

From Our Pastor: Jonathan Button

Jonathan 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

3rd December, 2023

Next Week's Roster

10th December, 2023

Preacher: **Jonathan**
Leader (am): **Andrew**
Leader (pm): *********
Welcome: **Bob**
Manager: **John**
Reader: **Lucinda**
Musician: **Heather**
Morning Tea: **Trevor & Sandy**
Audio Desk (am): **Ruan**
Audio Desk (pm): *********
Camera : **Lucinda**
Computer (am): **Rykhardt**
Computer (pm): *********
AV Editing: **Jonathan**

Preacher: **Jonathan**
Leader (am): **Jonathan**
Leader (pm): **David**
Welcome: **Cath**
Manager: **Neil**
Reader: **Marion**
Musician: **Brunetta**
Morning Tea: **Joy & Tina**
Audio Desk (am): **Ralph**
Audio Desk (pm): **Ralph**
Camera : **John**
Computer (am): **James**
Computer (pm): **James**
AV Editing: **Rykhardt**

Have you considered E-giving?

Envelopes with an "E" on the front, prayer requests or thanks

can be placed in the offering bags on a Sunday morning.

Please speak to Chris Holroyd if you require more information.

Please note: Payments can now be made by

Electronic Funds Transfer on a Sunday.

Golden Grove Gazette

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

www.goldengroveuniting.org.au

Sunday, 3rd December, 2023

First Sunday in Advent: Hope

Preacher:: **Jonathan**

Theme: **With Us in Our Sin**

Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 64: 1-9**



Mission Statement: We are a Gospel-driven, connected, generous church family, mission-minded and outwardly focussed.

Shaken

Does it ever feel like the sky is falling in?... That our lives and world are turned upside down?... Like everything that once seemed solid under our feet is disintegrating?... These events are not just blind, dumb fate; in them *God is drawing near.*

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the season when we celebrate the coming of God the Son into our world at Christmas. We also think of His coming as Lord of all things at the end of history; and His coming daily into our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 64 says that when God comes into our world, He "tears open the heavens", mountains quake, and people, whole nations, tremble at His presence and deeds (Isaiah 64:1-4). This is because we and our world are 'out of kilter' with God's good will and purpose, and His holy presence must shake everything that is against it.

Yet the reason that God does this is precisely because He loves the world and us. He only shakes things in order to show us what is false and harmful to us (vv 5b-7), so that we turn from them to Him and find what is true, good and unshakable. He is "*our Father*" (v8), who made us and loves us, who will not be angry with us forever, but promises forgiveness and redemption (vv8-9). After all, *He sent His Son at Christmas to do just that!* (John 3:16)

He will make a way through and save us. *Trust Him!*

Grace and peace, Jonathan.

CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Polling will take place at a congregational meeting immediately following worship next Sunday 10 December, 2023.

The candidates are:

- for Church Councillor: Chris Holroyd, Sheila MacTier, Katherine McDonald, Ralph Walcott, Trevor Walker
- for Elder: Andrew MacTier, Sandy Walker

Results of the election will be announced during morning tea after the meeting and published in the *Gazette* on 17 December.

[For your information, continuing members are:

- Church Councillors: Tim Checkley, Neil & Coral Larcombe
- Elders: Ray Holroyd, Cath McKechnie]



Our last Women's Fellowship for 2023 will be held on Thursday 7th December, which has been booked at the Modbury Hotel for lunch at 12.00 noon. Please add your name to the list on the back hall table and indicate if you require a lift. It has also been suggested that you may want to do a little Kris Kringle to the value of \$5.00 to \$10.00, wrapped with no name on it, to bring on the day. Please speak with Katherine McDonald if you need further information. Thank you.

SUMMER HAS SUDDENLY SPRUNG UPON US

- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 3rd December: 10.00 am
- First Sunday in Advent: Sunday, 3rd December (Hope)
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 7th December: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Women's Fellowship: Thursday, 7th December: 12.00 noon
- Youth 3:16: Friday, 8th December: 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm (Pool Party)
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 10th December: 10.00 am
- Second Sunday in Advent: Sunday, 10th December (Peace)
- Church Council Elections: Sunday, 10th December (after Worship)
- Café Church: Sunday, 10th December: 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 14th December: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 17th December: 10.00 am
- Third Sunday in Advent: Sunday, 17th December (Joy)
- Blue Christmas: Sunday, 17th December: 6.00 pm
- Estia Worship Service: Monday, 18th December: 2.00 pm
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 21st December: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 24th December: 10.00 am
- Fourth Sunday in Advent: Sunday, 24th December (Love)
- Lessons and Carols: Sunday, 24th December: 6.00 pm
- Christmas Day Service: Monday, 25th December: 9.00 am
- Jonathan's Leave Begins: Tuesday, 26th December
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 28th December: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- New Year's Eve: Sunday, 31st December
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 31st December: 10.00 am
- Jonathan Returns to Duty: Sunday, 14th January, 2924

Recycling during the Festive Season

At this time of the year there will be an increase in the number of cans and bottles, the contents of which have already been consumed. Please save those empties for Max. Ailsa and Faye will still be on the alert for plastic tops. And even though King Charles III's mother has been replaced by Jesus's mother on the Christmas stamps, Sally Stamp from Synod will welcome every stamp that you send her, via the box on the table at the back of the hall.

