



TOTAL TRANSFORMATION

Earlier this year I came across an Elf on the Shelf in a kid's toy store. I had heard of them before, but never quite knew what the deal was. It turns out that you purchase the elf, place it on a shelf in your house, and tell the children that it is keeping an eye on you for Santa, reporting back if you've been naughty or nice. Each night the elf reports back to Santa and hides in a new place the next morning

Not only is it advertised as a 'fun new tradition,' the packaging notes an added benefit for parents. Behaviour modification! Children's conduct is reported to get better because they have a constant elf eye on them!

What are Christians to make of this? This is one example of where the world operates via rules to change people from the outside in.

But in Colossians 2:16-23 Paul writes about how elemental spiritual forces and the rules of the world 'lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.' In other words, changed behaviour from rules is not true change.

What we need is a changed heart. And Paul teaches that it comes from being connected to Christ. For it is in Christ that we are truly transformed,

[He is] the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. (Colossians 2:19)

- SAM PURSELL

WELCOME TO CHURCH • SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2020

Prayers

CURRENT PRAYERS

Church people who are unwell

Bob Abrahams, John Angus, Marlene Arthur, Jean Beetles, Jan Crook, Ruth Eton, Raija Hannam, Robert Hannam, Pauline Kirby, James Mills, Noel Monk, Charlie October, Allan Quinn, Merv Sercombe, Sue Simpson, Hanno Stanokevic, Eileen Stokes, Mary Straughan, Betty Uren, Susan Vickery, Chris Wilson.

Church finances

Pray that God would provide us with the necessary funds to meet the shortfall in our giving, so that we can continue to share the gospel with the community of Oak Flats. Pray for generous hearts, willing service and faithful prayer.

Noel Monk

Pray for Noel as his health deteriorates. Give thanks to God for his strong faith and conviction in our loving Father. Pray for Robin and the family during this difficult time.

Scripture in schools

Pray for strength and perseverance for teachers and students as they finish a very stressful year. Pray that students will understand the truths that are presented in SRE.

Christmas preparations

Pray for our church as we prepare to connect with the community over the coming Christmas season. Pray for Mobile Community Pantry Christmas lunches on 10th December. Pray that people will know the real meaning of Christmas.

COVID-19

Thank God for our frontline workers keeping us safe during this time. Pray for health & safety and be conscious of our freedom as restrictions ease, that we would act in a way that keep all safe, especially those more vulnerable.

REGULAR PRAYERS (CYCLE 2 OF 4)

Government:

The Prime Minister and our federal politicians.

World Focus:

The continent of Europe. The persecuted church.

Mission Partners:

Matthew Meek, ministry to overseas university students with AFES in Wollongong and beyond.

Shord and Ann van Donge, training and serving in cross-cultural ministry.

Organisations We Support:

Evangelism and New Churches, and the fruit of our regular gifts to purchase new church land.

Word Ministry Training:

Youthworks College.

Staff and Senior Leadership:

Valerie O'Regan (Parish Administrator).

Children's and Youth Ministry:

Kids' Club.

Adult Ministries:

Men's and Women's ministry, including the dinners.

Local Evangelism:

Our Anglican Southern Illawarra Mission Area church network.

Special Needs:

Those serving in the defence forces.

Other Regular Matters:

Former members of our church currently in Word ministry roles.

RUTH

2. Working under God's grace

Ruth 2:1-23

Sam Pursell • 22nd November 2020

1. Boaz: A man of standing (1-3)
2. Boaz: A godly man of grace (4-16)
3. Boaz: A redeemer (17-23)

Next Sunday...

Ruth 3:1-18 • Sam Pursell

THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SERVING US

9.30am Service

22nd November

29th November

Welcomer:

J Mills

K Eton

Bible Reader:

V O'Regan

R Hannam

Prayer Leader:

D Young

J Mills

Kids' Program:

D & J Orange

V O'Regan/TBC

Morning Tea:

A Hadley/M Klasson

B Mayhew/C Smith

Meal Clean Up:

J Klasson

B Hadley

COVID Cleaning:

D & J Orange

V O'Regan/C Smith

3.30pm Service

22nd November

29th November

Welcomer:

G Taylor

P Taylor

Bible Reader:

J Hoffer

V O'Regan

Prayer Leader:

P Taylor

M Peters

Afternoon Tea:

M Peters

G Taylor

Meal Clean Up:

D Rainey

V O'Regan

COVID Cleaning:

P & C Pratt

D & J Orange

Cleaning Saturday: P & G Taylor/C Bonnici

Mowing Saturday: N/A

Church News

PLEDGE CARDS

Please make sure your **Pledge cards** are returned to the Wardens or the office by Sunday 29th November.

LADIES' DINNER

Join us at 6.30pm on **Tuesday 1st December** at our church to hear Dianne Hillier (Anglicare) speak for the final Ladies Dinner for the year. Registration is essential - see Val to register.

CHRISTMAS LETTERBOX DROP

Can you grab a pile of brochures for our Christmas Celebrations and deliver them to our neighbourhood?

Grab a pile, mark down your name, and hit the streets this week!

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 20th December - put the date in your diary for our annual Community Carols at 5pm.

More specific details to come. This will be a COVID safe event.

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day service at 9am - see Val to register.

OUR BIRTHDAYS

24th Valerie O'Regan
28th Ashkan Myers

SUPPORT FOR ROXANA SALAZAR SURI

Roxana is a primary teacher and ex-student of the MOCLAM courses run by the Lovells. She has applied to study at a theological college in Chile through a scholarship scheme run by Anglican Aid. She has been accepted but funds for her have fallen short of that needed. Are you able to help?

We are hoping for a commitment by seven people of \$20/month (\$5/week) for three years, to be contributed via an 'honesty system' and simply added to your regular giving through the offertory. Smaller contributions would be equally welcomed and added to our total church contribution.

We realise this need coincides with our own church budgetary issues. However, the request is one we are convinced is worthwhile. It is a vital, long-term spiritual investment, and has the support of the Wardens and Parish Council.

For further information and a pledge form, please see Phil Pratt.

OUR ANNIVERSARIES

27th Adrian & Anita Lovell

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Elvanto member website: oakflatsanglican.elvanto.com.au

Facebook: OakFlatsAnglican **Twitter:** @oakflats **Instagram:** @oakflats

Minister: Rev Sam Pursell **M:** 0417 711 314 **E:** sam.pursell@oakflatsanglican.com

Parish Administrator: Miss Valerie O'Regan **M:** 0408 271 189 **E:** val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9am-5pm; Tue: Closed; Thur: 9am-12pm

Wardens: Dave Crook **M:** 0404 337 502 Geoff Kyngdon **M:** 0417 044 565 Phil Pratt **M:** 0411 328 731

Safe Ministry Representative: Harley Mills **M:** 0409 562 932 **E:** harley.mills@oakflatsanglican.com

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Rhonda Slocombe **M:** 0400 679 703

E: rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com

GIVE ELECTRONICALLY - BANK DETAILS

Name: Oak Flats Anglican

BSB: 633 000

Account: 164 385 841