

Anglican Parish of Denmark-Walpole



St Leonard's Church
cnr Strickland & Mitchell Sts
Denmark

PO Box 277 Denmark WA 6333
www.denmarkanglican.org.au
Email: denmarkanglican@gmail.com
Parish phone: 0400 101 166
Anglican Mustard Seed Op Shop: 0498 345 793
Priest: **Revd Sally Buckley** tssf



St. George's Church
11 Vista St
Walpole

We endeavour to be an expression of God's love in the community

Friday, October 4th, 2024.

The Feast of St Francis

Dear Friends,

In the Franciscan tradition: Pax et bonum, loosely translated as Peace and all good, or every good thing.

Again it is a while since I last wrote to you, and I apologise for that.

We have a busy time between now and the end of the year, and the end of my time as your parish priest.

First up, and I apologise for the short notice, is that this Sunday we will be ***Blessing the Animals*** as part of our 9.30 am service of Holy Communion at St Leonard's. You are welcome to bring your furry, feathered or scaly friends, although please make sure that they are restrained in an appropriate way. Should you feel that sitting through the service would be too traumatic for them, they can come in after Communion, or you can bring a photo of them for them to have a "Bluetooth" blessing!

Perhaps the most important thing on our calendar this month is our celebration of the **125th anniversary of the consecration of St Leonard's on October 20th**. This will be a full day of celebration, starting with the 9.30am parish communion service. We will have a 5pm "High Tea" which will then lead in to a 7pm service of Evening Prayer.

We are hoping that those who have played an important part in the parish's history and past parishioners might feel comfortable to come and celebrate our past and look to the future with us.

The High Tea will be a bring and share affair, and if you are able to come, I would encourage you to let our Warden and Social Secretary, Tine Adams, know on 0428 481 681, just so we can get some idea of what people are bringing.

November brings the annual **Clergy Conference** from Monday 4th to Thursday 7th ... our annual top-up of all the new rules and regulations, policies and some in-service training on various topics.

As I will be retiring at the end of year, I need to clear two weeks of annual leave before the end of December. I will therefore be taking a week from October 21st-27th, which coincides with my annual West Australian Third Order Convocation; and November 11th-17th during which time I will be taking a personal retreat.

During the first two weeks of November and December, we will be having one of the **Formation Students**, Allyson Charles, in the parish. Allyson has been worshipping at Living Waters Anglican Church at Oyster Harbour, Albany. As part of her training she has spent time at St John's, Albany, and now she will be with us for a few weeks to see another style of worship and to have some experience with pastoral care visiting etc. I am sure you will all make her feel welcome.

On December 1st, Advent Sunday, you are invited to a shared **Parish Lunch** at our home, *Little Portion*, 13 Hibbertia Way, Hay, in the Springdale Beach Estate. This is my way of thanking everyone in the parish for their support and encouragement over the years I have been with you. There will be more about this nearer the time.

Of course, Advent means **Advent Studies**, and I am currently looking at the different resources available. You will have received the emails from the Bishop recently, his pastoral letter *To the People*, and the September edition of his *Vision and Strategy* newsletter.

From the latter, you will see we are entering into our fourth and final strategy: "Being salt and light in the places and among the people God has placed us (in our communities)". The diocese is offering a study *Being Salt and Light*, which can be used either as an individual devotion or for small groups.

Another one on offer comes from ABM (Anglican Board of Mission) called *Caravan*. "The story of Christ's Birth, set in an Australian landscape. This book is \$12 and runs from Advent through to Epiphany and again it could be used either for personal devotion or in a small group.

We will discuss this at Parish Council on October 17 and make a decision then.

The theme of 'Salt and Light' leads nicely into an initiative of the Australia-wide Anglican Church of **Hope25**, which will run between Easter and Pentecost next year. You will have seen a bit about it if you have been reading the Bishop's letters recently. Our parish is hoping to do something next year to reach out into the community in which we live, and Parish Council are still deciding exactly what.

Last weekend was our Diocesan Synod, held again at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School. One of the highlights was The **Bishop's Awards**, and I was delighted that Sally Prickett was one of the recipients, following her many years of such diverse ministry in our parish. Her award was actually given to her on September 15 when Archdeacon, the Ven. Geoff Chadwick visited the Parish. Thank you, Sally, for your ministry to us all – past, present and future! We are so blessed having you and the diverse gifts you offer the parish.

I am aware of a number of parishioners who are going through challenging times and I would like to close with something I read the other day:

Where faith is there is courage, there is fortitude,
there is steadfastness and strength.

Faith bestows that sublime courage that rises superior to the troubles and disappointments
of life, that acknowledges no defeat except as a step to victory;
that is strong to endure, patient to wait, and energetic to struggle. ...

Light up, then, the lamp of faith in your heart ...

It will lead you safely through the mists of doubt and the black darkness of despair;
along the narrow, thorny ways of sickness and sorrow,
and over the treacherous places of temptation and uncertainty.

written by James Allen.

I hope to write again in a month, so that what is happening in December and beyond may by then be a little more sure!

Until then, may God bless you and keep you, and know that God is always with you, whether you can sense it or not.

Peace and all good

Sally

Revd Sally Buckley tssf
Parish Priest