

Idolising good things of the past

Recently I read an interesting passage, worth our consideration. In 2 Kings, we read of these acts of King Hezekiah:

> *He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.) (2 Kings 18:4)*

Not only does Hezekiah remove from the land Canaanite idolatry and false worship, he destroys something God previously instructed to be made for the Israelite's salvation. In the wilderness, God sent snakes among the people in judgement for their sins, and then told Moses to create a bronze serpent on a pole. When people were bitten by a venomous snake, the people could look at it, be healed and live. This is recorded in Numbers 21, and is about God giving an avenue for repentance, obedience and trust in him. Yet 700 years after Moses, in Hezekiah's time, the good thing from God in Moses' day, had moved from being a religious relic, to an object of false worship.

In the first instance it should cause us to reflect on idolatry, where created things are worshipped instead of the creator. But also, there might be degrees to this phenomenon, including the venerating of things which were good in another time. Congregations can slide into worshipping good things from the past, more than God himself. Buildings and property, leaders and people, ministries and methods can be used by God for good in one generation, but then are elevated and clung to more than is warranted into the next. It can be particularly difficult to let go and do something else, if that thing worked effectively in discipling and forming us. Where might we need reform?

- Sam Pursell

Church News

Anglicare Visit

Today we welcome Gary Eastment and Brett Fahey from Anglicare.

Gary will be preaching from Galatians 2, and Brett will share a presentation about Anglicare and its work supporting individuals, families and communities.

Church Spring Cleaning

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped out with our church spring cleaning! Whether you brought your tools, your time, your energy, or just a willing heart, your efforts have truly blessed our church.

We're so grateful for all the hands and care that went into making our church shine - your generosity and service are deeply appreciated.

Birthdays

22nd Evelyn Meek *(Mission Partner)*

Ladies Dinner

Join us this **Tuesday 20th October** for our next Ladies Dinner. We meet at our church and start at **6:30pm**.

Our guest speaker is **Stacey Chapman**. Stacey is the Associate to the Archdeacon for Women's Ministry for the Wollongong Region.

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

Thank You Oak Flats Women's Bowling Club!

A huge thank you to the Oak Flats Women's Bowling Club for their generous donation of $3,500 to our Mobile Pantry!

We are incredibly grateful for this wonderful support, which will help us continue providing practical assistance to individuals and families in our local community who are doing it tough.



Give Electronically

BANK DETAILS

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

Serving Roster

	Saturday 24th October	*Sunday* 18th October	25th October
Cleaning:	D & R Slocombe		
Mowing:	N/A		
Welcomer:		D & J Orange	P & G Taylor
Bible Reader:		J Evans	A Bentink
Prayer Leader:		G Kyngdon	P Pratt
Morning Tea:		P Forrester/M Klasson	B Irwin/A Kerr
MT Clean Up:		P Pratt	R Slocombe
Kids Church:		J Evans/B Firley	M Klasson

Remember The Poor

Galatians 2:1-10

Gary Eastment • 18th October 2026

1. Poverty is a lack of relationships, not just stuff

2. Gods Response to Poverty

3. A Necessary Expression of Our Faith

4. Making the Gospel Attractive

Next Sunday…

'No idols' • Sam Pursell • **Readings:** Exodus 20:1-6 & Acts 17:16-34; 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: Monday: 9:30am-5pm & Friday: 9:30am-3:30pm

Wardens: Dave Crook - 0404 337 502; Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565;
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 Church & Ministries

Our ministries as Term 4 continues, building relationships and sharing the good news of Jesus.

Wisdom and vision for 2027 planning, including youth ministry and new outreach opportunities.

Our Nation & Communities

Government leaders, upcoming elections, and integrity and justice in public life.

Police, courts, prison staff, chaplains and families affected by crime, especially children.

Mission & Gospel Opportunities

Our mission partners serving locally and around the world.

Bishop-elect Jono Squire and wife Jenny, as they prepare to join our Diocese.

One Another

Families facing hardship, those who are grieving, and those needing extra support as Christmas approaches.

Growing in prayer, fellowship, hospitality and practical care for one another.

Those in ongoing need: Bronwyn Clark, John Covetz, David & Jan Crook, Jeanette Dunkeld, Kevin & Ruth Eton, Barrie & Auriel Hadley, Robert & Raija Hannam, Pauline Kirby, Lili Kovacevic, Graeme & Marianne Krout, Pam Moore & family, Debbie Paget, Merv & Nola Sercombe, Cynthea Smith, Eileen Stokes, Allan Quinn and John Wilson.

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

Bruce & Caroline Petrie

Phil & Coralie Pratt

Sam, Susan, Ed, Mary & Angela Pursell

Allan Quinn

Merv & Nola Sercombe

Send Prayer requests to our Prayer Coordinator, Geoff Kyngdon on either 0417 044 565 or geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com.