

WOLLONGONG REGIONAL PRAYER DIARY



Summer 2024

ABBREVIATIONS:

A Administration; AAM Acting Assistant Minister, AdM Administration Manager; AR Acting Rector; AM Assistant Minister; ACF Assistant Children's & Families; ACH Assistant Chaplain, ACM Assistant Children's Minister; AO Accounts Officer, CA Creative Arts (& Worship), CF Children & Families, CH Chaplain, CL Cleaner, CM Children's Minister; CMI Children's Ministry Intern; CPE Clinical Pastoral Education, COM Communications, CRO Community Relations Officer; E Evangelist; EM Executive Manager; FM Family Minister; GAI Graphic Arts Intern; HC Head of Campus, HCA Healthcare Chaplains Association, HJS Head Junior School, Hon Honorary, HR Human Resources, HS Head of School, IS International Students, KC Kid's Church, L Locum; LSL Long Service Leave; LM Lay Minister; M Music; MA Ministry Apprentice; MM Mothers' Minister, Mis Lay Missionary; MTS Ministry Training Strategy; pt Part time; PA Personal Assistant; PC Pastoral Care, PV Pastoral Visitation, PW Pastoral Worker; SAM Senior Assistant Minister; S Scripture; SC School Chaplain; Sch School Ministry, SGM Small Groups Minister; SenM Senior's Ministry; SG Small Groups SLW Stipendiary Lay Worker; SM Student Minister; SS Site Supervisor; T Technology, TSS Technical & Site Supv, WM Women's Minister; WPC Women's Pastoral Care, YAM Young Adults Ministry; YC Youth Ministry Co-ordinator; YI Youth Intern; YM Youth Minister; YT or Y13 Youthworks Trainee.

WOLLONGONG REGIONAL MINISTRIES

DAY 1:

BISHOP Peter & Julie Hayward:

Thanks:

God continues to sustain Julie and Peter with health and energy for our various ministry responsibilities; for the organisation and administration of the Regional Office by Susan Aubin and Anthony Douglas that makes ministry across the Region such a joy; for the encouragement of hearing the work of God in people turning to Jesus and living as his disciples.

Pray:

God will use *Hope for the Illawarra* to bring many children, youth, and adults to become Christians; for wisdom in making decisions that

weighs all things from the vantage point of eternity; God will give us continuous delight in his word, and we will serve the Lord with joy and gladness in all circumstances.

ARCHDEACON Anthony & Jude Douglas:

Give thanks for the opportunity to serve the saints at Figtree as locum over the summer, and for the faithfulness of the ministry team there. Pray for some good rest, and also for the chance to give some focused attention to other tasks.

WOLLONGONG REGIONAL COUNCIL:

Pray for the members of the Regional Council in their individual ministries, and give thanks for their willingness to invest their time and gifts in the wider work of the gospel through the region.

DAY 2:

MISSION AREA: Shoalhaven

MISSION LEADER: Rev Marty Davis:

BERRY: Rev Simon & Amy Chaplin, Cecilie Lewis (A):

Pray for God's help to get some new initiatives off the ground in the year ahead - for people to be willing to support and lead them. Pray that people in our community would respond to the good news of Jesus and that we would endeavour to be prayerful for the lost and bold in reaching out as a church.

BOMADERRY: Rev Toby & Carolyn Campbell, Lyndal Estherby (HonCM):

CULBURRA BEACH: Rev Paul & Ingrid McPhail:

DAY 3:

JERVIS BAY & ST GEORGES BASIN: Rev Campbell & Mel Mackay, Debra Evelyn (ptPC):

Pray for good connections with both local community and holiday makers over the Christmas/January period. Pray for energy for staff and key leaders over a busy time. Give thanks for our recent welcome afternoon tea for those who've joined us in the last few months. Pray that they will be welcomed well, and will join us in making Jesus known. Give thanks that initial conversations with Council about our

DAY 30:

MOTHERS' UNION: Simone Boswell (VP Wollongong Region):

Many thanks to our Lord Jesus for the precious MU ladies who serve their members and maintain contact, encouragement, teaching and care through regular phone calls, visits, care packages and emails. Please pray for the good health of our presidents, secretaries and treasurers, as well as the members. May they continue to shine a light for Jesus in our community.

EMERGENCY SERVICES CHAPLAINS: Police (Rev Geoff Webb): Pray for Geoff's ministry that he will be effective in supporting police in their highly stressful role in the community.

RFS - (Rev Aiden Sibrava):

YOUTHWORKS MINISTRY SUPPORT & SRE OFFICE: Andy Stevenson (Head MST), Vacant (Children's Ministry & Primary SRE Advisor), Rev Matt Bartlett (Youth Ministry & High School SRE Advisor), Rev Bec Baines (Youthworks Accessibility Ministry Advisor):

Give thanks for the year in SRE and pray that enrolments for SRE in 2025 would be high. Pray that God would provide the right person to take over from Tim Beilharz as the Wollongong Region Children's Ministry Advisor. Pray for safety and effectiveness for the 2x LiT camps happening in January, and for Matt Bartlett & Andy Stevenson as they direct these camps.

DAY 31:

REGIONAL CHURCH FAMILY

Pray and give praise for our Regional Church family, in particular our church families in each parish. May we reflect God's light of love to all those who walk in the darkness around us. Also give thanks and pray for our Archbishop Kanishka Raffel, his Assistant Bishops, and other staff in "Head Office" as they lead and support the ministry of our Lord's gospel message throughout the Diocese.

practical care to their local communities at times of increased risk and vulnerability. Please pray: for solace and healing for people traumatised by disasters of the past few years, with fears of new emergencies in the near future; for the emotional wellbeing of our volunteers who often go from disaster to disaster with little time to rest and recharge; for God to raise up new team leaders to build teams and coordinate volunteers in remote areas.

