

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.

Café Church

6:00pm



A relaxed, contemporary service held every Sunday in the Church Hall. This week's team will be:

Leader: Jonathan **Technical Crew:** David **Topic:** Faith in Hostile Times

Today

Leader— Kathryn(am) & James (pm)

Preacher— James

Reader— Tina

Welcome— Lucinda

Manager— Neil

Musician – Brunetta

Technical Crew— Rykhardt, Ruan,
Tim (am) Ralph (pm)

Editing— Rykhardt (video)

Morning Tea— David and Linda

Next Week

Leader— Rykhardt(am)& James(pm)

Preacher— James

Reader— David Mapp

Welcome— Ray

Manager— Ray

Musician – Brunetta

Technical Crew— Lucinda & Ruan
(am) David(pm)

Editing— Rykhardt (audio)

Morning Tea— Chris De Brenne &
Katherine

The Weekly Word

Sunday 3rd August 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— Tina

Theme – Who is the Lord?

Reading: Exodus 7:14-18, 10:21-29

Plagued!

Living in the post-2020 world, we know all about plagues. The COVID-19 pandemic affected a lot more than people's physical health: it caused fear, suspicion and division between people and communities. And of course we are still seeing its impacts on the economy, people's mental health and much more. When we read about the plagues in Egypt in the early chapters of Exodus, similarly, we can imagine the effects they would have had far beyond simply turning a river to blood or the daytime sky to darkness. It must have been a frightening time to be an Egyptian!

We are told that God did all of this so the Egyptians would know He is Lord (Exodus 7:5, 9:14). Yet, again and again, Pharaoh hardens his heart and refuses to learn this lesson, even promising to let the Israelites go only to renege on it when the plague is over. It's easy to judge Pharaoh's foolishness, but how often do we, too, refuse to learn from hard times? Just look at the world only five years after the COVID-19 outbreak. Have we gotten anywhere?

C.S. Lewis once said that "pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world." God does not always send the plagues in our lives, but He does always use them to teach us lessons we might not learn otherwise. The most important one of all is that we should never rely on ourselves or think we can control a situation. God is Lord, and we live only by trusting and submitting to Him.

James



Women's Breakfast

Date: 9th August Time: 8:30 for 9:00 start

Venue: Milk and Honey

Speaker: Kathryn Button Topic: Stories from Uganda

Please let Chris Holroyd Know if you would like to attend.



As some of you will have already noticed, our church has had a bit of a make over! This has been due to some grants given to the church for this purpose. A big thank you to all those involved in moving, cleaning and applying for these grants. It looks amazing!



We invite you to come and join us in the church hall for a lovely bowl of hot soup followed by some fun and games on **Thursday 7th August** at 1:00 pm.

A reminder that Tuesday 5th August's Zoom **Pastoral Carer's meeting** has been **cancelled**. A new date will be announced later.



Last week, we joined with the Medlen Family in Thanksgiving for the life of young William. May every step he takes be blessed and may he always find peace and joy in our Lord and Saviour. Protect him from all harm, and may Your presence, Lord, never leave him.



Join us at Café Church on Sunday 10th August to watch "Paul, The Apostle Of Christ". It is a wonderful movie but is "M" rated and is certainly not suitable for younger folk. Bring your popcorn and join us at 6:00pm. Free Entry.



Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Boxes are now available on the table at the back of the hall if you wish to begin packing one for a child this Christmas. Packing information is included inside this week's The Weekly Word.



Watch this space for more information about **The Mission and Wider Works** next big Fundraising event! It will be a beauty! We will be holding it on **Saturday August 23rd**.



Important Dates 2025

<u>Youth 3:16</u>	Friday 8th August	Mario Kart races	6:15 pm
<u>Women's Fellowship</u>	Thursday 7th August		1:00pm
<u>Women's Breakfast</u>	Saturday 9th August		8:30am
<u>Café Church Movie Night</u>	Sunday 10th August		6:00pm
<u>Estia Nursing Home Service</u>	Monday 18th August		2:00pm
<u>Church Council Meeting</u>	Tuesday 19th August		7:00pm
<u>Mission and Wider Works Get Together</u>	Saturday 23rd August		

Hello & welcome to the 2025 Operation Christmas Child Season. I thought I would give you some updates to equip you & start getting organised to pack boxes.

- One major change this year, if you haven't heard already, Soap is NO LONGER to be packed. Why? I hear you ask. Some of the receiving countries we go to have had issues with customs, soap has a use by date (I didn't know that) plus some of the ingredients is banned from entering into some countries.

Last year SA & NT - 17,263 boxes went to Philippines. This year 2025, **my goal for SA & NT is 20,000 boxes.** What are your goals? Together we can reach this target.

ANZ - 211,502

Worldwide – 11,927,439

OCC Project Leader Workshop-Connect Meeting will be held Saturday 6th September 10am-12pm. Tea Tree Gully Community Church, 1405 Golden Grove Rd, Golden Grove
This is open to you & anyone who packs boxes & loves the Ministry of OCC.

I have recently returned from South Africa where I handed out boxes to the children & have some amazing stories & photos to share. There will be resources available for you plus some filler items that have been donated, so please help yourself. I will send out an invitation to you in the next few weeks for you to pass onto others.

To stay Connected, register your church, school, or group on the link below. This allows you to keep connected with any latest updates.

[Register for 2025 - Operation Christmas Child](#)

Pre-Printed Shoeboxes are \$1 each (schools exempt) & can be ordered & paid for online using the link below. If you are planning on attending the OCC Meeting, you can pay on the day (cash only) or order & pick up that day.

[Pre-Printed Shoeboxes - Operation Christmas Child](#)

If you have any questions, please contact me. I will be in touch soon.

Kind Regards,

Corinne Blom

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Regional Ministry Leader- SA, NT

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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