

Dear Friends,

GOD'S WORD: A LAMP FOR OUR FEET, A LIGHT FOR OUR PATH

(by Rev'd Maria Brand)

What a joy the start to 2026 has been thus far! What a joy to welcome new GWAC staff members, to be encouraged by the Psalms, to see ministries start back up again and prepare to do so and to enjoy a slightly slower pace to life. If you haven't



had the chance to meet Rev Bre with her family Michael and Skylar, and Rev Nathanael with his family Genovah, Adam and Sophia, please do introduce yourself and say hello. As they help us grow with richer worship, deeper faith, brighter hope, and

wider love, Bre's focus area at GWAC will be 'Local Mission' and Community Connection, and Nathanael's- 'Next Generation Ministry' and 'Connect Groups'.

As we embark on a new year, it is a good opportunity to take stock, to review, to prepare and pray about how God might work in and through us this year. Will you make more room for listening to and speaking to God this year? What new ministry might you explore? How will you bless others as you have been blessed? Who and what will you pray for? Which relationships will you invest in?

Lita Sanders offers 'Five Bible-Reading Ideas for the New Year'.

1. Read along with your church's sermon series. For example, we are soon to embark on a series on the book of Revelation so you may like to read this in your own Bible reflection time too.
2. Study the Bible with a group. If you don't already belong to a Connect Group let me encourage you to reach out and we would love to help you find a group to visit and consider joining.





3. Study with your family or friends. Reading the Bible with your family or close friends that you see regularly is a great way to deepen your relationship with both God and your loved ones.
4. Deepen your prayer life with Scripture. Try applying the truths of Scripture along with Bible verses, passages and Biblical prayers into your prayer life.
5. Focus on practicing Biblical teachings. The Bible is not meant to be just intellectual but rather practical. You could prayerfully consider what aspect of the Christian life that God may be calling you to work on this year and then start a Bible reading plan that covers that practical area.
6. There are lots of ways to read the Bible and these are just a handful of ideas. May God's word be a lamp for our feet and a light for our path in 2026. (Psalm 119:105)

THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday: Change4Change

Please bring your Change4Change jars this Sunday. Thank you for your generous contribution towards the Education Assistance Project (Mission of Truth Church, Surabaya). Alternately, you can also donate online with following details:

- Account: Glen Waverley Anglican Church, BSB: 033009, Account No: 108940
- Reference: change4change

CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

- Playgroup resumes: Feb, Tues 3rd.
- Spark/LERS resumes: Feb, Sun 8th.
- GLOW (toddlers and parents): Monthly in Term 1 (i.e. 8th FEB, 8th MAR) during the SUN 10:30am service.





A Story From The CYC Family Camp (Jan 2026)

(Anthony Wheaton)



This was a great get-a-way! We enjoyed 5 nights with marvellous food, action-packed days, worship & creating new friendships. Four GWAC youth joined in the TEEN stream, five in the KIDS stream, and five adults who had their own sessions to rest & consider their own faith goals, plus thinking in creative ways of how to encourage faith at home.

I had the privilege of leading the KIDS group with another GWAC helper, but my highlight was simply seeing how all-ages mixed during the free time. There was a special 'commissioning' prayer for parents at our Communion service. We were anointed with oil, set apart for the year, strengthened for the challenges ahead.

There was also great feedback about GWAC's Dongbin Jin, who gave a seminar about Health &

Wholeness.

Lake fun – water slide, canoeing and inflatable diving tower. If you missed it, I'm sure we'll go again. Stay tuned to CYC's website to see other mid-year options.

IGNITE (YOUTH MINISTRY)

Ignite Youth starts back on Friday 6th February 7–9pm! We cannot wait to see you all and reconnect after our school holiday break. There are 16 youth leaders this year and three of them are new to leading this year: Rosie Cook, Jayden Mills, and Nikhil David.

Ignite Youth is for students in Grade 6 – Year 12. Please invite your friends and family along! Programs will be available from Sunday this week. This Term will include plenty of fun with Messy Games, an Amazing Race, VCYC One Night Event at PLC, plus community groups, games, and more! The Bible Teaching at Ignite will look at the Old Testament





book of Exodus. We will see how God hears his people's cries in their slavery and brings them to freedom and how God still hears our cries for help and offers us freedom, too!

