

# GWAC happenings

June 2025

Glen Waverley Anglican Church | Updates

Dear friends,

## HOPE 25

*(by Rev'd Maria Brand)*

**Our theme for 2025 at GWAC, is Hope.** Encouraged by the Hope25 initiative, we have sought to bring this focus to our whole year however as we approach **Pentecost Sunday (8<sup>th</sup> June)** let us be praying not only for our church community, but the communities across Australia who are actively seeking to share hope during this period.

*God of Hope*

*you call on us to be your witnesses in this  
uncertain world;*

*by your Spirit awaken in us*

*a true vision of your kingdom,  
a greater certainty of our salvation, and  
a deeper dedication to your service;*

*that through our words and actions,  
the same Spirit may bring many who are lost to be found,*

*and for them to celebrate the hope  
that we can only have in Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen*



### The Preparation

Our preparation for Hope25 began with our February sermon series, 'Steps to Loving our Church' as a foundation for reaching out and welcoming others. It was great to see Connect groups using the study group material alongside this. In March, we had Stephen Abbott lead us in his course- 'Everyday Evangelism'.

The Hope25 Training Day for our area took place at GWAC and it was great to see many from our congregations taking part. I led a seminar on 'God conversations'.





In the lead up to Easter, our sermon series was based on the Gospel of Mark, and gave both, opportunities to share the gospel with those who don't yet know Jesus, and also further equip Christians to share their faith by reading the gospel with others.

Our Hope25 six-week season commenced with Bishop Paul Barker coming to preach across our English Sunday services and begin our evangelistic series on the book of Ecclesiastes which prompts us to contemplate our purpose in this life.

The upcoming Trivia night (31 May) gives us a great opportunity to invite friends and family who don't normally come to church services to connect with our church family.

Bishop John and I will be presenting a 'Planning your Funeral' seminar in June which is designed for both, church members, and also those outside our church community.

We are working towards holding a school holidays outreach program for children and families in the winter school holidays.

Praise God for exceptional fruit from the Mandarin Alpha Course with eight people giving their life to Jesus and many others came to know more about the good news of Jesus! In August we will run an outreach course (similar to Alpha) called 'Taste and See'. It is a four-week exploration of the gospel over a shared dinner.

Sharing our hope involves a whole lifestyle change, individually and corporately. Firstly, we need to be growing as a disciples, we need to know God's word, grow in it and share it. Secondly, we need to be welcoming others and sharing the gospel through relationship. Thirdly, we need to be prepared and willing to go deeper in our conversations with others and grow in our listening. Lastly, we need to be prepared to give an answer for the hope that we have!

## ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID (AOA) VISIT TO GWAC IN JUNE



**On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June, at GWAC**, hear from Anglican Overseas Aid's CEO- **Jo Knight** about the part GWAC can play in creating a renewed, restored world, free from poverty.

Jo has been CEO of Anglican Overseas Aid for three years and brings two decades' experience in global justice and environmental sustainability initiatives,





along with church and public engagement. She is a member of the Micah Australia Board and currently serves in global church governance as co-convenor of the ACT Alliance Membership and Nominations international committee.

Jo is married to Peter Carolane, the Senior Minister of Merri Creek Anglican, and they have two school-aged boys. Jo's forthcoming book, *Called to Care: A Christian response to the climate challenge of our generation*, will be released by IVP (UK) in November this year.

Anglican Overseas Aid's work transforms communities to alleviate the pressures of poverty and works in partnership with Anglicans and churches who are leading change in their local communities. To hear more about this work, you can sign up for Anglican Overseas Aid's communications using this link: [Get Updates - Anglican Overseas Aid](#)

## THIS SUNDAY (1 JUNE)

### CHANGE4CHANGE: SUN 1 JUNE

Please bring your Change4Change jars next 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

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS- JUNE



### WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE: 'PLANNING MY FUNERAL' SEMINAR

- **11am: Wednesday 10am Service's 'Fellowship Brunch' - all welcome!**
- **11.45am: 'Planning my Funeral' Seminar in the auditorium**

We encourage everyone to think about their funeral - What will it be like? Where will it happen? Hymns/worship songs, Bible readings, eulogies, participants, hospitality, burial or cremation, etc. Does my existing funeral plan







need updating? Many things to consider. Good preparation is a gift to your family.

