



Alstonville Anglicans

Sunday 12th March 2023

Welcome



Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of the Land.

Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.

Streaming licence: CCLI 102220

Alstonville Anglicans are committed to ensuring that all people who participate in our worship, programs and ministries have a safe and rewarding experience.

Tel: 66280231 www.anglicans.live

Bank account: BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

Dates 12th March to 19th March

12 th Mar		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion
13 th Mar		Monday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	10am	Anam Cara
14 th Mar		Tuesday
		Parish Office Closed
15 th Mar		Wednesday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am	Anam Cara
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	From 4pm	Good Governance/Parish Council
16 th Mar		Thursday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	9am-3pm	Op Shop
	9.30am	Play Place
	6pm	Anam Cara
17 th Mar		Friday
	9am-12pm	Parish Office Open
	10am	Holy Communion
18 th Mar		Saturday
	4pm	COVE meeting
19 th Mar		Sunday
	9am	Holy Communion

This bulletin contains current announcements and the week's calendar and the sermon notes from the previous Sunday. Use our welcome booklet for info and contact details for regular activities. Keep it as a reference tool. We welcome any feedback on the booklet. [./././welcomeBooklet_v3.pdf](https://www.welcomeBooklet_v3.pdf)

Lenten Life Groups



Lenten study groups are now running.
Contact Greg Ezzy: 0412 660 742.

Family Cross

Mary & Grahame Ireland. Please remember them in your prayers.

Fete Planning Meeting

Monday 20th March 4pm in the Ministry Centre.

Plants for the Fete

Our 2023 Fete is coming up in May. Could you please start potting up suitable plants labelled with a name, description and a flower colour if applicable.

COVE Meeting

Saturday 18th March 4pm

Are you interested in helping refugee families to settle in our community?

Ballina Region for Refugees has recently settled two refugee families in our region through a new government program. The key to success is to give the refugee family local support for the first year through a Community Support Group (CSG). The Group will help with opening a bank account, enrolling in school, applying for jobs/training, getting a driver's license, learning English, how to negotiate shops and local services etc. Ballina Region for Refugees provides full training and funding.

Ballina and Alstonville Parishes would love to create a joint Community Support Group. We need at least 5 people, hopefully more, to form the Group. Are you interested in being part of this? Would you like to know more? Contact Rev Cathy Ridd on 0427 836 988 or revridd@gmail.com

Confidential Prayer Program for Year 12 EAC students.

For some years the Parish of Ballina has run a confidential prayer programme for year 12 EAC students. We would love to include the Parish of Alstonville in this ministry.

Each person on the prayer team receives a name of one of the Year 12 EAC students to pray for through the year. There is no contact at all between the person praying and the student, although the students do know they are being prayed for. From time to time, members of the team have the opportunity to write a letter if they wish, otherwise the letter is written by myself.

It is not an arduous ministry and I find it a real privilege to be part of the Year 12 students journey each year.

Any interested people can contact Pat Kerr at pat.kerr.01@gmail.com or via Ballina Parish office 6686 2094.
Pat Kerr

Cards & Cuppa

Next term Emmanuel Anglican College Year 8 students are inviting senior members of the community to the College on a Thursday to play cards and have a cuppa. If you are interested, please RSVP to enquiries@eac.nsw.edu.au or ring 6681 5054.

Quota Annual Friendship High Tea

Saturday 1st April 11.30am at Summerland House Farm. \$40 per head per head (gluten free add \$43). RSVP by 17th March to Judy Scott 0429 330 517 or Diane Parker 0416214012.

Safe Ministry Training

Thanks to all those who quickly responded to your letters. As a Result, we will be having the following workshops.

1. Faithfulness in Service Saturday 11th March 9am-12pm in the Ministry Centre.
2. Safe Church Awareness Renewing – Saturday 22nd April
Initial Training – a Saturday in August (date to be advised)

Community Engagement



**My wife accused
me of stealing her
thesaurus.**



**Not only was I shocked,
I was appalled, aghast
& dismayed.**



CoVe

Community on the Verge
Garden

Meeting Saturday 18th
March 4pm



"Pass-over the Seder Plate!"

Join us for a Passover Meal
and learn about its meaning.

