



# Anglican Church of Australia

## Diocese of Gippsland

*(Committed in Christ, Connecting in Service & Creative in Spirit)*

### ***Parish of Wonthaggi & Inverloch***

**St. George's,  
McBride Ave., Wonthaggi**

**The Church of the Ascension  
4-6 The Crescent, Inverloch**

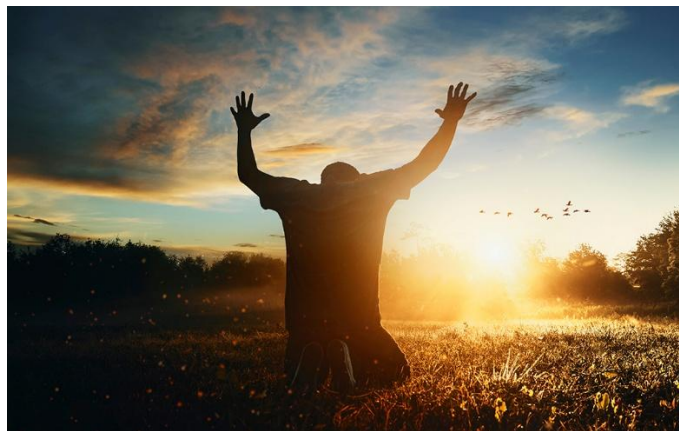
**Bunurong Country**

**ABN: 18 842 576 826**



**Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 30th, 2025.**

### **Holy Communion**



### **Worship**

It is at the very root of our faith and for that matter, our very being.  
We worship whether we realise it or not. It is what we worship that can  
become the problem.

The prodigal son worshipped wealth, the quick fix and a high flying life  
style, false gods, and the result came back to haunt him.  
He, however, humbled himself before God and his father and returned  
to where he needed to be.

**What are you worshipping that you shouldn't be?**

**Is there something you're doing that you should turn back from and go  
in the opposite direction?**

**God the Father will welcome you back with open arms.**

**Rev. Graeme**

### **Sentence:**

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation.

*2 Corinthians 5.18*

### **Prayer of the Day:**

God of compassion, you are slow to anger, and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts: receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you, and seat them at your bountiful table, that, with all your children, they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Hope25 Collect:**

God of Hope,  
you call on us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world;  
by your Spirit awaken in us a true vision of your kingdom,  
a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service;  
that through our words and actions the same Spirit may  
bring many who are lost to be found,  
and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. **Amen**

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading**

#### **Joshua 5.2-12**

<sup>2</sup> At that time the Lord said to Joshua, 'Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.' <sup>3</sup> So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth. <sup>4</sup> Now this is why he did so: all those who came out of Egypt – all the men of military age – died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. <sup>5</sup> All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not. <sup>6</sup> The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness for forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. For the Lord had sworn to them that they would not see the land that he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>7</sup> So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. <sup>8</sup> And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.' So the

place has been called Gilgal to this day. <sup>10</sup> On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. <sup>11</sup> The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

*This is the word of the Lord,  
Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 32**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those whose sin is forgiven: whose iniquity is put away.

<sup>2</sup> **Blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no blame: and in whose spirit there is no guile.**

<sup>3</sup> For whilst I held my tongue: my bones wasted away with my daily complaining.

<sup>4</sup> **Your hand was heavy upon me day and night: and my moisture was dried up like a drought in summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you: and my iniquity I did not hide;

<sup>6</sup> **I said 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord': and so you forgave the wickedness of my sin.**

<sup>7</sup> For this cause shall everyone that is faithful make their prayer to you in the day of trouble: and in the time of the

great water-flood, it shall not come near them.

<sup>8</sup> **You are a place to hide me in, you will preserve me from trouble: you will surround me with deliverance on every side.**

<sup>9</sup> 'I will instruct you, and direct you in the way that you should go: I will fasten my eye upon you, and give you counsel.

<sup>10</sup> **'Be not like horse or mule, that have no understanding: whose forward course must be curbed with bit and bridle.'**

<sup>11</sup> Great tribulations remain for the ungodly: but whoever puts their trust in the Lord, mercy embraces them on every side.