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Community Living Supports for Refugees

EVERYDAY ENGLISH: Susan Radkovic:

Give thanks for our wonderful volunteers across the region who faithfully come in each week to teach Everyday English and the Bible. Pray for the classes over this time as the students learn about the coming of a Saviour who brings joy to the world. Pray too for the Anglicare Summer Conference on January 31st at MBM on the theme, Sharing Stories – Sharing Life. Pray for Omar Anheluk from Campsie as he speaks to the volunteers and the other elective speakers.

Classes are at Bulli / Keiraville / Wollongong / West Wollongong / Warrawong / Nowra / Jannali / Gymea / Miranda / Ulladulla / Shellharbour Village.

ANGLICAN DEACONESS MINISTRIES: Mary Un (CEO), Dr Laurel Moffatt (Principal Mary Andrews College), Rachel Ciano (Dean Academic Development), Louisa Raggatt (Community & Engagement Manager):

Pray that God will raise up women in 2025 to study theology and practical ministry with Mary Andrews College so that they can be a blessing to their churches and communities. Would God place on women's hearts the desire to bring a love of Jesus to a hurting world and may the college teach in such a way that honours this heavenly call. Grateful to have Amy Yeung join the team as Program Coordinator to support the work of the Mental Health and Pastoral Care Institute. Prayer for wisdom as we consider the needs of churches and prepare to equip them to support mental health and wellbeing in 2025 and beyond. Pray for those who will find Christmas difficult. Many will experience loneliness, grief, family tensions, stress, and more during this season. Pray that amidst life's challenges we can experience the peace, hope and joy of Immanuel, God with us.

amended DA have been positive. Pray for the assessment process, and especially for a positive and timely outcome!

KANGAROO VALLEY: Rev Andrew & Bron Heron, Kate Hole (ptCM):

NOWRA: Rev Geoff & Anne Thompson, Rev Rusdyan Cocks (AM), Rev Ray & Sue Beckman (OH), Hannah Shadlow (CM), Sandy Wade-Ferrell (Community Care/HopeCentre), Rev Gilbert & Ruth Page, Linda Staples (MCP), Narelle Stanbury (EFL), Vacant (A): Community Care/HopeCentre:

As we approach Christmas, All Saints Nowra will farewell Rev Rusdyan Cocks. In the new year we will welcome Mitch & Skye Walker to the Shoalhaven. Mitch will take up the role of Assistant Minister. Please pray for their settling in. Rev Ian Stenhouse has been helping us out this year and will come onto our team 2 days a week in '25. Please also pray for Sandy Wade-Ferrell (our irreplaceable community chaplain) just starting to get mobile again after a freakish kayak accident that resulted in a broken leg! Pray for our Christmas outreach in Nowra and Nerriga. Please pray for Hannah (children's minister) who has worked tirelessly and creatively this year as she recharges over January. Pray for our church as we reset our team, reset our mission goals and strategy, and arrive in some clear space (God willing) after a challenging and tiring couple of years.

DAY 4:

SCHOOLS:

Nowra Anglican College: Lorrae Sampson (Principal), Brendan Gorman (Dep. Principal), Ben Bridges (Dep. Principal), Nathan Bell (Head SS), Rachel Watt (Head JS), Rev Cameron Watt (CH):

SHOALHAVEN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CHURCH (ShACC): Brendon Garlett (Pastor):

SHOALHAVEN HEADS: Rev Craig & Corinne Langstaff, Amanda & Jonathon Stavert (Y&CM), Lyn Elsholz (Adm&SenM):

Give thanks for the welcome offered to Craig and Corinne. Pray for good follow-up after 'Carols on the Lawn' on Saturday 14th December. Pray for help in 2025 planning, particularly in the areas of evangelism and ministry among children and youth. Pray for more young families to join and for the children's ministry to grow. Pray for Amanda as she

returns from maternity leave in January, and for her and Craig to establish a strong ministry partnership.

DAY 5:

SUSSEX INLET: Rev Marty & Vivien Davis:

Give thanks for the growth of our Playtime group and the coordinator Bron. Pray that we can build on the connections and have gospel conversations. Pray that we would see more young families in church. Give thanks for those who are new to church this year and for God's work in their lives. Pray for our endeavours to start new evangelistic groups in 2025. Pray for 'Carols in the Car Park' on Sunday Dec. 15 – for fine weather and a clear message of the good news of the birth of the Saviour to people in our community. We give thanks for a good uptake for SRE enrolments for 2024 and pray for that again in 2025.

MILTON & ULLADULLA: Rev Aiden & Jess Sibrava, Dave & Jane Saunders (ptSLW):

New staff member coming on board (details pending).

Give thanks: for Dave Saunders finishing well and pray God's provision for next steps; for capital improvement on our sites; for Milton and Ulladulla, celebrating 30 and 165 years next year. Pray for Christmas Outreach including Milton night markets, Summer beach missions in parish; a restful January for Aiden and Jessica. Give thanks for Kindred Coffee on-site at Milton becoming a "third place" where church members and the wider community mix freely, and for increasing gospel-heartedness and sense of excitement among parishioners.

DAY 6:

MISSION AREA: Southern Highlands

MISSION LEADER: Rev Dean Reilly:

BOWRAL: Rev Gavin & Amy Perkins, Rev Graham & Naomi Schultz (AM), Rev Matt & Keren Jacobs (YM), Jaryd Hoffman (CM), Glenys Howarth, Kate Pearse & Sarah Bull (SLW), Allan Beavis (M), Ash McAulay & Catherine Nelson (A):

Give thanks: for 150 years of faithful ministry of the word on this site, which we celebrated on November 17; for a successful men's breakfast, with good attendance and connections formed between members of different congregations; for the women's dinner, where 40 bags were

DAY 28:

ANGLICARE OP SHOPS:

Give thanks: for the individuals and local churches and schools who partner with us and donate pre-loved clothing and accessories to sell through the Op Shops; for our faithful Op Shop staff and the many ways they impact and enrich the community each day; for the many volunteers who choose to serve in Op Shops and practically apply their talents and passions.

