



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF  
**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, GORDON**

FOR THE DAYS BEFORE AND AFTER  
29 NOVEMBER 2020  
ADVENT SUNDAY



**ALMIGHTY GOD**, give us grace  
that we may cast away  
the works of darkness  
and put upon us the armour of light,  
now and in the time of this mortal life,  
in which thy Son Jesus Christ  
came to visit us in great humility;  
that in the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty  
to judge both the quick and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal,  
through him who liveth and reigneth  
with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and for ever. Amen

**ADVENT CAROLS SERVICE** Live-streamed tonight at 7:30PM

**WORSHIP DURING CORONAVIRUS**

**SUNDAY 8:00AM EUCHARIST, in-person**

Telephone or e-mail the church office before Wednesday 5:00PM  
for a reservation and to make health declarations you will confirm upon arrival.  
Face masks are required.

The **SUNDAY 9:30AM EUCHARIST, live-streamed on Facebook,**  
may also be watched at a later time.

**EVENSONG** will resume in the new year.

The **THURSDAY 10:00AM SERVICE** remains in recess.



“Like” and follow St. John’s, Gordon on Facebook.  
Watch our Sunday 9:30AM service  
and monthly Evensong on Facebook—live or later.

Scan this QR code  
to go to  
the church website.



**From The Churchwardens**

## **COVID-19 UPDATE & PARISH NEWS**

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25 November 2020

### **Christmas 2020 ...**

The Churchwardens received a further positive update from the Archbishop and NSW Health this week. Some restrictions have now been eased before Christmas. As of next Monday (30 November), up to 500 people will be able to gather at outdoor carol services, as long as they meet specific COVID-19 safety guidelines including electronic QR code reader based registration on the Service NSW website. Where allocated seating is provided, then the number of people will be governed by a 2 square metre rule. (However, if seats are not provided, where people are seated on the ground or picnic rugs, then the 4 square metre rule will still be in place.) For these outside events only, up to 30 singers are able to lead the gathered throng from 5 metres away, and everyone can sing along, provided those over 12 years or age wear a mask. From 1 December, numbers at funerals have also been lifted to 300.

However, the Archbishop also advised he has raised with the Minister of Health the incongruence of preventing congregations from singing with masks when they meet inside a church building. We were expecting some further news on this last Monday—but none was forthcoming up to today. We are on standby to instigate arrangements for sung Christmas services with our new organ and choirs if and when NSW Health orders are changed.

Meg McDonald and her team have installed an electronic QR code reader system as now legally required for funerals, weddings and community events but the arrangements for the Sunday in-person service with pre-registration, at this stage, remains the same.

## The Op Shop ...

What a fantastic community operation swung into action last Saturday. Under the careful management of June Millar, Jan McLachlan and their teams, the Op Shop was re-opened (see pictures in this update) (Ed: and elsewhere in this publication).



The opening at 9:00AM was greeted with spontaneous applause from the fifty-plus customers who were in the queues by that time—some for over an hour. It was great to see many regulars back, as well as a great many new customers. The tables, both inside and out, saw a constant

stream of buyers carefully metered by the Marshals, to maintain social distancing and space limitations.

Over 40 volunteers from amongst St John's parishioners, most of whom were not in the vulnerable age groups or health categories, turned up to assist in setting up or



pulling down, selling on the tables or to act as COVID Marshals at various times. Our older and ever-willing Op Shop team members were also able to manage the operations and operate from behind specially-built plastic shielding. A two-way radio system ensured that the maximum number of 28 customers could be maintained within the Op Shop building by counting clients in and out of a one-way system.

Whilst some fine tuning will be instituted before our next Op Shop sale on 12 December—as a St John’s community event, it was certainly successful in its ministry and mission of re-engaging with the outside local (and not so local) community. For many of our visitors and customers—this is the only contact we, or indeed the Church in general, has with them and it is the Wardens’ prayerful hope that the faith which drives us all is apparent and inspirational for them also. I (Chris Russell) like to call it “osmotic faith” and it can be a powerful witness!

