



Alstonville
Anglicans

Sunday 8th November 2020

Welcome back

- Sunday@9am Anglican Service in the Ministry Centre
- Sunday@10am online via webpage www.anglicans.live
- Wednesday 9am & Thursday 6pm at St Bartholomew's
- Friday 10am Anglican Service in the Ministry Centre

Pentecost 23



Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people,
Traditional custodians of the Land.
Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.
Streaming licence CCLI#690910

Thought for the week

Future Shock

Jesus shares the 'future-shock' aspect of his return (Matthew 24). He likens this to the time of Noah's flood when people were continuing with 'normal activities'. He describes cosmic events which will accompany the revealing of the Son of Man.

Perhaps now, as 'COVID veterans' we may suffer the distinct disadvantage of too easily dismissing future events of universal importance. In Mt 25, the final event of world-wide significance seems to highlight these three salient points:

- Unpredictability (vs 5)
- The need to prepare! (vs 6)
- Readiness non-transferable! (vs8-12)

Let's pray that our COVID experience has sensitised us to events of possible world-wide ramifications so that people today are more ready to consider the imminent return of Jesus!

John Kidson October 2020.



Liturgy for 8th November

Sentence of the Day

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Matthew 24.42, 44

Opening Song

Longing for light,
we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth,
we turn to you.
Make us your own,
your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

*Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace
our world is troubled.
Longing for hope,
many despair.
Your Word alone,
has pow'r to save us
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!
*Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for food,
many are hungry.
Longing for wa-ter,
many still thirst.
Make us your bread,
broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shel-ter,
many are home-less.
Longing for warmth,
many are cold.
Make us your build-ing,
sheltering others
Walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts,
many the people,
Many the hearts
that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants
to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

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Readings

Matthew 25:1-13

¹ "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Closing Song

1. May we be a shining light to the nations.

A shining light to the peoples of the earth.
Till the whole world sees
the glory of your name.
May your pure light shine through us.

2. May we bring a word of hope to the nations.

A word of life to the peoples of the earth.
Till the whole world knows
there's salvation through your name.
May your mercy flow through us.

3. May we be a healing balm to the nations.

A healing balm to the peoples of the earth.
Till the whole world knows
the power of your name.
May your healing flow through us.

4. May we sing a song of joy to the nations.

A song of praise to the peoples of the earth.
Till the whole world rings
with the praises of your name.
May your song be sung through us.

5. May your kingdom come to the nations.

Your will be done to the peoples of the earth.
Till the whole world knows
that Jesus Christ is Lord.
May your kingdom come on earth.
May your kingdom come on earth.

Reflection

A reflection on Matthew 5:1-12

Reminders

A Teaching Story

Joanne C. Jones is an American who studied nursing. The following story is true and is told by Jack Kornfield in the *Art of Forgiveness*.

"During my second month of nursing school, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired, a woman in her fifties, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank.

Before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your care, even if all you do is smile and say hello."

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy."

—quoted in *The Art of Forgiveness, Lovingkindness, and Peace* by Jack Kornfield

Isn't it true that sometimes we need reminders about who we truly are and what our life's work is really about? In the stress of studies, achieving good marks in tests, the hustle and bustle of student life, and the pressure of passing a degree in nursing, perhaps Joanne may have forgotten the true art of nursing: care for people. Her professor's teaching moment was a worthy reminder of who Joanne

truly was and what her life's work was really about – meeting many people, knowing that all are significant, all deserve her care even if all she does is smile and says hello. She remembered who she was and what she was about.

Perhaps we have comparable stories that remind us who we are and what we are truly about when we have travelled off the beaten track. As a parish priest what I am meant to be about is the work of God and the people of God, the administration is secondary to that. The face of a person must always take precedence over the computer screen.

Stephen Covey offers another example of remembering our core values. He was teaching his teenage son to take responsibility for the garden. Imagine his flare of irritation upon arriving home from a car trip and finding that the grass had still not been cut – he just managed to check himself before diminishing his child with verbal abuse by reminding himself – “I am raising a child not a lawn”.