26th March 6pm

Alstonville Anglicans Ministry Centre

Cost: \$15 per person

RSVP: office@anglicans.live
66280231



Worship & Spirituality



Rainforest Labyrinth Experience

'Brockley' 1385 Bruxner Highway Lindendale
(Jenny & Charlie Handley)

Sat 9am or Sun 4pm
Arrive and welcome
9.15am and 4.15pm

'About the Labyrinth'

Short talk about its history, features and practice with
time to experience the Labyrinth and its peaceful
surrounds.

Numbers limited
RSVP Jenny Handley 0400 361 059

All welcome. Bring a friend
Donation appreciated
Refreshments available

Messy Church

Sunday 26th March 4.30pm

We will be doing craft related to the Passover Celebration and then share in the Passover Meal.

Leadership

Parish Leaders 2023

Rector

The Rev'd Dr Desiree Snyman

Associate Clergy

The Rev'd Geoff Vidal

The Rev'd John Kidson

The Rev'd Doug Bannerman

The Rev'd Greg Ezzy

Licensed Lay Ministers

Charlie Handley

Mark Stuckey

Barbara Fewtrell

Susan Fitzpatrick

Anne Walker

Wardens

Bruce Sharp

Jenny Noble

Graham Ireland

Charlie Handley

Margaret Brown

Robyn Hannah

Des Fitzpatrick (Secretary)

Amanda Middleton (Chair)

Kaye Fry

Mark Stuckey

Mark Stuckey

Robyn Hannah

Anne Bryce

Anne Bryce

John Noble

Phil Cowie

Lynne Watt

Amanda Middleton

Helen Nicholson

Charlie Handley

Robyn Hannah

Geoff Vidal

Barry Campey

Desiree Snyman

Margaret Brown

Jo Brooks

Anne Wareing

Councillors

Synod Reps

Alternate Synod Rep

Treasurer

Safe Ministry Officer

Op Shop Manager

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Social Coordinator

Lay Ministry Coordinator

Anam Cara Coordinator

Online Community Engagement

Fridays @ 10 Coordinator

Messy Church Coordinator

COVE Coordinator

Play Place Coordinator

Office Administrator

Ministry Administrator



Sermon Notes

5th March 2023

Lent II 5 March 2023 Year A Dr Murray Harvey

I have here a map. A map of the University of Kent.

A helpful guide produced for the 650 Bishops and 300 spouses who attended the 2022 Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops at the University of Kent. A lovely campus on top of the hill overlooking the city of Canterbury.

I like navigating by a traditional, hard copy, paper map.

Finding my way around a large campus, set out in a circular pattern amidst parks and forests, a map was quite useful.

However, after about two or three days I still hadn't managed to get my bearings. Unusual for me, especially when armed



with a map. I wasn't the only one – the campus was littered with lost bishops and their spouses, wandering aimlessly around in circles, sometimes in groups, sometimes alone, asking each other for directions. Often seen holding up the map and turning it round and round.

As one person was overheard to say, *just when you think you've got your bearings, it's as if all the buildings move about in the night, and so the next day you get lost all over again.*

On about day 3 or 4 an announcement was made during the housekeeping notices one morning: To avoid getting lost, please use your map. And oh, by the way, for your convenience, only the buildings and pathways that you need to know about are marked on the map. If there's a building that we're not using for the conference – it's not on the map, and if there's a road or path you don't need to go down, it's not indicated on the map either.

Fold up the map and put it away. Navigate by what you can see around you, because the map isn't as useful as it was intended to be.

We are journeying through this season of Lent.

Lent is a kind of map that the church has given us for our spiritual journey.

But of course, our spiritual journey, while informed and resourced by the guideposts of the church year and liturgical celebrations, our spiritual journey is a pilgrimage which is different for each of us and an accurate map is a guide only.

We have to approach Lent with the eyes of faith for our spiritual journey. On the annual pilgrimage of Lent the Bible readings, prayers, music and liturgies nourish, guide and challenge us – as we walk with Jesus to Jerusalem; to his passion, death and resurrection.

Therefore, it's not a journey that we undertake alone – it is a journey with Jesus – he is our companion and guide.

Nicodemus (as we read in today's Gospel) was also on a journey and needed guidance:

- He had already "made it" – as far as the society of his day was concerned.
- He was a pharisee.
- He was a leader in his community.
- He had respect, a position of honour.
- For many, **he** was a signpost, a **guide**, he knew the answers to the questions that people had; He was a man of knowledge.

