
WELCOME

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, place it in the offering bag and one of our team will contact you. Alternatively send an email to 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 would also love to pray with you after the service. If you would like someone to pray with you, please remain in the main auditorium and a member of our prayer team will come and pray with you.

Community: We encourage you to stay after the service for coffee and fellowship. We would love to meet you and get to know you more. We have a **cry room** off to the side of the church for parents with infants. During school terms we also run a **Sunday School** program before the church service for high school aged children and during the church service for primary school aged children, and we have a **crèche** for ages 1-5 at the end of the main hallway.

Groups: We have a number of growth groups that meet throughout the week to pray for people, gather around God's word, and care for one another. If you would like to join a group, please contact pastor Chris (pastor@wpcrc.org.au).

25TH AND 26TH DEC - "JESUS THE GIFT" PART 1 AND PART 2

Matthew 2:1-12 (December 25th)

WISE MEN VISIT THE KING

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem,

2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born.

5 "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet:

6 And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah:

Because out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him.”

9 After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was — the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route. -- Matthew 2:1-12 (CSB)

Romans 5:1-11 (December 26th)

FAITH TRIUMPHS

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, 4 endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. 5 This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

THE JUSTIFIED ARE RECONCILED

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For rarely will someone die for a just person — though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. 8 But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 How much more then, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath. 10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11 And not only that, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation. -- Romans 5:1-11 (CSB)





DIARY



**25th and 26th December
and through January 2022**
(Please check Government CHO Orders for any variation to this)
10:00 am Online and in person Worship Service

GIVING

In our church we have 2 offerings every Sunday. The first offering goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering this Sunday goes toward RTC Overseas Education Fund. 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.

If using bank transfer: BSB: 063 167 Acc: 1015 8356.

If the offering is for the first collection please add your name and SUN 1 in the description line and if the offering is for the second collection add SUN 2

Any additional gifts for the Deacons are always appreciated and will go towards supporting people within and outside of our congregation.

For the Deacons BSB: 063167 Acc. 1015 8372

Via Church App: Online or via our church app: <https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

2ND OFFERING—26/12/21— RTC OVERSEAS EDUCATION FUND

2ND OFFERING DURING JANUARY

2 January - Candidacy Committee

9 January - Crossroads Prison Ministries

16 January - Diaconate

23 January - Train Workgroup for Ministry Formation

30 January - GOSPEL



Sarah	Pretorius	22 December	Harry	Vanderveen	21 January
Colin	Arnold	29 December	Willem	Kock	24 January
Roger	Fernando	6 January	Michelle	Organtzoglou	25 January
Hanna	van der Walt	7 January	Ilonka	Barnard	26 January
Ruben	Pretorius	12 January	Louwritz	Nel	27 January
Rachel	Viljoen	14 January	Nicky	Bester	28 January
Manie	Kritzinger	15 January	Maria	Knol	29 January
Kimberley	Barnabas	19 January	Maria	Smedes	30 January
Margaret	Vanderjagt	19 January	Chris	Pretorius	30 January
Lorensz	Stork	20 January	Lucretia	Aitken	30 January
Emily	Blashki	21 January	Jacinta	Oakley	3 February
Sam	Vanderjagt	21 January			



Sunday School Coordinator

We are seeking a volunteer to take up the role of Sunday School coordinator from the start of Term 1, 2022 as Nicky will now be stepping down from this role. For more information, even if you are only curious, please reach out to Chris or to Nicky who will happily discuss all the details with you. We can ensure that the transition is gradual, with plenty of support for the new coordinator whilst they settle into the new role.

CLASSIS MAROONDAH is seeking a new CLERK

Role:

A month prior to meetings, send out a call for agenda items. Compile the agenda material and email it to the churches. Work with the other members of the moderamen to arrange any logistical details (eg meeting location, examiners)

Attend the regular meetings in March, July and November, together with any extra meetings and take minutes of the meeting.

Distribute draft minutes and approved minutes to the churches in Australia and New Zealand. Many classes and presbyteries distribute draft minutes but some only distribute aired minutes

Deal with any incoming and outgoing correspondence needs.