<sup>12</sup> **Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and be glad: and shout for joy, all you that are true of heart.**

### **New Testament Reading**

#### **2 Corinthians 5.16-21**

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of

reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*This is the word of the Lord,  
Thanks be to God.*

### Gospel

#### **Luke 15.11-32**

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: 'There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> 'Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> 'When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants." <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. 'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms round him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> 'The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." <sup>22</sup> 'But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> 'Meanwhile, the elder son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound." <sup>28</sup> 'The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, "Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my

friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!" <sup>31</sup> "My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

*For the Gospel of the Lord,  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

---

## **DIOCESAN HOPE 25 PRAYER MEETING**

Diocesan Zoom Prayer Meeting:

**Each Friday at 7.30 pm throughout Lent**

Link can be found on our website or below or through using the QR Code.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82128269156?pwd=YXauO1CTxSkYCTixgDQveAaiMXUJq6.1>

***Or talk to Rev Susan if you would like to attend but have no Zoom facility.***



## **HOPE 25 OPEN MIC EVENT**

**Sunday April 13** at the Wonthaggi 'Good's Shed'  
from **2 – 5pm**



**Free Entry. Come along - Play Music, Sing or be entertained.**

We're looking for a group to sing.

*Speak with Rev. Susan or Ellen Hubble for more info'.*



## **Next Men's Breakfast**

**Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> April 8am at St George's**  
**Please let Graeme know if you're coming or register online at**

**<https://www.basscoastanglican.org.au/event-details/mens-breakfast-2>**

**Or use the QR Code.**



## **ST GEORGE'S & THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION LIBRARIES**

As Christians it is wise to look to the wiser for guidance on the journey towards a deeper understanding and walk with the Lord.

*Our 2 libraries cover most aspects of the Christian life.*

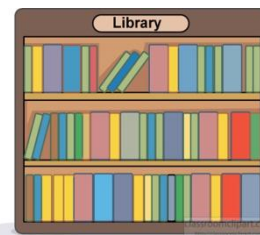
### **Conditions of use**

***Borrowers please enter details in exercise book on the bookshelf.***

**Book Borrow Limit:** No limit   **Borrow Time Limit:** No limit

***Please return books as soon as you've finished reading them.***

For further information contact Vivienne McInerney (St George's), & Marcia Smith (Church of the Ascension).



### **Inverloch & Wonthaggi Church Working Bees**

Church of the Ascension - The 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month @ 10.00 am. The Next, Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

St George's – The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month @ 10.00 am. The next will be Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April

If you would like to help give the church a freshening up and enjoy morning tea together this would be most welcome.

*Please speak with Alycia & Liz for more details at Inverloch*

*Please speak with Leah for more details at St George's*

## **SAFE CHURCH AWARENESS WORKSHOPS**

### **(Full and Refresher combined) 2025**

**Location:** St Mary's Anglican Church, 114 Ridgway, Mirboo North, Victoria

**Date:** Friday 2 May 2025 **Time:** 6.00pm to 8.30pm

**Location:** St Phillip's Anglican Church, 104-110 Thompson Ave, Cowes, Victoria

**Date:** Saturday 25 October 2025 **Time:** 9.30am to 12.00pm

**Location:** St Thomas' Anglican Church, 16 A'Beckett Road, Bunyip, Victoria

**Date:** Friday 21 November 2025 **Time:** 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Online registration is essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/CZVDA>

Enquiries only: 03 5144 2044 or [registryoffice@gippsanglican.org.au](mailto:registryoffice@gippsanglican.org.au)

## **CONTINUING WAR IN UKRAINE**

Please continue to pray for Alison Giblets (CMS UK) and her safety as she is now home in Kyiv, Ukraine, after some leave in the UK.

