



**Oak Flats
Anglican**

Real Hope • Real Jesus

GONE BACKWARDS?

The latest round of 'freedoms' kick in tomorrow when regional travel to and from Greater Sydney will resume.....wonderful for those of us who can now visit family!

We all know the four month lock-down has taken a toll on us in various ways. One way is the new pattern of less activity into which we have been forced to settle as many of our regular ministries in which we were involved came to a halt. The subtle danger for us is that perhaps we are starting to like it that way! We might just be finding it a little bit difficult to take up our gospel ministries and congregational responsibilities once again with zeal, energy and purpose!

In the Christian life, stagnating equals drifting backwards in the tide of the world, but recognising this might be a problem for us is half the solution. Paul urges a different attitude in Philippians 3:13-14:

*"....forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ
Jesus."*

Further encouragement comes from the prophet Hosea. In speaking to His backsliding people, God calls them to return to serving Him with these tender words in Hosea 14:4:

"I will heal their apostasy (or backsliding); I will love them freely....."

God has not been locked-down nor has He abandoned us, so let's determine to "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33) with renewed spiritual vigour as we come out of lock-down restrictions knowing that "labour in the Lord is not in vain" (1Corinthians 15:58).

- Phil Pratt

WELCOME TO CHURCH • SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2021

Prayers

CURRENT PRAYERS

People in need

Bob & Margaret Abrahams, Marlene Arthur, Jean Beetles, Olga & John Covetz, Jan Crook, Peter Evans, Sherida & Gary Findell, Auriel & Barrie Hadley, Raija & Robert Hannam, Pauline Kirby, Joy Meyer, Pam Moore, Charlie October, Paduch family, Allan Quinn, Merv Sercombe, Sue Simpson, Sandra & Hanno Stanojevic, Eileen Stokes, Mary Straughan, Betty Uren, Greg & Sue Vickery, Chris & John Wilson.

Term 4 schooling

Pray for students and teachers as school resumes the normal routine. Pray for strength, energy and peace.

Pray for Year 12 students as they prepare for their final exams especially in light of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Reopening church

Praise God that we can physically meet together again. Pray for those who might be hesitant at coming back.

Pray for Kids' Church, Kids' Club and Refuge as their programs get up and running for the term.

Pray for all ministries and Bible studies as they look to return meeting in person.

Glasgow Climate Change Conference

Pray that God will use this conference to bring healing to our world.

Pray for the delegates at this conference and also for the Body of Christ globally that we would steward what we have been blessed with, not only for our own good, but the good of the generations to come.

REGULAR PRAYERS (CYCLE 3 OF 4)

Government

The Premier and NSW politicians.

World Focus

The continent of Asia.

Mission Partners

Stewart Continuing Ministries - training leaders of the persecuted church in ministry.

Organisations We Support

Youthworks and the Bible Society.

Word Ministry Training

Ministry Training and Development (MT&D) and the Ministry Training Strategy (MTS).

Staff and Senior Leadership

Wardens and Parish Councillors.

Children and Youth Ministry

Kids' Church.

Adult Ministry

Seniors (Prime Time).

Local Evangelism

Outreach to emergency services and community groups.

Members unable to attend church

Those house-bound or living in nursing homes including Bob & Margaret Abrahams, Marlene Arthur, Audrey Ford and Lily Lyddiard.

Local Public Schools

Oak Flats Public, Balarang Public and Oak Flats High.

Contact our Prayer Coordinator, Geoff Kyngdon with any prayer requests or if you wish to be part of the prayer chain. He can be contacted on either 0417 044 565 or geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com.

Return to church gatherings

We are so excited to be returning to face to face gatherings today!

Thank you to everyone who booked into the services and contacted the office.

As we do open again, there will be a number of things we need to do in order to ensure our church is a safe place. Please remember:

- everyone is required to check in via the Service NSW QR Code (you will need a smart phone) or manually via a form upon arrival.
- all are welcome regardless of vaccination status.
- masks need to be worn indoors for those over 12 (unless eating or drinking).
- there will be no congregation singing - however you can hum along to the music.
- maintain physical distancing of 1.5m where possible.
- morning tea will be served after the 9.30am service, but we will encourage people to move outside where possible.
- afternoon tea will be served 15 minutes before the 5pm service.
- frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned after each service.



THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SERVING US

9.30am Service

	31st Oct	7th Nov
Welcomer:	D Slocombe	R Eton
Bible Reader:	K Dobbie	K Eton
Prayer Leader:	P Taylor	D Young
Kids' Program:	B Firley/ V O'Regan	D & R Slocombe
Morning Tea:	M Klasson/ J Orange	C Bonnici/ B Mayhew
Meal Clean Up:	D Orange	R Hannam

5pm Service

	31st Oct	7th Nov
Welcomer:	J Hoffer	J Orange
Bible Reader:	R Slocombe	M Peters
Prayer Leader:	V O'Regan	D Orange
Afternoon Tea:	G Taylor	R Slocombe
Meal Clean Up:	P Taylor	D Slocombe

Cleaning Saturday: P & G Taylor/C Bonnici

Mowing Saturday: D Orange/D Slocombe

Lamentations 1: Grieving what is lost

Lamentations 1:1-22

Sam Pursell • 31st October 2021

1. Alas, Jerusalem, the lonely queen (1-7)
2. Why Jerusalem fell (8-10)
3. The city speaks (11-22)
4. Speaking to God when we feel forsaken

Next Sunday...

'Lamenting over sin' • Lamentations 2:1-22 • Sam Pursell

CHURCH NEWS

Parish Picnic

To celebrate coming together again, we will be having a Parish Picnic next **Sunday 7th November at 11.30am.** BYO food & drink, picnic blanket. Tables and chairs will be available if preferred.

Men's Dinner

Tuesday 9th November, with doors opening at 6.30pm and dinner served at 7pm. Guest speaker is Ben Pakula. Registration is essential - either [online](#) or talk to Val.

Ladies' Craft Afternoon

Saturday 13th November from 2pm to 4pm. We will be completing a special Christmas craft. Afternoon tea will be provided. Please register [online](#) or with Coralie/Val.

BIRTHDAYS

31st Willow Browne
Ed Pursell

4th Jean Beetles
Pat Pepper

FINANCIAL UPDATE

(YTD 28 October 2021)

Income \$174,013

(includes Government grants worth \$26,764)

Expenses \$161,537

Difference \$12,476

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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 & Fri: 9am-5pm

Wardens: Dave Crook **M:** 0404 337 502 Andy Peters **M:** 0414 799 001 Peter Taylor **M:** 0448 190 946

Pastoral Care: Rhonda Slocombe **M:** 0400 679 703 **E:** rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com

Prayer Coordinator: Geoff Kyngdon **M:** 0417 044 565 **E:** geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com

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

GIVE ELECTRONICALLY - BANK DETAILS

Name: Oak Flats Anglican

BSB: 633 000

Account: 164 385 841