Financially, the day was also successful with over \$5,000 being taken in the three hours and that will certainly help towards the number of extraordinary expenses we have had this year in Rectory refurbishment, storm damage and indeed, upgrading the Op Shop area itself.

### Finally ... a vaccine??

From the encouraging news this week on a vaccine—it would seem that we may now be closer to the end than the beginning of this COVID-19 challenge (and we can finally remove the need for this weekly “COVID Update” from the Churchwardens!).

In his bi-weekly letter, the Archbishop expressed his appreciation for the prayers throughout the diocese for a successful COVID-19 vaccine free of any ethical compromise in its manufacture. Many parishioners in many Anglican churches throughout the diocese pray “together” at 7:00PM each day from wherever they are at that time for the speedy completion of final trials of these vaccines so that the Government’s expectation of a release for public vaccinations can occur in early 2021. This would be a truly remarkable achievement when you consider the decades of work by the finest medical minds that has previously occurred in a fruitless search for a vaccine against another well-known coronavirus—the “common cold”. As the 18th century Anglican essayist Dr Samuel Johnson said, *“Nothing so focuses the mind as the sight of the Guillotine!”* and as the Gospel teaches us: *“Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”* (Matthew 18:19-20)

**The Churchwardens**     Chris Russell AM   JK Seo   James Winter

**HEATHER YELDS**, a long time St John's parishioner, passed away on 13 November. She was 93, living at the Regis in Hornsby. Her husband Max pre-deceased her in 2013. A private funeral will be held here Thursday, 3 December.



**ADVENT BEGINS TODAY** and our **ADVENT CAROLS SERVICE**, marking the beginning of the season, will be live-streamed via the St John's Gordon Facebook page **this evening at 7:30PM** and available for subsequent viewing. This candlelight service of readings and music will help us set our hearts and minds to prepare for Christ's coming again. The order of service is now available for download from the parish website. Please log on and join us for this beautiful service and invite your friends to do so, too.

**NAMES FOR THE PRAYER LIST** may be telephoned in to the church office or e-mailed to [sjgpewbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:sjgpewbulletin@gmail.com). Remember to advise when names need to come off the list. The prayer list, part of the weekly intercessions page, is e-mailed and mailed to many. The prayer list begins anew at the new year and mid-year.

Persons wishing to attend the **8:00AM IN-PERSON SERVICE** should telephone or e-mail the church office and make the required health declarations by Wednesday 5:00PM. Note that there are no standing reservations.

Please keep the **PARISH NOMINATORS, OUR FUTURE RECTOR** and **ACTING RECTOR FATHER ERNEST** in your prayers.

# OP SHOP SALE 21 NOVEMBER 2020

Photographs by Meg McDonald



## **REPORT ON THE 21 NOVEMBER OP SHOP SALE**

By Pat Gaudry

Over forty volunteers helped sort, set up, sell, and clear away for the Op Shop sale held on 21 November.

As quite a few of the Op Shop regular helpers are not actually parishioners, it was heartening to see so many new faces of our parishioners who donned their helper's apron or marshal's jacket and got right into the swing of the sale day.

The plan for people movement through the area worked well and helped spread out the shoppers over a larger area and longer time than was usually the case.

Early shoppers greeted Chris Russell's welcoming remarks with applause, showing the shoppers had been hanging out for resumption of normal Op Shop sales as much as the Op Shop crew had been hoping for a resumption of sales.

The Cake Stall had eager customers and did a brisk trade in scones, biscuits and Christine McCormack's legendary Christmas cakes. For next sale day on 12 December, more supplies of simple biscuits, which can be made in advance and eaten on the spot for an energy kick would be appreciated.

The Plant Stall has grown and was under the capable management of Sue and Bob Talbot. They managed to sell many plants and many other things within a useful radius of their location. New parishioner Holly Fergusson had a great new stall with seeds and posies of wild flowers. Holly's assistance was much appreciated helping our regular set up crew on Friday.

More plants would be welcome next sale day. Simple plants from the garden which can be subdivided and sent to another garden in the area seem popular.