Hosted by Maria Brand and John Harrower, this will be a chance to receive information, have your questions answered, and learn what GWAC offers. Please consider inviting a friend or neighbour too. **RSVP 10<sup>th</sup> June via Connect Card/ list on the Fellowship Area noticeboard.** Questions on the topic welcome – send in with your RSVP!



### **SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE: WORKING BEE**

Starting about 8.30am and finishing about 12.30pm, with morning tea at 10.30am. The list of jobs will be available soon, so you know what gear to bring.

*Stephen Giles*



### **SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE & WED 2 JULY: GIFT DAY**

Gift Day will be held at all services on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June and at the Wednesday service on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. **Our Gift Day target is \$70,000.**

Please look out for further updates!

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

### **CHILDREN & FAMILIES- PLEASE REMEMBER:**

- GLOW runs regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month for kids aged 0-3yr (during school term only).
- Playgroup: do you know of a young child who could benefit from a mid-week activity? Ask us about what we do at GWAC!
- ZOOM Prayer sessions: ask Anthony for the monthly dates and link details.
- **Creative Family Service:** will take place on Sun 22 June, 10.30am

### **IGNITE (YOUTH MINISTRY)**

Thank you for all who prayed for **VCYC!** It was a wonderful conference. Thank you for those that upheld us in prayer. The teaching, community time





and worship were all wonderful. Please pray that those that attended have strengthened in faith through their time at Belgrave Heights.

We really appreciate all the support and encouragement for Ignite Youth through the fundraising of the **Trivia Night**. We are extremely grateful for the support of GWAC in this important ministry. A big thanks to Grant and Judi Beard and the Trivia Night team who orchestrated this wonderful event for us!

We are well and truly on our way through the book of **Genesis: Origins** series this term. It's been great reading these foundational chapters and getting our head around what they mean, who God is and who we are in light of this. The next few weeks sees us having a few social events which would be great to invite friends to. There will be VCYC testimonies on our **Campfire Night (6<sup>th</sup> June)** as well as more testimonies at our in-house **Laser Tag Night (27<sup>th</sup> June)** which we are pretty excited about. If you haven't got a program, please grab one from the noticeboard or welcome desk.

*Amanth Lynchi, [a.lynch@gwac.org.au](mailto:a.lynch@gwac.org.au)*

## DON'T MISS!

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June (9.30am): Train Your Brain (TYB)**

- Topic for the Month – Bone Health
- Speaker Elisabeth Miglic
- 9.30am – 12 Noon (registration from 9am)

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June (3pm): Chinese New Year Painting**

Hosted by GWC's Watercolour Group & Mandarin Congregation

- Speaker Jun Wen
- 3pm – 5pm
- Refreshments will be served; you are welcome to bring snacks to share

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

EDI runs on Mondays at 1.30pm in the Hall (stadium).

IMPORTANT- NO EDI ON 9<sup>th</sup> June- Kings Birthday Public Holiday





### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June – 'Crafts of Care' – Knit, Sew & Craft Afternoon**

- 1.30 – 4pm. Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
- Includes creating knitted shawls, beanies, scarves and knee rugs and sewing pocket prayer quilts to support GWAC's Pastoral Care ministry. See church noticeboard for more details. All welcome (including beginner knitters 😊)

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June: Mothers Union & Friends**

- Date & Time: 1.30pm, MR 1&2
- Enjoy afternoon tea and fellowship.

### **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**

- **Upcoming meeting dates:** Fridays 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June, and 4<sup>th</sup> July
- **Time** – any time from 7pm
- **Where** – Fiona's 14th Clitus St, Glen Waverley

## **REV'D HILARY ROATH'S MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The memorial service for Rev'd Hilary Roath will take place at St Barnabas' Glen Waverley Anglican Church (GWAC) on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm, followed by refreshments.

The service will also be livestreamed.

