

# GWAC happenings

MARCH 2026

Glen Waverley Anglican Church | Updates

Dear Friends,

## WHO WILL YOU INVITE TO THE TABLE?

*(by Rev'd Maria Brand)*



God's word is filled with the imagery and symbolism of food — in its stories, celebrations, feasts and table gatherings. Again and again, Jesus chose the table as the setting for revelation and relationship. From the wedding at Cana, to dining with Matthew and his fellow tax collectors, to feeding the five thousand, to cooking breakfast on the beach after his resurrection — meals became moments of grace, welcome and truth.

Last year, many of us gathered for the "Taste and See" Course at GWAC which is, put simply, the Gospel of Jesus told through food. Food is a language we all understand. It shapes our daily lives and is woven into every culture. When we sit down and share a meal, something quietly powerful happens — conversation deepens, barriers lower, and relationships begin to grow. Through this course God answered our prayers and people experienced the generosity of God expressed through his people and discovered the beauty and depth of His invitation to life in all its fullness.

This year, in addition to running this course again, we will launch our regular





community meal, helping us to have a wider love and brighter hope that reaches into our local community. The Spirit is leading us at GWAC to use our gifts to serve not only those already at the table, but also those whom God longs to welcome through his invitation of mercy and grace. **On Maundy Thursday we will gather and remember the First Lord's Supper and I ask you to prayerfully consider who you will invite to the table.**

## EASTER @GWAC

### THEME: "THE CROSS WAS NOT THE END OF THE STORY"

- **Palm Sunday** - Sunday 29 March
  - 8am, 10.30am (Bilingual Service), 5pm
  - Note: The 10.30am service will also be a celebration of the 6-yr anniversary of the commencement of GWAC's Mandarin Ministry.
- **Holy Wednesday Service** - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April (with Lord's Supper), 10am
- **Maundy Thursday** - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April
  - 6pm, Foot Washing Service: A reflective service remembering Jesus' servant hearted love.
  - 6:30pm-8pm, Community Meal: Celebrating the First Lord's Supper: Gather around tables as we eat together and remember Jesus' sacrifice and the resurrection hope.
- **Good Friday** - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 10am- A Journey to the Cross with Us (Kids Ministry Included): An interactive and creative service as we reflect on Christ's sacrifice and the meaning of the cross. With Hot Cross Buns for morning tea.
- **Easter Sunday** - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April: Join us for our Celebration Services as we gather in the joy of the resurrection.
  - 8am: A traditional service with the Lord's Supper
  - 10:30am: A contemporary all-ages service with the Lord's Supper, Kids Ministry and a 'Mega Easter Egg Hunt'.
  - 5pm: A contemporary service with the Lord's Supper and Kid's Ministry





## **LISTENING IN LENT FOR THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE**

Our new Archbishop of Melbourne, Ric, is inviting us to a season of intentional, prayerful listening across our Diocese in order to help us discern the vision and direction of the Diocesan mission for the next ten years. There are two primary ways to participate:

- 1) Through a simple online questionnaire, which individuals can complete in their own time.
- 2) Through gathered, facilitated conversations which will take place in existing ministry groups and also wider gatherings several of which I and others in our leadership team are attending on behalf of our church community.

I invite you to visit the **Listening in Lent page** at the link below:

LINK- <https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/listening-in-lent/>

Here you can watch a short introduction and take part by completing the online questionnaire. The questionnaire is open to anyone and takes around 10–15 minutes.

## **EASTER HOPE – UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES (EASTER CARDS)**

Build/develop contacts of hope for Christ ... neighbours, people at work, in community groups, those who used to go to church, irregular church attendees, those in care, family. A reminder of what Easter is about.

Easter cards available in the card display, in the Fellowship Area.

- \$1.50 each. (All other cards are \$2.50)
- 100% to CMS (Church Missionary Society.) All expenses paid by the makers.
- Further Information: Gayelene Harrower and Veronica Barclay

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

### **CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY**

Thanks to those who provided their feedback on the Kids ministry, either in person at the Gathering meetings, or through email replies. It's not too late to share your thoughts with Anthony. Please see his email for the questions. New leaders most welcome in all programs! (Perhaps Easter and Spark CRAFT preparation, which doesn't need Clearance for being responsible for kids.)





