



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

December 31, 2020

Dear Parishioners

I wish you all every blessing for the new year, just a few hours away!

Secondly, I must apologise for not sending out a letter prior to Christmas, which was my intention, but sadly, just didn't happen. After everything opened up again after the lockdown, I was hoping to be a little more regular in my correspondence with you all and am ashamed that my last letter was in August. Sorry about that!

I hope and pray that you all had a very happy, holy and healthy Christmas.

While on the cusp of a new year, I reflect back on the year that was and, despite all, what we were blessed with. For those of us who are a little technically savvy, we learnt how to *Zoom*! One of the blessings I received was that during the worst of our lockdown, I was catching up fortnightly via *Zoom* with my five siblings here and in the UK. We have now gone back to an individual, occasional catch up via *Skype*, but that communication with those we love, wherever they are, took on a greater priority.

A dear friend, who works in an aged care facility in North Yorkshire which has just had a COVID outbreak, sent me this, written by Revd Margaret Wesley:

What will we take
from a year that has
taken so much from us?
Shall we shrug it off saying,
"Glad that's over!" and
"Let's move on"?

Have we not at some time
in the darkness of this year
heard a still, small voice
calling us to
Take courage
Take responsibility
Take care of each other?

If we take those things,
though all else is
taken from us,
we can take hope
for a better New Year.

Christmas Bowl. One thing I had hoped to share in a pre-Christmas letter, was to let people know that there are Christmas Bowl envelopes at the back of both churches (Denmark and Walpole), but also you can donate online by going to their website: www.christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au and follow the prompts to donate.

Something I have been thinking about working on for sometime has been a **Parish Prayer Diary**. One of my UK sisters sent me one that they were using and it sparked the idea of doing something a lot simpler than what I had originally had in mind. I will be sending it out with this letter. There will be extra copies of it at the back of each church, once I get copies to Walpole as well. Perhaps it is something you might use as a New Year's resolution, to spend a short time in prayer each day, and use the short prayer point for the day of the month. As I said on the sheet, it will be a great encouragement knowing that others will be praying for the same thing each day.

The coming year is already shaping up to be quite busy. Here are a few notices which you should be aware of.

Denmark Village Theatre Panto – Interval Catering Fundraiser. Building on last year's success, the parish has been invited to take on the catering at this year's Pantomime at the Denmark Civic Centre. We are aiming to raise significant funds towards paying off the ramp, now completed, from the church carpark to the level of the parish centre.

For each performance we need three people on duty and donations of cakes, slices and savoury items.

The dates and times in January are:

Friday 8th at 7 pm; Saturday 9th at 7 pm; Sunday 10th at 2 pm; Monday 11th at 7 pm; Wednesday 13th at 7 pm; Thursday 14th at 7 pm and Friday 15th at 7 pm.

If you are able to help, please mark the list at the back of St Leonard's or contact Sally Prickett.

Twilight Meditations is having a rest in January but will be back up and running on the first Friday of February at 5 pm for practise and 5.30 pm for the start of the meditation. Thank you to Alison Kershaw for her dedication and ministry to this beautiful service.

I have decided to change the **Midweek Eucharist** to the **first Thursday** each month, from February. There will not be a service in January, so the next one will be on **Thursday, February 4th at 2 pm**. Please also note the change of time. I hope that this might be more convenient for people ... and easier to remember!

The **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** will be held on **Sunday February 28th at 12 noon**. Those wishing to vote in the election of Parish Councillors will need to be on the Electoral Roll. Forms are on the greeting desk in Denmark and will be at Walpole shortly. These are for **new members** or those *updating* their details. They will need to be completed by **January 31st**. Nominations for Parish Council and for two Wardens will need to be received by **February 14th**. Please note, if you wish to nominate, you need to have Safe Church clearances if you do not already have them, so please don't leave it to the last minute.

On March 5th, the Anglican Church in Denmark will be hosting **The World Day of Prayer**. I am looking for someone who is interested in Coordinating this event. If you are interested either in coordinating or helping, please let me know as soon as possible.

Saturday March 6th will be the first **Deanery Meeting** of the year and will be a "full meeting" meaning that each parish is able to have two Lay representatives attend. The meeting will be at Living Waters in Albany. I am hoping that someone in the parish would be interested in coming with me. Please let me know if you are interested.

Well, I think that is about all from me for today. I'll close with a quote from Bishop John Shelby Spong. I don't often agree with him on matters of faith, but I do like his creed and this comes out of it. A resolution for 2021:

Live life to its fullest, love wastefully and be all you can be.

I wish you every blessing for 2021 and may the love of God enfold and empower you.

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, looped 'S' and a long, sweeping tail that ends in a small hook.