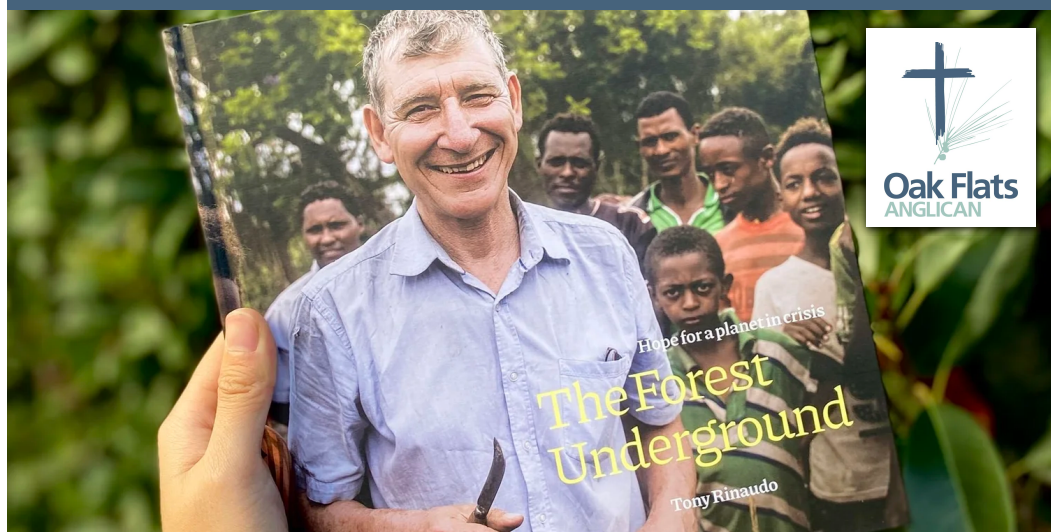




Book Reflection: The Forest Underground, Tony Rinaudo

By the time a particularly severe famine struck Niger in 1984, Tony Rinaudo had been living there as a missionary with his family for three years. He and his wife Liz had originally accepted the post with the intent of leading a reforestation project in the agricultural regions of the country. As the rains failed, the destructive farming practices that had been practised in the region for generations combined with the extreme weather brought about by climate change led to the sands of the Sahara encroaching ever further into villages and farmland. Being witness to the grave human suffering and the corruption amongst officials who had power to help, Tony found himself doubting God's goodness.

"As the pressure mounted day after day and I was unable to help, I wondered, did God really care? Did he really answer prayer? Could he really use very ordinary people to make a difference in impossible situations like this?...One morning I was trying to eat my breakfast. As tears were welling up and a lump was forming in my throat, my eyes fell on the following verse in the open Bible, "Thus says the Lord to you, 'Fear not, and be not dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's.'" Immediately a great weight was lifted from me. I didn't know what, how, or when, but I felt an assurance that God was going to act decisively."

Without giving away too many of the glorious details of Niger's story, know that God did in fact act very decisively. Tony's work in forest regeneration both in Niger and across Africa has made him a world-renowned expert. It is not just his expertise in agricultural practices that is so highly valued, but Tony's ability to connect and work with local farmers and inspire them to start their own movements. His efforts have had a direct impact on the food security of many thousands of African people. This is a very inspiring and hopeful book that points us to the truth that God does care about the most vulnerable people of this world. He is the God who can powerfully heal both our hearts and our land.

- Susan Pursell

Church News

Ladies Dinner

Join us this **Tuesday 21st October** for our next Ladies Dinner. We meet at our church and start at **6:30pm**.

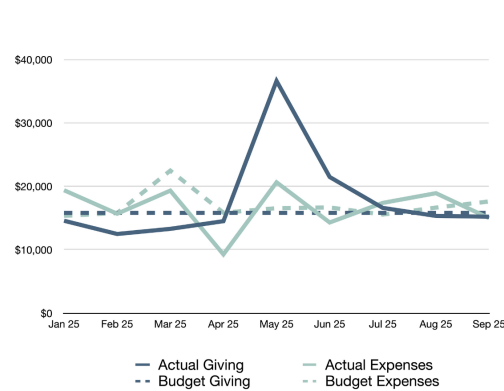
Our guest speaker is **Jane Thomas**, and will speak on the topic: *Take Courage - hope and resistance in hard times*.