ANGLICARE RESIDENTIAL CARE:

Eileen Armstrong House – Woonona, Jean Ross House – Nowra, Piper House – Dapto, Mildred Symons House – Jannali, Goodhew Gardens & Bay Breeze – Taren Point

Give thanks: for the dedicated staff and volunteers working in Anglicare residential care homes; for the many chapel services and Bible studies held across residential care homes and the opportunity the chaplains and pastoral carers have to encourage residents in their faith. Please pray: that God will raise up new volunteers to assist the chaplains and pastoral carers in caring spiritually for people living in residential care; for the ability to care for residents who are increasingly frail and living with dementia; for opportunities across the organisation to deepen skills in palliative care, dementia care and mental health in older people.

RETIREMENT LIVING

Donald Robinson Village Kirrawee, Woolooware Shores, St Lukes Village Dapto

Give thanks: for our residents, each uniquely made in God's image; for Christian residents who encourage and look out for their neighbours with a desire to point them to Jesus. Please pray: that the Anglicare staff who work in retirement living will be able to identify individuals who are feeling isolated and support them to find joy in their community; for ongoing opportunities to share Jesus' love, grace and mercy with those who don't yet know him; that residents who follow Jesus continue to be amazed by his love. And for more opportunities to share the gospel.

DAY 29:

DISASTER RECOVERY: Magnus Linder (DR Mgr), Kevin Cassanego (Asst DR Mgr):

Give thanks: for our amazing team of committed, experienced and compassionate volunteers who continue to serve faithfully and diligently; for opportunities to partner with churches in providing disaster relief and

People Living With Dementia

Give thanks for the expertise and passion our staff have for serving and supporting dementia care sufferers and their families.

Please pray: for staff and clients who are experiencing illness, loneliness or disappointment; for our government, which is considering what reforms should be made to the home care sector to improve the care and services older people receive; for those suffering with dementia that they will experience the peace and love of God.

DAY 27:

ANGLICARE CHRISTIAN CARE, MISSION & PARTNERSHIP:

Wendy Potts (Learning Consultant—Gospel Communications):

Give thanks: for all our staff who live our vision, mission and values each day; that God's love will be shown and shared through Anglicare's work; for the ongoing creative opportunities to share Christ.

Please pray: for our courses, resources and various growth opportunities that support a deeper understanding of our purpose and the faith journey of staff, clients and residents; that people who don't yet know Jesus personally will encounter him and the hope of the gospel through our staff and services.

David Lawrence (Partnership Dev.):

Due to Family circumstances, I will be stepping down from the Partnerships role, at the end of December. Anglicare has kindly allowed me to continue working 2 days per week, with the same team. There will be a new Partnership Development Officer, commencing in January 2025. Please pray for a smooth handover and continued growth of our partnership with parishes in the Illawarra.

ANGLICARE'S JOURNEY TO RECONCILIATION:

Give thanks: for God's eternal love for all people groups and nations; for all First Nations staff within Anglicare. Please pray: that all Australians will show love, dignity, respect and care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; that we will be able to recruit more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members so we can effectively serve their communities; for Anglicare's ongoing commitment to closing the gap for Aboriginal people in the areas of health, access to services, family displacement, separation and incarceration of Aboriginal people.

packed with articles donated by congregation members for the charity *Community First Steps* which works with vulnerable women in the south west of Sydney; for the completion of a further stage of restoration of the traditional church. Pray: for Toys 'n' Tucker collection and distribution, that our people will be generous and that the disadvantaged in our community will be helped; for Christmas services and activities, that Christ will be proclaimed; for a restful time for our hardworking staff as activities wind down in January; that we will, individually and as a church make the best of opportunities to communicate the real meaning of Christmas to our friends, neighbours, and the wider community.

MOSS VALE: Rev Dean & Catherine Reilly:

DAY 7:

MITTAGONG: Rev Rob & Cass Sharp, Rochelle & Matt Fussell (CM), Josh Reilly (YM), Kathy Crawshaw (A):

Praise and thanks to God for the completion of the new extension at MAC. It will be a fantastic space for all types of ministries. Thank God for the appointment of a new Assistant Minister at MAC, who will join the ministry team in January. Please pray for Rowan and Emily and their children, as they move and settle into MAC. Pray for the opportunities to Share Christ this Christmas: the women's Deck the Halls event (30/11), a family event with Gingerbread Nativity, dinner and Carols (15/12) and our Christmas Day services. Please pray for God to provide the increased financial needs, as we increase our staff team.

PICTON-WILTON: Rev Ben & Kate Boardman, Rev Scott & Britt Williams (AM), Rev Greg Stanton (Hon), Jake & Ineke Pearse (MTS):

Pray for the relaunching of Bible Study groups in February / March. A fruitful weekend away of encouragement and for establishing new members well into the life of the Church. Pray that we can raise up ministry leaders in all areas and that God's Word would be taught faithfully and transform lives by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

DAY 8:

ROBERTSON: Rev Dan & Jo Bidwell, Bek Glasson (Y&CM), Kirrilee Bracht (A):

Thank God for the chance to speak about Jesus at Christmas events and services for every age group. Praise God for a huge number of Year

6s joining youth from the start of November. Pray for a time of spiritual growth for all our High Schoolers going to LIT in January. Pray for lots of invitations to our Kids Club Pupil Free Day on February 3, the first one we've run in a few years. Pray for conviction and courage as we seek to make 2025 a year of invitation across the whole church. Thank God for his goodness in so many ways to our little church in Robbo!

