



"From Warren"

The Regular Over the exotic  
 It would be quite the adventure to go to an exotic location for a 'spiritual experience'. Perhaps a meditation resort or yoga in the mountains. Perhaps with some monkeys squealing in the background as inner silence is/isn't attained.

These "highs" are valuable but are not a substitute for the day-by-day formation of a soul in a real life. It's like the big family holiday: a great experience and will be remembered and become part of the family's folklore, but isn't a substitute for actual family life day-by-day, month after month, year by year where the hard work of being a family is accomplished. Spiritual growth is like this as well. I'm looking forward to our Patronal Festival, but I will remember it not just because it will be a good service as our annual patronal service, but because it will rest on the foundation of regular prayer and liturgy, scripture and community. A church's culture is like this as well. A church becomes a place of worship, meaning, presence, and community not because it opens once a year, but because it is open for people to make it a church, a church resonating with its Christian culture. The exotic seems exciting, and takes our interest perhaps because it is novel. But in the spiritual life we seek depth not novelty. Depth comes through practice, regular practice. This is why I come to church, read scripture, and pray. I'm not the world's best at church, scripture, prayer, but it has and is building something in me. A soul.



For more of Warren's work see his blog at <http://classic-theology-new.blogspot.com.au>



## General Synod Report.

The Anglican General Synod was held on the Gold Coast from May 8th to 13th after 2 years of delay due to Covid. Synod began when almost 300 people gathered at dusk for Holy Communion on the resort tennis courts, the shade sails becoming our cathedral ceiling. Morning and Evening Prayer as well as a daily reflection on scripture sustained us in times of challenge.

In its parliamentary type processes, clergy and lay representatives from across Australia debated Issues of doctrine, governance, church law, marriage, secular imperatives and stewardship. Under the skilful leadership of Primate Archbishop Geoff Smith, synod voted in support of motions including but not limited to:

- Advocacy to Attorneys General for raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14; raising the job-keeper allowance to lift people above the poverty line; and for palliative care funding,
- Celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women
- Publication of the Creole prayer book in the Diocese of the Northern Territory
- Care for the environment and reduction of coal power stations
- Support of defence chaplaincy and veteran suicide prevention, for seafarers mission and commitment to remote dioceses and ministry in indigenous communities
- Ongoing attention to legislation in response to child protection and the Royal Commission recommendations

- Support of the Lutheran Anglican dialogue and the Common Ground statements, and
- The establishment and resourcing of the Families and Culture Commission in response to the National Family Violence Research project.

Synod prayed for the people of Ukraine and endorsed the Anglican Church of Australia's statement "Deploring the breach of international law by the Russian government invasion of Ukraine."

As well as times of great unity, there were times of division around contentious issues including the Anglican Church's response to religious discrimination legislation and the possible impacts on our Anglican schools. Predictably, there was tension around the definition of marriage and the blessing and affirmation of same sex marriage as speakers debated doctrine and the interpretation of scripture.

Common ground was found in the motion that General Synod —

1. Deplores and condemns any behaviour that is disrespectful, hurtful, intentionally insensitive, bullying or abusive, and

*continued page 2*



GOOD FRIDAY  
 See page 2



WORKING BEE  
 See page 3

# Lent

## and Easter 2022

### GENERAL SYNOD REPORT CONTINUED

recognises and rejoices in the image of God as reflected in every human being, regardless of race, social circumstances, creed or sexual identity, and apologises to and seeks forgiveness from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) persons whom we have treated in this way.

2. Commits itself to fostering churches and fellowships where compassion and grace abound and where the love of God is expressed to all, so that our churches and ministries are welcoming, safe and respectful of all people.

Although conservatives and more progressive Anglicans supported the apology, divisions still remain. At this historic Synod same sex marriage was debated for the first time, a motion calling for the affirmation of same sex (civil) marriage was defeated (60% against, 40% for). As the Primate Archbishop Geoff Smith has reported, the Anglican Church's position on marriage has not changed.

Preparations for the Adelaide Synod begin soon and as the media grapple to represent these complexities, let us pray for respect for each other, for our different contexts and cultures, build on what we hold in common, and where we differ, to seek guidance in the spirit. If you would like more information on these Synod processes, have a chat with David Bleby, Ann Nadge or Warren.

ANN NADGE

We enjoyed Lent and Easter with a number of highlights amidst our usual pattern of worship and community. The highlights included celebrating Mothering Sunday with flowers and simnel cake, our usual pre-Easter working bee, our annual vestry meeting, Palm Sunday and then our traditional Easter services and Almost Like Church in the Close on Good Friday. And

over Lent and Easter it was a joy for Warren to conduct two special pastoral services. Sally, grand-daughter of George and Alison Jeffrey, and niece of Wendy, had their approaching nuptials blessed. And Chris Jarman's latest grand-child, Hope, daughter of James and Gemma, was baptised. Here are some photos of Lent and Easter to enjoy.



A Jeffrey wedding approaches



Mothering Sunday and simnel cake



Baptism of Hope Jarman



Making Palm Crosses

Palm Sunday



Making Palm Crosses

## Vestry Meeting 2022

The Annual Vestry Meeting was held on 27th March, and was attended by 33 people.

Reports from parish groups were accepted, with thanks expressed to everyone who contributes to the life of the parish through these groups.

### ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

- Priest's Warden: Ann Nadge
- People's Warden: Neville Haar
- Parish Council continuing for 1 year: Stroma Hagger, Michael Lucas
- Parish Council elected for 2 years: Julie Ascher-Ellis, Elizabeth Bleby, Bill Gehling, Wendy Thomas.
- Priest's appointment to Parish Council: Mark Engelhardt.
- Synod Representatives: Sarah Black, Bill Gehling, Ann Nadge.
- Synod Alternate: Wendy Jeffrey

- Investment Committee: Peter Griffiths, Wendy Thomas, Peter Wadham.

Continuing Members: Don Barnett, Tom Hester, Parish Priest (ex officio).

- Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Bleby

THE BUDGET for 2022 was accepted, with thanks to Treasurer Wendy Thomas.

### ALTERATIONS TO THE RULES OF THE INVESTMENT FUND:

- Increase in the number of members, as above.
- Alteration of the financial year to 1st July – 30th June. (Previously it had been aligned with the diocesan calendar year).

As in previous years, the Vestry authorised the Parish Council to approve the use of Engelbrecht income when required to support budgeted items.

## Pentecost

By William Blake

Unless the eye catch fire,  
 The God will not be seen.  
 Unless the ear catch fire,  
 The God will not be heard.  
 Unless the tongue catch fire,  
 The God will not be named.  
 Unless the heart catch fire,  
 The God will not be loved.  
 Unless the mind catch fire,  
 The God will not be known

## Focus Gatherings

AS PART OF OUR EDUCATION AND FORMATION PROGRAM WE HAVE INTRODUCED FOCUS GATHERINGS WITH WARREN AND ANN AFTER THE 9.30 SUNDAY SERVICE.

These are irregular, informal discussions to focus on the readings or sermon of the day. The acronym FOCUS provides a lightly structured way of looking at the Focus of the text, the Overview, Challenges and Changes, new Understandings and Significance for us.

## Working Bee



# Worship and Events

Sundays:  
8.00 a.m. BCP Eucharist  
9.30am Contemporary Holy Communion

9.30 a.m. Almost Like Church on alternate Sundays in school term time: Service in parish centre.

Weekdays:  
Thursdays: 10.30 a.m. BCP Eucharist  
Fridays: 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer  
10.00 a.m. Columba Playtime In school term time.



## SERVICES ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE:

Sundays after 2.00 p.m.: First part of 9.30 service.

Tuesdays at 5.00 p.m.: Message of the Day by Warren.

Wednesdays at 5.00 p.m.: Evening Prayer

Thursdays at 9.00 p.m.: Reflection

You can always watch these at a later time if you wish.

## PARISH PRIEST:

The Reverend Dr Warren Huffa  
0438 988 448  
email: rector@columba.org.au

PASTORAL MINISTRY ASSISTANT:  
Ann Nadge 0402 830 521

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND OUTREACH WORKER:  
Julie Ascher-Ellis 0429 672 457

PARISH OFFICE:  
8272 7266  
email: welcome@columba.org.au  
Usual opening times:  
Tuesday 1.00 - 3.00 pm  
Friday 9.00 - 11.00 am

PRIEST'S WARDEN:  
ANN NADGE 0402 830 521

PEOPLE'S WARDEN:  
Neville Haar 8272 3813

**ST COLUMBA'S  
ANGLICAN  
CHURCH  
HAWTHORN**

website: [www.columba.org.au](http://www.columba.org.au)

101 CROSS ROAD HAWTHORN

If you do not wish to continue receiving "The Messenger" or if you wish to receive it by email, please advise us as through contact details shown here.

**ST COLUMBA'S  
ANGLICAN  
CHURCH  
HAWTHORN**  
*The Messenger*

# Columba Playtime

COLUMBA PLAYTIME, WITH MUSIC, STORY, CRAFT AND FUN FOR CHILDREN FROM 0 TO 5 YEARS AND THEIR FAMILIES COMMENCED IN JULY, 2020. WE MEET ON FRIDAY MORNINGS FROM 10 TO 11AM. OFTEN CHILDREN WILL COME WITH A GRANDPARENT OR TWO.

The feedback from carers is really positive, the children feel comfortable and have a great time. The fee of \$5 per family includes refreshments. While numbers are low we are not running a formal program; we still have a theme each term with craft, games and stories to support the theme.

Our banner has attracted families from outside our local area.

Ann Nadge helped establish the program; more recently Heather Williams has joined me. I am grateful to them both. Although these families may not come to traditional worship the playgroup offers a link to St Columba's. It is encouraging that Columba Playtime families attend our Fete and are interested in other activities we may offer.

*Building a wall to keep  
our farm animals safe.*



*Getting ready to cook breakfast and dinner for Columba Playtime Restaurant.*



## DIARY DATES 2022

### JUNE:

Sunday 5: Pentecost Sunday

Monday 13:  
**Queen's Birthday Holiday**

Mothers Union Lunch

Sunday 19: Parish Council  
WH&S Training

Tuesday 21: Men's Group

Wednesday 22: Parish Council

Sunday 26: Patronal Festival:  
one service at 9.30am followed  
by brunch

Monday 27: Warren starts Long  
Service Leave, Mark Thomas  
locum.

### JULY:

Friday 8: **End of School Term**

Monday 11: Mothers' Union

Tuesday 12: Sanctuary Guild

Tuesday 19: Men's Group

Monday 25: **Term 3 begins**

Wednesday 27: Parish Council

### AUGUST:

Monday 9: Warren returns  
from leave

Mothers' Union

Tuesday 16: Men's Group

Wednesday 24: Parish Council

**Our Annual Fete will be on  
Saturday 15th October**