Get to Know Living Water

Pathway to membership and serving

As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another...
1Peter 4:10

living water
ANGLICAN CHURCH

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WHY JOIN A LOCAL CHURCH?

Being a member of a local church (parish) is a physical expression of our spiritual union with Jesus Christ and is vital for the health and maturity of our faith. Every believer is to have a Christian community of local belonging; a community within which believers are known, loved and discipled, where they give and receive care, have spiritual oversight through pastoral leadership, and use their gifts and abilities for the building up of the church and the common good. The principle of committed belonging for every follower of Jesus undergirds all the teaching about the church and her call to love and mission in the Bible.

OUR STORY SO FAR…

Living Water began as a church plant from St John's Church, York Street, Albany, in 1998, and as part of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury.

From the start Living Water was intentional in being a church that would bear witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ: where everyone would feel welcome, children would be included, worship would be contemporary and meaningful, and where Jesus and his mission would be the centre and focus of everything.

A key aspect of our ministry of care and hope to our city are the Community Store and The Good Life Community Garden located onsite. These projects, and many others over the years, all form part of our ongoing commitment to be a community that loves Jesus and loves our neighbour.

As we look to the future, we are confident in the Lord, that the story we are living into will continue to bear witness to the love of God in Jesus

Christ and as we grow, our desire is to be a wellspring of 'living water' in this place, both as individuals and as a community for the benefit of our families, our friends, our city and beyond.

LIVING WATER'S DNA

DNA is fascinating because each of us is unique with distinctive characteristics and so much of this is determined by our DNA.

In many ways every church also has a 'DNA' of distinctive characteristics that Jesus has formed us with. So what is Living Water's DNA?

We are a community that has come into existence through the **LOVE** of God in Jesus Christ. And this **LOVE** is expressed among us in these five key ways:

JESUS

We believe he's the centre of all of life: the Son of God, the Lord and Saviour of the world! He's the reason for life, and without him it's impossible to know God as he truly is: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe the Bible and its testimony about him, and we deeply sense his joyful call on us to make him known in Albany and the rest of the world.

COMMUNITY

We believe following Jesus is something that we do together. We love sharing life with one another. For this reason, Life Groups are at the heart of our church because in these small groups we find acceptance and belonging as we grow in discipleship and learn to live in the love of Jesus. We learn to give and receive care in times of need, we learn to pray, to serve, and we learn generosity as we grow in humility, forgiveness and grace. God's love is experienced in the love of his people in community.

MINISTRY of all

We believe Jesus has gifted each one of us for the ministry of building one another up. We need each other! And although we all have different gifts and different areas of responsibility, we are all equally valuable for our health and growth as a body. Serving one another and together serving our city, is our great joy and privilege.

PRAYER

We believe one of the most wonderful experiences of our life in Jesus is that God hears and answers us when we pray. As such, prayer is a 'generative' engagement with God in that as we pray, our faith is strengthened, our hearts encouraged and our lives shaped by his loving goodness. Whether we are praying privately or in prayer groups, in healing ministry groups, contemplatively or corporately on Sundays, prayer remains our foundational life-giving experience in Jesus.

JOY

God's Spirit is at work in us and he brings us joy! This joy lives in us because Jesus laid down his life for us and was resurrected for our reconciliation with God. Being loved by God makes our joy complete and

binds us together across all ages: from our precious children to our enthusiastic seniors. In everyday life and when we gather on Sundays we love to celebrate and rejoice in what Jesus has done for us.

The love of God continues to transform us individually and as a community and these five marks are the fruit of his life in us.

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAYS

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION & COMMUNION

The Meaning and Practice of Baptism (An Anglican Perspective)

Baptism is a wonderful gift that Jesus has given his church. Like communion, it's meant to be a sign of God's saving love for us in Jesus and our unity in him as the church.

It's important to acknowledge that there are differing views about baptism in the church at large and in our own church, but that we can live together in unity knowing that baptism is not a primary matter of faith but very much a secondary one.

Firstly, we will outline the meaning of baptism, about which there is almost unanimous agreement across the Christian Church. Second, we will look at the practice of baptism, about which there are differing views. Third, we will answer some questions that often come up in church life about baptism, confirmation and communion.

1. The Meaning of Baptism

The word baptism means to be plunged or dipped in/into water. Although baptism is sometimes used metaphorically in the New Testament (eg: Jesus

talked about being 'baptized' with reference to his death Mk 10:38), the regular literal usage indicates a significant wetting action.

What does baptism actually mean?

There are three strands that woven together hold the essence of baptism.

