ven Jack Thomson	Balga-Mirraboooka	01.01.26-29.04.26
The Revd Jacqui Chesley-Ingle	Kwinana	10.12.25-29.04.26
The Revd Lorna Green	Canning	03.01.26-30.04.26
The Revd Chris Bedding	Amana Living	22.12.25-30.01.26

Permission to Officiate

The Reverend Rob Healy	04.11.25
The Reverend Frank Sheehan OAM	18.11.25

Ordination to the Priesthood

29.11.25

The Reverend Bec Bydder
 The Reverend Sylvia Grevel
 The Reverend Rhys Roberts-Brown
 The Reverend Cecilia Strutt

Ordination to the Diaconate

24.02.26

Mr Kim Chin

Retirement

The Revd Wes Lamb	01.11.25
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Resignations

The Revd James Bishop (Br Martin)	Chaplain, Amana Living	31.11.25
The Ven Justine Coverdale	Canon, St George's Cathedral	31.12.25

RIP

Mrs Fay Drayton	Widow of The Venerable Ken Drayton	28.10.25
Mrs Jean Jones	Widow of The Revd Llewellyn Jones	29.11.25

Celebrating 25 Years at Ellenbrook

The Parish of Ellenbrook marked its 25th anniversary on 23 November 2025. Bishop Kate Wilmot joined the celebration, preaching and presiding at the Eucharist.



Lorna Walton (founding member of Ellenbrook parish) and Sherryl Potts (past warden) presented a brief history of the parish.



The Revd Trevor Goodman-Jones and Bishop Kate Wilmot celebrating the Lord's Supper.



Lorelle Wadley (Parish Council member and Synod Representative) presenting a congratulatory bunch of flowers to celebrate Bishop Kate's 25th anniversary of being ordained.

Messenger Quiz - with thanks to The Revd Frank Sheehan OAM

- 1 **Who coined the expression "Grace under pressure"?**
 - (a) F Scott Fitzgerald
 - (b) Ernest Hemingway
 - (c) Ezra Pound
 - (d) James Joyce
- 2 **In Advent, we are encouraged to think and pray about Christian eschatology which deals with**
 - (a) first things
 - (b) existential things
 - (c) last things
 - (d) thingamabobs
- 3 **Which purple candle of Advent is the Peace candle, also known as the Bethlehem candle?**
 - (a) first
 - (b) second
 - (c) third
 - (d) fourth
- 4 **One of St Francis Xavier's missionary journeys included a stay in**
 - (a) Bali
 - (b) La Paz
 - (c) Quito
 - (d) Ensenada
- 5 **They often appear in the symbology of Milan**
 - (a) earwigs
 - (b) praying mantises
 - (c) ladybirds
 - (d) bees
- 6 **St Lucy was martyred during the reign of this emperor**
 - (a) Decius
 - (b) Diocletian
 - (c) Nero
 - (d) Valerian
- 7 **The patron saint of India**
 - (a) St Michael
 - (b) St Andrew
 - (c) St Cyril
 - (d) St Thomas
- 8 **The poem *Christmas* opens with this line: 'The bells of waiting Advent ring'. The poet was**
 - (a) Sir John Betjeman
 - (b) W H Auden
 - (c) Philip Larkin
 - (d) T S Eliot
- 9 **He is known as the "beloved apostle"**
 - (a) James the Elder
 - (b) Mark
 - (c) Luke
 - (d) John
- 10 **The massacre of the Holy Innocents is told only in this Gospel**
 - (a) Matthew
 - (b) Mark
 - (c) Luke
 - (d) John
- 11 **Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* features a company of pilgrims travelling from Southwark to this archbishop's shrine in Canterbury Cathedral**
 - (a) Baldwin of Forde
 - (b) Theobald of Bec
 - (c) Thomas à Becket
 - (d) John Blund
- 12 **He was the author of *Objections to Friars* (1380)**
 - (a) John Wycliffe
 - (b) Nicholas of Hereford
 - (c) William of Ockham
 - (d) John of Gaunt

Answers can be found on page 27

With thanks to Larry Lockyear JP

Joy to the World

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



ANTHONY HOWES OAM

Anthony presents more news of arts and entertainment every Saturday from 10.00am till 12.00noon on Capital Radio 101.7 FM and Capital Digital

It is now some months since I wrote of **'Christmas Magic'** to be staged in St George's Cathedral for one performance only on Tuesday 16 December at 7.00pm. Since then, as a broadcaster and the play with music's producer, I have had many queries about it, the charity to benefit, and how this annual fund-raiser is put together. To answer these queries in the December issue of *Messenger* is obviously appropriate!

