

# All Saints' Church

The open door

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## Why do we pray...

*"Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer." (Psalm 4:1)*

Prayer is one of those things that can sometimes feel contrived or awkward, and we find ourselves asking why we do it. But prayer isn't just about asking God for things that we need or desire. It's about establishing a relationship with Him, a relationship built on faith and the trust we have in Him. God knows the desires of our heart long before we ever think of asking, but He still loves to hear from us, whether we are asking for guidance or giving thanks, because it draws us closer to Him.

Scripture is full of people who were led to pray for a multitude of things that we still find ourselves praying for today, and that's why the Bible is full of verses about worry, strength, and hope. But for those dark days when we find ourselves questioning just how effective prayer really is, here are some verses that will help to motivate you to get on your knees - or as close to it as possible - and communicate with the Lord.

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## Vestry Meetings 2022

The Vestry of All Saints' Gladstone meets monthly at 7.30pm, usually on the third Tuesday of each month. The dates for Vestry meetings for the coming year are:

Tuesday 21 June  
 Tuesday 19 July  
 Tuesday 16 August  
 Tuesday 20 September  
 Tuesday 18 October  
 Tuesday 15 November

Saints  
*Alive!*

*"Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him."* (Psalm 32:6) These lines remind us that our voices join with a multitude of others as we make our prayers to God. Occasionally, just like the Psalmist, we will feel that our prayers cannot possibly be heard over the vast noise of all the other prayers that must surely be flowing in. However, our faith allows us the confidence to know that we are in a personal relationship with God and because of this our prayers will be heard as clearly as if we were talking to God face-to-face. We are given further assurance of this when in Psalm 66:19 we read: *"But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer."*

Following on from our time of prayer is often that difficult and challenging period when we find ourselves awaiting God's reply. But once again we are assured that God hears our call: *"But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me in your saving faithfulness."* (Psalm 69:13) Wherever we find ourselves in life, we are welcome to come before God and talk out our thoughts, our feelings, our desires and our needs. It's not only possible at the strong times in our lives, but also when things get tough. Romans 8:26 reminds us: *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words."*

I don't know about you, but having grown up in the Anglican church, I've always found it useful to have the liturgy in front of me when I'm praying because it seems to be written in a way that phrases things better than I ever could. But the reality is that God hears our prayers no matter how they are phrased. So feel free to come before the Lord with whatever words you want to use, in whatever syntax you wish to use them. Flowery or ornate prose isn't necessary in order for God to respond. What is important is the recognition that we are in a personal relationship with God and that we can talk to our God through the prayers we offer.

## Coming Events...

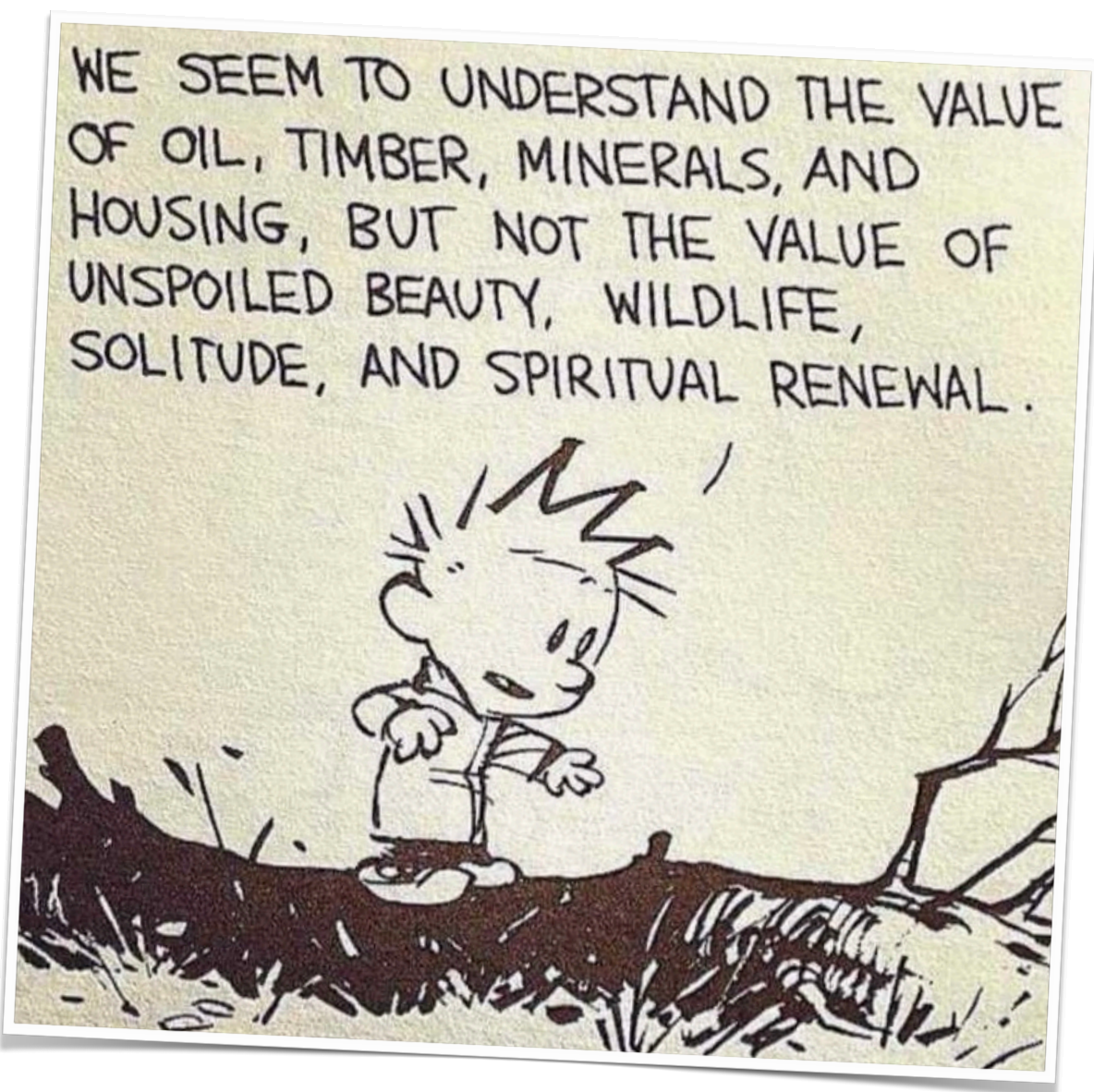
1 June	Said Eucharist 10.30am AAW Meeting Pizza and Prayer at 20 Russel Street from 6.00pm
4 June	Prayer Breakfast at Holy Trinity, Windsor at 8am
5 June	Said Eucharist 8am; All-Age Worship Service 9.30am
7 June	Archdeaconry Meeting at Holy Trinity, Windsor at 12noon
10 June	Mission Without Borders knitting display at Holy Trinity, Windsor from 10am
12 June	Said Eucharist 8am; Holy Communion 9.30am
19 June	Said Eucharist 8am; Holy Communion 9.30am
21 June	Vestry Meeting in the Meeting Room at the Office
26 June	Extended Communion 9.30am Oban Presbyterian Ecumenical Service 10.30am