SCHOOLS:

Tudor House: Adam Larby (HS), Richard Deck (Deputy Head):

Wollondilly Anglican College: Trevor Norman (HS), Paul Burns (Deputy HS):

It is critical that we continue to employ Christian staff who will genuinely and faithfully communicate through word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ; please pray that Christian staff will apply to the various roles that we advertise. Please pray that our staff have a restful and refreshing break, enjoying quality time with their families, friends and most importantly, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

DAY 9:

SUTTON FOREST: Rev Jeremy & Danielle Tonks, Rev David Milne (ptAM), Danielle Tonks (A):

Thank God for progress made in preparing DA application for a parish hall in Bundanoon. Thanks for clear gospel presentations from Quizworx in 4 local primary schools. Pray for fundraising and ongoing preparations for parish hall. Pray that the Lord will bring locals to know and love Jesus, for the first time, at each of our 4 centres this Christmas.

WOLLONDILLY: Rev Stephen & Karen Swanepoel, Eileen Bicknell (SRE):

DAY 10:

MISSION AREA: Sutherland

MISSION LEADER: Rev James Warren:

ANGLICARE RETIREMENT LIVING:

Donald Robinson Village, Kirrawee: Jen Lewis (Mgr), Janine Cummings (Coord), Rev John Reed & Faye Hillier (CH):

DAY 26:

ANGLICARE METRO MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK

Give thanks to God for his provision of resources to our mental health teams, so we can continue supporting our clients. Please pray for the opportunities to establish "Suicide Prevention for Seniors" across Australia – a program to equip people to identify and address suicide risks in the older people they support. Pray for good take-up of this service across Australia. Pray too for a new Mental Health Initiative, to support and resources churches to provide and walk beside congregation members that are experiencing chronic mental ill health.

FOOD & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FFA), including All Saints Community Care

Give thanks: for our faithful staff, who work tirelessly, that they can continue to provide a creative, warm and welcoming offer of Christian hospitality as a demonstration of Jesus' love; for the generous food and financial resources made possible by donors, churches, communities and government. These ensure Anglicare has access to high quality food and goods to provide to clients.

ANGLICARE HOUSING:

Seniors at Risk of Homelessness

Give thanks for all the things that have taken place so far for Anglicare Housing and the residents (the boost in growth in this area), and for residents safety and sense of security/belonging. Please pray: for peace for all residents and staff – in their minds, day to day living, and in their relationships with others and God; for peace in the buildings/units they live in; for godly wisdom for staff and management; that we may be able to provide the best service to residents and staff; for an increase sense of purpose and sense of social wellness and belonging for residents at each of the Housing sites; for better attendance, participation in and hosting of social groups.

Families Starting Over

Please pray: for those clients who have recently left domestic violence and are seeking support and guidance for their families to work towards a safe and independent future; for the Family Workers in SHIFT as they take on the delicate task of supporting and nurturing these vulnerable families.

Praise God that as we move towards Christmas and celebrate the birth of our King and Savior, we have lots of opportunities to make Him known in the centre. Pray especially for inmates at this time as Christmas isolated from family and friends is challenging. Pray that we can offer hope and comfort in Jesus through our Christmas services across the centre.

DAY 25:

ANGLICARE at HOME (AAH)

ANGLICARE COMMUNITY SERVICES (CS): Family and Life Skills Educators (FLSE): Rev Steve Dinning, Jessica Deans, Trinette Stanley, Tilda Aquilina:

ANGLICARE COUNSELLING, MEDIATION & YOUTH (CM&Y): Maria Orr, Carolyn Bateman (Snr Program Mgrs C&M), Erin Colacino (Snr PM, Youth), Mary-Anne Fleeton (PM, Family Mental Health Support Service - FMHSS)

Mediation and Men's Behaviour Change:

Give thanks for the skilled, committed, compassionate and committed staff that walk alongside those who contact us at often the most challenging time of their lives. Pray for the families we engage with – that they will take up opportunities for change and seek to be the best parents they can for their children; that God will assist us to be agents of change in the places where we work so our Communities are safe and respectful; that God will grant us the privilege of seeing Him work through us to see positive and sustainable changes in the families who trust us to engage with them.

Counselling:

Praise God for the provision of government and donation funding which enables our services to be offered more broadly across communities. Pray that people experiencing distress in self or their relationships will reach out for assistance. Pray for positive outcomes particularly for the well-being of children and young people who will make an impact on their own families into the future.

RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Give thanks that Renew- Australian Guide for Christian survivors of domestic abuse has been successfully reprinted- first 1000 copies having been sold or distributed. Please pray that survivors would continue to benefit from the support found in Renew.

Woolooware Shores: Liza Fox (Mgr), Tyf Le Guennec (Ops Mgr); Chaplaincy Team: Rev Garry & Jeanette Dawes, Rev Mike Hanbury (AsstCH), Rhonda Montgomery (PC), Rosie Archer (PC), Margaret Spring (Hon ptPLW):

Praise God that His goodness endures forever, and for the blessing of our recent “My Story with Jesus” afternoon – many visitors. Pray for the upcoming Christmas activities – 22 Dec Carols on the Lawn, 24 Dec Carols in Chapel, Christmas Day celebrations – that God would work in people's hearts so they would accept his offer to save them. As our village continues to grow, pray for wisdom and energy for the Pastoral Team to make a genuine connection with each new resident. Pray that the lives and words of the Christian community would communicate clearly that – God is good for us.