Maintain rosters and records of decisions.

For further info please be in touch with Nigel Cunningham at classis.maroondah.clerk@gmail.com



Our next turn to help at the Dining Room Mission is on the **28th of December**, just a few days after Christmas.

We will be doing a BBQ and encouraging the guests to grab a plate and be served the bread rolls, rissoles, bacon, cheese, lettuce and tomato and sauce.

We also will have an alternative meal available and some desserts.

For this I will need some volunteers. If you think you can help on that afternoon/ evening please contact me. The persons working the BBQ's might need to be there from about 4pm and the persons serving from about 5 pm.

I look forward to your response.

Joy van Veen.



WORSHIP TEAM are looking for Singers and Instrumentalists to contribute to worship

If this is something you feel you would like to become involved in, please give Mia or Hennie van Wyk a call to discuss to see how you can become involved. Phone: Hennie 0420204538

BUDGET UPDATE

AS AT END OF OCTOBER 2021

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
FUNDS IN	\$19,417	\$16,616
EXPENSES	\$18,914	\$12,442

WEDDING INVITATION:

An open invitation is extended to all to attend the wedding ceremony of Alister Bennie and Adri Pretorius at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Camberwell at 12.00pm on the 15th January, 2022



Session Chair Monthly Update

December 2021

A lot of things happen in our church each month. Most of us know about only a few of them, so we don't get to see the overall scope of everything that's happening. So most months I'll aim to put together an overview of what's been going on. December is probably a dumb time to start as I'll probably skip January, but I thought it was worth getting it underway anyway.

Starting with Chris:

Chris has been working closely with Michelle, getting her up to speed with the mammoth amount of administration required in the church. He has found it to be a joy to work with her and have that load lightened so he can focus on other areas.

We are continuing our preaching series from Garden to Garden City. Chris has been delighted with the positive feedback from so many people. It seems like this series really fills a gap for people in seeing the big picture story of Scripture.

Chris is also working with 3 couples in pre-marriage counselling at the moment. They meet or met weekly for a number of weeks, for a couple of hours each. This takes up a lot of time, but is such a worthwhile investment in their faith life and future marriages.

He has met with, or is in the process of meeting with, all the ministry coordinators for ongoing support and ministry development. He is particularly excited about some plans being developed for growing our prayer ministry in the new year.

The new youth program has also been announced for the new year (postponed from Term 4 this year due to covid restrictions). GEMS finished at the end of Term 3 and will be joining up with the new youth program in 2022.

For the last month the young adults have enjoyed that restrictions have eased which means they can meet freely. Kasha outlines that they've spent the last month catching up on Wednesday Nights for board game and a time of fellowship which wasn't the same via zoom. Just a few weeks ago they went out to a restaurant for a big group catch up before Michelle flew out to Germany. They've found it great to catch up with one another and continue building the relationships they have, and they're looking forward to the Young Adults retreat happening in early January.

Regarding Session:

Herman Linde has taken up his role as Elder. Martin & Neil are taking on the treasurer role, with Martin as primary, and Lourens has given them a handover as he finishes up as Elder and Treasurer. Martin

will also take over the role of Public Officer (our church is an incorporated body). Michelle has started her administrator role and, in conjunction, is appointed as Session Clerk (a role required in our Church Order).

The AGM has been postponed until February in the hope that everyone can attend in person rather than on Zoom.

Childsafe is now a regular agenda item for Session meetings, and Lynette has been keeping our church family updated with the recent changes and improvements to child safety and legislative requirements.

We're looking to continue our support of Brendan Meyerink in his new central role with the Pioneers Faith mission. We're asking for an update from the van der Wels on their support needs.

The elders and deacons are planning to meet together regularly (quarterly?) and started this with a joint dinner.

The deacons are continuing to support various families within the church. The food kitchen involvement is continuing well. They also dealt with one of our trees which took down the Yarra Road powerlines during the storm a few weeks ago, which involved insurance claims and engaging contractors.

Worship services will continue to be broadcast and recorded as we all meet together again. For this we are heavily reliant on Cassie and James – they could really do with some support. The music team, too, is reliant on a small number of singers, and instrumentalists in particular. The structure of the services will undergo some minor ongoing tweaking over the next couple of months, but nothing dramatic.

