



St Leonard's Church
cnr Strickland & Mitchell Sts
Denmark

Anglican Parish of Denmark-Walpole

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St. George's Church
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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, 7 May 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to another week of 'shutdown' where the church is involved!

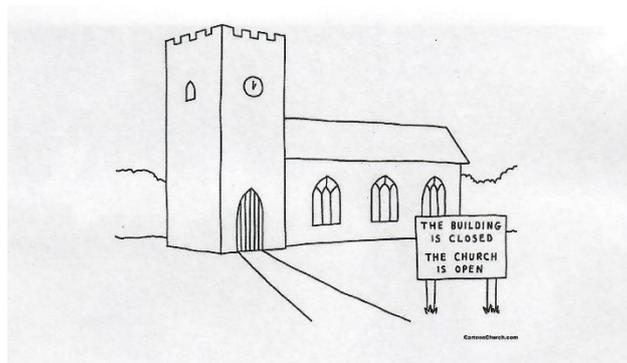
There are good positive signs in the air with no new cases of the virus in the State for a week now and talk of loosening the regional border restrictions. While this is good and welcome news, we still need to be careful and mindful of all the personal distancing rules, which, though difficult for some, are for our own good.

Last Sunday, after having a bit of a frustrating time with some of the streaming (online) worship services, I decided to move away from the computer and use the little prayer book we distributed at the beginning of this, and used the first Morning Prayer, with my sermon and Alison's lovely prayers, and having looked up music for the hymns I had chosen, I found it was a very meaningful experience, hoping I shared the holy space with others of you. I think I will continue to do this until we can again worship together. It seems to me, a more personal, meaningful way to worship, than being an on-looker at someone else's service.

During this time, I have found YouTube very helpful when looking for the music to hymns I had chosen (again, apologies to those not online) and has made me a little more adventurous this week, choosing some hymns I hadn't sung before, but the words fitted the readings, and where, at the time of choosing, I was thinking I was going with the sermon ... we will see!!

I am aware this week, that there are some in the parish who are grieving with the death of family members or friends, who they couldn't be with. My heartfelt condolences go out to you and your families. May God give you comfort and the peace which passes all understanding.

A picture which Bishop Ian has used frequently during this time, which is relevant to our current situation, is this:



While our church *buildings* are closed, and we are unable to gather for worship, **we** the church will remain ever open, open to God and open to each other. While we cannot meet for worship, as restrictions slowly start to ease, we can perhaps meet with one another, checking up that everyone is coping okay, having the occasional socially distanced tea or coffee. As a former colleague and now deceased friend used to drum into me: the church is not a building but the people of God gathered. While we can't necessarily gather, we **are** still here, still 'open', so please, if you need us, call or email. If nothing else, this Covid 19 has highlighted the importance of communication, community, compassion and company!

On behalf of Parish Council, I thank those who have committed to regular Direct Giving and those who have regularly given their offertories to the Pricketts for banking. While our finances have taken the inevitable hit during this crisis with the closing of the Mustard Seed, the regular offertories have been a huge help, so **THANK YOU!** Another good bit of news on our finances is that the Diocese has been able to apply for the Jobkeeper allowance, enabling some offset to clergy stipends.

Hopefully, it will not be too long before the *Mustard Seed* may be able to open for some restricted trading. I know in Denmark it is deeply missed, by both the volunteers and customers.

I am more and more aware of how blessed we are in Australia, and more particularly, Western Australia, as the days turn into weeks and the weeks roll into months. Recently our family received an email from Chris' niece who is a Radiographer in the UK. She shared a very moving reflection on her work as a radiographer during Covid 19. It brought home to her extended family, scattered through New Zealand and Australia, how blessed we are in our little corner of the planet. How, while we self-isolate, we are generally free from the fear of catching the virus in our workplace, of spreading it to family and friends. She talked about the awareness of how often she used to touch her face, she used to have a sweeping fringe which she realised she was ever flicking out of her face – that has gone. She says she is taken to wearing more eye make-up as often her eyes are the only part of her that show, peeping out of a mask – “why not look nice in the middle of this crazy world?” She concludes:

Every Thursday night at 8 pm, I feel proud when my village makes a racket for the Key Workers, whether it be clapping, banging pots or tooting car horns. It makes me feel part of something big and united.

My prayers continue for all who work ‘on the front-line’ of this crisis and for our loved ones, so often far away.

Recently, Bishop Ian shared a prayer by Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Cathedral in London.

Ever-present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake. Amen.

From this Sunday's gospel, Jesus said: 'Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.' So, may Jesus, the way, the truth and the life, lead us into the ways that lead to peace, God's deep peace.

Stay safe and keep well.

With my 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. The letter 'y' at the end has a long, sweeping tail that loops back up and under the 'l'.