

Vision Statement:

We see a Jesus-orientated church having a passion for the Gospel and compassion for the world expressed through dynamic worship, love in action, the empowering of the servant leaders and the growing of disciples.

Reverend Jonathan Button can be contacted at j.button@bigpond.com.

I am available in the event of emergencies at any time, but other than that would appreciate not receiving calls on Wednesdays, where possible, as this is my day off.

Church Telephone Number: 8251 4298

This Week's Roster

1st December, 2019

Preacher: **Jonathan**
Leader (am): **Kathryn**
Leader (pm): **David**
Welcome: **Joan C.**
Duty Elder: **Cath**
Reader: **Trevor**
Musician: **Heather**
Stewards: **Neil & Sheila**
Manager: **Max**
Crèche: **Coral**
Kidz Connect: **Tina**
Morning Tea: **Coral, Peter & Yvonne**
Audio: **Jim**
Visual: **Alan**
Cleaning: **Åsa, Brunetta, John, Lucinda & Tim**

Next Week's Roster

8th December, 2019

Preacher: **Jonathan**
Leader (am): **Ceri**
Leader (pm): **Jonathan**
Welcome: **Joan W.**
Duty Elder: **Cath**
Reader: **Sandy**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Stewards: **John & Kevin**
Manager: **Max**
Crèche: **Lucinda**
Kidz Connect: **Richardt**
Morning Tea: **Eileen, Michelle & Ray**
Audio: **Jim**
Visual: **James**
Cleaning: *********

FIRST QUARTER ROSTER 2020

Cath and Jim have already made a start on the next roster. Could you please make sure that you let either one of them know if there are any times, for which you will be unavailable for any duties, by Sunday, 8th December? Designing the roster is a complex and time consuming process. This quarter we have been continually frustrated by people not reading it, thus causing eleventh hour mayhem. We thank you for being so willing to be rostered and to serve the needs of our church. God bless you all.

Golden Grove Gazette

Keeping in touch with the G.G.U.C. family

<http://goldengroveuniting.org.au>

Sunday, 1st December, 2019

First Sunday in Advent: Hope

Preacher: **Jonathan**

Theme: **Wide Awake**

Scripture Readings: **Romans 13: 11-14 and Matthew 24: 36-44**

Mission Statement: To draw people



to our Lord Jesus Christ

and nurture them through our church

God's Story

(Rev. Gordon)

For many of us, the Bible is like disconnected pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. We've assembled some of them, but there are a lot of extra pieces lying around and we don't know where they go; in fact, we aren't even sure what the picture should look like when it's completed.

The Bible contains God's Story. It is a love story and comes as a redemptive drama in six parts.

- Creation – when everything was as God meant it to be.
- Fall – the tragic intrusion of sin, resulting in a broken relationship with God.
- Israel – the history of a people who were to be God's people, living his way and showing other nations his character.
- Jesus – God's son, the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. He is the Saviour from sin. In his life, teaching and death, he fully reveals the character of God.
- Church - existing in the world today, to continue the work of Jesus.
- Consummation – the magnificent fulfilment of God's plan to gather and cherish a people forever and to live in a restored world, called 'the new heaven and new earth'.

This is God's story. Even as Jesus is the main character in God's story, each of us is freely invited to find our place in the grand narrative of hope.

A Message from the Elders

The term "Advent" is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming", and it is a season (1st to 24th December) observed in many churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the Coming of Christ from three different perspectives: in the flesh when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily and in glory at the end of time.

Advent commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas - today. Practices associated with Advent include: keeping an Advent calendar, lighting an Advent wreath, praying an Advent daily devotional, erecting a Christmas tree and setting up Christmas decorations.

In our church, on the first Sunday in Advent, we light the first candle of our Advent wreath - which is the Prophets' Candle symbolising Hope, which we light in remembrance of the prophets who foretold of the birth of Christ.

During this week read, think and pray about the messages of hope that these passages contain:

Isaiah 2:2-4, Isaiah 7:10-14, Isaiah 9:2-7, Isaiah 32:1-2 and Isaiah 60:1-22.

Think and pray about how these messages of hope have transformed (and can further transform) your life. Pray and ask Jesus for a way that you can bring this message of hope to others whom you encounter this week.

Our church elders are: Jonathan, Andrew, Cath, David, Ray and Richardt.

Philippines Sponsorship

Thank you for continuing to support our children in the Philippines. Your December quarter donation is now due. I would very much like to be able to let Luciano receive the money before Christmas, and your cooperation in this regard would be really appreciated. Thanks again, Gordon Cooksey.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Lunch

Lunch commences at 12.30 pm sharp, at the Slug and Lettuce, this Thursday, 5th December. Those involved in car pooling must meet at the church by 12.00 noon. If you have a Secret Pal gift, please bring it with you. The meal cost is: buy one meal and get one free. Please do not desert us at the last minute.

Dates for our December Diaries

- **Estia Worship Service: Monday, 2nd December: 2.00 pm**
- **Women's Fellowship (Christmas Lunch): Thursday, 5th December**
- **Working Bee: Saturday, 7th December: 8.00 am**
- **Second Sunday in Advent (Peace): Sunday, 8th December**
- **Elders and Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, 10th December: 7.00 pm**
- **Day of Prayer: Thursday, 12th December: 8.00 am to 6.00 pm**
- **The Dinner Table: Thursday, 12th December: 6.00 pm**
- **Third Sunday in Advent (Joy): Sunday, 15th December**
- **Blue Christmas: Sunday, 15th December: 7.00 pm**
- **Carols Service: Wednesday, 18th December: 7.00 pm**
- **Fourth Sunday in Advent (Love): Sunday, 22nd December**
- **Christmas Eve, Children's & Café Services: Tuesday, 24th Dec.: 6.00 pm**
- **Christmas Day Service: Wednesday, 25th December: 9.00 am**

Steptoe and Son

Steptoe and Son Inc. (alias Ray and Neil) has no intention of retiring. Please contact the father or the son if you are anxious to dispose of some metal.

Volunteering at Golden Grove Helping Hand

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer at this centre? The residents would welcome both two-legged and four-legged visitors. A Police Check is required. If you feel that you would like to help, please see Cath, who has all the necessary paper work. Thanks very much.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

As we are no doubt aware, once again it is getting close to Christmas, the time when we normally assist with food hampers for the two schools that we support, Greenwith Primary and Banksia Park Primary.

If you could possibly start bringing on a Sunday, up until Sunday, 8th December, something to help families in need so that they might enjoy a meal on Christmas Day, it would be greatly appreciated.

On the back hall table there will be containers ready to accept your generous gifts. Thank you so very much.