The Book Shop was raided and now has spaces for new books. A former Dymock's staff member said our books were very well sorted, one of the best sorted second hand book shops in the area. If you have not been to see the newly sorted books, make a date for next sale day or bring your contributions some Tuesday mornings when Op Shop workers are sorting.

All told, our first sale day, selling the donations accumulated over the last six months, took over \$5,000 with cakes and jams an extra \$560.

While the Op Shop aims to make money, it is really our community outreach which is the most important part of the sale day. People come from as far away as Gosford. Sometimes it is the chance to have a chat with the regular sales staff that they cherish. Others who live alone or are on limited budgets welcome the chance for social interaction while enjoying a day out with the chance of a lucky find.

It is wonderful that Op Shop has recommenced and the regular Op Shop crew sincerely thanks the new folks who helped make our first sale day a memorable event for all who attended.

Sincere thanks is also given to Jan McLachlan, who measured the spaces and sketched out the people movement, which allowed the Op Shop to open with a COVID safe plan. She also worked tirelessly to train the COVID marshals and arrange the selling positions of our new plan.

A final thank you to Bill Killinger, Parish Council and parish architect for seeing to fruition the beautifully built roof area between the Op Shop and the Hall. For too long, Op Shop worked under a tarp which was a health and safety issue. We appreciate the new build, which is an asset for all the church community.

Op Shop Crew For 21 November Sale

Carl Ackland	Janet Long
Virginia Ackland	Rita McColl
Barbara Andrew	Christine McCormack
Graham Boswell	Reece McCormack
Kathy Bradfield	David McDonald
Doris Chiu	Meg McDonald
Rhonda Cramer	Jan McLachlan
Robbie Dalton	Diane McLoughlin
Holly Fergusson	June Millar
Pat Gaudry	Keith Millar
Steve Griffin	Rhonda Miller
Annette Harrisson	Ros Riley
David Kearns	Chris Russell
Yuko Kearns	Gill Russell
Robyn Kerr	Pei Song
Bill Killinger	Barbara Spooner
Linda Killinger	Kate Spooner
Alicia Lennon	Bob Talbot
Bridget Lennon	Sue Talbot
George Lennon	Sue Truscott
Jimmy Lennon	Jolanta Wielecka
	Bernadette Young