## Ten dollars is ten dollars...

Stumpy and his wife Martha went to the state fair every year. Every year Stumpy would say, "Martha, I'd like to ride in that there airplane." And every year Martha would say, "I know Stumpy, but that airplane ride costs ten dollars, and ten dollars is ten dollars."

One year Stumpy and Martha went to the fair and Stumpy said, "Martha, I'm 71 years old. If I don't ride that airplane this year I may never get another chance." Martha replied, "Stumpy, that there airplane ride costs ten dollars, and ten dollars is ten dollars." The pilot overheard them and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal, I'll take you both up for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say one word, I won't charge you, but if you say one word it's ten dollars." Stumpy and Martha agreed and up they went.

The pilot did all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word was heard. He did all his tricks over again, but still not a word. They landed and the pilot turned to Stumpy, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell out, but you didn't." Stumpy replied, "Well, I was gonna say something when Martha fell out, but ten dollars is ten dollars."



## Giving at All Saints

As a Parish we are very lucky and extremely grateful for the wonderful generosity of our Parishioners. We celebrate and thank you for your contribution to the running of the Parish, Missions, various appeals and the organisations we support.

There are different ways that you can give or contribute to the Parish.

- Internet Banking: Gifts given in this way still count towards your annual gifting receipt for IRD purposes. Our account is with the ANZ, account number - **06 0925 0171362 00**. Please use your name as the reference so the Parish Recorder can issue a receipt for tax purposes at the end of March each year.
- Envelopes: These are available through the Parish Recorder and you can make a donation using your envelopes. The amount you give remains entirely confidential and you will receive a receipt for tax purposes at the end of March each year.
- Cash: This can be put in the collection plate as it circulates during the Offertory Hymn. Cash is not able to be receipted.
- Bequest: Please speak with your advisor or trustee about leaving a bequest to the Parish.

## Communion Practices at All Saints' Gladstone...

The last few months have seen us administering communion in one kind - the bread only - and this was undertaken as a concession to the pandemic; and as a way of safeguarding the well-being of everyone at All Saints'. However, as with all things different, after a while there are questions as to why such precautions are being continued. Even though it is now discretionary, the Vestry have decided that, for the ongoing safety and well-being of all our parishioners, we will continue to administer communion in one kind. Should there be any change in Alert Level/Traffic Light colour, then this will be revisited and reviewed at that time. These changes to long-standing practices can be hard to live with after a while, but they won't last for ever and the Vestry is grateful for your patience and understanding. Should you have any further queries, please see either the Vicar or Wardens in the first instance.

### All Saints' Gladstone: Contact Us

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*find us online on  
these platforms...*