Goodhew Gardens & Bay Breeze Care Team; Peter Jessing (Mgr), Quang Le (Ops Mgr), Sabitri Sapkota (Care Manager Bay Breeze), Laxmi Giri (Care Manager level 1 Goodhew), Preeti Upadhyay (Care Manager level 2 Goodhew), Vacant (Admin Assistant), Sharmila Neupane (Care Coordinator Goodhew), Will O'Reilly (Lifestyle Team Leader), Chaplaincy Team: Chris Conyers (Lead Chaplain), Jeff Cover (Chaplain), Julianne Rowe, Kate Bainbridge (Pastoral Carers):

DAY 11:

CARINGBAH: Rev Eric & Vivian Cheung, Rev Peter & Steph Tuck (AM), Elise Paton (SLW), Rev Graham Crew (ptAM), Rev Kevin Engel (HonAM), Robyn Heeley, Janelle Ward, & Tracey Watson (ptA):

CRONULLA with KURNELL: Rev Greg & Michelle Ball, Dayna Flavin (A):

DAY 12:

ENGADINE-HEATHCOTE: Rev James & Di Warren, Rev Michael & Christina Dodd (AM), Rev Dan & Shannon Bishop (AM), Rev Brodie & Sharon Cutmore (AM), Rev John & Carolyn Lee (AM), Jackie Coffey (Adm), Eliza McLaughlin (SRE), Brendan & Glory Nelson (SM), Sophia Begg & Sarah Rathsam (MTS):

Praise God for 2024 learning from: Term 1: Luke; Term 2: Zechariah; Term 3: 10 Commandments; Term 4: 1 Peter. Praise God for our **Explore groups** - a third group has started & gone on this year of people who are in groups for the first time & loving learning about their God & becoming Christians. We farewell our brilliant Student ministers - **Brendan & Glory Nelson**. They are off to St George North

AC & 3rd year Moore. Pray for them to keep doing what they've been doing - keep loving serving God's people. We also welcome for 2025 a student minister from Auckland Ev Church, **Christine Knobbbs**, who has done heaps of kids' ministry but is keen to be trained in youth ministry with us. Pray for us all this **Christmas** to be having rich conversations about Christ. We have a family friendly Carols. Pray for people to re-consider Christ.

GYMEA: Rev David & Crystal Fell, Rev Craig & Kristy Stalder (AM), Rev Olivia & Matt Robson (CM), Rev Gordon & Jean Robinson (HonSnrM), Kim Cooper & Stephen Leitch (A):

Praise God for our recent Women's Christmas event with good attendance and a wonderful gospel explanation. Give thanks for new Christians this year - every evangelistic course we ran led to someone coming to faith! Praise God for our student ministers Tom and Joel, an unexpected but wonderful blessing in 2024. Pray for Carols on December 22nd and all the Christmas outreach. Pray for Rev Glenn Maytum as he locums while the Fells serve on Norfolk Island in January. Ask for wisdom for Craig as he transitions to Army Reserve Chaplaincy and becoming a Presbyterian. Pray for Olivia's health. Pray for our follow-up courses in January.

HELENSBURGH & STANWELL PARK: Rev Michael & Alison Blake (AR), Matt Leach (AM), Ella Leach (ptWM), Rod Jefferson (ptMusic), Rebecca Wagstaff (ptA):

DAY 13:

MENAI: Rev Andrew & Ruth Barry, Rev Andrew Hartman (AM), Margaret Icke (LM), Dave Jensen (LM), Connor Davaram (YM), Lauren Couri (ptCM), Sarah Willets, Mitch Dunne, Bill Walton (SM), Denise Gullett (ptA), Nola Betts (ptA), Melanie Lucas (ptA), Elise Cook (ptA):

JANNALI: Rev Neil & Sandra Fitzpatrick, Rev Ross & Kristie Collins (AM), Rev James & Amy Sneddon (AM), Rev Cameron & Fran Hyslop (YM), Lorraine Hiller (PW), Rebekah Lee (PW), Carolyn Woods (PW), Jeanette Donnan (AdM), Oli Mullins (SM), Tiarne Scott (MA): Give thanks that a woman from China has recently joined our church and turned to Christ! Pray that she will be firmly established. Pray that our Outdoor Carols event on 14 December will gather many guests, and that some will return for our Christmas services. Give thanks for our new Children's Ministry Director, Amy Jamieson, who will join our

DAY 23:

WEST WOLLONGONG: Rev Alex & Liz Zunica, Rev Jordan & Millie Smith (AM), Kaitlyn Dixon (ptCM), Rev Neil & Margaret Brain (HonptSenM), James & Jessica Ulrich (Y&YAM), Adam & Sarah Baverstock (MTS), Liz Stark & Janet Hunt (A):

Praise God for our recent youth camp, our recent kids and families outreach events, and recent baptism service, where 6 young adults publicly declared their trust in Christ. Pray that God would bring the fruit of changed lives from all these. Pray he would bless our plans for 2025, especially as we prepare for Hope for the Illawarra. Pray we would find the right person for the new role of Care and Connections Minister. Pray that we would glorify Jesus this Christmas and share hope of this season with many in our community through scripture assemblies, hospital visiting, our food and friends and EFL ministry, nursing home services and church services.

WOLLONGONG WITH CORRIMAL: Rev Mark & Anna Smith, Rev Liam & Liz Shannon (SAM), Stacey Chapman (ptAM), Rev Matt & Ali Shannon (YM), Meaghan Gates (CM), Mitch Walker (ptLM), Justin Blanch (MTS), Hosea Luy (AM) & Jess Luy (SM), Catriona Williams (ptAdM), Lauren Russell (ptCOM), Jodie Madry, Nicole Jameson & Morwenna Baird (ptA):

OTHER REGIONAL MINISTRIES

DAY 24:

ANGLICARE CHAPLAINS & CHAPLAINCY TEAMS:

Rev Stephen Gibson (Health & Justice Chaplaincy); Rev Sarah Kinstead (Illawarra & Shoalhaven Hospitals); Lisa Russell (Sutherland Hospital), Geoff Boye and Jake de Salis (South Coast Correctional Centre):

Hospitals Illawarra and Shoalhaven:

Sutherland Hospital:

Justice - SCCC:

Please pray: for equality and grace, that we may value people as God does; for forgiveness, that people may repent of sins and be healed; for obedience, that God may help people humbly follow Jesus; for patience, that God gives us his mind when we are forced to wait.