1. Water baptism is a sign, a symbol, pointing to the new birth that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. The gospel made visible.
2. It points to our spiritual immersion in the death of Christ, from which we emerge as new creatures in resurrection life, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. Baptism is an initiation into the Christian church and marks the person as a disciple of Jesus, and into a lifelong commitment to him and to his people, the church.

What happens at baptism?

Baptism (like communion) became known as sacraments by about the late second century. The word 'sacrament' comes from Latin and means: mystery, sacred, something holy and a solemn oath.

The reason this term came into use was because baptism and communion are more than simply commands to be obeyed, or just empty rituals or symbols, but rather they are 'means of grace'. They are outward signs of inward grace and they are instrumental because, when they are received by faith, Jesus by his Spirit is present, and ministers his grace and love to his people.

Jesus commanded his followers to be baptized in, or into, the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matt28:19), so at our baptism we are united together in the name of God, we are given his name – we belong to him.

So in summary, what is baptism?

It is a sign pointing to the salvation that Jesus brings, and when we receive baptism with our hearts set upon Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, God's Spirit confirms and strengthens our faith, and also the faith of all those in attendance, as together we see the gospel made visible. We are also given the name of the Lord (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), we now belong to him. Baptism is a cause for great celebration!

2. The Practice of Baptism

We are not given very much in terms of commands about the practice of baptism in the Bible. We are told what it is, and what it means, and we are commanded to do it. But we only have a few historical accounts and descriptions in the Bible about the practice, and what we do have is influenced by the historical context of the 1st century.

So when it comes to actually practicing baptism, the Bible doesn't regulate, or give specific commands exactly how to baptize. For example, it doesn't say use this much water only, and any other amount is wrong. It doesn't say a person must be a certain age before they can be baptized and any other age is therefore wrong, or a person must say a particular profession of words and any other words would be wrong.

As a result, the church's view has been that there is a degree of freedom in the practice of baptism, but due care should be taken to ensure that the principles of the meaning of baptism are responsibly reflected in our practice.

What is Confirmation?

The Confirmation Service is an opportunity for adults to profess one's faith whether baptized as a child or as an adult, and be received into the Anglican Church. Baptism initiates believers into God's church universal,

while Confirmation welcomes believers into the Anglican church in particular.

The Bishop is present at Confirmation Services as a symbol of our unity in the apostolic gospel tradition. The Bishop lays hands and prays for the confirmee to be filled with, strengthened by and receive the gifts of, the Holy Spirit, so that the person may take their place in the life of the church not only as a disciple but as a disciple maker.

The Bishop will also **Receive** (equivalent to Confirmation) believers into the Anglican church who have already been baptized and made public professions of faith in other Christian traditions.

Being confirmed is a requirement in order to fulfill certain ministry roles in the Anglican Church including licensed lay ministry and being a parish representative at synod (The annual meeting of the Diocese).

What is Communion?

Communion, also known as Eucharist (thanksgiving), is the meal of bread and wine that symbolize Jesus' body and blood which he gave for us, in his death on the cross.

Jesus commanded the church that whenever we eat the bread and drink the wine in his name, we do so for the remembrance of him. Like baptism, communion is a sacrament in that it is an outward sign of an inward grace, it is the gospel made visible, and it is instrumental as a means of grace because when received by faith, Jesus by his Spirit is present and ministers his grace and love to us, his people.

At Living Water we invite the church to come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread and the wine. When receiving the bread we hear the words 'The body of Christ keep you in eternal life, and when drinking the

wine from the cup, or while dipping the bread in the bowl, we hear the words, 'The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation'.

If you have any questions about baptism, confirmation and communion please feel free to approach and discuss these the Minister. Please also see the baptism page on our church website for more information.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Living Water offers two structured discipleship training pathways.

Internship.

The vision of the LWAC Internship Programme is to provide an opportunity for disciples of Jesus to grow in knowledge and experience in Christian ministry, by participating in vocational training as well as local church based ministry. The aim is maturity in knowing, loving and serving God and others.

The vocational training component of the internship (CertIV in Christian Ministry & Theology 10742NAT) takes place at the Great Southern Training Hub, located at Albany Baptist Church, and the practical ministry component takes place within the life of Living Water.

Diploma in Christian Ministry & Theology (11238NAT)

Beginning in 2025, as a pilot year, Living Water is working in partnership with both Eastern College Australia (RTO 22065) under the auspices of Melbourne School of Theology, as well as the Great Southern Training Hub based in Albany, to deliver this VET accredited Diploma. The training is non-denominational and aims to strengthen and equip lay members of churches throughout the region.

