

Dear friends,

THIS EASTER, SHARE THE REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE

(by Rev'd Maria Brand)

"In your hearts, revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:3-17)

Is Christ Lord of your life? Are you prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have? Do your actions and manner match your message? Rebecca Manly Pippert writes in her book *Stay Salt*, *"one thing has become clear to me: never has there been a greater need to share Christ with the world, starting with our own neighbour - and never have believers felt more ill-equipped."* We need to learn to share our faith in a confident, compassionate, compelling way in our different, post-Christian world.

Sam Chan suggests that in the past, 'facts, evidence and data' were the biggest contributors to the plausibility structures that people use to determine whether we think a story is believable or unbelievable. Now however, in the West the key contributor is 'community'. The community we belong to shapes our beliefs. Ironically while community has the greatest impact, many people today lack the community they need to thrive. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare tell us that one quarter of young people in Australia aged 16-24 experience significant social isolation and loneliness.

This Easter, as you seek to share the reason for the hope that you have, will you invite people to your community? Will you connect with people in their communities while also inviting and welcoming people with hospitality to your community? To share Christ today, we need to introduce our non-Christian neighbours and friends to the community of believers. As a church community we need to become evangelistic in our mindset and lifestyle, getting to know our neighbours, serving our neighbours and living out and sharing our hope in Christ.





NEXT WEEK- SUNDAY 6 APRIL

Change4Change: Sun 6 April

Please bring your Change4Change jars on Sunday 6 April. 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

Daylight Saving Ends: Sun 6 April

Please turn clocks back by one hour.



CELEBRATE EASTER AT GWAC

HOPE CHANGES EVERYTHING

JOIN US THIS EASTER AND DISCOVER A HOPE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

PALM SUNDAY: Sunday 13 April

- 8am: Traditional Service with Holy Communion
 - Speaker: Amanthi Lynch
 - *This service will be livestreamed.*
- 10.30am: Bilingual Service (this service will also be a celebration of the 5-yr anniversary of the commencement of GWAC's Mandarin Ministry)
 - Speaker- Genghua Zhang
 - *This service will be livestreamed*
- 5pm: Contemporary Service with Holy Communion
 - Speaker: Amanthi Lynch
 - *This service will not be livestreamed.*





HOLY WEEK SERVICE: Wednesday 16 April

- 10am: Traditional Service with Holy Communion
 - Speaker: Rev'd John Harrower
 - *The Bible Reading & Sermon will be livestreamed*

MAUNDY THURSDAY (REMEMBRANCE MEAL): Thursday 17 April

- Join us on April 17th from 6:30pm, Maundy Thursday, for a Remembrance Meal, a Christian version of the Passover Seder meal.
 - As we retell the story of God's rescue of his people from slavery in Egypt, we will incorporate communion showing how the Passover of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' greater work of redemption.
 - [Please register on the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Area.](#)

GOOD FRIDAY: Friday 18 April

- 10am: Good Friday Dramatic Presentation
 - The dramatic presentation will be for all-ages, with acting and reading, and moving around the church building. We'll also have a space in Meeting Rooms 1&2 for young kids who find this day of drama a bit scary or intense.
 - Morning tea with hot-cross buns

EASTER SUNDAY: Sunday 20 April

- Speaker (English Services)- Rev'd Maria Brand
- Speaker (Mandarin Service- Rev'd Ginger Chen
- 8am: Traditional Service (English) with Holy Communion
 - Morning tea with hot-cross buns
 - *This service will be livestreamed.*
- 10.30am: Contemporary Service (English) with Holy Communion, Children's Ministry, and a "Mega Easter egg Hunt"
 - Morning tea with hot-cross buns
 - *This service will be livestreamed.*
- 10.30am: Mandarin Service with Holy Communion
 - Morning tea with hot-cross buns
- 5pm: Contemporary Service (English) with Holy Communion
 - Supper after the service
 - *This service will not be livestreamed*





MORE EASTER RELATED UPDATES

EASTER BISCUIT BAKE 2025 (PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA)



This Easter, we would love for you to partner with Prison Fellowship to show Victorian prisoners that the

Christian community has not forgotten them. This is a real, practical, and simple way to give a profound message of love and hope. Each prisoner will receive a packet of biscuits containing a card that speaks of God's love and Jesus' death and resurrection.

Please bake and bring your biscuits, asap, and place them in a plastic tub kept near the church reception any time during the week or Sunday (before 6th April).

[To download details/recipes click this LINK, or pick one from the Church noticeboard](#)

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.](#)

- \$1.20 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

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

SERVING GOD WITH YOUR GIFTS: JOIN GWAC MINISTRIES



As a community we encourage everyone to use their gifts to build up the body of Christ to the glory of God. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to do in the building of God's kingdom at GWAC.

