



**St Leonard's Church**  
cnr Strickland & Mitchell Sts  
Denmark

## Anglican Parish of Denmark-Walpole

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**St. George's Church**  
11 Vista St  
Walpole

Parish Priest: Revd Sally Buckley tssf 9848 2173  
Wardens: Alison Kershaw 9848 2606, Sally Prickett 0428 747 262. Judy Ross 0455 509 317  
Treasurer: Chris Prickett 0413 103 743

***We endeavour to be an expression of God's love in the community***

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March 21, 2020.

Dear Parishioners,

Further to my letter to you all on March 6, and the email or telephone call you would have received on Friday (March 20), you will be aware that things have progressed in relation to the Covid 19 (Coronavirus) and its effect on us as a parish.

On Thursday, March 19, I met with the Parish Executive (the Wardens and Treasurer) to discuss the latest developments in relation to the ongoing ministry and mission in this parish.

The decision we made then was to close the Mustard Seed in Denmark at the end of trade on Friday March 20. This decision was not made lightly, but on the recommendation of the Diocese, under guidelines being drawn up by the Anglican Church of Australia.

Yesterday, the Federal Government increased the imposed 'Social distancing' from 1.5 metres to 4 square metres per person. This made gathering for worship in any meaningful sense, increasingly difficult.

With this in mind, in the interest of the safety of parishioners, in consultation with Parish Councillors and on recommendation of the Diocese, I made the decision, to cease public worship immediately, hence the urgent message which went out on Friday evening – for the time being, there ***will not be church services at St Leonard's Denmark.***

St George's Walpole is, I think, a bigger space with a much smaller congregation. They will continue to worship this Sunday, then a decision will be made at the service as to whether worship will continue or not.

So how do we continue to be church in these challenging times?

Remember, church is not the building, however beautiful our buildings are, church is the people of God ... us!

These are the measures we are putting in place:

### **Spiritual.**

St Leonard's in Denmark will be opened from 9.30 am until 4 pm each day. You are welcome to come in and spend some quiet time during those hours.

A "Prayer Tree" has been placed before the altar with some paper tags, on which you can write a prayer to hang on the tree.

I will be saying Morning Prayer at St Leonard's each day at 9.30 am and you are welcome to join me (social distancing observed). Any prayers from the Prayer Tree will be included in the intercessions at Morning Prayer.

Licensed Lay Minister (LLM), Alison Kershaw and I are putting together simple liturgies for Morning and Evening Prayer, which we will get to everyone, either by email or a letter drop

for those not on email. These will be available on the Parish Website too:  
[www.denmarkanglican.org.au](http://www.denmarkanglican.org.au)

Each week my sermon, the pew sheet, along with some appropriate prayers will be shared with you in the same way.

For those on email, I will share, under a separate email, some links which are available for live streaming of services and other online resources.

While we may not gather physically for worship, we can still gather in prayer. So please, think of this as a way to grow and enhance your own spiritual practice of prayer and worship of our God, who continues to love us.

### **Pastoral.**

During this period, I intend to write a short pastoral letter each week, keeping in touch and seeing where the needs are in our community.

Please, **do not hesitate to contact me** if you have any concerns or need any help. There is a small group of parishioners who have expressed a desire to be of service to those who need help in whatever way, particularly to those who are shut in, or without family around to help.

My contact details are:

Parish phone: 9848 2173

My personal mobile: 0408 714 564

My personal email: [fr.sall4@gmail.com](mailto:fr.sall4@gmail.com)

I will also be taking over as coordinator of the parish Prayer Circle from Alison. If you do not receive the prayer updates, you may like to join! Please, if you have a need, contact me on one of the ways above. I take this opportunity to thank Alison for the incredible job she has done with this.

This is a time when the church will either show how strong it can be or it will fall into irrelevance. It is my prayer that it will be the former, and we will come out of this stronger than ever.

Something that has been doing the rounds of social media in the last week:

When this is over, may we never again take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbours  
A crowded theatre  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become  
more like the people we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be  
and we may stay that way – better for each other  
because of the worst.

## Financial.

With the closure of the Mustard Seed and the cessation of church services, there will be a significant drop in the income to the Parish from a budgeted figure of just under \$110,000 to a possible \$27,000 with the two main sources of income combined.

While we do hold a healthy cushion at the moment, if no further income was received, the Parish would be unviable within twelve months.

We have recently received a grant from Boniface Care for our ongoing ministry in Emergency Relief, which is kindly distributed through Denmark Community Resource Centre. This will enable this ministry to continue at a critical time for those in need.

If you have been to the church this week, you will see that work on the ramp is in progress. Regrettably, we were unable to postpone it, as it had already begun. The builder, Steve Madaffari, has kindly agreed to defer payment for the building until later in the year if necessary.

You can possibly guess at where I am going with this. The parish still needs to continue to be in existence to minister to and with you. Please do not forget or stop your financial support of it.

I encourage you to consider the Direct Giving facility for those who use online banking etc. or you can arrange for your bank to transfer an amount each week or month.

The Bank details are:

Account Name: Anglican Parish Denmark-Walpole  
BSB: 706 001  
Account Number: 3000 4673  
Please quote Ref: Offertory

For those not able to take up this option, Offertories can be 'posted' through the letter box in the left-hand vestry wall in the church.

**In summary**, we are still here for you, still ministering and finding new and creative ways to be Church.

In Denmark, pew sheets, pastoral letters, prayers and copies of sermons, as well as being sent to you, will be left on the Greeter's desk and can be collected when the church is open.

In Walpole we will endeavour to get these to you, mainly by email, but Harold has kindly offered to deliver the few, if any, who do not have email.

Until this crisis has passed, please stay in touch with me. Stay healthy and safe, be assured of my ongoing prayers, and let me know if you need anything from a priestly perspective.

Peace and every good wish



Revd Sally Buckley tssf  
Parish Priest Denmark-Walpole.