

### From Our Pastor: Jonathan Button

Jonathan can be contacted at [j.button@bigpond.com](mailto: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

24th December, 2023

#### Next Week's Roster

31st December, 2023

Preacher: **James**  
Leader (am): **Rykhardt**  
Leader (pm): **\*\*\*\*\***  
Welcome: **Lila**  
Manager: **John**  
Reader: **Owen**  
Musician: **Brunetta**  
Morning Tea: **David & Linda**  
Audio Desk (am): **Ruan**  
Audio Desk (pm): **\*\*\*\*\***  
Camera : **John**  
Computer (am): **Lucinda**  
Computer (pm): **\*\*\*\*\***  
AV Editing: **Rykhardt**

Preacher: **James**  
Leader (am): **Andrew**  
Leader (pm): **\*\*\*\*\***  
Welcome: **Ray**  
Manager: **John**  
Reader: **Brunetta**  
Musician: **Brunetta**  
Morning Tea: **Ken & Owen**  
Audio Desk (am): **Ruan**  
Audio Desk (pm): **\*\*\*\*\***  
Camera : **Lucinda**  
Computer (am): **Rykhardt**  
Computer (pm): **\*\*\*\*\***  
AV Editing: **Rykhardt**

### Philippines Sponsorship Jars

Thank you for your generosity that has enabled us to send the three sponsored children some extra money to buy something for Christmas.

A member of the congregation, with her/his kind and generous donation, has enabled an amount of \$200 to be sent to enable Pastor Luciano to distribute food and gifts to all the families and spread a little Christmas cheer.

Please note that the jars will not be out for the next four weeks, and once again many thanks for your donations.

Sandy and Trevor Walker

## Golden Grove Gazette

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

[www.goldengroveuniting.org.au](http://www.goldengroveuniting.org.au)

Sunday, 24th December, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love

Preacher:: Dr James Ross-Naylor

Theme: The Promise of Christmas

Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 26-38



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

### So This is Christmas...

When John Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono, wrote the song 'Happy Christmas/War is Over' in 1971 they were dreaming of a world where humanity might, once and for all, band together to make peace a reality.

It's still a dream. And yet it's not. War is everywhere. While humanity as a whole has been unable to bring this about, one small child, Jesus Christ, has done this. As we sing in the famous carol, 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'-

*Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

**This is Christmas.** As you have fun celebrating with family and friends, our wish and prayer is that you would make time to 'With th'angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

On a personal note, thank you so much for all your cards and warm wishes for our own Christmas and new year. We are blessed to be part of this remarkable church community. We wish you all a blessed, peaceful, and very fun Christmas. And may you know all the good things of God in 2024.

And now these three remain:

Kathryn & Jonathan

*Faith, Hope, and Love*

But the greatest of these is Love.

- 1 Cor 13:13 -

## Coral's Shoe Boxes Update

Hello, Everyone,

I am pleased to send some of the latest news from Corinne, the State Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child.

Today, in New South Wales, we finished processing. So, today, all of the Samaritan's Purse staff came to finish the last boxes. It was the best day I've had here. We processed over eight hundred boxes, had lunch together, and then packed up everything, ready to be stored for another year.

I also have some wonderful news. The majority of our boxes that we sent to Victoria (the first forty feet container) went to Ukraine. The remainder in Victoria, and our second container, that had been sent to Western Australia, was then sent to Papua and New Guinea.

I'm so thrilled that the majority of South Australian and Northern Territory boxes went to Ukraine. What a blessing that South Australia and Northern Territory packed over eighteen thousand and one hundred boxes! The final figure won't be available until all the Pack a Box online ones are included.

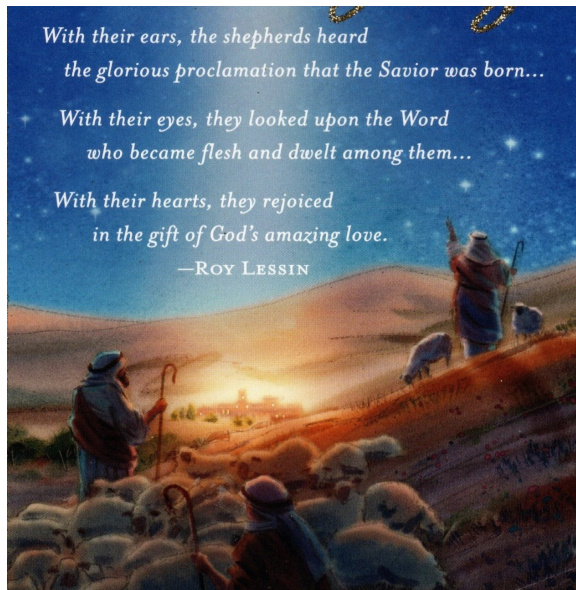
God's blessings to you all at Christmas,

Shalom,

Lynette

and

John Beck



## DATES FOR DECLINING DECEMBER

- 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

### News from Sally Stamp

Every Monday morning a small group of volunteers meets at the Synod Office to collect and sort stamps which have been received from Fellowships and Businesses around South Australia.

This year, 2023, we generated \$6,167.50 and donated \$3,710.68 to South Pacific School Aid (freight for schoolbooks and aids to Pacific Islands), \$1,000 to Frontier Services (Outback Pastors) and \$1,000 to the Grove Uniting Church, Woodville Gardens (Kids Craft Club).

Please consider asking local businesses to save their stamps; doctors' surgeries are one of the best sources of stamps. Any donations of no longer required private collections are gratefully received.

Sally Stamp asks that people continue to send stamps to the Uniting Church Synod Office. Here, at GGUC, Jim collects them from the box on the back table in the hall, and then trims and bags them. Twice a quarter he posts them to Yvonne Windsor, one of our former members, who in turn delivers them to the Synod Office.



### Minister's Leave Arrangements

Jonathan will be on leave from 26th December to 22nd January. This comprises two weeks of annual leave and two weeks of study leave. Please contact Cath McKechnie or Neil Larcombe regarding any ministry needs during that time.

