

Contact Information

Jonathan Button can be contacted at j.button@bigpond.com

Jonathan is available in the event of emergencies at any time, but other than that would appreciate not getting calls on Wednesdays, where possible, as this is his day off.

Church phone number: 8251 4298

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Maintenance Programme

Reminder that you will find the blue envelopes on the table at the back of the church and in the hall, if you would like to contribute towards the ongoing cost of maintaining our church.

Have you considered E-giving?

Envelopes with an "E" on the front, prayer requests or thanks can be placed in the offering bags on a Sunday morning.

** Payments can now be made by EFTPOS on Sunday.

Today

Leader— Jonathan

Preacher— Jonathan

Reader— Lucinda

Welcome— Bob

Manager— John

Musician — Brunetta

Technical Crew— Ruan, Rykhardt,
John

Editing— Rykhardt (video)

Morning Tea— Joy and Sue

Next week

Leader— Jonathan (am & pm)

Preacher— Jonathan

Reader— Marion

Welcome— Cath

Manager— Neil

Musician — Brunetta

Technical Crew— Ruan, Lucinda
(am) & James and Ralph (pm)

Editing— Lucinda (audio)

Morning Tea— Peter and Yvonne

The Weekly Word

Sunday 1st December 2024



Golden Grove Uniting Church Mission Statement

We are a Gospel-driven, connected, generous church family, mission-minded and outwardly focused.

Today

Preacher—Jonathan

Reader— Lucinda

Theme —The second coming of Christ

Reading: Luke 21: 25 –36

Grubbing Thistles

A colleague of tells of funeral he conducted for a man who was a loner and an eccentric. He was also a human being of unbounded hope! He had the habit of roaming the district with a grubber, and wherever he found a thistle, he dug it up. The thistles were persistent, and came back, but it never dented his resolve to keep digging them up!

Do life's "thistles" ever choke our path, frustrate our progress, or "prick" us with painful "thorns"?... Life can often be that way! Ironically, we bring much of this on ourselves through our desire to go our own way rather than God's (Gen 3:17,18). To mirror this, the environment itself seems overrun with "thorny" problems – pollution, extinctions, climatic disaster.

It's enough to make you want to give up!...

However, *Christ is making all things new* (Rev 21:5)! In the victory of His cross and resurrection, He has broken the power of evil, cancelled sin, and set in train the full restoration of the creation, and of all people who will believe in Him. Through faith in Him, we can progress toward that goal with full hope and even joy - however "thorny the thistles"!

As we approach this Advent and Christmas season, may we do so with the hope of the usually missing third verse of Charles Wesley's hymn – "Joy to the world!"

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

Nor thorns infest the ground.

He comes to make His blessings flow,

Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as the curse is found!

Joy to the world, Jonathan.



Our last women's fellowship will be held **Thursday, 5th December**, at **The Tea Tree Gully golf course, 60 Hamilton Road, Fairview Park at 12:30 pm**. If you will be attending, can you please add your name to the list in the hall as we need to confirm numbers as soon as possible. Could you also write down if you require a lift there and you will have to be at the church no later than 12:15 pm. We do a Kris Kringle on the day. If you would like to be included, please bring a gift to the value of \$5.00, along with you.



Congratulations Carolyn!



It's been a big year for our girl, Carolyn. She has turned 18, graduated High School, attended her School Formal and won an award for diligence in AFI for her school level. She has also started her first full time job, working three days a week.



We are so proud of you, Caroline!

May God continue to bless you in all that you do.

A reminder that the food donation box is out every Sunday up until Christmas to create hampers for those in need,



Women's Breakfast

We will be having a Christmas Themed Women's Breakfast at **Milk and Honey** on **Saturday December 7th** at **9:00 am**.



Wear your best Christmas themed outfits and come prepared to share your funniest or most moving Christmas stories with those around you. We will also partake in a collaborative Christmas activity.



Look forward to seeing you all there.

It is with great sadness that we share the news that our dear friend and long serving congregation member, Max Reed, passed away peacefully in his sleep this week. He was much loved and will be sorely missed.

"Well done, you good and faithful servant, enter into your rest."

Details of Max's funeral arrangements are as yet unknown.



Elections—Church Council 2025

For your prayerful consideration, nominations have been received for:

COUNCILLOR

Neil Larcombe

Coral Larcombe

David Mapp

ELDER

Tim Checkley

Cath McKechnie

Linda Mapp



The ballot will be held after Morning Worship, next Sunday, 8th December.



Important Dates

Youth 3:16 **Friday 6th December - Nature Hike** ****6:00pm****

Women's Fellowship **Thursday 5th December** 12:30 pm

Women's Breakfast **Saturday 7th December** 9:00 am

Advent Friend **Sunday 8th December** (Peace)

Church Council Elections **Sunday 8th December** (after the service)

Blue Christmas **Sunday 15th December** 6:00pm



51 Gastronomes In Attendance at Community Breakfast

On the Saturday before last the third Community breakfast for the year took place. Again the team, lead by the inimitable David and Linda, provided us with a sumptuous breakfast in pleasant surroundings, enhanced by warm fellowship. However, the coup d'état par excellence was our guest speaker, Karen Norman, a missionary nurse, who had been working with abandoned and disabled children for more than twenty years. Her speech was heartfelt and confronting, and yet inspirational, as she revealed to us the inhumane horrors that faced these children, abandoned by an unfeeling and unwilling government. We can but be thankful that people like Karen continue to do God's work in China, bringing love, care and meaningfulness into their lives. Thank you so much, Karen. Incidentally, the next Community Breakfast will take place on 1st March 2025. Don't miss it!



Old Church Pews

We have now sold a total of 12 of our old church pews. If anyone in the Church Family would still like to buy one, please let me know, as we now have them advertised for sale on Market Place.

Many thanks,



Share the Good News!

There are a supply of excellent, free Christmas tracts and brochures you are encouraged to take and share with family, friends, shop assistants—anyone this Christmas season! Take a heap!

We have good news of the birth of Jesus to share!



A Message from Sally Stamp at Synod Office

Hopefully some of us will be in receipt of Christmas cards via Australia Post. Please remember to save the stamps, by cutting them off the envelopes and ensuring that the perforations are intact. Would you please place your collections in the labelled



Thank you very much.

