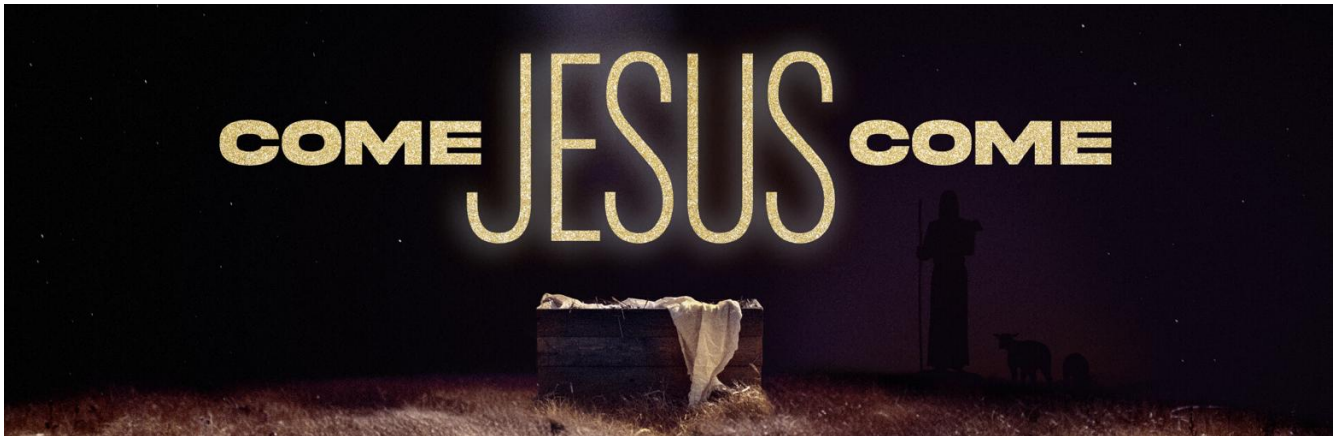


GWAC happenings

Dec 2025 – Jan 2026

Glen Waverley Anglican Church | Updates



Dear friends,

The street where we live is starting to light up. As you drive along you can see sparkling Christmas trees lighting up front windows, twinkling lights decorating homes and even tinsel wound around street sign poles. These add to the sense of joyful anticipation of Christmas.

In comparison to Christmas, Advent can sometimes be overlooked. However, Advent offers us an opportunity to reflect more comprehensively on what the birth of Jesus really means. Not just a baby in a manger, but the promised Messiah, who gave his life, rose again defeating sin and death and has promised to return.

When life is going smoothly you may be tempted to modify the prayer 'Come Lord Jesus Come' to 'Come Lord Jesus Come, but not yet because I am really looking forward to.....'. But for those who are experiencing grief and hardship, the prayer might echo the longings of their heart. Do you pray this prayer? Do you long for Jesus' return? Longing for Jesus' return isn't only contingent on our personal life circumstances, it comes from longing *'that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.'* (Philippians 2:10-11)

This Advent, consider a daily devotional resource that will draw you closer to God through Jesus and grow this longing within your heart and mind.





May this longing overflow into our life, faith and hope that we will shine in the world *'like stars in the sky as we hold firmly to the word of life'*. (Philippians 2:15-16). May we shine brighter than the most wonderful of Christmas light displays.

(Rev'd Maria Brand)

CHRISTMAS AT GWAC



- **Wed 24 Dec (Christmas Eve):**
 - **5pm: Family Christmas Service**, followed by free BBQ and activities
 - **10.30pm: Carols by Candlelight Service**, with Lord's Supper
- **Thursday 25th Dec, 10am (Christmas Day):** Christmas Communion Service (Bilingual- English & Mandarin), Followed by bring & share lunch (see below)

Bring 'n Share Christmas Lunch

After the 10am Christmas Service

Please bring:

