

TRINITY NEWS

Sharing Jesus for Life

THIS WEEK

Sunday 14 January

10.30am Combined service followed by morning tea

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 21 January

8.30am Traditional service followed by morning tea

10.30am Contemporary service followed by morning tea

Sunday 28 January

8.30am Traditional service followed by morning tea

10.30am Contemporary service followed by morning tea

Wednesday 31 January

10.30am Traditional service resumes followed by morning tea

From Andy's Desk...

Have you ever been deeply hurt? I suspect most of us have. Have you been able to forgive the person who hurt you or are you still angry with that person, holding onto bitterness and resentment against them? Does it still shape your life?



Today when people make mistakes, those mistakes are often splashed across social media and the papers, people might be cancelled and vilified and their lives ruined. There is no forgiveness in our 21st century western culture. Old offences are brought into the light and people can lose their jobs and reputations.

How should we respond as followers of Jesus Christ?

Jesus himself teaches us to pray like this:

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us." Luke 11:4

And Paul in his letter to the Colossians:

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:12-13

Do you see the common theme? We are to forgive as those who have been forgiven by God. We Christians are those who recognise that we are sinners who have been forgiven through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Our debt of sin was enormous and impossible for us to pay. God made a way for us to be forgiven but it cost him the life of his Son - such is the love he has for us!

Having been forgiven by God we are to treat others in the same way - we are to forgive just as the Lord forgave us.

That doesn't mean it will be easy - but then it wasn't easy for Jesus! We do have the help of God the Holy Spirit whom God has given to everyone who trusts in his Son. The Holy Spirit brings us to Jesus, helps us to see clearly just how much our forgiveness cost and joins us in relationship with God. He gives us strength to forgive others the way we have been forgiven.

It should also be said that when we forgive it doesn't mean everything will go back exactly as it was. There may be good reasons why that isn't possible. But it does mean that anger and bitterness no longer shape your life. God our Father can help us deal with those feelings so that what happened no longer traps us and defines us. It allows us to get on with living our lives for Jesus.

So is there someone you need to forgive? What would you need to do to make that happen? Why not start now?

With love in Christ,

Andy Martin
Minister

Christianity Explored

Over 7 weeks, using Mark's biography of Jesus in the Bible, we explore who Jesus is, why he came to earth, and what it means to follow him. Plenty of opportunity to ask questions and find the answers, or just listen to the discussion. Contact Andy to sign up for the next course starting in February.

Ideas from the Bookstall

We have a church bookstall full of great Christian resources to buy as gifts or for yourself - Bibles for all ages, books for teens, devotionals to help you read the Bible on your own and more. Payment is easy and can be made by card or cash.

Brain Food & Fellowship in January

Paul Meeth, from our church family, will be giving three bible-related lectures, aimed at college-level. Sessions will be held at St James Presbyterian Church Hall, are free to attend and include hot drinks. For more details contact Paul on 0401 963 144.

Tuesdays 9th, 16th, 23rd January 10am-12noon

Repeated Thursdays 11th, 18th, 25th January 7pm-9pm

Summer Sunday Services times

While things are quieter over the summer and many of us will be away, we will have one combined Sunday All Age Service at 10.30am on 31 December, 7 January and 14 January. Normal services will resume on Sunday 21 January.

No Wednesday Services over the Summer

Our Wednesday 10.30am services has paused over the Summer. This service will resume on Wednesday 31 January.

Office Closure over the Summer

The church office has reopened and is open 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday.

Fellowship Groups

Our midweek small groups have paused for the summer. If you'd like to join a group in the new year, please contact Andy Martin for more details.

PARISH COUNCIL Next Meeting: Saturday 27 January

Andy Martin - *Rector*, Garry West - *Rector's Warden*, Rod Wykes - *Warden & Treasurer*,
Lynne Middleton - *Warden*, John Bosanquet, Lyn Atkins, Sandy Bosanquet - *Secretary*

If you have feedback, comments or questions for Parish Council please send an email to holytrinityorangesec@gmail.com or leave your contact details with the office and a member of Parish Council will contact you. Minutes will be available to read in the church office afterwards.

GIVING

If you would like to give financially to support the work at Holy Trinity of Sharing Jesus for Life, gifts can be placed in the baskets or gift-box at church or given online:

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