### **Her Prayer Requests:**

- Victory for Ukraine.
  - Protection for those who are defending the country.
  - Protection for electrical power stations.
  - For both physical and spiritual strength.
  - That Schools will continue to function well.
  - That many will hear and accept the Word of God for salvation.
- 

## **PRAY FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CONFLICT IN GAZA, LEBANON, SYRIA AND ISRAEL**

Almighty and Everlasting God: thank you for your everlasting love toward us; we thank you for the present cease fire in Gaza and ask that it will continue. We lift up those in the Holy Land who are victims of the current conflict, and ask that you might empower your Church to bring healing to the wounded, relief to the suffering, and comfort to those who mourn; please bring an end to terrorism, and that all will be led to work for justice and lasting peace in the land where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, first came to bring hope and abundant life to all people; these things we ask in his Holy Name. **Amen.**

---

## **DAYLIGHT SAVING**

Daylight saving ends on Sunday 6 April 2025. This means your clocks need to be put back one hour at 3.00 am.

---

## **ON THIS DAY: Cranmer Got the Top Job but Didn't Want it!**



When Thomas Cranmer learned he had been named Archbishop of Canterbury by King Henry VIII, he balked. Visiting Germany at the time to promote the King's interest in a divorce, he dawdled seven weeks getting back to England. Although the King's word was law,

Cranmer hesitated to accept the position. The English church was in a turmoil over the question of Henry's desired divorce from Catherine. Having presented him with no male heir, the queen, once so charming to Henry, was now repugnant. Yet he could not get the Pope to agree to an annulment.

Cranmer had come to the King's attention when he suggested that the universities could just as well settle the question as the Pope. Henry earmarked the priest to become Archbishop of Canterbury, England's highest religious post. Cranmer was consecrated on this date, March 30, 1533.

Believing himself subject to the King, Cranmer promptly granted Henry the annulment. Throughout his tenure as archbishop, he would do pretty much whatever the King commanded. Henry's continual shifts of policy often made Cranmer appear wishy-washy. For example, he ruled Henry's marriage to Anne of Cleve lawful and six months later annulled it as unlawful.

Already leaning toward Protestantism, Cranmer became the chief architect of the English Reformation. He urged the King to place Bibles in England's churches and it was done. He wrote the first *Book of Common Prayer*. In only a few things did he resist Henry. At some jeopardy to himself, he pleaded for the lives of Thomas More and Bishop Fisher and testified for three days against Henry's *Six Articles* which went back to Roman Catholic forms.

By his twisting and turning, Cranmer escaped execution under Henry. Henry trusted him above all his other prelates and on his deathbed clung to Cranmer's hand. Under Edward, Cranmer advanced Protestantism, helping draft doctrines which became the basis for the Church of England's Thirty Nine Articles.

Under pressure, Cranmer supported Lady Jane Gray to succeed Edward. It was not to be. Mary took the throne and charged him with treason and heresy. In face of death he recanted his Protestant opinions. When he learned he was to die anyway, he publicly renounced his recantation. "As for the pope, I refuse him, as Christ's enemy and Antichrist, with all his false doctrine." When the fire was lit, he held the hand that had signed the recantation into the flame, burning it off before the fire touched his body, saying, "This unworthy right hand." As death approached he repeated several times, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Dan Graves    [www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1501-1600/Cranmer](http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1501-1600/Cranmer)



Sharing your faith story is an important part of evangelism. We are seeking faith stories from members of our church family to put into our newsletter Hope25 insert. Graeme has provided a how-to-write your story video to help you do this. You can find this on our church website:

<https://www.basscoastanglican.org.au/projects-6>



To sign up to the Hope25 email list go to:

<https://www.hope25.com.au/> or scan the QR code.

The next HOPE25 Meeting will be at 2.00 pm, Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at St George's, Wonthaggi.



## **Intercessory Prayers:**

***Please pray with us for:***

**Our Bishop:** Richard Treloar & Leanne

**Our Rector:** Graeme & Susan

**Parish of Yarram** Tony Wicking, Jenny Wicking

**Clergy Widows/Widowers living within the Diocese**

### **Special Focus**

Schools in our communities

All trade training centres

Tertiary Education Centres

Federation University, Churchill – Ecumenical Chaplain: Frank Lees

**Our Link Missionaries** – BCA, Topher & Chica Hallyburton – ‘Alice Springs’

CMS, Lauren Raiter – ‘Spain’

### **Please comfort and heal all those suffering in Spirit, Soul or Body.**

Please give people the courage to face their illness head on and to be assured of their salvation in Jesus Christ.