- Roasted Chicken
- Ham
- Salad bowl
- Mashed potatoes
- Fruit platter
- etc







IMPORTANT- WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Tuesday 9th December- New Archbishop's Lunch (for Clergy) at GWAC: On Tuesday 9th December, the new Archbishop will be at GWAC, and we will be hosting a seated lunch for 120 clergy. We need 4-5 helpers to set up tables & chairs at 9am and then return for pack-up at 3pm. **Can you help us, please?**

Thursday 25th December- Christmas Lunch after the 10am Service: We need helpers to assist in the kitchen and any setup for lunch required. **Can you assist?**

Please email Ashish at admin@gwac.org.au if you can help in either of the above events. Thanks.

PRAYER BEFORE SUNDAY 10.30AM SERVICE

Calling all 'MARY's: On Sundays, GWAC is a busy place preparing for our 10:30am Gatherings. The various roles are well managed by our wonderful 'MARTHA's. However, we also need some who are ready to PRAY and ask God to cover & bless what we are preparing. Would you consider arriving 30min early to join in the Chapel to PRAY? All are welcome and no contribution is too small. From little things... God can act.

WORKING BEE: SAT 13 DEC

GWAC's Working Bee will take place on Saturday 13 Dec, 8.30am – 12pm, with morning tea at 10.30am. Let's get the place looking great for Christmas!

CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHILDREN & FAMILIES 2025

- **Thursday 4th Dec:** final Playgroup for Term 4.
- **Sunday 14th Dec:** final Spark/LERS for Term 4.
- **Wednesday 24th Dec 5pm family service:** "Festive Fred & the greatest gift", followed by BBQ & activities.





CHILDREN & FAMILIES 2026

- **Jan, Fri 2nd – Wed 7th:** CYC Family Camp at Adanac site. Contact Anthony for more info, a.wheaton@gwac.org.au
- **Jan, Sat 31st:** Next-Gen Leader Training Day – Philip Island (part of the Young Adults' Retreat).
- **Feb, Tues 3rd:** Playgroup resumes.
- **Feb, Sun 8th:** Spark/LERS resumes.

IGNITE (YOUTH MINISTRY)

Thanks again for your support over this year and for bringing your wonderful youth along to Ignite in 2025 as we finish up the program for 2025.



Ignite Youth is a Friday night program that is on during the school term 7pm–9pm here at GWAC. It is for youth in Grade 6 to Year 12.

Start date in 2026:

Ignite starts up again on **Friday 6th February 2026**, 7pm–9pm with supper provided.

Parent Information night:

There will be a parent information night on **Friday 6th February 2026, 7pm–9pm** which will be a chance to meet other Ignite parents and get to know one another. Amanthi will also share about the program for this year, camp opportunities and other key information. Therefore, it would be great to see you there. Supper will be served as well and it will be held in Meeting Room 1 and 2.

Musicians, Singers, Sound Desk Training, Visuals Training:

Ignite offers many opportunities for youth to use their gifts and serve throughout the year. If your youth would like to hop on the music roster or help with sound desk or visuals, we would love them to come to the training day on **Friday 23rd January 3–9pm** at GWAC. New songs will be learnt and dinner provided. Please email Amanthi to RSVP a.lynch@gwac.org.au





Ignite Youth Fees for 2026:

Ignite Fees will unfortunately have to go up in 2026 to \$60 per youth per term to allow for the rising cost of food and supplies. There will also be a discount of \$20 off if you pay for the entire year's fees up front by the end of February 2026. A payment link will be sent in January for Ignite Fees so there is no action required until then. If this fee increase will be a problem for you, please do reach out so that we can discuss subsidies. We want your youth to attend Ignite.

