

Dear friends,

WHAT IS ADVENT ALL ABOUT?

(by Rev'd Maria Brand)



What are your hopes this Christmas? My kids have shared their Christmas lists and hopes with us. Guinea Pigs are top of the list! We are not quite sure how we will break the news that there are unlikely to be any live animals under the Christmas tree come Christmas morning!

Advent is a time of hope. Last Sunday as we began Advent, we lit the first candle – the 'Hope Candle'. We look forward in hope to Jesus coming again in the future and we remember God's people of the past, holding with hope to the words of the prophets who pointed to the first coming of Jesus.

Often we think of Advent as a chocolate count-down to Christmas but it is much more than this. Advent is a time of preparation, and a time of remembrance, a time of anticipation, a time of looking forward to the future. Advent points us towards not only Christmas, as we remember Jesus first coming in fulfilment of God's promises but also towards His promise of coming again.

Peter writes, 'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.'





Amidst distractions and hectic December schedules, will you take the time to share this hope? This Advent as we look towards Christmas, as we look towards Jesus coming again, may you be filled with living hope that gives way to inexpressible and glorious joy.

CHRISTMAS AT GWAC



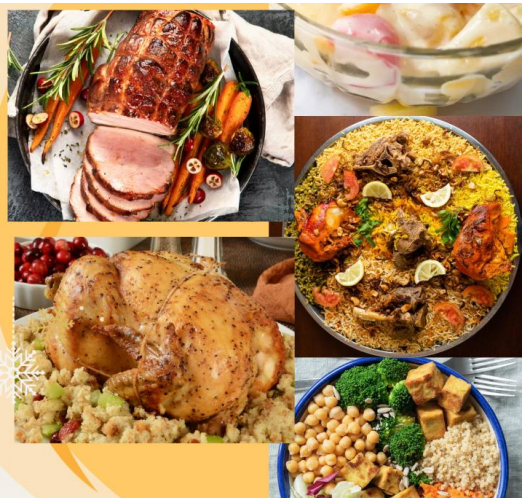
- **Wed 18 Dec, 10am:** Mid-week Christmas Service with a celebratory Christmas morning tea to follow. All welcome!
(This will also be the final Wed service for 2024)
- **Tues 24th Dec (Christmas Eve):**
 - **5pm: Family Christmas Nativity Service**, followed by BBQ and activities
 - **11pm: Carols by Candlelight**, with Lord's Supper
- **Wed 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





SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY SERVICES- DECEMBER 2024

Sunday Services

THEME: SONGS OF ADVENT (4-wk Sermon Series)		
1 Dec	Luke 1: 46-55 (Mary's Song)	Speaker: Maria Brand
8 Dec	Luke 1: 67-79 (Zechariah's Song)	Speaker: Liz Folland
15 Dec	Luke 2:8-15 (The Angel's Song)	Speaker: Maria Brand
22 Dec	Luke 2:25-32 (Simeon's Song)	Speaker: Brad Jackson
29 Dec	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 (New Year's Resolution)	Speaker: Brad Jackson

Wednesday 10am Service

THEME: THE PROMISED KING (Advent Sermon Series)		
4 Dec	Christ: The Promised Saviour Luke 3: 1-6	Speaker: John Harrower
11 Dec	Christ: The Judge Luke 3: 7-18	Speaker: Brad Jackson
18 Dec	Christ: God with us (Christmas Celebration) Luke 2: 11-14	Speaker: John Harrower

2025 SNAPSHOT: MINISTRIES RESUMING

SUNDAY SERVICES
Sunday 8am, 10.30am & 5pm Services will continue to run as usual
WEDNESDAY SERVICES
Wednesday Services will resume on 22 nd January
SPECIAL EVENTS
ELK PUPPETS on Sunday 26 Jan, 10.30am



MINISTRIES	RESUMING DATE 2025
Playgroup	Tuesday 28 Jan (register interest by Mon 13 Jan)
Young Adults' Retreat	Friday 31 Jan – Sun 2 Feb
SPARK/ LERS	Sunday 2 Feb
IGNITE	Friday 7 Feb
Train Your Brain	Saturday 1 Feb
Easy Does It	Monday 3 Feb
Mother's Union & Friends	Thursday 27 Feb

GWAC OFFICE & PREMISES OVER CHRISTMAS/ NEW YEAR

GWAC office & premises will be closed Thursday 26 Dec'24 to Sunday 12 Jan'25

(except Sunday services). Rev'd Maria will be on leave from Sunday 29th December to Sunday 12th January. During this time Rev'd Brad Jackson will be GWAC's Clergy contact. If there is a pastoral matter or should you need to get in touch with a staff member, please ring Brad Jackson on 0404 492 171 or 9560 7494 (Extn 6).

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR IAN DENNEHY

There will be a memorial service for the late Ian Gerald Dennehy at St Michael and All Angels, Anglican church, Cnr Martin St & Dalgetty Rd, Beaumaris on Monday 9th Dec at 2pm.

Ian and Norma Dennehy were foundation members of St Andrews Church of England, Glen Waverley and attended there, raising 4 sons, until Norma's passing in 1990. Their eldest son Richard, his wife Mandy (Hickson) and their children, Emily and James, are all current members of GWAC and have occasionally brought Ian along to 10:30am and Wednesday services in recent years.

Richard and Mandy would like to invite parishioners who knew Ian to St Michael's on Monday to join them along with family and other friends to celebrate Ian's life and give thanks for his eternal repose with our Lord and Saviour. For those unable to attend in person, the service will be live streamed at <https://www.belindajanevideo.com/client-video/ian-dennehy/>



OTHER EVENTS

Summer Under the Son (SUTS) 2025: Theme- "Near & Far"



This year will feature insights from CMS workers, on refocusing our view of the mission field and opening our eyes to cross-cultural opportunities.

Date: 16th – 18th Jan 2025, Syndal Baptist Church. **Registration:** [LINK](#)

SUTS Youth Camp 2025



Summer Under the Son (SUTS) Youth Camp exists to equip and empower youth across Victoria to have an enduring passion to see a world that knows Jesus, and work towards bringing it about.

Register [HERE](#)



FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expenses: Oct24		\$
Income		\$83,340
Expenses		\$85,482
Shortfall		(\$2,141)

Blessings,

Maria Brand | Lead Minister (Vicar)