# CONSTRUCTION AT THE OP SHOP

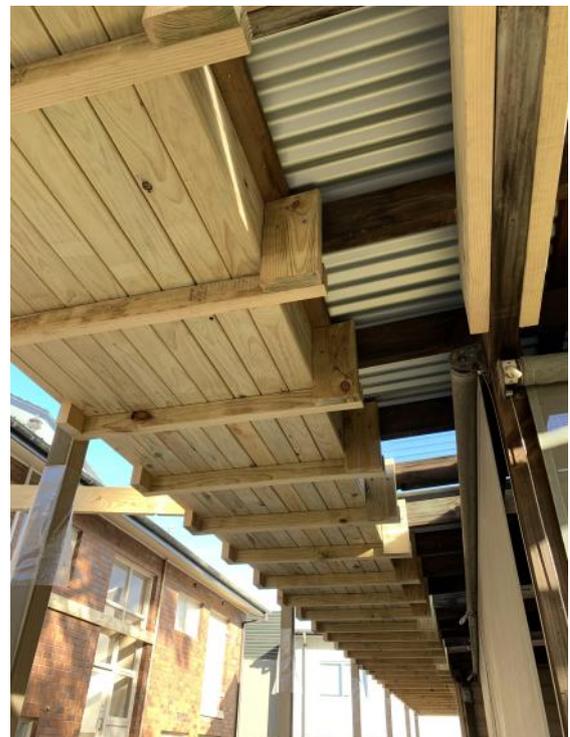
Photographs by C Keithly



16 August



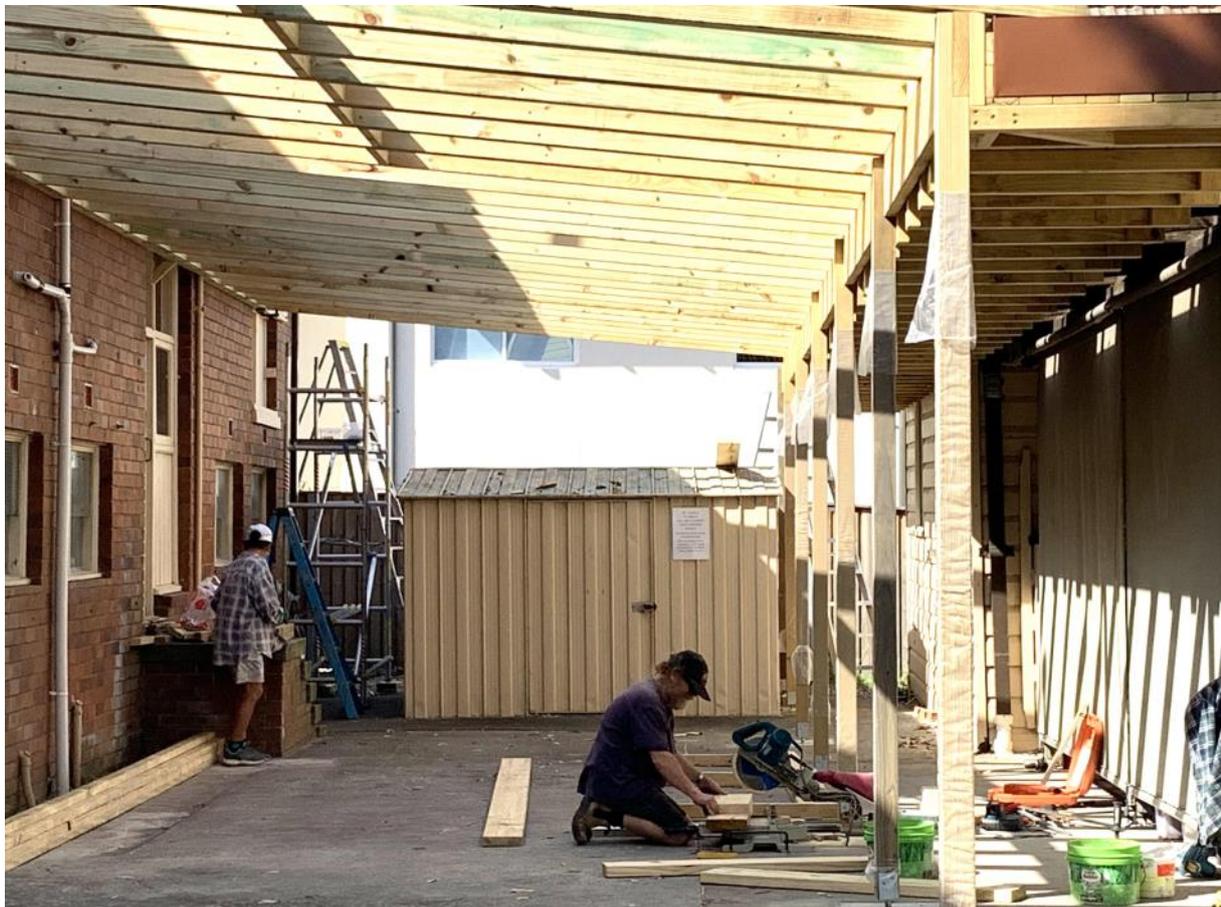
27 August



10 September



17 September  
(all on this page)





24 September



1 October



8 October

# B I B L E R E A D I N G S

**Sunday, 29 November** Isaiah 63:16-17, 19, 64:2-7 Psalm 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

**Monday, 30 November St Andrew** Romans 10:9-18 Psalm 19:8-11 Matthew 4:18-22

**Tuesday, 1 December** Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Luke 10:21-24

**Wednesday, 2 December** Isaiah 25:6-10 Psalm 23:1-6 Matthew 15:29-37

**Thursday, 3 December** Isaiah 26:1-6 Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27 Matthew 7:21, 24-27

**Friday, 4 December** Isaiah 29:17-24 Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14 Matthew 9:27-31

**Saturday, 5 December** Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 Psalm 147:1-6 Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5, 6-8