The Beatitudes are reminders about who the People of God are and what their Life's work is truly about

As people of God we also forget who we truly are and what we are truly meant to be about. The reading from Matthew's Gospel is part of a block of reading known as the Sermon on the Mount. Verses 1-12 are commonly referred to as the Beatitudes. These beatitudes are the reminders about who Israel was meant to be and what Israel's true purpose in life was.

Many sermons comment that the Beatitudes seem radical, revolutionary, world changing and that the earlier audience would have been blown away at the audacity of Jesus' teaching. However, a careful and close reading of Scripture will reveal that the Beatitudes are none of these things, they are not unique at all, but a reminder of God's purpose for Israel since the beginning of creation. All Jesus seems to be doing is reminding the People of God how God had

always intended Israel to live. The people of God are being reminded about the abundant, extravagant, lavish, grace filled life God has in mind for us if we are true to who we are and what our life's work is about. Jesus gives us the Beatitudes as reminders about who we are as people of God and what our life's work is; **namely love lived out in mercy and justice.** Let us then for a moment step into the beatitudes and see what Jesus is reminding us about.

The beatitudes

Jesus sees the crowds and moves onto the mountain. This is a provocative stance: the mountain recalls the posture of Moses and the gift of the ten best ways, the commandments given at Mt. Sinai. With the presence of the crowds before him, the stance on the mountain also recalls Mt Zion and the radical inclusivity of God's empire; remember that Mt Zion is where all the nations will stream into Zion and learn the ways of God by beating the swords into pruning hooks.

Jesus then sits. Again, this is a provocative stance because kings sit, Jesus is king of God's Empire, Jesus is the king of the new Creation, the life style taught by the Scriptures from Micah, to the Gospels and in Paul's letters.

Jesus then offers the beatitudes. These describe not personal qualities, but situations, often of oppression, which are being reversed by God's reign, God's Empire. What we must remember is that what is important is not the condition that is blessed, but God's action in that situation that is being blessed. For example, when Jesus says blessed are the meek which means the crushed, the oppressed, it is not oppression that is blessed, but the promise of liberation that is blessed.

Thus, fundamental to these beatitudes is the establishment of God's justice and mercy and the removal of societal relationships that create inadequate distributions of resources.

As we are reminded of who we are and what our true work is the beatitudes serve as a way for us to realign our lives so that it tracks God's original intention for us which is abundant blessing, extravagant and lavish enjoyment for all creation.

When one uses a sander, there is an alignment knob that needs to be adjusted so that the sandpaper tracks accurately. Similarly, these beatitudes are an alignment knob so that we track accurately in terms of God's purpose and will for our lives.

Concluding comments

With this in mind we do well to follow the example of a well-known Hindu and history maker, Gandhi. It has been said that Gandhi meditated on the Beatitudes every day in the final stages of his life. As we follow his example perhaps this could be our discipline too, to learn them off by heart, to let them saturate our minds, to let them descend into our hearts, and as we pray them repeatedly and meditate on them constantly they will take on a life of their own as they beat in our hearts and savour our breath as we go about our day to day work.

Rev Desiree Snyman

Worship & Spirituality

Messy Church

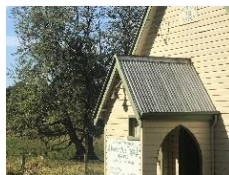


Our next Messy Church is Sunday 22nd November at 4pm.

The theme is 'Getting Ready for the Mystery of Christmas'.

St Peter & St Paul's

The next service will be Sunday 22nd November 2020.





We are praying for you.

