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## WELCOME

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Wonga Park CRC is a church that is committed to helping people grow in their faith, one step at a time. We believe people do this by encountering God in his living word, through prayer, and in community with other believers.

**New here?** We would love to meet and connect with you, so please fill in your details on the back of this newsletter or send us an email to [pastor@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:pastor@wpcrc.org.au) and we will get in contact with you.

**God's Word:** We encourage you to take notes in the place provided, to reflect on what God has been saying to you, and to discuss it with your family, friends and children.

**Prayer:** We have several places in our worship service where we pray. We believe that prayer is vitally important to our faith lives, and that God powerfully answers our prayer. If you have a specific prayer request, please let us know. We would love to pray with you.

**Community:** We are committed to our church community, even though we can't physically meet at this point in time due to COVID-19. However, many of our church growth groups continue to meet together online. If you would like to join in an online growth group, please contact [admin@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au) and we can get you connected.

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## SERMON: CAROLS SERVICE

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### Luke 2:1-21

#### THE BIRTH OF JESUS

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. 2 This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.

4 Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, 5 to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

#### THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

8 In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: 11 Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

14 Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace on earth to people he favors!

15 When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

16 They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. 17 After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told.

#### **THE CIRCUMCISION AND PRESENTATION OF JESUS**

21 When the eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus — the name given by the angel before he was conceived. -- Luke 2:1-21 (CSB)

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#### **SERMON NOTES**

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING



Ene Crous	4 December	Sarah Pretorius	22 December
Gretchen Fourie	4 December	Colin Arnold	29 December
Jo Reed	5 December	Cailynn Van der Merwe	29 November
Dean Van der Jagt	6 December	Arthur Witteveen	1 January
James Blashki	14 December	Karin Witteveen	1 January
Mariaane Van der Merwe	15 December	Roger Fernando	6 January
Ken Van der Jagt	17 December	Hanna Van der Walt	7 January
Emily Reeders	19 December		

## Looking for Work

We would like to provide an opportunity for fellow congregation members to notify us if you are seeking employment so we could try and support you in the process.

Please send a confidential email to [admin@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au). If possible please attach your resume and give us an indication of what kind of work you are looking for and your availability. As part of this we would also like potential employers or people who are aware of vacancies within their businesses to please let us know of these opportunities by using the same email address.



## JOB VACANCY

### Keep on eye on these job sites:

Christian Jobs: <https://www.christianjobs.com.au>

Ethical Jobs: <https://www.ethicaljobs.com.au>

Yarra Valley Water: <https://yvw.csod.com/ats/careersite/search.aspx?site=1&c=yvw>

Australia Post: <https://auspost.com.au/jobs>

Telstra: <https://www.careers.telstra.com>





# Oasis CAMP Traineeships 2021

Oasis Camp is a not-for-profit organisation situated in Mount Evelyn on the picturesque foothills of Mount Dandenong. As a Christian campsite our mission is to provide life-enriching camping experiences to schools, corporate and community groups. We are looking for up and coming young leaders who want to develop their career in outdoor recreation and hospitality to serve in an energetic Christian work environment. Our trainees will embark on a year long adventure providing activities and hospitality to a diverse range of groups. They will be provided on an off-site training and will finish with a nationally accredited qualification (cert III in Outdoor Leadership through OETI).

**Do you want to develop exciting new skills or begin a career in outdoor recreation in 2021? If you are between 17-21 this traineeship may be for you!**



Please send expressions of interest to the assistant manager, Josh Chesterman:

**0433061206 | [josh@oasis.asn.au](mailto:josh@oasis.asn.au)**

## NEXT PRAYER MEETING

The next prayer meeting will be held on **Thursday the 10th of December at 7.30pm**

**Join the Zoom Meeting via the link below**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5625807703>

Meeting ID: **562 580 7703**

## BUDGET UPDATE

Finance Overview		
Jun-20	Budget	Actual
Funds in	29,190	21,680
Expenses	25,962	28,186
Year-to-date		
Funds in	240,255	240,780
Expenses	260,021	240,663

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## PRAYER POINTS

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**To pray is to accept that we are, and always will be, wholly dependent on God for everything.**  
**Timothy Keller**

**As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;**

**That we will learn to truly depend on Jesus especially when things get hard and the tendency is to take the reins ourselves.**

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11 NRSV)*

- Give thanks and praise to God for his promise that he will never forsake us or leave us but will carry us through every situation.
- Please continue to pray for all those amongst us who are suffering from cancer or recovering from it, we think of Martie Schachtner, Joke van der Veen, Gretchen Fourie, Veronica Fernando and others within our congregation.
- Please Pray for those of us suffering from dementia and those caring for them, we think of Johann and Hanna van der Walt and Suzanne and Phillip Nel.
- Please pray for the church in our nation, that we will continue to be a strong beacon even of governments pass laws that would seek to hamper us.
- Pray for our governments as they continue to lead us through this time of pandemic and the economic fallout from it as well as dealing with foreign powers seeking to impose their will on us.