Thank you, Leaders and Summer Missions:

Amanthi would personally like to thank the Ignite Youth Leaders for 2025 for all their hard work, dedication, prayer and faithful efforts in leading our young people at GWAC: **Olivia Jerram, Hannah Peake, Kevin Eames, Matthew Canobi, Hannah Riddett, Amelie Gifford, Rachel Hooker, Luke Nicholson, Aditya Roy, Benny Bickerton, Shanley Pillai, Ethan Canobi, Matthew Bickerton, Trinity Astley and Jessi Bickerton**. Most of these leaders are also heading off on SUTS Youth, SUTS kids, Blue Moose and Beach Mission, Coffee Shops over the Summer break, serving God in these missional opportunities across Victoria. Please pray for them as they serve in this way.

Attention all VCE 2026 Students!

Did you know that you can grow in your faith and gain credit for your VCE and ATAR at the same time? **Veta Morphus** is a year-long experience of growth and transformation in the Christian life that you can choose as one of your year 11-12 subjects.

Next year, 2026, we are running it at Glen Waverley Anglican Church (GWAC) and it is open to any student in any school in the area.

Through Veta Morphus, you will:

- Grow in your Christian life and gain credit for your year 12 and ATAR
- Connect with a group of God-focused friends
- Deepen your knowledge of the Bible
- Explore your faith with adult mentors
- Put your faith into practice and discover who you truly are in Christ...





AND

Do it all as a core part of your VCE! Find out more at <https://veta.au/veta-morphus/> or [Enrol Now](#) for the Class of '26. For further info, contact Amanthi at: a.lynch@gwac.org.au
We hope you have a blessed Christmas season and enjoy Jesus Emmanuel- God with us with your family and friends!

Every blessing, Amanthi Lynch and Ignite Youth Leaders

YOUNG ADULTS

GWAC Young Adults Summer Retreat 2026

We're off to Phillip Island Adventure Resort for a weekend of great fellowship, good fun and growing in our faith as a Young Adults community at GWAC. Look forward to spending time in God's Word, being trained to serve and going on adventures.

- **Date:** Friday 30 January 2026 7:30 pm – Sunday 1 February 2026 2pm
- **Location:** Phillip Island Adventure Resort, 1775-1801 Phillip Island Rd, Cowes
- **Register Quickly: Full Weekend (EARLY BIRD) cost:** \$205 (The first 20 people to register are eligible for a \$50 discount. Get in quick!)
- **Registration Link:** [HERE](#)

RIDLEY SUBJECT AT GWAC NEXT YEAR

Next year, 2026, Glen Waverley Anglican Church will be an EXTENSION SITE for Ridley College! Wednesday evenings, 6-8pm. The Subject available will be NT003: New Testament Overview | at levels 5 & 8 with Mike Bird and Bec Muir.

- Timing: semester-based unit
- Study mode: unit commences: 25 Feb
- Enrol by 30 Jan 2026: [LINK \(info\)](#) and [LINK \(apply\)](#)

This unit provides an introduction to some of the most significant tools for reading, interpreting and responding to select highlights of the New Testament, with particular exploration of the gospel of Mark, John's Gospel, Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Hebrews and Revelation.





Section A: The Gospels – An Introduction to the NT and the Ministry of Jesus

1. An Introduction the NT – context, background, theology and hermeneutics.
2. The Gospel of John
3. The synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke

Section B: Acts to Revelation – The Birth of Christianity & The Epistles

1. The continuing work of Jesus through the Acts of the Apostles (including/ continuing on from the Gospel of Luke)
2. Introduction to the NT letters – context, background, hermeneutics and ethics
3. The Paul's Letters with particular reference to the Letter to the Roman Church
4. Hebrews and the Catholic Letter
5. Revelation

Queries? Maria Brand, m.brand@gwac.org.au

GWAC MINISTRIES

Saturday 6th Dec (9.30am): Train Your Brain (TYB)

- 9.30am – 12 Noon (registration from 9am). The topic is “Christmas Carols” and Richard and Alyson will lead the singing and be accompanied by Narelle on the piano with the rest of us singing
- **2026: TYB will commence on Saturday 7th February, 2026**

Mondays at 1.30pm (except public holidays): Easy Does It (EDI)

EDI will run on Monday 8th December, which will be the last session for 2025. Time- 1.30 – 2.30pm in the Hall (Stadium). The cost is \$5 with a cuppa included. It is run by a physio. All are welcome! **EDI will start in 2026 on Monday 2nd February.**

Mothers Union & Friends

MU Meetings will start in 2026 on Thursday 26th February. Program runs 1.30pm in MR 1&2. Please join us and enjoy afternoon tea with us.