### **Kids Holiday Club Movie: THUR 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2-4pm**

- For Grades 1-6's. BBQ to follow for parents at pick up.
- A rego page & promotions will be available soon.

*(Anthony Wheaton)*

### **IGNITE (YOUTH MINISTRY)**



Ignite Youth is for students in Grade 6 to Year 12. Please invite your friends, neighbours and family along to this program suitable for all types of youth! This Term will include plenty of fun with Messy Games, an Amazing Race, VCYC One Night Event at PLC plus community groups, games and more!

The Bible Teaching at Ignite will look at the Old Testament book of Exodus. We will see how God hears his people's cries in their slavery and brings them to freedom and how God still hears our cries for help and offers us freedom, too!

*Amanthi Lynch and Ignite Youth Leaders*

### **SPECIAL IN MARCH/ APRIL**

## **MINISTRY EXPO**

#### **MINISTRY EXPO DAY – SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

This is an opportunity for those interested in one or two ministry areas to find out what's involved; also, for those already involved to 'skill up' + pick up 'top tips' from experienced volunteers.

- LUNCH PROVIDED! (12pm - 1pm)
- Two sessions for each ministry area: 1-2pm & 2-3pm





- Ministry areas:
  - Reading the Bible in public
  - Prayer Ministry
  - Hospitality
  - Welcoming
  - Audio
  - Visuals
  - Live-streaming
- Contact Roger on [r.nicholson@gwac.org.au](mailto:r.nicholson@gwac.org.au) to express your interest, or see him after a Sunday Service

### **EASTER WORKING BEE – LET’S GET INVOLVED!**

Let’s come together and make GWAC look special for Easter!

We’re organising a Working Bee and would love as many hands as possible to help prepare our church grounds and facilities for the Easter season

 Date: Saturday 14 March

 Time: 8:30am – 12:00pm

Whether you can stay for the whole morning or just part of it, your help will make a real difference. Please come along and be part of it!

### **EASTER BISCUIT BAKE 2026**

This Easter, let’s show the prisoners of Victoria that God loves them– 75,000 home-made biscuits are needed **by Sunday 22 March**.

Recipes and full details are currently available on the church noticeboard. We invite you to be part of this meaningful opportunity.

### **WEDNESDAY 10AM SERVICE – LENTEN SERIES**

Join us midweek as we journey to Easter. Our Lenten series, “The Old Testament: On the Way to the Cross” (by Bishop John W. Wilson), draws together the life of Christ, Scriptures and their practical application for Christian living. We look at some key passages and themes of the Old Testament and show their connection to Jesus and his words and work. See you there!

*John Harrower & Katherine Corr*





## **YOUNG ADULT MENTORING**

Would you like a Christian mentor – someone older who will invest in building your spiritual life? Or would you like to serve as a Christian mentor to a young adult?

Click on the online form [HERE](#) to express your interest and find out more. Let's grow together in faith.

## **HELP NEEDED- COMMUNITY MEAL: CELEBRATING THE FIRST LORD'S SUPPER**

### **Maundy Thursday 2 April, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, GWAC**

We are looking for volunteers to:

- Welcome people as they arrive
- Help in the kitchen (prep meat)
- Be a table host, Serve food to tables
- Set up tables / pack up, Clean dishes
- Pray

If you can help in any way, please let us know- Connect Card, Email [Bre-b.wilkinson@gwac.org.au](mailto:Bre-b.wilkinson@gwac.org.au), or Church Office- [admin@gwac.org.au](mailto:admin@gwac.org.au).

## **DON'T MISS!**

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

EDI runs at GWAC on Mondays, 1.30pm, in the Hall (stadium). The cost is \$5 with a cuppa included. It is run by a physio. All are welcome!

*(Important- EDI will not run on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> March (public holiday))*

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March: Train Your Brain (TYB)**

- 9.30am – 12 Noon (registration from 9am)
- *(Important- TYB will not run on Sat 4 April (Easter week))*

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March: 'Crafts of Care' - Knit, Sew & Craft Afternoon**

- 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!





### Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March: Mother's Union & Friends

- As we approach Easter, we will be led in a Lenten reflection by Christine Reid. Everyone is welcome to join us for a quiet time together, 1.30pm in Meeting Rooms 1&2.
- World Day of Prayer, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March focusses on Nigeria, at Holy Family Parish Church, Mount Waverley

### 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.

### Friday Night Craft Group

 Fridays: 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March... and then its Easter... we may need to have an Easter crafting day!!

 7.00 pm until late, Fiona's place at 14 Clitus St, Glen Waverley

 Bring anything you'd like to work on – knitting, crochet, sewing, paper craft, etc.

Looking forward to seeing you tonight - pop in whenever you are free for a cuppa and a piece of cake.

## FINANCE UPDATE

<b>Income &amp; Expenses:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Oct25-Jan26</b>	
Income	\$337,682
Expenses	\$342,834
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>(\$5,152)</b>

There is a small shortfall of \$5,152 at the end of January. Year-to-date income is slightly lower than expected for the first 4 months. We are grateful for your support and generosity to the missions and ministries at GWAC.





## MANDARIN SPEAKING COMMUNITY: MARCH 2026

### REGULAR MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

#### **Let's Learn English (LLE) Class**

**Every Sunday** | 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

#### **Brothers' Fellowship (Mandarin)**

**Every Wednesday** | 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Meeting Room 3

**Contact:** Sean Hsien, Anthony Zhao

#### **Mandarin Discipleship Group (Sisters – Online)**

**Every Thursday** | 7:30pm – 9:00pm

**Contact:** Ginger Chen

#### **Brothers & Sisters Combined Fellowship**

**3rd Thursday of each month** | 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Meeting Room 3

**Contact:** Ginger Chen

### LIFE CONNECTION GROUPS

#### **Joshua Group**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** | 11:45am – 3:00pm

Meeting Room 3 or Chapel

#### **Samuel Group**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of March** | After Sunday Service

Fellowship Area

#### **David Group**

**3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month** | After Sunday Service

Fellowship Area

#### **Jacob Group**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** | 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Meeting Room 3 or Chapel





**PRE-SUNDAY SERVICE PRAYER MEETING**

**Sundays** | 9:45am – 10:15am

Meeting Room 3

**Contact:** Ginger Chen

**VOLUNTEER LEADERS TRAINING**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** | 7:30pm (Online)

**Contact:** Ginger Chen

**UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES @ GWAC**

**Sunday Services**

<b>Revelation Sermon Series: "Where is Jesus Today?"</b>		
1 March	Revelation 4, 5	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry
8 March	Revelation 6-10, 15-16	Speaker: Bre Wilkinson
15 March	Revelation 11	Speaker: Maria Brand
22 March	Revelation 12-14	Speaker: Amanthi Lynch
<b>Easter@ GWAC: "The Cross Was Not the End of The Story"</b>		
29 March	Palm Sunday	Speaker (8am, 5pm): Nathanael Thierry Guest Speaker (10.30am, Bilingual Service): <b>Crystal Hong</b> (lecturer of Old Testament in the Chinese Department of the Melbourne School of Theology (MST))

**Wednesday 10am Service**

<b>Lenten Series: "On the way to the Cross"</b>			
4 March	Exodus 3: 1-6 Luke 9: 28-36	"Vision & Understanding"	Speaker: Maria Brand





11 March	Job 1: 6-12 John 19: 1-6	"Questions & Answers"	Speaker: John Harrower
18 March	Genesis 37: 12-24 Luke 15: 11-24	"Rejection & Reconciliation"	Speaker: John Harrower
25 March	Psalm 103: 6-14 John 8: 1-11	"Justice & Forgiveness"	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry
1 April	Zech 9: 9-10 Luke 19: 29-40	<b>HOLY WEDNESDAY SERVICE</b> "Service & Suffering"	Speaker: John Harrower

## IMPORTANT- CHURCH LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Church volunteers and leaders who use Elvanto may have received an email about a mandatory password reset. Please click on **"Forgot Password"** on the Elvanto login page and create a new, unique password. This will ensure continued access to the system. If you need assistance, please contact the church office, [admin@gwac.org.au](mailto:admin@gwac.org.au).

Blessings,

**Maria Brand** | Lead Minister (Vicar)

