



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

Thursday, 16 July 2020.

Dear Parishioners

I'm back ... and what excitement, as we look to finally reopen St Leonard's Denmark this Sunday.

I thank the Wardens, Sally Prickett, Alison Kershaw and Judy Ross for looking after the parish while I was away, and to Revd Sue Lodge Calvert for allowing us to use her weekly reflections.

I pray all is going well in Walpole and you are enjoying some sense of normality. I am ever grateful to Fr. Kevin Callegari and Harold Luxton for their ministry at St George's. I so enjoyed the two weeks I worshipped with you before going on leave.

Leave wasn't particularly restful but was enjoyable. It mainly revolved around sorting and packing the remaining few things which remained, a few formal farewells to Chris from the various aspects of his community involvement, a trip to Perth for a family celebration, more farewells and being asked to officiate at the funeral of an Esperance parishioner! While I will always miss some of my Esperance friends, Denmark is definitely feeling like home now! So, it is good to be back!

Of course, as we continue on this rollercoaster ride which has been our experience of the COVID 19 pandemic, we can make plans, but realise that they could change again very suddenly. The WA government was planning to ease restrictions further on Saturday, but with the outbreak of the virus in Victoria and New South Wales, this has been pushed back, with a tentative date of August 1st for the "Phase 5" easing of restrictions. I think at the moment it will be a week by week proposition depending on whether there is an outbreak in the West.

That said, my present plan is as follows:

The Mustard Seed will continue as it has been under the capable guidance of Sally, Wendy and Jill. A big thank you, ladies and all volunteers.

St George's Walpole will continue with their 'new normal': Communion in the one kind courtesy of Fr. Kevin. I will be unable to make my usual monthly visit this month but intend to continue my third Sunday of the month visits from August.

St Leonard's Denmark will reopen this Sunday with Morning Prayer. I am hoping, all being well, to start Holy Communion services again from the beginning of August. With that in mind, "choir practise" will not recommence on a Saturday morning until then. Therefore, for those who enjoy it, the next two Saturdays will be 'virtual choir practise' at home, with anyone who is interested (choir or not), is welcome to meet for fellowship over a cuppa at the Tea House Books Café at 10.30 am. I understand that the café part of the Green Pantry has reopened and so, once Choir is back up and running in August, perhaps we can go there again.

For those who are interested, the hymns this Sunday at St Leonard's will be:

- TiS 162 Thank you for giving me the morning
- TiS 87 You are before me, Lord, you are behind me
- TiS 262 Lord of creation, to you be all praise
- TiS 687 God gives us a future

As I stated in my last letter to you, we will need to continue to maintain the strict standards of our COVID Safety Plans. Please if you are feeling unwell, **stay at home**. Remember, no handshaking or hugs, make sure you have washed your hands before coming, use the hand sanitiser on entering

church, and allow your names to be recorded. Unless you are sitting with someone you share a home with, please space yourself according to the 2m² rules. One positive change is that we are now allowed to have a cuppa and fellowship after church, as long as all the sanitising and social distancing rules are adhered to.

August seems to be the month when, God willing, we will find some sense of normality. The Twilight Meditations will be starting again on Friday, August 7 at 5 pm for practise, to start at 5.30 pm at St Leonard's. Mother's Union will be starting again, but I will get more details about that to you nearer the time.

The Archbishop of Perth has shared some lovely prayers recently. The two I share here are both very appropriate as we reopen our churches, as we look at how we can minister pastorally and spiritually in our communities, in this "brave new world" which is still trying to work out the regulations and boundaries for its "new normal".

*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.*

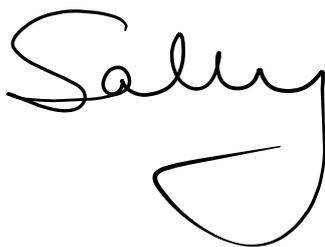
and a prayer for the Christian Community, written by Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference:

*We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs,
for as long as it takes,
wherever you call us.*

I look forward to seeing many of you at St Leonard's on Sunday for a great celebration as we reopen the doors and finally get to worship together.

May the peace of God which truly passes understanding, fill you, enfold and empower you, and may you stay well and safe.

With my continued prayers and good wishes, your priest and your friend.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping loop at the end.