Amanthi Lynch and Ignite Youth Leaders

SPECIAL IN FEB

AMANTHI'S ORDINATION AS DEACON: SAT 7TH FEBRUARY

We warmly invite you to Amanthi's Ordination, which will take place on Saturday 7 February at 10:30am at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. Following the service, please join us for an after-party at GWAC, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. If you are able, please bring a plate of food to share (no gifts, please).

If you are unable to attend the ordination in person, you may join us online here- YouTube [LINK](#).

WEDNESDAY 10AM SERVICE – WELCOME BACK!

It was a joy to celebrate the resumption of the Wednesday Service for 2026 on 28th Jan and gather for worship, prayer and fellowship! If you haven't been to a midweek service, come along this year and be encouraged in your faith and share in conversation and friendship during morning tea. Adults, seniors, university students and workers have all attended in 2025 and we've loved meeting grandkids in school holidays too. There are many opportunities on GWAC's doorstep for sharing Jesus' love – has God placed someone on your heart to bring to mid-week church in 2026? See you there!

John Harrower & Katherine Corr

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – 10AM, 18TH FEBRUARY

We encourage you to invite family, neighbours and friends to a special reflective service for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. **This year's theme: 'On the Way to the Cross.'** Join us in this deeply moving Christian tradition of acknowledging our sinfulness, need for forgiveness and, peace with God through Jesus Christ. **Reminder: We need your palm crosses for the ashes. Please leave at the office by Wed 11th February.**





PASTORAL CARE AT GWAC

There are many ways in which God's love and care is being extended by members of GWAC to one another and beyond – e.g. care within Connect Groups, congregation members looking out for one another, prayer ministries, card and craft ministries, fellowship times following services and friendships formed in ministry teams. Thank you! The Seniors' Pastoral Care Team assists with the pastoral care of senior aged members who are not involved in a Connect Group, nor able to worship onsite. Thank you for your continued prayers for this team in 2026. **Please note: Referrals for pastoral care of seniors are made through John Harrower (Seniors' Minister).**

RIDLEY SUBJECT AT GWAC (25th FEB 2026)

In Feb 2026, Glen Waverley Anglican Church will be an EXTENSION SITE for Ridley College! Wednesday evenings, 6–8pm. **The subject available will be NT003: New Testament Overview at levels 5 & 8 with Mike Bird and Bec Muir.**

- Timing: semester-based unit
- Study mode: unit commences: 25 Feb
- Enrol by 30 Jan 2026: [LINK \(info\)](#) and [LINK \(apply\)](#)

This unit provides an introduction to some of the most significant tools for reading, interpreting and responding to select highlights of the New Testament, with particular exploration of the gospel of Mark, John's Gospel, Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Hebrews and Revelation.

Queries? Maria Brand, m.brand@gwac.org.au

IN LOVING MEMORY OF KEN WOODBURN

We give thanks to God for the life, faith, and hope of Ken Woodburn, who went peacefully to be with the Lord Jesus on Tues 13th Jan'26. A memorial service to celebrate Ken's life will be held at Glen Waverley Anglican Church on Friday 6 February at 1:30pm. The service will also be livestreamed from GWAC's website at this [LINK](#).





DON'T MISS!

Mondays at 1.30pm (except public holidays): Easy Does It (EDI)

EDI starts on Monday 2nd February at the usual time, 1.30pm, in the Hall (stadium).

The cost is \$5 with a cuppa included. It is run by a physio. All are welcome!

Saturday 7th Feb: Train Your Brain (TYB)

- 9.30am – 12 Noon (registration from 9am)

Saturday 14th Feb: 'Crafts of Care' – Knit, Sew & Craft Afternoon

- 1.30 – 4pm. Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 at GWAC
- Includes creating knitted shawls, beanies and knee rugs and sewing pocket prayer quilts to support GWAC's Pastoral Care ministry. See church notice board for more details. All welcome!