Every Monday 10am

Join us in St Bartholomew's or submit your prayer requests online

Anam Cara

Anam Cara means soul friend. Guided Meditation is offered Wednesdays 9am and non-guided silence on

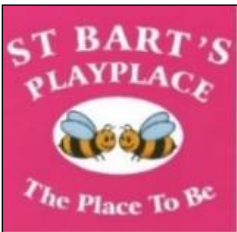
Thursdays at 6pm, following an abbreviated compline (prayer at the end of the day).



What's your favourite Hymn or Song? Juke Box Sunday 15th November

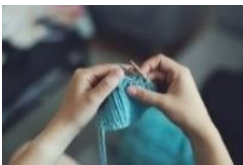
At 9am we will have a service of hymns and songs. What's your favourite hymn or song and why? Let us know via the website or here in the church.

Community Engagement



Play Place

Has resumed meeting on Thursdays at 9.30am and runs each week during School Terms. A fun time of friendship, stories, music, craft and playing, with a break for morning tea and a cuppa for parents and carers.



Sew helpful

Come along on Mondays from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Not everyone brings a craft project! You can learn a new skill, work on a project, or just enjoy the company. All welcome!



Quota Creative Christmas Tree Event

Quota is looking for entries of decorated trees or displays from businesses, community groups, schools, early childhood centres and aged care homes. Displays will be on show 28 – 29 November in the Uniting Church hall. Entry forms available from the office.

We need your help!

Alstonville Anglicans Twilight Christmas Fair

Friday 4 December, 3.30pm

Stalls:

- Cake stall
- Craft stall
- Cards and gifts stall
- Plants stall
- Sausage sizzle
- Colouring-in activity for the children
- Christmas Hamper raffle
- Festive music

We need:

- Items for the stalls
- Assistance to run the stalls
- Helpers to set up and pack down

Please contact:

- Graham Ireland
- Robyn Beck (cakes)
- Mary Ireland (craft)
- Carol Stone (cards and gifts)
- Barbara Fewtrell (plants)
- Gail Burley (raffle)
- Brian Delaney (sausage sizzle)

Let's share the joy of Christmas with one another and our local community.

Finance

Alstonville Anglicans - Offertory Options

We give thanks to God for all people making offertories to the vision of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Your offertory can be made using the following options:

- Direct transfer to our bank account
BSB 705 077 / Acc: 00032931
- Parish Provider - Direct debit through Anglican Funds - Forms available from the office
- Cheque to Alstonville Anglicans (PO Box 451, Alstonville 2477 or Offertory Plate)
- Offertory envelopes
- Cash

Thank you for your support.

Good Governance

We need more chairs with arms...



Do you have any wooden or metal chairs with arms, in good condition, that you no longer need or use, or would be willing to “long term loan” to us while we continue to meet in the Ministry Centre?

We have noticed some of our older parishioners are struggling now that they don't have a pew in front of them to assist them when standing up. If you can help, please contact

Carol Vidal on 0427 326 832.



Church Mowing Roster

We are now in process of preparing the roster for the next year. This year we have “lost” two members of our team, so we are looking for two (or maybe more) new volunteers to maintain our seven teams. Typically, each team has three turns at mowing and edging each year.

Please give your names to Barry on 6628 3089 as soon as possible to enable the preparation of the next roster.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers	all the baptised!	
Rector	The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman	0402 764 969
	priest@anglicans.live	
Associate	The Reverend John Kidson	0411 394 213
	The Reverend Geoff Vidal	0447 645 456
	The Reverend Doug Bannerman	0418 182 450
	The Reverend Greg Ezzy	0412 660 742
Parish Office:	The Ministry Centre, 8 The Avenue, Alstonville	
Telephone:	6628 0231	
Postal:	PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477	
e-mail:	office@anglicans.live	website: anglicans.live

The Anglican Op Shop 1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777



Alstonville
Anglicans

Twilight Christmas Fair

**BE PART OF
SOMETHING
SPECTACULAR!**

Friday 4th December
3.30pm – 7.00pm
6 The Avenue Alstonville

Immerse yourself
in an enchanting world of
craft, cakes, gifts & entertainment.