### **Please bring healing and strength to those we have been asked to pray for:**

Bill Peters, Paula, Chris Peters, James, Murray, Doug, Ron & Pam Lawson, Jeffer & family, Simone, Mark, Marie Wilson, Don & Cecily, Robin, Tania, Russell, Hayley, Meredith, Richard B, Lee, Bev, Elijah, Rodney W, Luke M, Terry, Micah, John G, Phil, Elizabeth, Jenny Rivers, Marnie Fletcher, Matt Fletcher, Barbara Manns, Valerie & Graeme Reid, Susan F, Glenda, Merridee, Florence H, Robert M, Pauline, Jenny, Rita, Betty, Peter, Elizabeth M, Jill, Robert D, Dianne B, Dianne, Ian & Wendy.

**We give thanks for the faithful departed.** We thank you Lord for the lives of Josiah Yeoh, Ian McLennan, Noreen Westley & Kate Sweatman and all those who have gone before us.

Please comfort all families & friends who are grieving at this time the loss of loved ones, especially the families of Josiah Yeoh, Ian McLennan, Noreen Westley, Kate Sweatman.

## **INFORMATION**

<b><u>Readings</u> Sun 6<sup>th</sup> April</b> Lent 5	Isaiah 43.16-21 Philippians 3.3-14	Psalm 126 John 12.1-8
<b>Tuesday April 1st</b>	10:00 am – Ascension – H.C. – Rev. Amy 11:30 am - Prayer group – Inverloch	
<b>Wednesday April 2nd</b>	10:00 am – St George’s - H.C. – Rev. Graeme	
<b>Thursday April 3rd</b>	10.00 am – Staff Meeting, St George’s. 7:00 pm – ICC	
<b>Friday April 4th</b>	4:00 pm – Family Fun Night - Inverloch 7.30 pm – Diocesan Prayer Meeting via Zoom	
<b>Saturday April 5th</b>	8:00 am – Men’s Breakfast @ St George’s 10:00 am – Working Bee – St George’s, Wonthaggi	

### **Rosters: April 6th – Fifth Sunday of Lent – Holy Communion**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>St George’s</u></b>	<b><u>Church of the Ascension</u></b>
<b>Bible Reader</b>	Ellen Hubble	Bob Delahoy
<b>Sides Person</b>	Alan Price	Ray
<b>Prayers</b>	Renee Chan	Liz Watkins
<b>Service Leader</b>	Rev. John	Liz Watkins
<b>Eucharistic Assist</b>	Rev. John	Liz Watkins
<b>Musician</b>	Jan Kershaw	Ian/Elise
<b>Children’s Ministry</b>		Rev Susan

*If you are unable to fulfil your roster position, would you please organise for someone else to take your place.*

## **BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUPS**

**Davies Group**: Thursday, 1:30pm at St George’s Hall. Contact John Davies for more details.



**Liersch Group**: Tuesday, 4:00pm at Jill & Alan Price’s, Inverloch.

**Tonya’s group**: Friday, 1.30 pm at Liz Watkins’, Inverloch.

***Interested in being part of a Bible Study Group?***  
*Then let Graeme, Susan or Leah in the office know.*  
*We’re hoping to start a new group soon.*

## **Ministry Team**

**Bishop:** Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Treloar, Sale 5144 2044

**Rector:** Rev. Capt. Graeme Liersch 0417 513 390 (*Monday-Day Off*)

[graemel@basscoastanglican.org.au](mailto:graemel@basscoastanglican.org.au)

