

Contact Information

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

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

Church phone number: 8251 4298

Editor can be contacted at ctwstokes@bigpond.com

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.

** Payments can now be made by EFTPOS on Sunday.



Women's Breakfast

Date: 22nd March Venue: Milk and Honey

Time: 8:30 for 9:00 start Speaker: Sue Rhodes

Please contact Chris Holroyd or Kathryn Button if you wish to attend.

Today

Leader— James (am & pm)

Preacher— James

Reader— Joy B

Welcome— Lucinda

Manager— Neil

Musician – Brunetta

Technical Crew— Lucinda & Rykhardt (am) TBA(pm)

Editing— Rykhardt (audio)

Morning Tea— Peter & Yvonne

Next Week

Leader— Jonathan(am), James(pm)

Preacher— Jonathan

Reader— Lucinda

Welcome— Ray

Manager— Ray

Musician – Brunetta

Technical Crew— Rykhardt, John & Ruan (am) Ralph (pm)

Editing— Jonathan (video)

Morning Tea— David and Linda

The Weekly Word

Sunday 4th May 2025



Golden Grove Uniting Church Mission Statement

We are a Gospel-driven, connected, generous church family, mission-minded and outwardly focused.

Today

Preacher— James

Reader— Joy B

Theme – Forever and Ever

Reading: Rev. 5:11—18

Politics & Grace

In Mark chapter 12, Jesus argues with the Sadducees who wouldn't believe in the resurrection, and with the Pharisees about which commandment was the most important. These two groups were a bit like the left-wing liberals and right-wing conservatives of today; the former emphasizing individual rights and free thinking, the latter focused on the strict following of laws.

Jesus' arguing with them demonstrated that His teaching - the Christian Gospel - refuses to fit into any political position; it is above and greater than them all. While there may be points where Jesus' teaching looks similar to one political view or another, at other points it will pass sharp judgement upon them - e.g., Jesus certainly esteems individuals as created and redeemed in the image of God, but rejects that they have a right to be free from God or His truth; and while He always upholds God's law, Jesus rejects the idea that life is determined only by success or failure to keep it.

What is it about Jesus' teaching that makes it different from every political view?.... Grace!

For example, because life is given and redeemed entirely by the grace of God, therefore we owe Him all things - i.e., our love, thanksgiving, obedience and joy, and so we can't just go our own way in life. And because God has *graciously* given forgiveness and salvation for all who will receive it in faith and repentance, we must likewise be gracious and forgiving to all.

Grace upon grace, Jonathan.

Dining with Sotiata

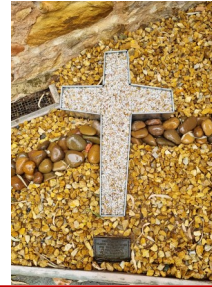
Saturday, 26th April was the time for the latest community breakfast, and it was naturally a great success, with an attendance of at least fifty-three diners. Again we enjoyed partaking of the famous menu, *A La Carte David*. His cohort of faithful and generous kitchen staff ensured that we were served expeditiously and genially.

We were stupefied to witness the swinging floor show, during which Cath and Damian did their best to emulate Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. However, the real highlight of the of the occasion was our very special International and inimitable guest, Sotiata, singer and raconteur par excellence. He mesmerised us with the grace, beauty and range of his melodious voice. He was a veritable show and eating stopper.

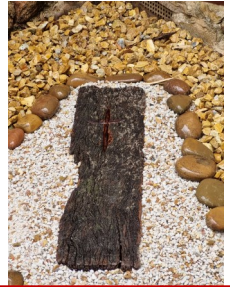
The wonderful morning came to a happy end with the "faithful" clearing up in remarkable time, manifested briefly, for example, by Jonathan's playing the part of a waiter (obviously trained by Kathryn) and Linda's literally running with a pile of plates.

We look forward to the next breakfast.

James Willis



A big thank you to Ashton McKechnie for the gift of the crosses that he made and placed artistically on either side of the church doors. They were a lovely Easter surprise. He Has Risen Indeed!



Sally Stamp



A donation of \$2,000 has been made to South Pacific School Aid Inc., and \$1,000 to the Outback Pastors, using remaining funds from 2024. It is hoped that another shipment to the Pacific Islands can be supported once SPSA has a pallet ready.

Sincere thanks to everyone who continues to donate stamps—especially full collections no longer required by families. These contributions are greatly appreciated and make a real difference.

Maxine Haines

Important Dates 2025

Pastoral Carer's Zoom Meeting Tuesday 6th May 7:00pm

Youth 3:16 Friday 9th May Craft Night 6:15 pm

Church Council Retreat Saturday 10th May

Women's Breakfast Saturday 17th May 8:30 am

Mother's Day Sunday 11th May

Church Council Meeting Tuesday 20th May