



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

## Anglican Parish of Denmark-Walpole

PO Box 277 Denmark WA 6333  
[www.denmarkanglican.org.au](http://www.denmarkanglican.org.au)  
Email: [denmarkanglican@gmail.com](mailto:denmarkanglican@gmail.com)



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

Priest: **Revd Sally Buckley** tssf 9848 2173  
Wardens: Harold Luxton 9840 1661, Judy Ross 0455 509 317, Tom Sheard 0473 557 399  
Treasurer: Chris Prickett 0413 103 743

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

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Thursday, 16 December 2021.

Dear Parishioners,

This comes with every good wish and blessing for Christmas and beyond. To those of you who will be travelling, please keep safe, for those who will be staying home, we hope to see you at one of our many services over the Christmas weekend.

Here are the service times over the next couple of weeks:

### **Walpole:**

December 19	10 am	Holy Communion with Revd Sally
December 25	9 am	Extended Communion with Sally Prickett LLM
December 26	10 am	Morning Prayer with Jan Pattinson

then back to the normal 10 am Sunday service.

### **Denmark:**

December 19	9.30 am	Morning Prayer with Alison Kershaw LLM
December 24	5.00 pm	Children's Nativity on the lawn by St Leonard's
	7.30 pm	Lessons and Carols with Revd Sally
December 25	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Revd Sally
December 26	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Revd Sally [Christmas 1]
January 2	9.30 am	Holy Communion with Revd Sally [Christmas 2]
January 6 [Thursday]	2.00 pm	Mid week Eucharist, celebrating Epiphany

then back to the normal 9.30 am Sunday service.

While on the subject of Worship Services, I have been approached by both centres to have an occasional Evening Prayer.

In Walpole, this will take place on **the first Sunday of the month**, at St George's, beginning at 5 pm, and will be a Taize style Evening Prayer, using Taize chants and periods of silent reflection. The first one will be on Sunday, February 6.

In Denmark, this will take place on **the last Sunday of the month**, at St Leonard's, beginning at 7 pm, and will include a variety of styles of Evening Prayer, but guaranteed to have some singing! The first one will be Sunday, January 30.

I have attached or included with this letter an updated "Prayer Diary" for 2022. I am not sure how many of you have used this, but I know that our prayers have been very much appreciated by those for whom we pray. I will place printed copies at the back of each church.

Speaking of Prayer, in 2020, the Diocese began formulating a "Diocesan Strategic Plan", which was finished this year, and launched at Synod in October.

The Strategic Plan has identified four areas in which we will explore during the next few years:

1. Prayer – deepening and growing our prayerfulness as individuals, groups and churches.
2. Learning more about Jesus Christ in order to become more like Christ.
3. Growing in love for, and encouragement of, one another (within our churches and diocese).
4. Being salt and light in the places and among the people God has placed us (in our communities).

Next year (2022) we will be concentrating on Prayer – the different kinds of prayer, growing and deepening our prayer life. One of the resources will be our Lenten Study for next year, *Deeper Prayer*, which focuses on St Paul's teaching on prayer in 1 and 2 Thessalonians. This will be available to study

as an individual or in groups. This will begin in the first week of March. For those who are interested, there will an *Explore Prayer Day* at Bunbury Cathedral on March 12. Please let me know if you are interested in attending this.

For those of you who are online, you can find out more about all this by going onto the Diocesan website, clicking on "About" and then on "Vision and Strategy". For those of you who aren't online but would like more information about this, I will try and make sure there are extra copies of the newsletters which come out at the back of each church or let me know and I will print some off for you.

A few have asked whether there has been any movement on when we will all be able to have Communion in both kinds again. Unfortunately, it seems we are no closer to that happening, much to the Bishop's frustration. He has been attempting to get a consensus approach across the Anglican Church in Australia, which the Diocese would then follow. He is keen that we continue to hold off until then. I thank you all for your patience.

My final topic to address is that the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (the Parish AGM if you like!) is due to take place on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon at St Leonard's.

While the Wardens and Synod Representatives have 3 year terms, which mostly began last year, Parish Councillors are **nominated and voted in each year**. If you are interesting in serving on Parish Council, please be aware that there are a few *Safe Church* hoops to jump through, if you haven't already done so. If you are unsure, please contact our *Safe Church* representative, Sally Prickett, and check with her. Sally can be contacted on 0428 747 262. There was a little confusion last year, with councillors not realising that they need to renominate to continue on PC, as well as new members who wish to nominate, so whether you have served on PC before or not, **you do need to be nominated** by two "Voting" parishioners. Please pray about this, then follow this up as soon as possible.

This Advent I have taken as my theme "Signs of the Kingdom" and have encouraged us all, not just to look for the signs of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love breaking in to the world, signs of God's Kingdom breaking in, but to also that we become signs or signposts that the Kingdom is a reality and is imminent.

I pray that this Christmas is not just "another one", but that it might mean something deeper, that we might actually be changed, transformed by our encounter with the Christ-child. That this year we may have taken a step in deepening our faith, in becoming more Christ-like so that we can indeed be signs of God's kingdom.

I leave you with a reflection by Howard Thurman that I came across some years ago and which continues to challenge me to try and be a better person.

When the song of the angels is silent;  
When the star in the sky is gone;  
When the kings and princes are home;  
When the shepherds are again tending their sheep;  
When the manger is darkened and still;  
The work of Christmas begins --  
To find the lost  
To heal the broken  
To feed the hungry  
To rebuild the nations  
To bring peace among people  
To befriend the lonely  
To release the prisoner  
To make music in the heart.

Have a safe and blessed Christmas.

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 'y' at the end.