Of the story itself, playwright, Jenny Davis OAM, tells us: 'I have gone back to 1965 with two families, one in the UK and the other in Perth, sharing the magic of Christmas in different climes, and in different ways, celebrating, but in both cases, bringing the meaning and value of this special time of year; a time of giving, of peace and of harmony.' Jenny stressed that, throughout, the mood of the festive season is underlined by carols performed by Perth Undergraduates' Choir, directed by Sarah Mills Menogue.

Chevalier Jamie Edwards GCSJ, of the Order of St John Knights Hospitaller, answered the question about the community forces behind the presentation: 'For me, Christmas is synonymous with the partnered fundraiser between the Western Australian Priory of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Hospitaller and our Conventual Church, St George's Cathedral. Since my Investiture as a Knight of Honour in 2009 and my subsequent roles, as Commander and Prior, I have had the privilege of acknowledging for the last thirteen years, the success of the Christmas productions produced by Chevalier Vice Prior Tony Howes OAM, KCSJ and written and directed by Jenny Davis OAM of the renowned, 'Theatre 180'. The Christmas fundraiser is supported by some of Perth's best known Thespians, as well as members from the world of music and choral societies. These generous people freely give of their talents and time, to ensure the success of the Christmas fundraiser. The funds raised are donated, and over the thirteen years, close to \$80,000 has been forwarded to a nominated charity. This year the funds will go to 'Street Connect', a youth outreach service for young people.'

'So, to this year's beneficiary of the total of ticket money raised – in other words, the gift the audience makes to Street Connect. The Cathedral liaison for the production, Canon Kathy Barrett-Lennard reports: Street Connect is a free outreach service for young people (15-25) that provides support, advocacy and referrals to those who are street present or at risk of homelessness.'

Young people are connected to services that they need and are given practical and caring support to help them bounce back from adversity. Help includes finding accommodation, healthcare services, legal help, counselling and equipping young people with basic life skills. The services are delivered by a team of youth workers, many who are trained volunteers, who provide outreach via the Street Connect bus. The entire proceeds from 'Christmas Magic' will help keep the bus on the road and will provide our most vulnerable young people with immediate help and a tangible sign of hope.

The greater the audience on 16 December, the greater the Christmas gift of funds to help our young people in need to face life with hope. As I walk through the West Doors of the Cathedral I always feel the impact of hope and the knowledge of shared hope with so many people down the years. So, from 6.30pm on 16 December the audience will be greeted by the Street Connect Volunteers singing carols, before the play begins at 7.00pm. Then, **'Christmas Magic'** will unfold.

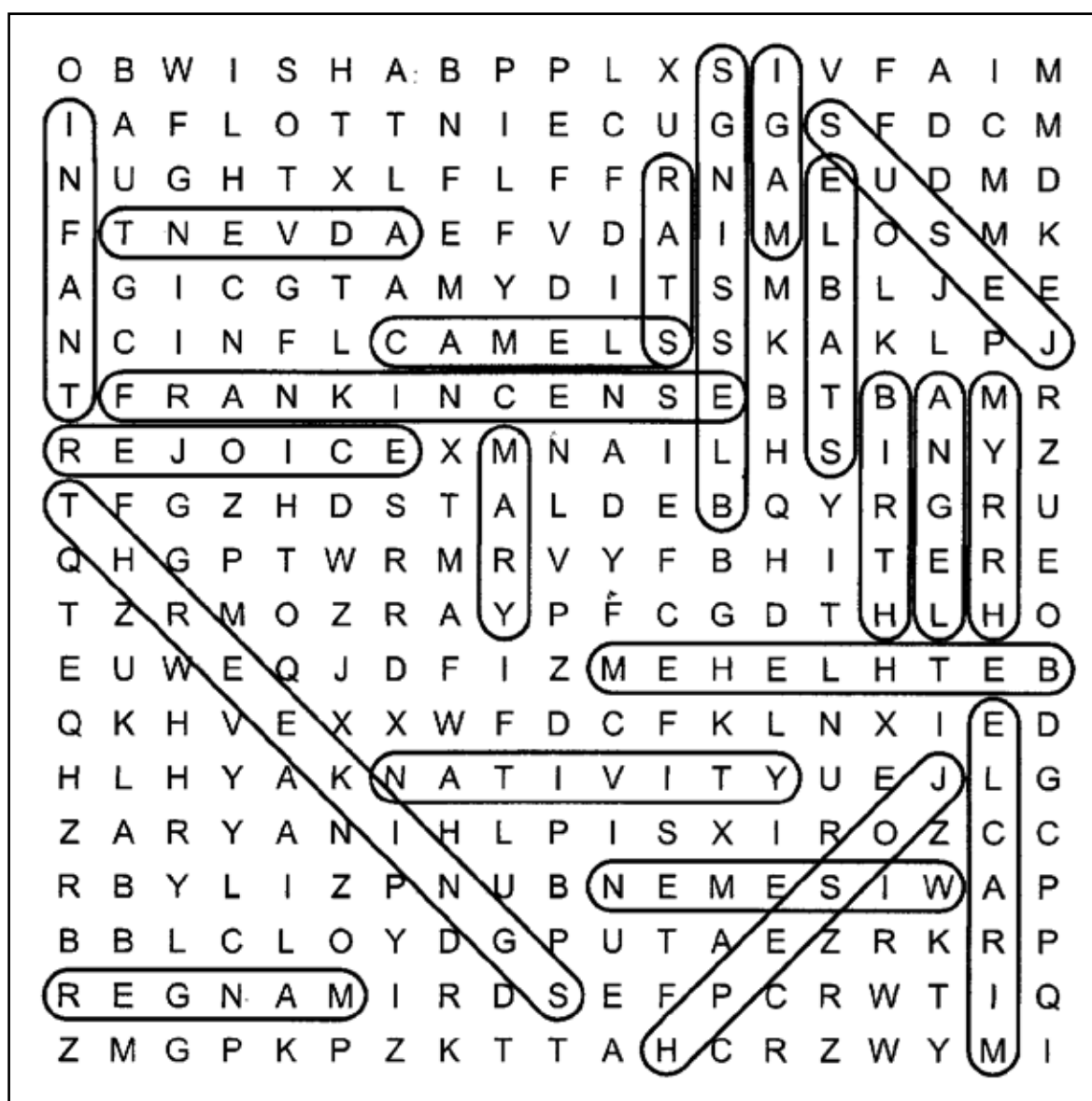
To purchase tickets: www.trybooking.com/DGOPZ
\$45 adults and \$40 (all concessions)



