



The First Hymn: A 1,800-Year-Old Song Reborn

What if you could sing a hymn alongside the very first Christians?

The First Hymn is a new documentary that brings to life the oldest known Christian hymn - written in the 3rd century AD and preserved on a fragment of papyrus from Egypt. It's the earliest complete hymn (with both lyrics and melody) discovered outside the Bible, offering a rare glimpse into how early Christians worshipped.

Presented by historian John Dickson, the film explores the hymn's origins, theology, and revival. With insights from scholars and the creative help of modern worship leaders like Chris Tomlin and Ben Fielding, the documentary tells the story of how this ancient song was brought back to life for today's church.

The hymn itself is simple, yet profound - praising Father, Son, and Spirit - and reminds us that the heart of Christian worship hasn't changed across the centuries. It's a moving example of how our faith connects us not just with one another, but with believers throughout history.

The hymn's newly recorded version is available to stream now, and the documentary will be shown in Australian cinemas from 31st July.

Local screenings will be held at Hoyts Warrawong on: Saturday 2nd August, Sunday 3rd August and Wednesday 6th August

Whether you're a history lover, a music enthusiast, or simply someone who treasures the beauty of Christian worship, *The First Hymn* is well worth seeing.

- Valerie O'Regan

WELCOME TO CHURCH • SUNDAY 20TH JULY 2025

Church News

Guest Preacher

Today we welcome **Trevor Ackman** as our guest preacher. Trevor is a retired Anglican Minister and solicitor who lives in Kiama.
Please take the time to say hello!

Val on leave in August

Val will be taking two weeks off at the beginning of August. If you're available to help out in the office during this time, please have a chat with her.

Children's programs

Playmakers, Kids Club and Refuge all start for the term this week!
Kids Church will begin next Sunday.
Please keep these groups in your prayers.
Activity sheets will still be available to complete during our service today.

Birthdays

20th Peter Evans
23rd Olga Covetz

Anniversaries

Give Electronically

BANK DETAILS

Name: Oak Flats Anglican **BSB:** 633 000 **Account:** 164 385 841

Serving Roster

<i>Sunday</i>	20th July	27th July	
26th July	Welcomer:	R Prasad/E Stanojevic	A Bentink & P Forrester
Cleaning:	Bible Reader:	P Evans	J Mills
A & M Peters	Prayer Leader:	D Young	M Peters
Mowing:	Morning Tea:	B Mayhew/J Orange	C Bonnici/M Klasson
Z Adams/A Peters	MT Clean Up:	D Orange	A Peters
	Kids Church:	N/A	R Hannam

Joseph: A Study in Forgiveness

Genesis 42-45

Trevor Ackman • 20th July 2025

Next Sunday...

NEW SERMON SERIES: Power in Weakness • *'The God of Comfort'* • Sam Pursell

Readings: Isaiah 49:9b-13 & 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Information about our Church

Your kids are welcome

Children are welcome to stay with you during church. Kids church starts roughly 15 mins into the service (during school terms).

You may also take your child to the Cry Room at the rear of the church to watch us live on a TV.

Check out our bookstall

View our quality selection of Christian books for sale at the bookstall located at the rear of the church.

Join a Bible study group

Our midweek Bible study groups are great for connecting with others. To join a group, contact the office.

We are filming church

For those unable to attend, we are streaming and recording video at live.oakflatsanglican.com. You may be filmed.

Kids and Youth programs

In school terms, we offer a range of midweek programs for toddlers, children and youth.

Weekly prayer meeting

Saturday, 7:30am (online via Zoom)

A time to share, to encourage, and to pray for one another. Come join us and experience and power of prayer!

Contact Geoff Kyngdon for details.

Scan for the online 'Contact Us' form



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Website: oakflatsanglican.com **Livestream:** live.oakflatsanglican.com

Elvanto member website: oakflatsanglican.elvanto.com.au

Minister: Rev Sam Pursell - 0417 711 314 - sam.pursell@oakflatsanglican.com

Parish Administrator: Valerie O'Regan - 0408 271 189 - val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com

Office Hours: Mon & Fri: 9am-5pm

Wardens: Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565;

Andy Peters - 0414 799 001; Ed Stanojevic - 0405 970 434

Pastoral Care: Rhonda Slocombe - 0400 679 703 - rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com

Prayer Coordinator: Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565 - geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com

Safe Ministry Representative: Harley Mills - 0409 562 932 - harley.mills@oakflatsanglican.com

Prayers

CURRENT PRAYERS

Our Outreach

Give thanks for Playmakers, Pantry (including Phil's morning tea talks), and the Ladies' Dinners.

For SRE - especially while Geoff is away, with Harley & Sam covering Geoff's classes.

For wisdom and good book choices through the book stall.

Pray for our Sunday services and guest preacher Trevor Ackman.

Our People

Pray for those who are bereaved - John Wilson, Yvonne Hurst, and Jeanette Burgess.

For those travelling: Geoff, the Slocombe's, and others. For those who are unwell or in ongoing need.

Those in ongoing need: Bronwyn Clark, John & Olga Covetz, Kevin & Ruth Eton, Barrie & Auriel Hadley, Robert & Raija Hamman, Pauline Kirby, Graeme & Marianne Krout, Pam Moore & family, Debbie Paget, Resh Prasad, Merv & Nola Sercombe, Eileen Stokes, Allan Quinn, Glenda & Peter Taylor, Robyn Thomas, Helen Wagemans, John Wilson.

Our Nation & World

Wisdom and compassion for state and federal leaders.

Peace in the Middle East and Ukraine; for aid to reach those in need.

Guidance for NATO, the UN, and the USA in promoting peace.

REGULAR PRAYERS (Cycle 1 of 4)

Government

King Charles.

The Prime Minister and federal politicians.

The Premier and NSW state politicians.

Our Mayor and local government.

Those serving in the defence forces, including chaplains.

The World

International leaders.

The persecuted church.

Local Community

Oak Flats Public, Balarang Public and Oak Flats High schools.

Emergency services.

Local community groups.

Indigenous communities.

The poor.

People with physical, mental illness.

People socially disconnected.

Church members

Sherida Findell

Peter, Belinda, Zacharie & Samuel Firley

Barrie & Auriel Hadley

Paul & Hazel Hall

Robert & Raija Hamman