Dinner is \$10 - please RSVP to attend or to bring a plate of food on the sign up sheet.

Birthdays

22nd Magda Peters
Evelyn Meek (*Mission Partner*)
25th Ruth Eton
Priyani Forrester

Finance Update (to the end of September 2025)



Safe Ministry Training

In-person - Saturday 15th November

- **Refresher Course** at *Shellharbour City Church* from **9-12pm**.
- **Safe Ministry Essentials Course** at *Jannali Anglican Church* & at *St Stephen's Anglican Church, Bomaderry* both from **9am-3pm**.

Enrolments are now open. Register online at - <https://safeministry.training/face-to-face-training>.

Anniversaries

20th Ashleigh & Jake Browne

Give Electronically

BANK DETAILS

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



September Giving
We fell behind the budget by \$607



Giving Year to date
We have exceeded the budget by \$17,766

Serving Roster

Saturday

25th October

Cleaning:

D & R Slocombe

Mowing:

J Klasson/P Pratt

Sunday

Welcomer:

Bible Reader:

Prayer Leader:

Morning Tea:

MT Clean Up:

Kids Church:

19th October

D & J Orange

J Orange

M Peters

R Hannam/M Klasson

P Pratt

B Firley/K Laird

26th October

J Stavert/D Slocombe

A Bentink

G Kyngdon

C Bonnici/R Slocombe

D Slocombe

R Hannam/M Klasson

We Believe: The Nicene Creed

One God, the Father, maker of heaven and earth

Revelation 4:1-11

Sam Pursell • 19th October 2025

1. We believe

2. One God, the Father, the almighty

3. Maker of heaven and earth

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

Next Sunday... *'Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God'* • Sam Pursell

Readings: Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:1-5 & Colossians 1:15-20

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).

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

35 Fisher Street, Oak Flats NSW 2529

Phone: 4256 6464 **Email:** office@oakflatsanglican.com

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

One Another

For Glenda Taylor & Allan Quinn following medical issues last week.

Give thanks for the safe return of Geoff Kyngdon, and David & Rhonda Slocombe. Pastoral Care and its delivery.

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

Church Matters

Term 4 underway - SRE, Playmakers, Friday Kids & Youth, Pantry, Ladies Dinner & Craft. Other activities.

For Susan as she prepares Kids Church program on the Nicene Creed.

For Sam, Wardens and Parish Council as they consider property and financial needs.

For Val in the church office - time & event management with a very busy term ahead.

World Matters

For lasting peace, healing and the restoration of communities in the Middle East.

For peace in Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops.

For wisdom for world leaders – NATO, the UN, USA, and UK.

REGULAR PRAYERS (Cycle 2 of 4)

Mission Partners

Adrian and Anita Lovell, training Christian leaders in Bolivia with the Church Missionary Society (CMS).

Roger and Amanda Kyngdon, working with Bush Church Aid (BCA) in Newman, WA.

Southern Illawarra Schools Ministry Board (SISMB) supporting High School scripture in Oak Flats and Albion Park High schools.

Matthew Meek, ministry to overseas university students with AFES.

Stewart Continuing Ministries, training leaders of the persecuted church.

Grahame and Patty Scarratt, providing distance training for ministers in Latin America.

Christian Organisations

Evangelism and New Churches.

Moore Theological College.

Mary Andrews College.

Sydney Missionary & Bible College (SMBC).

Youthworks.

Bible Society.

Ministry Training Strategy (MTS).

Gafcon.

Church members

Robert & Raija Hamman

Erin Hick

Yvonne Hurst

Ken Illiffe

Ben, Adrianna, Elena & Henrik Irwin