SERVING AT LIVING WATER

'… the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.' Mk10:45

To receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour means that we have been served by him in forgiving our sins and reconciling us to God. He has washed us. It is the most **profound** act of service ever…

'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you…you will be blessed if you do them.' Jn 13:14ff

Like our lord we are called to serve others, and the goal of our service is to use our gifts and abilities and in the power of the Holy Spirit build one another up in our Christian lives. We need one another in order to grow and mature

" 7But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it… … 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Eph 4

WHO DO I CONTACT ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED?

1. email admin@lwac.org.au with your enquiry and we will put you in touch with the ministry leader concerned.

2. fill in a **Let's Connect** online form on our website, indicating your interest to serve and we'll be in touch with you.

ALPHA COURSES

We run an ALPHA course each year after Easter. It is a significant evangelistic programme of our church. Are you interested in serving at Alpha?

People to invite friends and family, Table Facilitators, Cooks and kitchen hands

PRAYER

Prayer and Worship are the foundation of everything we do at Living Water. In prayer we come to God in praise and for help and healing, and we also come to God on behalf of others. There are a number of ways in which you can serve in prayer:

Pray for members of our church each week

A great place to start is to pray for the 3 families of our church that we publish each week in the bulletin and e-news.

Intercessory Team

We have a team of intercessors who pray in their own time, guided by the weekly emails that are sent in response to people's requests for prayer. The team also meets Tuesday mornings with church staff for an hour to pray for the needs of Living Water members and the mission of the church.

PASTORAL CARE

Most of our pastoral care needs are met through our Life Groups where we encourage everyone to be involved in caring for one another. However, we also have a Pastoral Care team within Living Water to undertake and support this shepherding ministry.

Serving in this role requires training and Licensing for Pastoral Care.

MINISTRY TO PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

To share the love of the Lord Jesus with people who live in Residential Aged Care. It is such a blessing and encouragement to the residents who are no longer able to fellowship at church.

Serving in this role requires training and Licensing for Extended Communion Ministry.

COMMUNITY STORE

The store provides good quality clothes and merchandise at very reasonable cost to the Albany community, as a way of providing Christian outreach. It is a store where everyone is welcome to come and browse or to have a chat. You could help with sorting and pricing of donations, serving our clients or making them a tea/coffee.

If you feel called to reach out to the community, then consider joining our awesome team of volunteers.

GOOD LIFE COMMUNITY GARDEN

We aim to demonstrate God's love through generosity, compassion and community. Gardening offers us beauty and simplicity and opportunity for connection and community.

Serving in the garden will assist in ensuring the Garden is a wonderful place for people to connect and share life.

GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE

We have great buildings and grounds that allow us to worship God together and to serve the wider community of Albany. Our site consists of the church building, Community House, Community Store, Good Life Community Garden shed and gazebo, and the church office building. We want God to be glorified through our use of all these buildings, which need to be maintained, as do the grounds.

Could you assist with maintenance needs on our site?

CREATIVE ARTS AND MUSIC

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest story ever told! Music, fine art, graphic design and media/video production are all key tools in helping us to tell this life-giving story for the benefit of our church and our broader community. Our team of creatives harness the power and beauty of the arts to lift Jesus up and invite us in to His story. There are three main creative areas in which you may like to share the creative gifts God has given you.

Could you assist with Art Installations, Media and Graphic Design, Music?

SOUND AND SCREEN

A vital ministry for our worship services is the one rarely seen! Operating the audio and screen systems. Previous experience and a tech mind is helpful but not essential, training will be provided. We have workshops once a quarter for training and to connect with others involved in services and the music teams.

Could you serve in Sound & Screen Ministry?

SUNDAY HOSTING

The aim of Sunday Hosting is to provide a welcoming presence to all who come to worship and ensure their comfort during the service.

We have welcomers at the Sunday morning and evening services.

Serving in this role is a great way to get to know the people of our church.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"It takes a village to raise a child." We love supporting our families in raising their children to know and love God. We provide creche (18months – yr1) and Kid's Church (yr2-6) programmes for the Sunday morning and evening services.

Are you gifted to inspire and nurture the spiritual growth of our children, to be a part of sowing spiritual seeds into the next generation?

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Our ministry with youth (yr7-12) and young adults (17-27ish) is mainly centred around involvement at our Sunday evening 5pm service (CU@5). Young Adults also meet weekly in lifegroups. Consider getting involved in youth / young adult ministry at LW.

Are you gifted in helping young people grow in discipleship?

KITCHEN MINISTRY

A ministry that welcomes one and all. Helping to provide the opportunity for warm fellowship over a cuppa or even a meal, and at the same time experiencing warm fellowship serving together in the kitchen.

Tea and Coffee

At Sunday services.

CU@5 meals ministry

If you like to cook for a crowd then we would love your help in cooking on a Sunday evening. We love to provide meals to enable deep fellowship and evangelistic connection.