[Details of ministries that you can serve in, and how to register is at this LINK.](#)





Please note:

- An expression of interest in joining a ministry doesn't mean automatic acceptance into that ministry. Some ministries need certain skills or level of spiritual maturity. They are approved by the Lead Minister, and where appropriate, by the Parish Council. We are happy to discuss options available and ministries you can join.
- Some ministries require clearance first which could include getting a Working with Children Check, a Police Check, and doing some short training. You will be contacted by the Safe Church Officer about what to do. However, please do not let this discourage you from serving in any of the roles as the Safe Church Officer will guide you through the process.

VOLUNTEERING – SAFE MINISTRY TRAINING

Thank you to all those who completed Safe Ministry Training during March! There was a great response to the in-person sessions and the online completions continue to come in! Well done GWAC! If you're interested in volunteering in a ministry area, and yet to complete the training in person or online, please email Kathryn Bickerton, GWAC's Safe Church Officer, via email safe.church@gwac.org.au or complete a Connect Card. Volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to serve God and Kathryn will guide you through what's needed for various roles.

Next In Person Session: Wednesday 30th April, 12 noon (BYO Lunch). Tea, coffee and sweet treats provided! RSVP by 27th April please.

A reminder. If you have completed the Safe Ministry Training online, please email your certificate to Kathryn so that your training can be recorded. Thank you for playing your part in making GWAC a safe place for everyone who comes through our doors.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

SUNDAY 6TH APRIL – 10:30AM: CREATIVE FAMILY SERVICE

- Theme: "Take a risk for the impossible" (Mark 5, two tales of faith)
- Special Guest: Don Stott.
- This is also the start of school holidays, when we'll break from the morning programs till Sunday 27th April.





FRIDAY 18TH APRIL- 10AM: GOOD FRIDAY DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

This dramatic presentation will be for all-ages, with acting and reading, and moving around the church building. We'll also have a space in Meeting Rooms 1&2 for young kids who find this day of drama a bit scary or intense.

ALSO REMEMBER:

- GLOW runs regularly on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month for kids aged 0-3yr (during school term only).
- Playgroup: do you know of a young child who could benefit from a mid-week activity? Ask us about what we do at GWAC!
- ZOOM Prayer sessions: ask Anthony for the monthly dates and link details.

IGNITE (YOUTH MINISTRY)

Well, we're coming to the end of a fabulous term at Ignite Youth.

Some highlights of the past few weeks have been, attending the **VCYC one night event** with hundreds of youth from across Metropolitan Melbourne at PLC. Tom French brought a fabulous Gospel message of the Word becoming flesh, from John 1. If we want to know God just look at His Son Jesus. Our youth sat in the front row in huge support of Benny Bickerton and Anthony Yong who led us in worship. We were all pretty proud of their efforts in making the night so engaging and in a spirit of worship. There is nothing better than hearing youth sing heart-felt praise to God- very loudly!

Last week we saw the return of **Messy Games** which was our outreach night and our most attended event so far. The grounds and slopes of GWAC proved to be a wonderful resource for a night of mess. It was great to hear the testimony of Matthew Canobi that night. Our previous outreach night was held at the Glen Waverley Lawn Bowls club where both lawn bowls and pickle ball were enjoyed by all. Trinity Astley shared her testimony with the youth at this event as well. The staff at the Glen Waverley Lawn Bowls club were extremely generous with their time and encouragement of our youth.

The youth leaders have been working hard on encouraging our youth in their faith and walk with God, have spent significant time praying for the youth that are entrusted to them and help teach them how to read the Bible.





The next two weeks of Term 1 sees our community night as well as a worship night where Hannah Peake will preach from the Sermon on the Mount which has been our series this term.

The parents' Bible study on Friday nights is also operating during Ignite and is a great opportunity to read God's Word, grow in friendship and fellowship while your youth are at Ignite. Thank you to Julianne Marshall and Grant Bickerton for their commitment to this group.

Amanth Lynchi, a.lynch@gwac.org.au

MARK YOUR DIARY: UPCOMING EVENTS (MAY, JUNE)

BIBLE OVERVIEW: FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION

In partnership with Ridley College, GWAC is offering a Bible Overview covering the whole message of the Bible in a single subject to deepen your faith and expand your Bible knowledge. The Bible Overview subject is part of the Ridley Certificate, designed and presented by Mike Raiter, a popular and esteemed Bible teacher.

Starting on **Monday 12th May** and running for six-weeks, it will help you grasp of the big story of the Bible, and to make more sense of the different Bible readings you may hear at church or read in your own devotions. It also will help you get a sense of how the Bible relates to the world around us.



[The course is free of charge. For more information or to register, click **HERE**.](#)

'PLANNING MY FUNERAL' SEMINAR: WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE

- 11am - Wednesday 10am Service's 'Fellowship Brunch' - all welcome!
- 11.45am - 12.30pm, 'Planning my Funeral' Seminar in the auditorium

We encourage everyone to think about their funeral - What will it be like? Where will it happen? Hymns/worship songs, Bible readings, eulogies, participants, hospitality, burial or cremation... Many things to consider. Good preparation is a gift to your family. Hosted by Maria Brand and John Harrower, this will be a chance





to receive information and ask questions and learn what GWAC offers. Please consider inviting a friend or neighbour too.