But something Jesus had said or done had somehow changed him; he was now seeing things in a different light; now he had some questions of his own – questions he hadn't had before; he was possibly seeing new signposts – but he wasn't sure; and other more familiar signposts, he was seeing in a new light:

He says to Jesus ...

No one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God...

How can anyone be born after having grown old?

Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?

How can these things be?

So he comes to Jesus for guidance

In Lent we open our hearts and lives to God's guidance, growth and transformation.

Lent is a precious opportunity individually and communally to stop and reflect.

A time to look around us at the landscape of our lives and community:

To consider the opportunities and challenges

To be confronted by the fact that we haven't arrived – that we are not yet what we are called to be.

To get our bearings from God through prayer and reflection.

You might say – *well here we go again, we've been here before – Ash Wednesday – Lent Studies – Palm Sunday – Good Friday etc (replayed each year)*

But if we're honest the **landscape** is different every time. Those **guideposts** (liturgical and other) are the same and offer much wisdom – but I'm a different person than this time last year, as are you, because we've each been changed by the circumstances of our lives:

We've had yet another year of the pandemic

Floods

Maybe we've lost a loved one since last Lent or have faced some other major life change

Each Lent it's like the University Campus I referred to earlier – it's sort of familiar but it's as if the buildings all move about in the night and we have to get our bearings afresh each new day.

In fact the buildings haven't moved at all, it's just that we're looking at them in the light of a new day with different things on our mind.

Maybe God has begun to reveal something new to us this year – through our relationship with Jesus – or spoken to us in a new way – how will we respond and readjust?



Given the landscape of our lives right now, given where we are on our personal journey, what is God calling us to at this time?

What questions do we bring to Jesus today?

This is both a personal question and a communal one: as a church community, what is God calling us to now? What is our discernment of God’s call to us as a church community this Lent?

How does your personal journey and the gifts you have – intersect with the needs of the Alstonville Anglican community, the needs of the church right now?

By encouraging us to stop, reflect and think, Lent can help clarify where we are on our wider, ongoing journey and mission. The alternative reading for today was the Transfiguration – Jesus on the mountaintop with Peter, James and John. Like them we can’t stand still and build a tent here, we have to navigate onwards.

Our lives can be chaotic and unpredictable – as I said we are each a slightly different person now to the person we were this time last year because of the changing landscape of our lives – for which we don’t have an accurate map – where are we on our journey now and what is God calling us to be and to do?

In our discernment, what are the next steps?

Thankfully Jesus is on the journey too – and from the mountaintop of the Transfiguration we get a glimpse of his future glory.

Christ, whose insistent call disturbs our settled lives: give us discernment to hear your word, and generosity and grace to respond, so that your name may be glorified and your Kingdom prospered. Amen.

Sentence of the Day

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5.8

Collect

Gracious God,
out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and one another:
call forth our penitence and acts of love,
and strengthen us to face our mortality,
so that we may look with confidence for your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

John 4.5-42

⁵ So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸ (His disciples

had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?'¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?'¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.'¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.'¹⁸ Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband";¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!'¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet.'²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.'²¹ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.'²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.'²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.'²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'²⁵ The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to

us.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that

he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³² But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³ So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Values

What follows are the best words that we are able to offer, to describe what we love best about Alstonville Anglicans. When you come to us and when we go to you, this is what we are thinking and feeling.

Beloved:

each person comes into the world as an original blessing from God. Thus, each person is a beloved person: significant, wanted and loved.

Belonging:

anyone who wants to belong already belongs. We want to welcome each other as a gift, saying, "my greatest difference from you is my greatest gift to you". Community matters and is protected. We want to consciously enjoy each other hearing "the Christ in me sees the Christ in you."

Being:

we are human beings not human doings. Our being present is important. The Spirit of God vibrates within us "like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven."

Believing:

we are partners with God in living heaven on earth now. We want to be one call among many, offering a provocative but compassionate voice calling for a whole new way of thinking and believing that is loving, liberating and life-giving.

Blessing:

as beloved original blessings, we are blessed to be a blessing to others. God is always on God's way through us to creation, of which humans are a part. We believe everyone is called, that everyone has something beautiful to do for God. We want to be the sort of beloved community that creates space for people to express their calling.