

Welcome to 2021 at St Andrew's and our news update 30th January

Bishop Matt wrote about the potential for frustration and sadness in heart given the requirements of mask wearing on the cusp of a long-awaited new year. Remember that the arbitrary turning of a page in the diary is not where our hope and health is found, rather it is in the Lord whose compassion for us is renewed every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-24 the whole chapter is worth a read!) Great to be reminded of where our hope and help come from.

As of this writing (end of January), we only need masks on in church when singing or when social distancing is not possible. I thank people for their increasing willingness to embrace these requirements. Special thanks to Margaret Lister-Brown, Evelyn Cunningham and Robyn Keath who have fulfilled our roles as Covid Safe Wardens, and our covid cleaning before and after services, both new requirements. We continue to need to record attendance and contact details.

Worship Services at St Andrew's

We have now returned to two weekly Sunday services (9 am and 11am) and a prerecorded service. The prerecorded service is available on DVD and the Church web site www.kyabramanglican.org.au. On the web site is also the readings for the Sunday and any announcements for that week.

We also have a weekly Wednesday service where we celebrate Holy Communion each week. The Wednesday service does not have any singing, so masks are not required under current requirements.

Recently our recorded services and the Wednesday service provided some options for people instead of coming out in the heat of the previous week.

The "Freedom In Christ" course starts this week.

Monday evening 7-9pm, beginning February 1st

Tuesday 2-4pm.

Note the first week's Tuesday meeting needs to be moved due to a meeting which David has to attend in Bendigo. For the first week only (Feb 2nd), participants in this group will need to meet on either Monday 2-4pm or Wednesday 2-4pm. Please phone Rev'd David to indicate which meeting you will attend or for any other enquiries 0428 521 031.

Upcoming services:

Ash Wednesday on the 17th February at 10am.

1st April is Maundy Thursday. We are planning a 7pm service,

2nd April Good Friday Service at 7pm,

4th April is Easter Sunday with 9am & 11am services planned.

We also have our **Annual Parish meeting on Sunday 28th February** and will have a combined service at 10am followed by the meeting.

As our year begins to get back to "normal", we ask that any groups wanting to meet at St Andrew's please contact David or the Wardens before-hand so we can comply with the Covid requirements.

Thank you Marj and Lois for your ministry with us:

After many years of service as our Parish Treasurer, Marj Squires has retired. We have appreciated her hard work throughout her time as treasurer, particularly with the difficulties encountered this past year. Thank you to Marj for her commitment to this role. Would you please join with the parish council in prayer for a new treasurer for 2021.

Lois Pritchard unfortunately is also not able to continue to play the piano at our 9am service. Thankyou Lois for your faithful service and for so generously sharing the gift God has given you to help us all to worship our Lord. Thank you also for your encouragement for the shaping of worship moving into 2021.

Other Ministries:

I have continued to minister as Anglican Chaplain at Dhurrighile prison; this has been via zoom or phone calls since the middle of last year. I am yet to find out when in-person visits will resume but we are hopeful that this is not too far away.

Ministry to the congregation at Tongala is also ongoing and has been primarily through recorded services and delivery of DVD's. We are yet to resume services at St James' but we hope they will recommence shortly.

All the Clergy of the Diocese are meeting with Bishop Matt on Tuesday 2nd February to talk about the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020. This bill has passed the lower house of our state parliament and will be introduced into the upper house in the coming months. Your prayer is greatly appreciated.

I hope to receive an update from Bishop Matt shortly on the sharing of tea and coffee after services but also Shrove Tuesday pancakes at Tongala. There continues to be a great deal of complexity on the safe implementation of current covid requirements.

Please Pray with Parish Council:

Other Prayer points from our Parish Council that we encourage you to join with us in

- Pray for David's ministry in Kyabram, at Dhurrighile and at Tongala.
- Pray for the Parish finances.
- Pray for the Parish to willingly engage and accept responsibility to pray regularly for people to come to join the St Andrews community.
- Pray for wisdom for those in leadership, State and National, also for those affected by covid-19, its impact of individuals and the community.
- Bishop Matt and Rachael.
- Pray for the provision of a Church Treasurer.

Holy Communion Services

Sunday 31 st	9am & 11am services	Wednesday 3 rd 10am
Sunday 7 st	9am & 11am services	Wednesday 10 th 10am
Sunday 14 st	9am & 11am service	Ash Wednesday 17th 10am
Sunday 21 st	9am & 11am services	Wednesday 24 th 10am
Sunday 28th	10am service & Annual Parish Meeting	Wednesday 3 rd 10am

Easter Dates for this year

28th March	Passion Sunday	9am & 11am services
1st April	Maundy Thursday	7pm service
2nd April	Good Friday Service	7pm service
4th April	Easter Sunday	9am & 11am services

Reverend David Willsher
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