

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

14th January, 2024

Next Week's Roster

21st January, 2024

Preacher:	James
Leader (am):	James
Leader (pm):	*****
Welcome:	Bob
Manager:	Neil
Reader:	Bob
Musician:	Brunetta
Morning Tea:	Peter & Yvonne
Audio Desk (am):	Ralph
Audio Desk (pm):	*****
Camera :	Tim
Computer (am):	*****
Computer (pm):	Rykhardt
AV Editing:	Rykhardt

Preacher:	Gordon
Leader (am):	Kathryn
Leader (pm):	*****
Welcome:	Cath
Manager:	Ray
Reader:	Alison
Musician:	Brunetta
Morning Tea:	Bob & Faye
Audio Desk (am):	Ruan
Audio Desk (pm):	*****
Camera :	Lucinda
Computer (am):	*****
Computer (pm):	Rykhardt
AV Editing:	Rykhardt

Golden Grove Gazette

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

www.goldengroveuniting.org.au

Sunday, 14th January, 2024

First Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher:: **Dr James Ross-Naylor**

Theme: **Grace for the Sceptic**

Gospel Reading: **John 1: 43-51**



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



The Grace of God

Theologians point out that there is a sharp distinction between the use of the word 'grace' in the Old and New Testaments.

In the Old Testament, it can be used to designate kindness and graciousness in general, with no particular tie or personal relationship between the individuals involved. It is also used to signify a specific kindness that gives pleasure to both giver and receiver, thereby implying some sort of special relationship between them.

In the New Testament, grace indicates quite specifically God's redemptive love, which is always active to save a person to keep them in relationship with him. It implies God's continual, unfailing faithfulness both to his covenant and to his people forever.

Think of grace in terms of a statement: 'You are accepted.' You and I are accepted, fully and totally accepted by God, now, always, without condition, without deserving, without question. To be accepted in this way means to be cherished, to be loved, to be guarded from ultimate evil. It means that who we are is valued, honoured and respected. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ.

Grace is God's initiative. It is an expression of God's love for us, of God's desire, of God's unconditional acceptance, an expression of the very nature of who God is.

Such amazing grace!

(Reverend Gordon)

Viva Alpha!

In the 2024 New Year Honours, King Charles appointed Nicholas Glyn Paul Gumbel (Nicky, as we know him) a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the Church of England.

Nicky was born in 1955. His father was a German secular Jew who escaped the Nazi purges by emigrating to Britain. Both his father and mother were barristers, while the latter was a nominal Christian. Educated at Eton College, he then graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, with an MA degree in the arts.

In 1974, while at university, he converted to Christianity. After graduating he became a practising barrister. In the meantime he had become a regular worshipper at Holy Trinity Brompton Church, Knightsbridge. It was there, in 1978, that his marriage to Pippa was solemnised. The couple went on to have three children.

In 1982 he ceased his law practice and began training for ordained ministry in the Church of England, graduating from Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, with an MA, in 1986. He was ordained as a deacon in 1986 and as a priest in 1987. He was a curate in his home church (HTB) from 1986 to 2005 and was the Vicar, not of Dibley, but of Holy Trinity, Brompton, from 2005 to 2022.

His universal fame was set in motion by the Bishop of London, who, in 1996, appointed him Alpha Chaplain. The course had been running since 1977. However, under Nicky's leadership he transformed it from being one designed for new Christians to one primarily for those outside the church who would not consider themselves Christians.

It was back in 2002 that Alpha, with help of Barbara Turner, long-time friends, Shirley and Ian Moulton, and new friends, Graham and Kay Johnson, brought the current editor from Greenwith UC to GGUC.

ENCOUNTERS FOR JANUARY

- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 14th January: 10.00 am
- Estia Worship Service: Monday, 15th January: 2.00 pm
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 18th January: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 21st January: 10.00 am
- Jonathan's Return to Duty: Monday, 22nd January
- Thursday Morning Prayers: Thursday, 25th January: 8.00 am to 9.00 am
- Australia / Survival Day: Friday, 26th January
- Sunday Morning Worship: Sunday, 28th January: 10.00 am
- Café Church: Sunday, 28th January: 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm
- KYB Conference: Monday, 29th January
- Commencement of Term One: Monday, 29th January
- Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, 30th January: 7.00 pm

A Prayer for World Peace

We pray for the power to be gentle;
the strength to be forgiving;
the patience to be understanding;
and the endurance to accept the consequences
of holding on to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe
in a world emancipated from violence,
a new world where fear shall no longer lead persons to commit
injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy
to the task of making peace,
praying always for the inspiration and the power
to fulfill the destiny for which we and all humans were created.

– Author Unknown