Quiz Answers

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 (b) Ernest Hemingway | 7 (d) St Thomas |
| 2 (c) last things | 8 (a) Sir John Betjeman |
| 3 (b) second | 9 (d) John |
| 4 (a) Bali | 10 (a) Matthew |
| 5 (d) bees | 11 (c) Thomas à Becket |
| 6 (b) Diocletian | 12 (a) John Wycliffe |

Word Search Solution



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DEADLINE:

Usually around 24th or 25th of every month prior to publication. Articles must be under 400 words and may be edited without notice, images to accompany articles are encouraged

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Permission needs to be sought from parents/guardians/carers for photographs with children. Digital photos should be a high quality.



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Your Cathedral Welcomes Everyone

We are seeking to share our living faith in an inclusive and openhearted way as we empower people to transform the communities in which we live and serve with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am	Holy Communion <i>the Book of Common Prayer</i>
10.00am	Choral Eucharist
5.00pm	Choral Evensong

MONDAY TO SATURDAY SERVICES

Monday to Saturday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
	8.15am	Holy Eucharist
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	12.15pm	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	10.15am	Holy Eucharist
Monday to Saturday	4.00pm	Evening Prayer

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Saturday	6th	9.30am	Advent Study I - <i>Visions of Hope in the Prophets</i>
Saturday	13th	9.30am	Advent Study II - <i>Visions of Hope in the Prophets</i>
		10.30am	A Family Nativity <i>Interactive Service especially for kids - all welcome!</i>
Tuesday	16th	7.00pm	Christmas Magic - A Night at the Theatre! Tickets - \$45 Adults \$40 Concession purchase via www.trybooking.com/DGOPZ
Friday	19th	6.30pm - 9.30pm	Open Night at the Cathedral <i>The Cathedral doors open as part of the City of Perth's Christmas Lights Trail</i>
Saturday	20th	9.30am	Advent Study III - <i>Visions of Hope in the Prophets</i>
		10.30am	Christmas Busy Bee <i>with a free coffee from The Dean!</i>
Sunday	21st	7.30pm	A Festival of Lessons & Carols*
Monday	22nd	6.30pm	Simply Christmas <i>A gentle reflective service for when Christmas is difficult</i>
Tuesday	23rd	7.30pm	A Festival of Lessons & Carols*
Wednesday	24th	7.30pm	A Festival of Lessons & Carols*
		11.00pm	Midnight Mass
Thursday	25th	8.00am	Christmas Holy Communion
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist of the Nativity

*Please note this is the same service of 'A Festival of Lessons & Carols' offered three times.

No tickets are required unless otherwise noted, but seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For further information and details for these and other services, please see our website, our Facebook page, or contact the Cathedral Office on the details below.

**St George's
Cathedral
Perth**

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 perthcathedral.org

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