SCHOOLS:**TIGS: Dr Julie Greenhalgh (HS), Rev James Rogers (DepHS), Rev Dave Binggeli (SC):**

We launched Student Christian Groups (SCGs) this year, i.e. a small group of boys and another group of girls for each year group to pray and read the bible together. We are yet to launch groups for years 8 and 10. Please pray that the Spirit works in the hearts of students in these years to be curious and keen to start a group. Pray for more Christian student leaders to lead these groups in the future, and to lead other Christian groups that we having running.

Shellharbour Anglican College: Megan Hastie (HS):**DAY 22:****SHELLHARBOUR CITY: Rev Jon & Sarah Thorpe, Peter & Beth Stacey (AM), Murray Border (YM/YAM), Amanda Grace (CM), Janelle Hutchins (A):**

Please pray that we might make the most of every opportunity as we celebrate Christmas. Pray that we might take the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with friends and family. Pray our speakers and preachers might proclaim the gospel clearly. Events coming up; Women's Christmas Craft, Men's Dinner, Carols, Christmas services, Summer Safari (Kids).

ST PAUL'S SHELLHARBOUR: Rev Nigel & Lyndal Parker, Glenis Boyle (ptA):

Praise God for new people joining us who are 're-seeking' their faith, and also the unity amongst the Wardens and Parish Council as we have spent time praying and considering vision / mission. Pray for our upcoming Christmas services, especially at our Women's Christmas Craft afternoon (Dec 8) and our Carols on the Lawn (Sunday Dec 22), that people would respond to personal invitations and letter box promotion. Pray that people would hear the joyous news of Jesus given to us and respond in faith and repentance.

UNIVERSITY MINISTRY: UOW - Rev Rob & Jo Copland (CH), Jon & Morwenna Baird (ACH/IS), Marlee Knight (WM), Deb Earnshaw (WM), Matthew & Evelyn Meek (IS), Irwan & Catherine Lee (IS), Luke & Briana Williamson, Ryan Gregory, Ethan Cosier, Luke & Caitlin Blanch, James Crosbie, Michelle Newby, Samantha Webb, James & Brigitte Squire (MTS):

staff team 4 days per week from late January. Ask God to raise up sufficient leaders for youth and children's ministries in 2025 and beyond.

MIRANDA: Rev Brett & Mardi Middleton, Rev Jennifer & Don Everist (AM), Rev Samuel & Jess Morton (YM), Jess & Luke Moran (CM), Rev Russell Denten (AM), Luke Murray (AM), Amie Lichi (Sch&CM), Julie & Nathan Gray (ptYAM&YM), Jake Pettit-Young (MTS), Colin Contessa (Adm), Lisa Byrnes & Theny Johnston (A):

Give thanks for Julie Gray joining our staff team. Pray for her and Nathan as they settle into Miranda and our church. Give thanks that our Explore Life evangelistic series is bearing fruit and pray for Luke Murray as he continues to improve this new ministry. Pray for many new connections to be made with kids, youth and adults over the Christmas season and that they might take further steps towards Jesus in the new year.

DAY 14:**SOUL REVIVAL CHURCH: Rev Stuart & Louise Crawshaw, Rev Jai & Christine McMordie (AM), Paul & Lyndal Tait (ptM), Joey & Mary Cheng (LM), Brayden & Bek Wall (CA), Ethan & Katie Crawshaw (YM), Tim & Ros Beilharz (ptCM), Joel & Karen McMaster (COM):**

We praise God and give thanks for his continued blessing of all our ministries over the year. In particular, we're encouraged by the consolidation of our partnership with Miranda Congregational church. We look forward to seeing the gospel grow through all our varied gatherings. On 14 December we'll be running a carols event in the park beside South Village in Kirrawee. Give thanks for the opportunity and resources to run the event. Please pray for good weather, for the smooth running of all the logistics and, most importantly, that many would reflect and respond to the gospel as we proclaim it in song and Bible readings. We're looking forward to our Christmas services and the opportunity to welcome many newcomers to church. Again, we pray for open ears and soft hearts to accept the greatest gift ever given. Please pray for wisdom and energy as we run our many church gatherings over the summer period - for refreshment as many will be taking breaks, for energy for those continuing to serve, and that we'll still be welcoming as many new people visit in January and February.

SUTHERLAND: Rev Tom & Simone Hargreaves, Rev John & Janene Reed (Chaplain DRV), Faye & Steve Hillier (Chaplain DRV), Tim & Liv Griffiths, James & Ally Russell (SM), Sarah & Daniel Glynn (WM

trainee), Robyn Field & Carly Nancarrow (A):

Pray that our community Carols on 21 December, Christmas services, Mobile Community Pantry, and Toys 'n' Tucker hampers will bring blessing and glory to the Father. Please pray that our members will be bold & courageous in inviting friends and family along to our events. Please pray that the Quiz Worx SRE assemblies held at Sutherland, Sutherland North, Bundeena, Woronora and Loftus Public Schools will be effective in enabling the children to receive the good news about Jesus.

SYLVANIA: Rev Mark & Merryl Charleston, Rev Chim Ho (AM), Stephen Strongman (SM), Vacant (A):

Give thanks for: Our series on Hebrews with its timely reminders to keep enduring for Jesus; our Christmas SRE assemblies with Quiz Worx across four schools. Pray for: Zeal in promoting and presenting the gospel at Christmas; fruitful deputations with our CMS link missionaries in the New Year.

DAY 15:

YOUTHWORKS CHRISTIAN OUTDOOR EDUCATION: Chris Deacon (Head), Sam Hudson (Operations Manager):

Praise God for our new **Outdoor Ministry Trainees** starting today. Pray that they might learn quickly and safely so that they would become world class Outdoor Ministry guides who effectively bring the Gospel to bear on thousands of students immersed in creation while managing risk.