Contact person Lynn 0401 257 647





Friday Night Craft Group

- Fridays, 5th & 19th December
- When: 7pm until late
- Where: Fiona's place – 14 Clitus St, Glen Waverley
- What to bring: Anything you'd like to work on (knitting, crochet, sewing, paper craft, etc.). There will be plenty of tea, coffee, and cake!

OTHERS



SUMMER UNDER THE SON (SUTS) 2026

- Our speakers this year are Rev. Dr Christopher Chia (Vice President of the National Council of Churches of Singapore) and Grace Lung (Director of Brisbane School of Theology's Centre for Asian Christianity).
- Thurs 8th – Fri 9th January 2026, Syndal Baptist Church
- Registration: [LINK](#)

MANDARIN SPEAKING COMMUNITY: DECEMBER 2025

All the events below will take place in December 2025, and then restart in February 2026

Let's Learn English (LLE) Class

- Every Sunday: 12.30pm – 1.30pm, GWAC, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

Chinese Brothers' Fellowship

- Every Wednesday, 7pm–9pm, in Meeting Room–3
- Contact: Sean Hsien, Anthony Zhao.





Chinese Discipleship Group (Sisters Online)

- Every Thursday, 7:30pm–9pm
- Contact: Ginger, g.chen@gwac.org.au

Brothers and Sisters Combined Fellowship

- 3rd Thursday each month, 7pm–9pm, in Meeting Room–3
- Contact: Ginger, g.chen@gwac.org.au

Life Connection Groups

We now have four Life Connection Groups! These groups are designed to help brothers and sisters build deeper relationships, support one another, and grow together in Christ. Meeting times for each group will be announced soon.

Volunteer Leaders Training

- 4th Sunday of Each Month, following the regular Sunday service.
- Contact: Ginger, g.chen@gwac.org.au

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES @ GWAC

Sunday English Services

Advent: Come Lord Jesus, Come			
7 Dec	Romans 15:8–13	Hope in Our Brokenness	Guest Speaker: Sherwin Meriano (International Needs)
14 Dec	Luke 1:5–25	Hope in our Disbelief	Speaker: Maria Brand
21 Dec	Luke 1:26–38	Hope in our Fears	Speaker: Amanthi Lynch
28 Dec	Theme– <i>To be confirmed</i>		Speakers: (Bp) John Harrower (8am & 10.30am), Anthony Wheaton (5pm)





Wednesday English 10am Service

Advent: Hope for the World			
3 rd Dec	Matthew 3: 1-12	Prepare the way	Speaker: John Harrower
10 th Dec	Matthew 5: 1-12	Rejoice and Be Glad	Speaker: John Harrower
17 th Dec	Matthew 1:1-25	The Birth of Jesus Christ	Speaker: Maria Brand

- **17th December is the last Wednesday Service for 2025**
- **Wed Services resume 28th January 2026**

The Wednesday 10am Service's Bible reading and sermon is livestreamed weekly

GWAC OFFICE & PREMISES POST-CHRISTMAS & JAN 2026

The church office and access to the church premises will be **CLOSED from 26 December and will reopen on Monday 19 January 2026**. Staff will be on leave at various times over January for some well-deserved rest and refreshment. If there is a pastoral, please ring the church office or leave a voicemail, and someone will contact you soon.

Church Services

- Sunday Services over January will continue to run as usual at 8am, 10.30am and 5pm.
- Wednesday 10am service will resume on 28th January 2026.

Blessings,

Maria Brand | Lead Minister (Vicar)