Thursday, 26th Feb: Mother's Union & Friends

Program runs 1.30pm in MR 1&2. Please join us and enjoy afternoon tea with us.

Friday Mornings: Prayer Meeting (With Breakfast)

Please join us on Fridays in Meeting room 1 & 2 from 7am for toast, muffins, hot drinks, and PRAYER. Come when you can and leave when you must.

Friday Night Craft Group

- Fridays, 6th & 20th February
- When: 7pm until late
- Where: Fiona's place – 14 Clitus St, Glen Waverley
- What to bring: Anything you'd like to work on (knitting, crochet, sewing, paper craft, etc.). There will be plenty of tea, coffee, and cake!





SERVE GOD- JOIN A MINISTRY

Join the Sunday Services Music & Media teams

Thinking of serving in 2026? Join our music & media teams! We're looking for musicians/singers, audio, visuals, and livestream operators. Training provided (musicians/singers require audition).

Contact Worship Minister Roger: r.nicholson@gwac.org.au

FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expenses:	
Oct-Dec25	\$
Income	\$267,075
Expenses	\$252,330
Surplus	\$14,745

There is a surplus at the end of December of \$14,745. Overall, income and expenses are as expected for the first quarter of the financial year.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support and generosity to the missions and ministries at GWAC!

OTHER INITIATIVES

Across Cultures Training (CMS)

Walk across the road. Travel across the globe.

Across Cultures equips Christians to build relationships and engage well in cross-cultural ministry in everyday life. Options include a **full-year program** (3 Training Days & 3 Hubs) or **opt-in participation** as you're available.

Learn more: [LINK](#)





MANDARIN SPEAKING COMMUNITY: FEB 2026

Let's Learn English (LLE) Class

- Every Sunday: 12.30pm – 1.30pm, GWAC Meeting Room 1 & 2

Chinese Brothers' Fellowship

- Every Wednesday, 7pm–9pm, in Meeting Room-3
- Contact: Sean Hsien, Anthony Zhao.

Chinese Discipleship Group (Sisters' Online)

- Every Thursday, 7:30pm–9pm
- Contact: Ginger Chen

Brothers and Sisters Combined Fellowship

- 3rd Thursday each month, 7pm–9pm, in Meeting Room-3
- Contact: Ginger Chen

Life Connection Groups

- **Joshua Group**
 - 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, 11:45pm – 3pm, in Meeting Room-3
- **Samuel Group**
 - 4th Sunday of every second month, after the Sunday Service
- **David Group**
 - TBA
- **Jacob Group**
 - 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, 12:30pm – 2pm, in Meeting Room-3

Volunteer Leaders Training

- 4th Sunday of each month, following the Sunday service
- Contact: Ginger Chen

Mandarin Prayer Meeting before the Sunday 10:30am Service

- 9:45am–10:15am Meeting Room-3





UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES @ GWAC

Sunday Services: **Ways to Love your Church** (sermon series)

1 Feb	Psalm 43	Guest Speakers: John & Deb Sugars
Revelation Sermon Series: "Where is Jesus Today?"		
8 Feb	Revelation 1	Speaker: Maria Brand
15 Feb	Revelation 1	Speaker: Maria Brand
22 Feb	Revelation 2-3	Speaker: Maria Brand

Wednesday 10am Service

Sermon Series: "Joy"			
28 Jan	Luke 15:11-24	'Joy in the Lord' (Special Candle Lighting Service)	Speaker: John Harrower
4 Feb	Psalm 43	'Joy in Mission'	Guest Speakers: John & Deb Sugars
11 Feb	Acts 2: 36-47	'Joy in Christ's Body'	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry
Lenten Series: "On the way to the Cross"			
18 Feb	Isaiah 11: 1-9, Luke 24: 44-49	ASH WEDNESDAY 'Promise & Fulfilment'	Speaker: John Harrower
25 Feb	Deut 8: 1-3 Luke 4: 1-4	'Obedience & Testing'	Speaker: Amanthi Lynch

Blessings,

Maria Brand | Lead Minister (Vicar)

*A caring community making,
maturing and mobilizing disciples
of Jesus Christ, locally and globally*

