

CONNECTIONS

Stories of the SWAC-scattered community



Easter Weekend

SCOTT GOODE

This will be one of the stranger Easter weekends we have experienced as we continue in 'home isolation'. Nevertheless, I pray that you will still be able to experience the *upper room*, the *cross* outside the city, and finally, the *empty tomb*. To this end, please do join me as we journey through these Easter scenes whether it is online or via DVDs. You might like to gather together a candle and some bread and wine/juice in order to share in a Christian Passover, with me (virtually) in your homes.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: a simple order of service with video content reflecting on Jesus' adoption of the Passover.

GOOD FRIDAY: a simple order of service with video content.

EASTER SUNDAY: A livestreamed service, produced by some of the Wagga churches, working together, is available:

<https://livestream.com/waggabaptist/events/9072510>



OFFICE HOURS:

Our office is closed
Food donations and
pastoral care by
appointment

The answering machine will
be checked daily
Ph: 6925 1707

Staff will be working from
home where possible.

scottg@swac.church
office@swac.church
kyliep@swac.church
mattb@swac.church
amandab@swac.church
craigr@swac.church

Warden Contact

St Paul's: Peter Hilton
St Alban's: Robyn Clarke

Our churches remain
closed
www.swac.church



SWAC-care

KYLIE POLKINGHORNE

How do we begin to comprehend the situation that is going on around us? I remember my mum used to say that we often feel better when we help someone else. Looking beyond our own feelings of helplessness and helping others can make such a difference - to you and to the other person. Take a moment to pray for the people in your street. Does anyone come to mind? Perhaps there is someone on your heart that you could ring, or send a message to? We are the church, the body of Christ, and this moment is forcing us out of our buildings and into our streets. And as we care for those around us, even if just one person, our 'present sufferings' may ease a little, with love growing, instead of fear.

My name is:

I live locally at:

My phone number is:

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19, I can help with:

Pick up shopping Posting mail

A friendly phone call Urgent supplies

Just call or text me, and I will do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact and keep safe at 2m distance. Wash your hands regularly. Any items will be left on your doorstep with a phone-call or message letting you know.

South Wagga Anglican Church 

How can I help?

Here are three simple ways for you, where appropriate, to express Christian compassion:

1. Donate food or items (and even fresh produce) at St Paul's for distribution - arrange with Scott or Kylie.
2. Pick up a SWAC-care package and deliver to someone that you know is in need.
3. Deliver a 'I can help' card for someone that might appreciate an offer of help.

"So much of our 'doings' have been cancelled and are giving us a chance to be 'beings'."

ALEXIS REN





SWAC-Mission

INDIA: GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19
SOURCE: MISSION NETWORK NEWS 30/03/20

Keeping the virus contained with 1.3+ billion people and a failed healthcare system is challenging, to say the least, but efforts are underway...

“Travel from one state to the next is prohibited; all transportation has been shut down. People are filled with all kinds of anxiety,” says Todd Van Ek of Grand Rapids, Michigan-based Mission India.

Typically, India is one of the world’s most difficult places to be a Christian. However, “persecution has radically decreased because people are so consumed with the coronavirus,” Van Ek says.



In fact, “Parliament was going to meet and consider a national anti-conversion law, but then they shut Parliament down so it didn’t even come up for discussion,” he adds. “So we see a lot of positive even in the midst of all the problems that come with COVID-19.”

Daily life in the villages is changing, too. “India is 70 percent rural, so the impact in the villages is completely different than the impact in the major cities,” Van Ek says. “In the villages, people are conducting worship services outside their home. People have more time because there’s this lockdown going on, so they’re engaged in more conversations.”

Pray for the
Christians of
India who endure
persecution for
their faith -
especially in their
homes where
they are locked
down.





For inclusion in the parish prayers for those in need please email

scottg@swac.church

Regular updates of people will ensure latest information.



Prayer for those in need

VALMA DEANE as she recovers from surgery and treatment.

NATALIE MCDERMOTT as she finishes radiotherapy and heals from side effects and the trauma of illness and treatment. With David working in hospitals they are living apart to reduce exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

BARBARA SLADE as she prepares for a second surgery next Tuesday for Breast Cancer. Thanksgiving for early diagnosis.

STUART GAMBLE in his recovery and rehabilitation after his knee replacement.

LAUREL WILLIS as she recovers from a second surgery since Christmas.



GWEN WOOHAM (mainly music team member) as she undergoes chemotherapy for leukemia.

PAM DENTON (Dorothy Munro's friend) who suffers from Motor Neurone Disease.

RISKA our Compassion child - that God would preserve her and her family's health during this time and for all Compassion staff who now provide care at a distance.

ALMIGHTY GOD AND HEAVENLY FATHER, YOUR SON JESUS CHRIST SHARED AT NAZARETH THE LIFE OF AN EARTHLY HOME. BLESS OUR HOMES, WE PRAY THAT PARENTS AND CHILDREN MAY BE BOUND TOGETHER TO EACH OTHER BY MUTUAL LOVE AND HONOUR, AND COME TO A KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR LOVE FOR THEM; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN



Send your pics and messages via email, text (or snail-mail) to scottg@swac.church and be a blessing to our scattered church community.

SWAC Kid's Corner

Each Sunday SWAC Kid's are being sent (via mum or dad's email) an activity pack that they can do during home church. This is in addition to the family spot that is linked with the main service content.

The *Bible app for Kids* is both engaging as well as free so if you have children in your house make sure you download this to your smart phone or tablet device.



SCATTERED MESSAGES

MAT, LUCILLE, JACOB & JAN FITZSIMMONS

We are very thankful for the ability to stay connected through technology. It is so encouraging and uplifting to be able to meet together 'virtually' for bible group and to know that we are sharing in worship with our church family. Kid's church online is also a hit in our house. Jacob took Matt's caterpillar talk to the next level! God gives us new life through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

CHANTELE CROWLEY FROM CANBERRA

Words fail me at the moment but I wish to encourage you and to thank you for the continued welcome your parish gives me. There is comfort and hope with receiving SWAC-scattered and SWAC-online - I imagine that will only strengthen once we have viewed this mornings worship service.



If you would like one of the church Prayer Books delivered to your home just let us know by phoning the office or emailing craigr@swac.church

Feeding from God's Word

1. *A Psalm with Scott* begins 930am Tuesdays through to Fridays. You will need to subscribe to Scott's email list after which you will be invited to a daily Zoom video conference.
2. Bible Society daily email is free <https://www.biblesociety.org.au/the-bible/>.
3. Scripture Union Daily Bread notes Apr-Jun - one copy available through office.
4. The YouVersion Bible App is free and has many bible reading plans.



The Morning 'Office'

CRAIG ROGERS

Since adopting the practice of keeping the morning office I have felt “immersed” in Scripture and it has assisted me to adopt a prayerful stance right from the beginning of the day. The APBA (our green Prayer book) or equivalent *epray app* provides a resource that reminds the reader of the promises of God in Scripture. We are reassured, through the liturgy, of the saving work of Christ: God’s continuing action in the world and the hope we have in our own salvation, redemption and eternal life. Participating in the daily services routinely allows the words of the liturgy to “permeate” one’s consciousness. Following the cycle of the lectionary also provides a way of reading manageable amounts of both the Old and New Testaments. Although not a ‘religious’ requirement, I am convinced that disciplined spiritual practices can greatly enhance one’s connection with God. There is also a sense of participating prayerfully with the wider church. In this time of social isolation, I encourage others to give the morning office a try, as we seek to remain connected to each other, the wider church, and our Lord.