YOUTHWORKS CONFERENCE CENTRES: Darren Robertson (Head), Norm Black (Shoalhaven Centre Manager):

Pray for a great summer holiday camping season at **Conference Centres**. Pray for the many youth attending camps this summer to grow closer to the Lord.

YOUTHWORKS COLLEGE: Rev Mike Dicker (Principal), Rev Dr Andrew Spalding (Lecturer, Academic Dean), Dr Ruth Lukabyo (Lecturer & Dean of Women), Viv Cheung (Lecturer), Emma Collett (Lecturer, Dean of Education), Suzanne Bacon (Registrar), Mamie McLean (A):

Give thanks for the appointment of Emma Collett to the College faculty as the Dean of Education and Director for the Centre for Christian Education. Pray for Emma to grow and foster the partnership with

Join us in praising the Lord for the 5 wonderful believers being baptised. Pray for impactful ministry among our wider community as we head into Advent and Christmas. Please pray for clear weather at the carols event held by our church on 15th December as well as those of other churches in the region. Please pray for Megan who is retiring from our admin role at the end of November and for Haebin who will take up some of these duties as well as discipleship and ministry tasks in a new trainee role.

KIAMA with MINNAMURRA: Rev Steve & Nicki Stanis, Cameron & Helen Webber (AM), Lilyan Kearney (A):

We give thanks for the unity and peace among us all at KAC. Pray for this advent season that we would be guided by the peace Christ brought. We give thanks for the growing opportunities and connections with children and families at KAC. We give thanks for the recent birth of three children. We seek God's wisdom as we look to employ a family and children's worker. We pray for the Summerlife team billeted at KAC, serving among our community, over the holiday season in Kiama. May the Gospel start the New Year with the Hope in '25 that many may come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS: John Kewa (Lay Chaplain), Rev Rob Meischke, Louise Del Rio (Office Mgr), Volunteers:

For a video clip of the work of Missions around the World see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5N-qwjQByHA>

DAY 21:

OAK FLATS: Rev Sam & Susan Pursell, Valerie O'Regan (PA):

Give thanks for recent connections to our local community and visitors to church. Pray they would be followed up, evangelised, baptised and discipled. Pray that our children and youth would be led to love Jesus through at-home discipling, at church and age-focused ministries.

PORT KEMBLA/WARRAWONG: Rev Michael & Vanessa Turner, Andrew & Courtney Russell (LSW):

For our Port church re-pot, pray for continued evangelism and enthusiasm after the initial drive has worn off. Pray for steadfastness and endurance as we press on in the Lord. For the Warrawong Church, pray for continued trust after a number of Saints have gone to glory this year, resulting in a thinning of numbers, and increasing opportunities.

(ptPW), Nat Simmons (A):

Praise for a wonderful week of our World Missions Conference recently, which prayerfully and financially supported the work of our Missions Partners in Australia and around the world. Pray for our Figtree Community Carols event in mid-December, which is a wonderful outreach opportunity that attracts up to 8,000 from the community. Pray for our IGNITE youth camp in January, which will see almost 200 campers and their leaders enjoy of week of biblical teaching, fun, and fellowship.

GERRINGONG: Rev Steven & Lorna Layson, Michelle Young (ptA):

Give thanks: for the new members who have joined the church this year, pray they quickly feel at home; for our wonderful teams of leaders for both Children's & Youth ministries, pray for refreshment and reinvigoration over the holidays; for our recent 150th Anniversary Celebrations, pray that community members we connected with would be interested in coming along to church. Pray: for our search for a full-time Children's & Youth Worker for 2025; for our Christmas outreaches (esp Community Carols & "Live Nativity") to effectively connect the community with Jesus; for plans for development of our ministry centres to progress in the New Year.

JAMBEROO: Rev Jodie & Mandy McNeill, Brad & Liz Vidilini (YM), Rachel Bemmer (CM), Sandee & Michael Batelic (Hon PC), Rev Steve & Fiona Bligh (Hon SAM):

Please pray for our church at this time of significant change, as Jodie and Mandy leave us to serve the ministry of Gafcon, where Jodie is the new Global Operations Manager and Mandy is serving as Partnership Coordinator. Pray that we will all grieve well and give glory to God for all that he has done among us by his Holy Spirit over the past decade. Pray for Tony Galea as he serves as Acting Rector, and for the team of Nominators as they work hard to suggest someone to lead our church into the future. Please pray that the Lord will strengthen everyone in the church to lead in more ways than normal, especially our staff team, and that the steady flow of newcomers would continue even as we go through this change. May the Christmas events help everyone know the grace of God, and may we grow in every way for his glory.

DAY 20:

KEIRAVILLE: Rev Peter & Anna Hutchinson, Rev Jason & Paula McPhail (AM), Kathy Watson (ptPC), Alex Ngo (ptLM), Megan Whittington (ptA):

Christian Schools to raise up and equip more Christian teachers to engage the hearts of young people with the gospel of Jesus.

YEAR 13 YOUTHWORKS GAP YEAR: Rev Steve Carlisle (Director), Jo Booker (Asst Director), Kiara Meres (Program Coordinator), Fiona Fenwick (ptCH), Brad Vidilini (ptCH), Jaedon Scott (ptCH):

Give thanks for a fantastic year at Year 13 where students have grown in their faith and built a foundation for life. Pray for each of our students to continue to grow as a disciple of Jesus. Pray for those intending to come to Year 13 in 2025, that they might prepare their hearts to hear from God in his word throughout the year. Pray for the team of staff at Year 13, that it might be a refreshing time of rest over Christmas.