Baking

If you like to bake, there are always opportunities to bless others in the life of the church.

Meals Ministry

When people are in need due to illness, recent bereavement, moving house or personal crisis, we like to be able to help with meals. We have a stash in the kitchen freezer or we make them fresh as needed.

SAFE CHURCH

The goal of Safe Church is to provide appropriately safe environments for everyone, especially those most vulnerable. Safe Church is an important aspect of our serving life and ensures that people who serve at different levels of responsibility are appropriately authorised to do so. Safe Church involves Working with Children Cards as well as some online training and identity verification documentation dependant on the different areas of service in the life of the church.

MEMBERSHIP

Pastoral Membership

Being a part of a local church (parish) is God's vision for the health and maturity of his people. By joining the Pastoral Roll of Living Water you are indicating:

- your affirmation of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

- your desire to know and be known to this congregation.

- your willingness to participate and support the ministry of the church, for the progress of its vision, values and goals.

- your support of the governance and leadership of the church.

Voting Membership

There is a second aspect to membership that concerns the annual meeting that is held each year, and the voting rights associated with it. At our annual meeting, various ministry reports are published, including; the audited financials for the year, a proposed budget for the year ahead, the missions report and the Senior Minister's annual report. Office bearers are also elected at this meeting.

To be a voting member means:

You are a baptised, communicant (receiving communion) member who:

- Has regularly attended public worship for at least three months in a parish within the Diocese: and
- Has attained the age of 18 years: and
- Has taken communion at least three times in the parish in the preceding 12 months; and
- Has elected to be on the electoral roll of this parish and no other except with the approval of the Bishop.
- Is a member of this parish and no other.

The annual meeting at Living Water takes place in February each year, while the election of Office Bearers takes place in November each year.

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Living Water Anglican Church, Parish of Oyster Harbour, is part of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury.

Parish Council

The church is formally served by Ministers (who are licensed by the Bishop), three wardens, as well as parish-elected councillors. Altogether they constitute Parish Council (PC). All elections for Parish Councillors and wardens as well as Synod representatives take place at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP).

Finance

Living Water is responsible for all costs associated with the ministry of the parish. We don't receive funding from any other source apart from the generosity of our members. A percentage of our general giving is subject to Diocesan assessment and is paid over to assist with Diocesan administration, global mission, and to support parishes in need.

Living Water is also committed to partnering with like-minded organisations in furthering the cause of Jesus in the wider world. Parish Council sets aside an additional 10% of our general giving to support partner mission and ministry organisations. These organisations are listed on our website. The remaining funds are used to fund staff, and all other parish costs.

Biblical Principles about Generosity and Giving

Generosity is a fruit of the Holy Spirit's work of transforming our hearts into those that love the things that God loves. The scriptures call on all

believers as a matter of obedience, to be generous with their time, talents and treasure for the benefit of those in need (particularly those who cannot support themselves), and for the work of the gospel in the local church and beyond.

Two reasons for this call to be generous are firstly, that generous and cheerful giving is pleasing to the Lord (2 Corinthians 9:7) and the second is because of the underlying stewardship principle that the Lord is creator, and therefore everything ultimately belongs to him. Our possessions are never our own; we are stewards, a trust from the Lord to be enjoyed, appreciated, shared and used for his glory.

The question of, 'How much should I give?', is one that only each individual can answer in response to the Lord's leading. We are each to give as the Lord leads and enables.

> *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a* ***cheerful*** *giver." 2Cor 9:7*

8 Biblical Reasons to Give

1. It provides for God's work in the church
2. It affirms that I trust God for my provision
3. It creates 'space' to see God's provision in my life.
4. It reminds me that I am not my source
5. It connects my resources to God's kingdom purposes
6. It gives my work/employment kingdom significance
7. It works to break greed and self reliance in my heart
8. It proclaims over everything in my life that God is first.

How can I give?

1. Give in **cash** or **cheque** at Sunday services in the Locked Box on the wall at the entrance.

2. Use the **envelopes** provided at the church entrance. There are envelopes for weekly giving to the General Fund as well as to the Building Fund.

3. Direct deposit into our **General account**:

Living Water, BSB 706-001, AC: 30004022

Giving to the General Account assists the parish in meeting all costs of running the parish including staffing.

4. Direct deposit into our **Building Fund** account:

Living Water, BSB 706-001, AC: 30004023

Our Building Account receives donations that are used to meet our church Building Loan repayments exclusively.

Conclusion:

To make Living Water your home church and become involved playing your part, apply to become a member of the pastoral roll and click this link: https://lwac.org.au/getting-involved/make-living-water-your-spiritual-home

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