



Ministry as an appeal

I recently read the short letter of Philemon. It is only one chapter long, and was written about the restoration of a slave who had run away from his master. At the heart of Paul's letter comes this bombshell, *"Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord."* (Philemon 15-16). To Philemon, Onesimus is no longer to be considered as a slave, but a fellow man and brother. This verse completely subverts the practice of slavery and was famously used in abolitionist imagery.

However, as I read, what stood out to me this time was Paul's ministry method. Although he commands strong and direct action as a last resort when faced with ongoing and wilful sin within the church community (1 Corinthians 5), his deeper aim is always directed at a change of heart. *"Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love."* (Philemon 8-9)

Christian ministry is not about bossing people around, but appealing to people in order that they change their hearts and minds. The appeal is made through the teaching of God's word, where we observe God's character and in particular his love demonstrated through Jesus Christ. We also trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to change people, and pray for it to be the case. The aim is not to have Christians who are well-behaved and browbeaten, but rather individuals who are transformed into the likeness and love of God, which overflows from the heart.

With the new year almost upon us, may we continue to be transformed from the inside out, and all our ministry directed to the same end: Christlike and Spirit-led renewal on the basis of the love of God.

- Sam Pursell

Church News

Holidays are here!

We're delighted that you could join us today during this time of holidays. If you're taking some time off with family and friends then be sure to give thanks to God for the joy (and sometimes challenges) of relationships, as we hope for Heaven!

Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored is a six-week course that gives you time and space to think about the big questions of life. It explores the life of Jesus, who is at the heart of the Christian Faith. Open to everyone. Register at oakflatsanglican.com/christianityexplored.

Children & Youth programs

During school holidays, our normal children's and youth programs take a break until February. Activity sheets will be available for children at our services.

Church office closed

The church office is currently closed and will resume normal office hours from Monday 5th January.

Birthdays

29th Rhys Faulconbridge

Anniversaries

Give Electronically

BANK DETAILS

Name: Oak Flats Anglican

BSB: 633 000

Account: 164 385 841

Serving Roster

Saturday

3rd January

Cleaning:

D & J Orange/J Evans

Mowing:

Z Adams/P Pratt

Sunday

Welcomer:

Bible Reader:

Prayer Leader:

Morning Tea:

MT Clean Up:

28th December

J & M Klasson

R Slocombe

P Pratt

J Mills/J Orange

A Kerr

4th January

R Prasad/E Stanojevic

A Stavert

G Kyngdon

B Irwin/A Kerr

C Bonnici

Where is God?

Psalm 14

Sam Pursell • 28th December 2025

1. The thorough corruption of humanity (v. 1-3)
2. Await the appearing of the Lord in judgment (v. 4-5)
3. Await the appearing of the Lord in salvation (v. 6-7)

Next Sunday...

'Integrity in our life with the Lord' • Sam Pursell

Readings: John 14:1-8 & Psalm 15:1-5

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

Remembering Bondi 2025

Those who mourn the death of loved ones.

The injured: those still in hospital - the two Police officers especially. The injured at home as they seek to move on. Those who witnessed the tragedy.

Our State Leaders: for wisdom as law changes are considered. Public Servants as they draft and discuss laws and regulations.

Our National Leaders: acceptance of responsibility where appropriate and quickly.

Christmas

That this Christmas our hearts would be focused on Jesus, and that many would come to know the hope He brings.
Our witness to newcomers and visitors.
For those who struggle at this time of year.

One Another

Care and concern for each other.
Safety for those travelling.

People in need: Carmen Bonnici, Bronwyn Clark, John & Olga Covetz, David & Jan Crook, Kevin & Ruth Eton, Barrie & Auriel Hadley, Robert & Raija Hannam, Pauline Kirby, Graeme & Marianne Krout, Pam Moore & family, Debbie Paget, Resh Prasad, O'Regan family, Merv & Nola Sercombe, Eileen Stokes, Allan Quinn, Helen Wagemans, John Wilson.

REGULAR PRAYERS (Cycle 4 of 4)

Making Disciples of Jesus in Oak Flats

Engage

That we would engage people from our community with the grace and love God has shown to us.

Evangalise

That we would share the goods news about Jesus with all people and see conversion.

Establish

That we would teach people to know and obey Christ's teaching.
That we would be true friends with people in our church.
That we would love one another and support one another in life's challenges.

Equip

That we would raise up workers for the gospel harvest.
That we would train people to various ministry roles, giving them skills, encouragement and space to flourish.

Church members

Alex Bentink & Priyani Forrester
Carmen Bonnici
Ashleigh & Jake, Willow, Theo & Sebastian Browne
Kathy Bruce
Bronwyn Clark