DON'T MISS!

Saturday 5th April: Train Your Brain (TYB)

- In our April Activity Cycle, you can choose from: Mixed Skills, Rummikub (Numbers), WordWinder (Word), Slapzi (Memory) and Swish (Perception).
- 9.30am – 12 Noon (registration from 9am)

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

EDI runs on Mondays at 1.30pm, in the Hall (stadium).

Note: A reminder that there will be no EDI on Easter Monday (21 April).

Wednesday 9th April - 'Weekday Community Transport Information'

Do you need transport to the 10am Wednesday Service?

Come along to the Wednesday Service on the 9th of April. Hear from Maria Brand during the notices time about transport ideas and meet representatives from South East Volunteers, one local community transport service. They will be interviewed and available during morning tea following the 10am service.

Please note: GWAC relies on members (or their families on their behalf) teeing up transport arrangements themselves to get to and from church. This may be 'member to member', family or friends, or making use of community transport programs and taxis. We pray the 9th will be a helpful avenue to explore transport options.

Saturday 12th April & 10th May - 'Crafts of Care' - Knit, Sew & Craft Afternoons

- 1.30 – 4pm. Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
- 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 (including beginner knitters 😊)





Thursday 24 April: Mother's Union & Friends

- Theme: "Our HOPE Into the Future- Consider the Christian Message Of Hope"
- Date & Time: 1.30pm MR 1&2)
- Enjoy afternoon tea and fellowship

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.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

WEDNESDAY ANGLICAN SERVICE AT NELLIE MELBA RETIREMENT VILLAGE

We are grateful to Ian Nyholm accepting leadership of the monthly 3pm Anglican Service at George Community Area at the Nellie Melba Retirement Village. The Service was initiated and lead by The Rev'd Hilary Roath for some years until her stepping down from the role last year. A huge 'Thank you, Hilary' for your leadership of this ministry. Ian gives thanks for this opportunity to bring Christ's love and join with the ongoing team. Please pray for this ministry.

Shalom, [John](#)

UPDATES- MANDARIN SPEAKING COMMUNITY

Let's Learn English Class

- Every Sunday: 12.15 – 1.30pm, GWAC

ALPHA Course Camp (Mandarin congregation only)

ALPHA Course will finish in April with a one day Camp (lunch will be provided by volunteers). Details:

- Date & Time: Saturday 5th April, 10am – 3.30pm
- Where: Meeting Rooms 1&2
- Contact: Ginger, g.chen@gwac.org.au if you're interested.





Joshua Life Group Bible Study

Every fortnight, the Joshua Life Group gathers to learn the Bible, encourage each other, and grow together in God. Everyone in the Mandarin congregation or community is welcome to join

- When: 1st and 3rd Sunday, 1:30pm-3pm (after worship and lunch)
- Where: Stadium
- Contact: Wei Cheng and Sean

Chinese Brothers' Fellowship

- When: Every Tuesday, 7:15pm-9pm
- Where: Meeting Room-3
- Contact: Sean Hsien, Anthony Zhao.

Chinese Sisters' Fellowship

- When: Every 1st and 3rd Thursday, 7pm-9pm
- Where: Meeting Room-3
- Contact: Wei Cheng Foo and Joanna Zhou.

Chinese Translation Ministry

Since March, we have started distribution of a Chinese version of the GWAC "Happenings" for our Mandarin congregation. We thank God for the dedicated service of our translation team.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES @ GWAC

Sunday English Services

Mark Sermon Series		
6 April	Mark 5:31-43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8am Speaker: Maria Brand • 10.30am Don Stott (Guest Speaker) (Creative Family Service) • 5pm Speaker: Amanthi Lynch





13 April (Palm Sunday)	Mark 11:1-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Speaker: Amanthi Lynch 10.30am: Genghua Zhang (Guest Speaker) 5pm Speaker: Amanthi Lynch
18 April (Good Friday)	Mark 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker: Brad Jackson
20 April (Easter Sunday)	Mark 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker: Maria Brand
Ecclesiastes Sermon Series		
27 April		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker: (Bishop) Paul Barker

Wednesday English 10am Service

Lent Series continues: "Jesus Our Hope"			
2 Apr	Luke 23: 32-43	Jesus was: Trusted	Speaker: John Harrower
9 Apr	John 13: 1-17	Jesus was: Loved	Speaker: John Harrower
Sermon Series: "Three Great Exclamations of Faith"			
16 Apr	1 Peter 2: 18-25	Holy Week Wednesday Service: 'Christ Has Died'	Speaker: John Harrower
23 Apr	1 Cor. 15:1-8	'Christ Is Risen'	Speaker: John Harrower
30 Apr	1 Thess. 4:13-18	'Christ Will Come Again'	Speaker: John Harrower

Blessings,

Maria Brand | Lead Minister (Vicar)