Please continue to pray for our family in Christ in China. A communist textbook used in Chinese schools falsifies the biblical account of John 8:3–11. The textbook claims that Jesus murdered the woman found in adultery and said He, too, is a sinner. The textbook, published by the government states: "The crowd wanted to stone the woman to death, but Jesus said, 'Let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone.' Hearing this, they slipped away one by one. When the crowd disappeared, Jesus stoned the sinner to death, saying, 'I too am a sinner. But if the law could only be executed by men without blemish, the law would be dead.'" Christians in mainland China are distressed about the distortion of the biblical account. "I want everyone to know that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has always tried to distort the history and slander the Church," a parishioner was quoted as saying on social media.

Another Chinese Christian, identified as Paul, was quoted as saying, "The same pattern is repeated every year but the Church has never fought back or received the apology it deserves." Bitter Winter, a magazine that reports on religious liberty in China, noted the subtle objective behind manipulating the textbook. "The story teaches that the law and the Chinese Communist Party are good and pure, and transcend the impure human beings who happen to represent them. Even if the officers are corrupted, their decision should be accepted, because, honest or corrupted, they represent the Party, and the Party's law should never be questioned," the magazine writes. The magazine reported earlier that children were also being taught to oppose religion, encouraged to question the beliefs of family members and report those closest to them to authorities.

China has been cracking down on underground churches and Christian activists for years. In 2015, more than 1,000 crosses were removed from church roofs and entire church buildings were destroyed across the Zhejiang province. The Chinese government continued its campaign against Christianity during the country's coronavirus outbreak by destroying crosses and demolishing a church while people were on lockdown. More than 60 million Christians live in China, at least half of whom worship in unregistered or so-called illegal underground churches. China is ranked as one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to the persecution of Christians, according to Open Doors USA's World Watch List.

**Source:** *Christian Post*

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## KEY CONTACT DETAILS

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### ELDERS

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**Pastor**

Chris Pretorius  
0423 889 913  
pastor@wpcrc.org.au

**Youth Pastor**

Tim Gray  
0448 660 291  
youth@wpcrc.org.au

**Chairman and Worship Services**

Peter Williams  
0431 500 006

**Finance**

Lourens Geldenhuys  
0409 990 398

**Facilities Management**

Peter Day  
0404 227 776

**Youth and Children**

Ryan Weston  
0430 465 125

**Growth Groups**

Jack Organtzoglou  
0403 377 559

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### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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Margreet Day  
0491 117 900

### DEACONS

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Margreet Day  
0491 117 900 AH 9723 0753

Joy Van Veen  
0409 199 840

Gerry Smedes  
0432 559 725

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### ADMINISTRATION

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**Session Clerk & Church****Administrator**

Annandra Kock  
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or  
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0450 211 133  
Will Roodt  
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**Treasurer**

Nelleke Arnold  
treasurer@wpcrc.org.au  
0448 469 569

**Child Safe Coordinator**

Lynette Pretorius  
0423 889 912

### MINISTRY LEADERS

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**Prayer Ministry**

prayer@wpcrc.org.au  
Herman Linde  
0411 069 808

**Music Ministry**

Mia Van Wyk  
0420 817 800

**Sunday School Coordinator**

Nicky Bester  
0439 084 987

**Audio Visual**

Cassie Van Veen  
0499 230 872

**Crèche ministry**

Abigail Remminga  
0497 370 820

**Creative Space**

Elmie Schachtner  
0416 805 656

**GEMS**

(primary aged girls group)  
Lynette Pretorius  
0423 889 912

**Kids Hope Coordinator**

Enè Crous  
0450 211 133

**CAP Money Course**

Neil Bester  
0429 569 149  
Martin Van der Merwe  
0458 908 14

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### GIVING

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In our church we have 2 offerings every Sunday. The first offering goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various ministry organisations we support. If you would like to support this work you can do so in a few different ways:

**In church giving:** Simply add your offering to the offering bag.

**Bank Transfer: BSB:** 063 167 **Acc:** 1015 8356. For the Deacons **BSB:** 063167 **Acc:** 1015 8372

**Via Church App:** Download it here <https://wpcrc.org.au/app/>