I want to remind you of hiring of our church and church hall. Recently, Mia held her students' concert in our church, and I arranged a car club barbecue in our hall – it's a great location to use for such events. One of my guests said his expectation of a church hall was something dark and old, while our hall was a very pleasant surprise and the sort of place he's happy to visit. Don't underestimate the opportunity our hall hire provides to change people's perceptions of churches and Christians. It's part of the first of our 4 Es – Engaging with our community. Contact Michelle for hall hire details.

Finally, can I encourage you to look for opportunities to remind friends, family and fellow colleagues or students about the reality of Christmas. It might be a word or two, a note on social media or an online bulletin board, or what you write in a Christmas card if you still send those. As an example, I included this in my monthly report for my photography club (so 50+ people read it), and I think it's worth repeating here as well:

“Let me wish you a wonderful and precious Christmas. We can be distracted by shopping, sorting out presents and arranging family gatherings. We can get annoyed by Christmas Carols played endlessly in shops and everywhere, always (for reasons unfathomable to me) “updated” to the singing style of the 1950s. But central to Christmas is God's gift - offered to anyone and everyone who will accept it - of the Christ, to restore the love relationship with God that he designed us for - a gift that was fulfilled at the first Easter. Tinsel and lights are pretty. Giving gifts to friends and loved ones is precious. But there is a greater gift that is the reason for a merry Christmas to also be a joyous Christmas.”

So – let me wish you a joyous Christmas.

Peter

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Most of our pastoral care takes place within our growth groups, but we also have a dedicated pastoral care team to supplement this. If you would like to be visited, please feel free to contact any of our pastoral care team

Peter Williams
0431 500 006

Kasha Schubert
0450 012 177

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

Michelle Organtzoglou
0488 777 517

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Harry Berends
0421 302 418

Ina Du Plessis
0425 833 596

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

GROWTH GROUPS

We have a number of growth groups in our church, please contact the person listed below to connect to one. We have a few specific groups (noted below) as well as some general groups.

Sunday afternoons (Afrikaans in person)

Contact: Lourens Geldenhuys

insightabs@bigpond.com

0409 990 398

Monday Nights (currently online)

Contact Peter Williams

pw4@live.com.au

0431 500 006

Wednesday Nights

(Young Adults, hybrid in person and online)

Contact: Kasha Schubert

kasha.schubert@hotmail.com

0450 012 177

Wednesday Nights (In person)

Contact: Lynette Pretorius

pretorius.lynette@gmail.com

0423 889 912

Wednesday Nights (Online)

Contact: Neil Bester

neil_bester@yahoo.com

0429 569 149

and Martin Van der Merwe

martin.vandermerwe@bigpond.com

0458 908 148

Wednesday Nights (Online)

Contact: Chris Pretorius

pastor@wpcrc.org.au

0423 889 913

Thursday Mornings (In person)

Contact: Wendy Harrison

wendy@tagroofing.com.au

0407 801 630

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

ELDERS

Pastor

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

Youth Pastor

Position vacant

Chairman and Worship Services

Peter Williams
0431 500 006

Finance

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

Growth Groups

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

Harry Berends
0421 302 418

ADMINISTRATION

**Session Clerk & Church
Administrator**

Michelle Organtzoglou
0488 777 517
clerk@wpcrc.org.au
admin@wpcrc.org.au

DEACONS

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Sandra Stork
0418 592 206

Lizet Kritzinger
0405 762 190

Dale Reed
0412 216 300

ADMINISTRATION

Newsletter Editors

newsletter@wpcrc.org.au
Enè Crous
0450 211 133

Gina Herft
0411 694 316

Treasurer

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

Child Safe Coordinator

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

MINISTRY LEADERS

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

Sarah Pretorius
0409 221 277

Kids Hope Coordinator

Enè Crous
0450 211 133

CAP Money Course

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

CONNECT WITH US

If you would like someone from church to connect with you, please fill in this page, tear it off and put it in the offering bag.

Your name:

Contact number:

Contact email:

Notes: