

GWAC happenings

FEB 2025

Glen Waverley Anglican Church | Updates

Dear friends,

A YEAR SHAPED BY HOPE

(by Rev'd Maria Brand)

It is my prayer for our GWAC community that 2025 is a year shaped by HOPE in Jesus. There is a strong call on those who know Jesus to share their hope, we are exhorted to 'always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. (1 Peter 3:15). However, in order to share our hope, we must have a firm foundation in Jesus. Therefore, preparing to share our hope includes growing in our love for God, His word and His people.



Over the next five weeks in our English Sunday congregations, we will be looking at steps and [ways to love our church](#). This series will encourage us to be builders in our church community, loving others that we might build one another up in Christ.

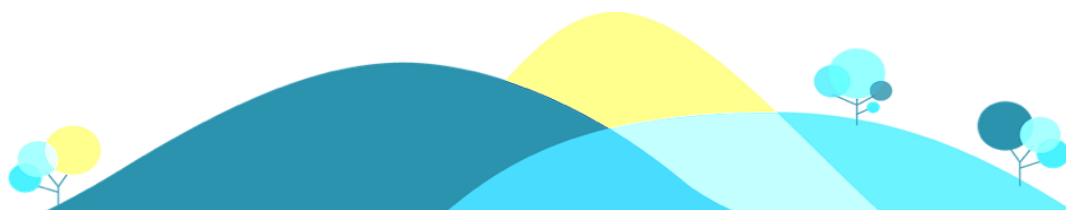
In March we will have the opportunity to be equipped for sharing our hope through the course "[Everyday Evangelism](#)" led by Rev Stephen Abbott. Some may be thinking, even that word scares me! This course was developed out of an increasing conviction that most Christians feel inadequate and fearful when it comes to sharing their faith in Christ.

Others may be thinking, 'I have done a course like this before' so

this isn't for me. Personally, I find that I always benefit from ongoing encouragement in sharing my faith. Every time I spend time with others reading, thinking, discussing and praying about sharing our faith, I am encouraged and challenged, I am spurred on, held accountable and convicted. I hope and pray that this opportunity will help to further equip us and spur us on as a church community as we share our hope in Christ.

Everyday Evangelism

4-WEEK COURSE FOR CREATING CONFIDENCE
IN SHARING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH





THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday (2 Feb): New Sermon Series commencing

Theme: "Ways to Love your Church"

Speaker: Rev'd Maria Brand (Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 10-17)

This Sunday: Change4Change

Please bring your Change4Change jars this Sunday. Thank you for your generous contribution towards the Education Assistance Project (Mission of Truth Church, Surabaya). Alternately, you can also donate online with following details:

- Account: Glen Waverley Anglican Church, BSB: 033009, Account No: 108940
- Reference: change4change

CHILDREN & YOUTH

PLAYGROUPS:

- Wed/Thurs have now started. Spots still available.
- Tues group commencing 11th FEB.
- New leaders are welcome!

SUNDAYS 10:30am:

- Ages 0-3: GLOW will be on 9th FEB and 23rd FEB.
- Ages 4 to Gr1: SparkLERS, first session is 2nd FEB.
- Gr2-6: Spark, as above.
- Theme- Looking at stories from early in Genesis.

SUNDAYS 5pm:

- Kids@5 plus Youth@5. During term dates.

Kids Holiday Club: To be confirmed

- We are keen to build a team for the WINTER school break.
- Ideal leaders will include Youth (Gr9 & above).
- Training & meals provided.
- Please email Anthony at a.wheaton@gvac.org.au for more info.





IGNITE (Youth Ministry)

Ignite kicks off on Friday 7th February 7pm-9pm. This term's Ignite program is jam-packed with some great events. Our teaching series will be based on the famous sermon that Jesus gave in Matthew's Gospel- The Sermon on the Mount. We're calling it "Peak Wisdom!"

Each week we will look at a section that Jesus taught so that we can learn from Him and live as His followers. We will do that through Worship and Community Nights. There will be plenty of time to ask your questions, support one another in faith, pray for one another and praise God for who he is and what he's done.

This term there will also be plenty of opportunity to invite your friends along to Ignite with events such as Lawn Bowls, Messy Games and the VCYC One Night Event. Cannot wait to meet you all and praying you have a great start to your school year!

IGNITE Parents

We'd also love you to join us for a parent meet and greet supper on Friday 7th February 7pm-9pm. Brad will run you through some important information about Ignite this year as well as give you opportunity to connect with other parents. Hope you can join us for this great opportunity. Looking forward to a great year ahead!

God bless, Amanthi, Brad and our Youth Leaders (all 17 of them!)

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults Retreat: Friday 31 Jan - Sunday 2 Feb

Please pray for our Young Adults who will be away at the Summer Retreat at CYC Adventure Resort, Philip Island. The young adults will meet at GWAC at 5pm on Friday 31st January and depart shortly after (aiming to arrive at the campsite by 7pm to settle in). On Sunday 2 Feb, the young adults will depart CYC after lunch at 2pm. Pray that God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit will grip and transform lives through the young adults' time together.





SPECIAL

Everyday Evangelism: A 4-wk course for creating confidence in sharing the Christian Faith – all are welcome!

- Where: GWAC Fellowship Area
- When: 6:30–8:30pm, 4 x Thursdays in March – 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.
- The cost of the four-week course is \$25 per person (payable one the first night) which includes the Course book, Sharing Story flyer and refreshments (*There will be finger food provided at the start of each session for those coming straight from work*)
- Registration: through Fliers available, Signup Sheet (Fellowship Area & Notice Board), GWAC website & App.

Men's Breakfast: Sat 22nd Feb

The men's breakfast aims to gather **men of all ages** for time to enjoy each other and a great meal. This will be a good event to invite friends to.

- Time: 8.30am – 10am
- Registration: pls use the signup sheet in the Fellowship Area, Notice Board, or use the Connect Card, GWAC App, or email Brad b.jackson@gwac.org.au

GWAC's CMS Card Ministry: Request for Cards

Praise the Lord! The CMS card Ministry sold over 1,100 Christian Christmas cards in 2024! Therefore, we now need used and new Christian Christmas cards to be prepared for Christmas 2025.

We need Christmas cards which **ONLY** have **on the front cover** something to do with the Christmas message – nativity scene or shepherds or kings or words which mention Jesus. **NO** others are needed, please – **NO** Santas, Christmas trees, presents etc

Also **ESPECIALLY NEEDED** are used/new Birthday cards for Men, Son, Daughter, Grandson, Grand-daughter, Brother, Sister, Get Well, Blank, Children, Wedding, Engagement, Thank You, Grandparents, Great Grandparents.

Please bring the complete card (including words inside – no cutting of the card – any writing inside is glued over) and give





them (Bishop) John, Gayelene, or the Church Office. Front covers only are of no use and are discarded). No cards older than 15 years please. Thank you for your support by donating to, and buying cards from, the CMS Card Ministry.

MANDARIN MINISTRY

Let's Learn English Class

- Resumes Sunday 2 February: 12.15 – 1.30pm

ALPHA Course (8 sessions, Mandarin congregation only)

- Date & Time: 8 Sundays, starting Sunday 23 Feb, 2pm – 3.30pm
- Where: Meeting Room-3
- Contact: Ginger, g.chen@gwac.org.au if you're interested.

DON'T MISS!

This Saturday 1st Feb: Train Your Brain (TYB)

- Our Topic for the Month will be "The Brain – changing the benefits of exercises."
- 9.30am – 12 Noon (registration from 9am)

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

EDI starts on Monday 3rd February at the usual time, 1.30pm, in the Hall (stadium)

Saturday 8th Feb (and Saturday 8th March): 'Crafts of Care' – Knit, Sew & Craft Afternoons

- 1.30 – 4pm. Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 at GWAC
- Includes creating knitted shawls, beanies and knee rugs and sewing pocket prayer quilts to support GWAC's Pastoral Care ministry. See church notice board for more details. [All welcome!](#)

Sunday 16 Feb: Potluck Fellowship Dinners (5pm congregation only)

We will again be hosting meals in the homes of congregation members following our 5pm service on Sun 16 Feb. These dinners help





build our community as we spend time relaxing with old and new friends. If you are new to GWAC this is a great way to meet people in smaller groups. Register your interest by using the GWAC App ("Connect" feature), Connect Card, emailing the church office, or contact Brad.

Sunday, 23rd Feb: Pre-Apprenticeship Info Session (Ministry Training Strategy)

- 3.30- 4.30pm, GWAC
- Information & Contact: Brad, b.jackson@gwac.org.au

Thursday, 27th Feb: Mother's Union & Friends

MU & Friends recommences for 2025 on 27th February, starting with a celebration of the Lord's Supper, MR 1&2, at 1.30pm. Guest speaker TBC.

Friday Mornings: Prayer Meeting (With Breakfast)

Please join us on Fridays in [Meeting room 1 & 2 from 7am](#) for toast, muffins, hot drinks, and PRAYER. Come when you can and leave when you must.

SERVE GOD- JOIN A MINISTRY

Join the Sunday Services Music & Media teams

If you're not already serving on one of our music & media teams, maybe 2025 is the year to join up? We're currently seeking more volunteers in these roles: musician / singer, audio operator, visuals operator, livestream operator.

Training is provided for all roles, although musicians / singers need to be able to demonstrate a suitable level of ability / gifting for that role (audition required). The media roles would suit people who prefer to serve "behind the scenes", are comfortable with technology and who can remain highly focussed on the task throughout the service.

Does this sound like you? Would you like to learn more about these roles? If so, please contact our Worship Minister, Roger, for further details:

r.nicholson@gwac.org.au





PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE- FEBRUARY 2025

Arrangements for 2025:

The Governance Board is now known as the "Parish Council". This is in keeping with Diocesan terminology and better reflects the role of the Parish Council. Meetings will be held on Monday nights- Wardens on the 2nd Monday of the month and the full Parish Council on the 4th Monday of the month. There will be a Planning Day on Sat 1st February.

Parish Council Committees:

There are currently three committees:

- Missions
- Property Working Group
- Finance Committee

We are in the process of establishing a Maintenance Committee. This will include planning for working bees, preparing the mowing roster, planning garden upkeep, and regular maintenance tasks. If you have special skills- painting, welding, concreting, gardening, fencing etc. please let Stephen Giles know, s.giles@gwac.org.au.

New Equipment:

- After 20+ years of service the boiling water unit in the main kitchen has been replaced with a new one!
- New playground equipment for older children will be installed in the grass area near the courtyard on Wednesday February 26th. This has been made possible by a parishioner's donation of \$25k. A further \$5k is needed to fully cover the cost of this equipment.





- A gaga pit will be erected by Stephen after the playground goes in. This is a variant of “brandy” or dodgeball but instead of running around throwing balls players slap or hit the ball, aiming to hit other players at or below the knees. If you’re hit, you’re out. The last player in the pit is the winner.



It is our prayer that these initiatives will encourage families to stay after church and our Children & Families ministry in general.

FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expenses: Oct23-Dec24	
	\$
Income	\$244,684
Expenses	\$246,695
Shortfall	(\$2,011)

There is a small shortfall of \$2,011 for the first 3 months of the financial year.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the ministries and missions of GWAC. We are grateful for your continued support.





UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES @ GWAC

Sunday Services: **Ways to Love your Church (sermon series)**

2 Feb	1 Corinthians 3: 10-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Maria Brand
9 Feb	Hebrews 10: 19-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Maria Brand
16 Feb	1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Brad Jackson
23 Feb	Colossians 4: 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Brad Jackson
2 March	1 Peter 2:9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Maria Brand

Wednesday 10am Service: **Series Theme: 'God's Invitation'**

5 Feb	Ruth: widow and foreigner Ruth 2: 1-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's invitation to the outsider • Speaker: John Harrower
12 Feb	Jonah and the Ninevites: Jonah 4: 1-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's invitation to our enemy • Speaker: Maria Brand
19 Feb	Samuel inviting the least likely brother, David 1 Samuel 16:1-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's invitation to the least • Speaker: Brad Jackson
26 Feb	'A Christian Blessing'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's invitation to service • Speaker: John Harrower
5 March	2 Corinthians 5:17 – 6:2 Psalm 51:1-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ash Wednesday</u> • 'Peace with God – Our Hope'

Blessings,

Maria Brand | Lead Minister (Vicar)