Please keep Hilary's brother, her son Julian with Tammy, her son Adrian, and the grandchildren Hannah, Daniel, Elizabeth, Zed, Sarah and Mark, along with other family & friends in your prayers during this time of mourning.

*John 11:25- "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die".*





## FINANCE UPDATE (OCT'24-APR'25)

Income & Expenses: Oct24-Apr25	
	\$
Income	\$598,858
Expenses	\$608,166
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>(\$9,308)</b>

The shortfall for October to April is \$9,308. We are aiming to breakeven this financial year.

Gift Day will be held at all services on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June and at the Wednesday service on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Our Gift Day target is \$70,000. Please look out for further updates!

We give grateful thanks for all who contribute financially to the life of GWAC as we seek to support our ministries and missions.

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE (JUNE 2025)

### Diocesan Safety Audits

The diocese has instituted quarterly inspections for all parishes. After some initial teething problems with communication and expectations with the company the system is now beginning to operate well. A meeting held at GWAC with the facilities team at the diocese was very productive and we were highly commended on the well-maintained grounds and the maintenance of the buildings. Our parish was described as an “exemplary example” to other parishes in the appearance and stewardship of our buildings. The Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers who assist in the mowing and general care of the grounds, and to Stephen Giles who works so faithfully in the stewardship of our buildings.







### Developing New Vision

The Parish Council are actively working on the new Parish goals and vision. The staff and Parish council have undertaken a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of GWAC's ministry. This work continues to be encouraging with a great sense of excitement for the future and a sense of unity in the direction we are taking. The questionnaire that will be distributed this Sunday, 1 June is an important part of this process and your contribution will be very important as we continue this work.

## UPDATES- MANDARIN SPEAKING COMMUNITY

### **Let's Learn English (LLE) Class**

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

### **Chinese Bible Study Fellowship (for new believers)**

- Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 10am–11:30am, in Meeting Room 3
- Contact: Ginger, [g.chen@gwac.org.au](mailto:g.chen@gwac.org.au) if you're interested.

### **Joshua Connect Group Bible Study & Fellowship**

Every fortnight, Joshua life group gathers to learn the Bible, encourage each other, and grow together in God. Everyone from the Mandarin congregation or community is welcome.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Morning, 10am–12pm, in Meeting Rooms 1–2
- Contact: Wei Cheng and Sean

### **Chinese Brothers' Fellowship**

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

### **Chinese Sisters' Fellowship**

- Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7pm–9pm, Meeting Room–3
- Contact: Wei Cheng Foo , Joanna Zhou and Jing Liu.







## Chinese Translation Ministry

We now have a Chinese version of GWAC Happenings that is distributed to our Mandarin congregation and others who ask for it. Praise God for the service of our translation team.

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES @ GWAC

### Sunday English Services

Ecclesiastes Sermon Series		
1 June	Ecclesiastes 10	• Speaker: Brad Jackson
8 June	Ecclesiastes 11 <b>(Pentecost Sunday)</b>	• Speaker: Maria Brand
15 June	Mission	• Guest Speaker: Jo Knight (Anglican Overseas Aid)
Stewardship Sermon Series		
22 June	Stewardship	• Speaker: Amanthi Lynch (10.30am service is Creative Family Service)
29 June	Stewardship <b>(Gift Day)</b>	• Speaker: Brad Jackson
6 July	Stewardship	• Speaker: Brad Jackson

### Wednesday English 10am Service

'Stories of Hope' from the Gospel according to Luke			
4 June	Luke 23: 13-24	Hope for the Guilty - Barabbas	• Speaker: Brad Jackson
11 June	Luke 19: 1-10	Hope Changes Things - Zaccheaus	• Speaker: John Harrower

(PTO)





18 June	Luke 5: 17-26	Hope Forgives - The Paralyse Man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speaker: Maria Brand</li></ul>
25 June	Luke 10: 25-37	Hope - Being a Neighbour - The Good Samaritan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speaker: John Harrower</li></ul>

*Reminder: The Wednesday Service's Bible reading and sermon is livestreamed weekly.*

Blessings,

**Maria Brand** | Lead Minister (Vicar)

