



**Oak Flats  
Anglican**

*Real Hope • Real Jesus*



# INCARNATION

This year has further propelled us into 'excaration.' What is that you might ask? It summarises the technological and societal trends which take us away from bodily presence with others.

Children communicate through their phones even though they are in the same room. Doctors focus on screens and numbers and rarely touch patients. Self-service check outs mean you don't even need to acknowledge the workers in shops.

In the church the temptation has always been there to be 'pastored' through the great writers whose books a Christians can read, or the sermons you could get on tape or CD. But with the internet, you now can have thousands of churches you can watch not just the sermon, but the whole service and feel like you are a part of it.

COVID-19 accelerated these patterns in many ways. But perhaps it also further revealed the shallowness of it, and irritated within us a desire to not connect more frequently and widely as we can through technology, but more deeply and humanly. In person, in the flesh, warts and all, in sickness and health, shaking hands, pats on the back, hugging, laughing and crying. Opening a bible, praying together and singing.

So, this Christmas, how much greater is the news that God came to be with us in the flesh. Incarnation. Jesus dwelt among us as a living, breathing person. And in that body, he spoke to people, touched and healed people, died for our sins, rose, ascended and will return again. He ate fish with his disciples on the beach after his resurrection!

To be truly human is not just to see other people face to face now, but in the future Jesus in the flesh too. That day will come, and what a fulfilling and glorious day that will be!

**- SAM PURSELL**

**WELCOME TO CHURCH • SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2020**

# Prayers

## CURRENT PRAYERS

### Church people who are unwell

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

### Christmas services

Pray for our Christmas Services, that God would bring people to hear the good news of the gift of Jesus this Christmas, not only here in Oak Flats, but all throughout the world. Especially pray for those who struggle at this time of the year, as it can be a hard, lonely and grief-stricken time.

### Peace in our time

Pray for peace as many countries continue in war, and for calm as much of our world faces a constant threat from terrorism.

### Holidays

Pray that the members of our church community who are taking holidays will be refreshed and energised to serve God in the year ahead.

### Giving pledges

Join us in thanking God for the generosity shown in increased pledged giving and for the way God has sustained us in 2020.

### 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.

# Saved through the Son

## Matthew 1:25-28

### Sam Pursell • 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

1. Pledged...but pregnant = disgrace
2. Saviour son = fear removed
3. God with us = restoration

## Christmas Day @ 9am...

Matthew 2:1-23 • Sam Pursell

### THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SERVING US

9.30am Service	<b>20th December</b>	<b>25th December</b>	<b>27th December</b>
<b>Welcomer:</b>	C Smith	M Klasson	B Clark
<b>Bible Reader:</b>	K Eton	R Eton	D Young
<b>Prayer Leader:</b>	R Hannam	H Mills	R Hannam
<b>Kids' Program:</b>	D & J Orange	N/A	N/A
<b>Morning Tea:</b>	A Hadley/M Klasson	B Mayhew/C Smith	M Klasson/J Mills
<b>Meal Clean Up:</b>	B Hadley	B Hadley	C Smith
<b>COVID Cleaning:</b>	R & K Eton	V O'Regan/C Smith	D & J Orange
3.30pm Service	<b>20th December</b>		<b>27th December</b>
<b>Welcomer:</b>	<i>Carols Service</i>		D Rainey
<b>Bible Reader:</b>			M Peters
<b>Prayer Leader:</b>			G Kyngdon
<b>Afternoon Tea:</b>			J Orange
<b>Meal Clean Up:</b>			D Orange
<b>COVID Cleaning:</b>			P & G Taylor
<b>Cleaning Saturday:</b>	D & J Orange/J Evans		
<b>Mowing Saturday:</b>	N/A		

# Church News

## CAROLS SERVICE

We'd love you to join us at 5pm this Sunday for our Community Carols Celebration! Plus, a FREE sausage sizzle... yum!

Singing will be allowed as long as you have a mask. This will be a COVID safe event.

## CHRISTMAS DAY AT 9AM!

Join us at the special time of 9am on Christmas Day for an all-age, community celebration of the birth of Jesus! See Val to register.

## OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS DURING SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Valerie will be absent from the office from Monday 28th December 2020 through to Friday 8th January 2021. In her absence, Sam and our three Wardens (Dave Crook, Geoff Kyngdon and Phil Pratt) will be monitoring our church phone, emails and dealing with any issues that arise.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

A reminder that:

- Numbers are limited to 120 people in the whole church building premises, but only 90 adults in main hall.
- Children and youth under 18 do not need to physically distance.
- Hand sanitiser must be used.
- Your name and number will be recorded as per Health NSW regulations.
- Wearing a face mask is recommended when singing.
- Stay home if you have any signs of being unwell. We will sadly need to turn you away at the door if you come to church sick.
- Maintain a distance of 1.5m from other people where possible.
- BYO Bible as church bibles are not available.
- No news sheet or handouts will be given.

## OUR BIRTHDAYS

21st Bruce Smith  
26th Sherida Findell  
Pam Moore

## OUR ANNIVERSARIES

22nd Sam & Susan Pursell

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**Phone:** 4256 6464 **Email:** office@oakflatsanglican.com **SMS:** 0477 764 988

**Public website:** oakflatsanglican.com **Livestream:** live.oakflatsanglican.com

**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:** 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