### **Youth & Young Families**

**Minister:** Rev. Susan Liersch 0427 099 391 [susanl@basscoastanglican.org.au](mailto:susanl@basscoastanglican.org.au)

**Pastoral Care Coordinator:** Leah Mesley

**Parish Council +**

**Retired Clergy:** Rev's John Davies 5672 4710, Liam Matthews 0411 339 344,  
Amy Turner 0412 727 711

**Rector's Warden:** Alan Price 0407 343 876

**People's Wardens:** Robert Mesley 0416 246 349

Liz Watkins 0404 379 005 Ray Smith 0419 315 198

**Parish Treasurer:** Geoff Boer

**Parish Office Worker:** Leah Mesley 0407 337 236 (2 mornings/week–Wed & Thurs)

**Parish Postal Address:** PO Box 201, Wonthaggi 3995. Phone: 5672 4590

**Welfare Support:** Rev. Graeme

**Food Rescue:** Ron Osborne

**Prayer requests for prayer chain:** Jill Price 0409 745 554

**Parish E-mail:** [admin@basscoastanglican.org.au](mailto:admin@basscoastanglican.org.au)

**Parish Website:** <http://www.basscoastanglican.org.au>

**Direct Debit:** Would you please, if you haven't already, consider giving to the ministry through setting up a direct debit from your account. Thank you!

**Our Bank Details:** Anglican Parish of Wonthaggi & Inverloch

**BSB:** 083-975 **Acc No:** 51 612 6552



*Thank you to all who have already set up this means to support the Parish!*

---



## **HEALING SERVICE**

The **next** Healing Service will be at St George's on  
Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6.00 pm.

## Six Types of Friends

### Evangelism training with Julie-Anne Baird

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. **1 Peter 3:15-16***

Julie-Anne has identified six types of people in relation to hearing the good news of Jesus Christ and she gives us helpful strategies to enable us to respond as Peter says with gentleness and respect. Friends matter so we must remember to undergird all our interactions with prayer and allow the Holy Spirit's fruit to flow through us.

Here is a summary of the six types of friends and how to respond:

1. **Apathetic** – these friends have not given much thought to anything let alone things of a spiritual nature. The main way to work with apathetic people is through connection. Connect them with others, God and the hope of Jesus to challenge them to think about things. Especially introduce them to other Christians so that they can see that other people believe other than yourself.
2. **Thoughtful** – These types of friends are constantly thinking based on a strong worldview. Be curious with them and go deep, asking questions like 'What do you mean by that?', 'Why do you think that?' 'Do you always think that way?' Ask general questions that lead to conversations about values, desires, longings and then aim to connect their answers to God.
3. **Interested** – these friends show interest in your faith. Share Jesus with them at every opportunity. Have a few bible stories up your sleeve to share e.g. stories about money, stories about Jesus, what He did, what He said.
4. **Hostile** – these kinds of friends react badly or aggressively to your expressions of faith. Pray for wisdom in knowing how to approach them. Love them, listen, ask questions. Ask God to reveal the source of their

hostility, there is usually a good reason for their big emotional responses. Allow them to have big emotions and ask God to help you learn to sit with it and not get caught up in fear. Sometimes it is wise to do nothing. Take a gentle approach but also hold your ground i.e. agree to disagree. Take the front foot by predicting where things might go in a conversation and prepare in advance, maybe offer a reality check. Know your history, why you have faith and how you came to it to share if the opportunity arises.

5. **Religious** – those who come from a different faith perspective. Be passionate as a person of faith. These people enjoy discussions about spirituality. Be sure about what you believe if you are going to engage with them.
6. **Dechurched** – those who used to go to church but no longer do. Stay close with these friends and follow them up. Usually, they have left the church because they have felt hurt by other Christians and still have faith in God. Others have chosen a lifestyle that they realise doesn't sit with Christianity. Remember it is not our role to judge, leave this role to God and believe in faith that He is continuing to work in their lives. Remember pray, love and point to Jesus. If you are good with humour, use it and use the gifts God has given you.

**Reverend Susan Liersch**

### **Pray with Us for Hope25**



1. *Lord be with the Anglican church across Australia during this year of Hope25, bring unity and empower our churches to connect communities to your good news of hope*
2. *Lord enable all training to be helpful and effective*
3. *Lord help us to boldly pray for people who are yet to know Jesus in our community*
4. *Lead us Lord to those people you want us to share your hope with and guide us as we do so*
5. *Holy Spirit help us as we plan and roll out the Gospel Music Open Mic in Wonthaggi at the Good Shed on April 13<sup>th</sup>*
6. *Holy Spirit reveal to us other ways we can proclaim your good news as a church family*