DAY 16:

MISSION AREA: Wollongong (North & South)

MISSION LEADERS: Rev Roger Fitzhardinge & Rev Jodie McNeill

ANGLICARE SENIORS LIVING:

St Luke's Village, Dapto: Martin Silver (Mgr), Rev Leigh Roberts (ptCH), Toni McClure (ptCH):

Thanks to God for your persevering prayers: Our beautiful new "Forestview" community centre and 60 units are finally open, residents have moved in, and new staff appointed. Please pray for those who are feeling unsettled and for gospel and ministry opportunities as we visit and welcome dozens of new residents. It's an amazing opportunity, but a bit overwhelming! Pray that we'd be able to create a community of mutual support, especially for those seeking to recover from trauma or hard knocks in life. To that end, pray for good teamwork at every level in our village management as we seek to integrate Affordable Housing residents into the retirement village. Please pray for our 2025 planning including ongoing engagement with and care for residents; the official opening of Forestview and the commencement of our village church in February; our intergenerational activities with Calderwood Christian School; 'Taste & See' Outreach; participation in the 'Hope For The Illawarra' Outreach in March; Bible Studies and a new Bible Discovery Group and other new initiatives (more info next letter). Pray that I'd be able to gather a team of keen Christians to be the core of this new Village Church and other gospel ministries, and that the church would become the spiritual home for many residents who come to faith in Jesus. Please God. Thanks to God for the thoughtful, constructive

partnership with Dapto Anglican Church, including with 'Carols In The Village' on December 13th.

ALBION PARK: Rev Robin & Cathy Vonk, Steve & Lauren Inman (ptYC), Natasha Hansen (ptPC), Val O'Regan (ptA):

Pray for our Mission week following Christmas (SUFM). That we will effectively reach families with the gospel. Pray for Meagan (our Children's ministry worker) as she prepares for the birth of her first child in March 2025. Pray that we will have sufficient scripture teachers in 2025 and that more high school students will want to be part of SRE.

PARK RAIL ANGLICAN CHURCH (including Lake Illawarra Community Church): Rev Neil & Kirsty Scott:

Pray: that significant relationships would be built during the Community Carols; that God's message of Jesus would be understood by all those listening at the Community Carols; that God would bless his people with boldness as they invite their friends and family to the Christmas Eve Service; that the relationships established during Christmas would lead to 121 discipleship opportunities.

DAY 17:

LAKE ILLAWARRA COMMUNITY CHURCH: Rev John & Kate Delezio:

AUSTINMER/THIRROUL: Rev Nathan & Melinda Sandon, Rev Jon & Fiona Clare (ptSAM), James & Erin Massey (CM), Liz McCoy (ptLM), Joshua Fullerton-Harvey (SM), Megan Whittington (A):

BERKELEY LIFE CENTRE: Rev Wayne Pickford, Sam Trotter (CM):

Pray for God to provide the right person to succeed Wayne as Senior Pastor and to prepare our congregation for the change that new leadership brings. Please continue to pray for Wayne's health and that God will show him what living for Jesus will look like in the next season of his life. Please pray also for a new Op Shop manager who connects well with the community and the church, and is able to be a witness for Jesus to those around them.

BULLI: Rev Rick & Janene Lewers (Locum until 22 Dec), Rev Michael & Karen Williamson, Kat & Steve Harris (0-20), Elliot Boswell (ptYW), Jonny & Jo Hann (ptSM), Izzy McPhail (ptCMI), Chris & Laura Baldwin (ptA), Kathy Nethercott (ptCRO):

Pray for excellent prep and execution of our December and Christmas outreach plans and community engagement alongside a UOW NTE team. Thanks for Jonny Hann concluding student ministry with us on 31 Dec as he, Jo and Charlie head to Sydney. Pray for our Parish Council as they conclude budget and prepare for 2025 AGM. Pray for excellent final prep for Kathy Nethercott and her event team planning our February church camp and great encouragement for all who can attend. And that in all things, we will overflow the grace and love of Jesus to one-another, the Northern Illawarra and beyond.

DAY 18:

DAPTO: Rev Ian & Rhonda Barnett (AR), Rev Craig & Sam McCorkindale (SAM), Rev Matt & Lisa Goodman (AM), Sarah Doughton (CM&YM), Linda Thomson (PC), Mel Lieschke (ptM), Christine Lane (A), Rev Leigh Roberts (ptCH), Amy David (ptA):

We thank God for the opportunities he provides to share the joy of Christ this Christmas season. We pray for his blessing over our Carols and Christmas services, that they shine the light of the gospel into the hearts of all who attend. We ask that he prepares us as a church to warmly welcome our community and point them to the hope found in Jesus. We lift up LiT camp for our youth, asking that God guides and inspires the next generation of leaders. We pray that they grow in faith, wisdom, and a heart to serve him in all they do. As we approach the January series, we pray for those stepping into our church for the first time. We ask that God gives us open hearts to welcome them and a deep desire to reflect his love in all we do. We pray that this series draws people closer to him and transforms lives for his glory. Finally, we thank God for our new Senior Minister Mark Boyley and pray he will be preparing him for the work when he joins us next year.

FAIRY MEADOW: Rev Roger & Leah Fitzhardinge, Rev Rob & Vicki Mayhew (AM), Ven Deryck & Glenda Howell (ptSAM), Nathanael & Chloe-Jane Muscat (SM), Jenny & Stephen Bell (ptA&Comms), Jimmy & Marlee Knight (pt YAM/YM, SRE Keira High):

DAY 19:

FIGTREE: Rev Robin & Sarah Kinstead, Rev Shane (MatMin) & Rachel Dirks, Scott Simpson (EM), Greg Bell (CA), Mary Pickford (CM), Langdon Stewart (E), Ruth Smith & Peter Lenehan (YM), Jo Brain (Conn&WM), Adele Peteranec (Admin/Events), Carolyn Bengel (Accounts/ Compliance), Elise Cork (Design/Comms), Fay Brampton