**Sunday, 6 December** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Psalm 85:9-14 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

**Monday, 7 December** Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 85:9-14 (same as day before)

2 Peter 3:8-14 (same as day before) Luke 5:17-26

**Tuesday, 8 December** Genesis 3:9-15, 20 Psalm 98:1-4 Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

Luke 1:26-38

**Wednesday, 9 December** Isaiah 40:25-31 Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10 Matthew 11:28-30

**Thursday, 10 December** Isaiah 41:13-20 Psalm 145:1,9-13 Matthew 11:11-15

**Friday, 11 December** Isaiah 48:17-19 Psalm 1:1-4, 6 Matthew 11:16-19

**Saturday, 12 December** Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6, 10 Judith 13:18-19

Luke 1:26-38

Readings are from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## C A L E N D A R

**Sundays 8:00AM in-person Eucharist**

**Sundays 9:30AM Eucharist, live-streamed via Facebook**

**Advent Carols Service**

Sunday, 29 November, 7:30PM, live-streamed on Facebook

**Church Shop** open when church office is open

**Bishop Michael's Lectio Bible Study**

Thursdays at 7:30PM via Zoom

**English Classes, via Zoom, contact Bowen Lau**

**Op Shop Sale**

Saturday, 12 December



The **ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION**  
**2020 ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS APPEAL**  
supports three projects—  
in Australia, Kenya and Zambia.

Your gift will support Wontulp-Bi-Buya College and Nungalinya College, empowering **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people** to be leaders with the faith, visions and skills to build up their people, their churches and their communities.

You will also be supporting people with disabilities in **rural Kenya** to join in Anglican Board of Mission's Sustainable Livelihoods program.

Zambia Integrated Gender Project in **Eastern Zambia** is building strong networks of men who say "NO" to gender-based violence, provides counselling and livelihood support to survivors and trains community members in Savings With Education so all can access a brighter future.

Envelopes are being sent to those who receive the pew bulletin at home by mail. Those envelopes may be returned to ABM Advent and Christmas Appeal, Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230. Alternatively, you may donate on-line at: [abmission.org/Christmas2020](http://abmission.org/Christmas2020) or use the QR code below.



ABM writes: "With our normal face-to-face Sunday gatherings affected by the pandemic, we understand that cash handling may not be an option or be your preferred method of giving at this time. We have now introduced QR codes for a secure and easy way to make your cashless donation. If you wish to make a donation, please scan the QR code. Apple users—open your Camera app. Samsung users—open your Camera app, tap 'Bixby Vision' at the top of the screen. Hover your device over the QR code. Your device will recognise the QR code and display a notification. Tap the notification to open the link. Android users—download a free QR code reader app from the Google Play store. Please note: ABM envelopes will still be available within your parish in limited numbers as we trial this new method."

Further information about the featured projects may be found on the ABM website at [www.abmission.org/projects](http://www.abmission.org/projects).

ABM's Advent Study, Songs from a Strange Land, is available at <https://tinyurl.com/Songs-from-a-Strange-Land>.

Gifts to this appeal are tax-deductible.



## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH DIRECTORY

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Website [www.stjohnsgordon.org.au](http://www.stjohnsgordon.org.au)  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/stjohnsgordon](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsgordon)  
and [www.facebook.com/musicatstjohnsgordon](http://www.facebook.com/musicatstjohnsgordon)

**Meg in the church office Mondays and Thursdays, Cynthia Thursdays**  
Church Shop open during office hours

Interim Rector	<b>Rev'd Ernest Chau</b>	Mobile 0414 549 082 <a href="mailto:rector@stjohnsgordon.org.au">rector@stjohnsgordon.org.au</a>
Honorary Assistant	<b>The Ven Rob Sutherland CSC</b>	0406 767 757, <a href="mailto:revrob@ozemail.com.au">revrob@ozemail.com.au</a>
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Asst Dir of Music	<b>Nicola Chau</b>	
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Westpac Bank Account Name: St Johns Church Gordon / BSB: 032083 / A/C: 810231