



**OUR BUILDING
IS CLOSED.**

**THE CHURCH
IS NOT.**

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
HELP US SERVE
GET CONNECTED

Distant Socialising

A Letter from Rev Andrew

Readings for Sunday 28th June: Pentecost 7

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Do you live alongside any people you find difficult?!

Are there colleagues in your workplace who make life hard for you? (Or you for them?)

This parable speaks to the idea that the good and wonderful signs of the kingdom of heaven often exist alongside negative and much darker aspects: the wheat grows intermingled with the weeds. While we remain here on earth we live in a very mixed economy.

What do you live alongside that makes your kingdom life difficult?

What or who are the weeds in your fields?

It is interesting that the workers are told not to try to gather in the weeds, but to leave them until harvest, when they can be separated from the wheat. Jesus explains that this means that good and evil will coexist until the Son of Man intervenes at the end of the age. The parable is not suggesting that we should try to deal with the evil, but that we should wait for God.

Do you believe that God has a plan for the difficulties you live with?

Do you believe that God is with you even as you see the weeds nearby?

What reassurance do you get from this parable?

What is the message of hope here for you?

It can be easy to overlook the 'wheat' around us and see only the 'weeds'. But the parable speaks of both growing. The wheat still bears grain even with the weeds surrounding it.

Do you look for signs of the kingdom or concentrate on symptoms of evil?

What signs of God's kingdom are in evidence where you are?

There is a necessary tension within this parable, also reflected in Paul's words to the Romans – a sense of living in both the 'now' and 'not yet'.

We have the first fruits but wait patiently for our full redemption.

How do you manage this tension today?

What does it look like for you to live in both the 'now' and 'not yet'?

Online services

Last week I wrote about the two styles of service that will take place at Orange Uniting Church from the beginning of September (COVID 19 permitting).

Our aim is that both of these services will be available online so that people who are unwell, unable to travel or in a more vulnerable category can still be involved in attending worship through live stream or watching the recording later...



Contact Details

Due to the current health situation, the church office is not open to the public.

The care and administration of the church will continue, so if you want to contact us feel free to do so by phone or email.

Church Office

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Find us on

YouTube

Orange Uniting Church on **YouTube**

??:?? am – Intergenerational Livestream

??:?? am – Traditional Livestream

or watch the recording later...

Search for **Orange Uniting Church** at www.youtube.com/

Consultation and Decision Making

As you may have read in the chairperson's report two weeks ago, there is a lot going on!

Some of the COVID *wheat* (see previous page) that we may see if we look, is that we have been given an opportunity to move forward on plans to refurbish the church and other buildings at Anson Street while they are vacant. It also means that some of the leadership have more time to focus on this planning while other activities are not taking place (I have ticked a lot of boxes on my 'to do list' over the last four months!).

Planning and action is moving forward on the employment of an additional ministry agent, building work, Work Health and Safety, financial sustainability, records management, the website, COVID safety planning, pastoral care, communication, worship, mission activities, community connection, creation care etc, etc, etc...

We consult with the congregation about these plans and ideas through this newsletter, the chairperson's report and meetings online or in person with groups of interested people.

Decision making must continue at this time and we seek your input as follows:

- ◆ Advance communication of ideas and plans in newsletters, and personal contact as required.
- ◆ Repeated communication of the ideas and plans.
- ◆ Seeking your input through the Sunday Zoom gathering, email, phone and written correspondence.
- ◆ Weeks of extra time for your questions and voting where required.
- ◆ Extra formats for voting—Zoom, email, phone and written correspondence.

Please do take the time to read what we send you, and get back to us for clarifications, answers and with your own suggestions. Also, feel free to get in touch with any of the elders of church councillors for a chat or to ask questions about any of the ideas and plans.

Church Council Email Addresses

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Kern Bigwood (Elder) – bigsplinterwood@bigpond.com

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Jim Wilkinson (Elder) – j.wilkinson1@bigpond.com

Margaret Williams (Councillor) – margwill24@bigpond.com

Hot Meal Outreach Update from Christine Hawke

Last Saturday was a bonanza evening for our Hot Meals Outreach.

We provided 46 hot meals and 36 frozen meals.

This week is our Christmas in July meal, with roast pork and vegetables, and Pam's delicious plum pudding.

If anyone can help, by making slices or biscuits to complement our hot meals, it would be much appreciated.

We are happy to receive them after 3.30pm on Saturdays or, if they are brought to the Church office by arrangement with Sally, she can pop them in the freezer and we will remove them on the Saturday.

Fusion Families Course

Mum, Dad, Carer, Grandparent, Auntie or Uncle looking to build a healthy, strong and loving family life?

Fusion's Term 3 online Families Course kicks off Tuesday 28th July 7:30pm EST

Don't miss the opportunity to gain tools, share stories and strategies to strengthen your family life. Find out more or register your spot at <https://familiescourse.com/courses/>

The World of Jesus and Us: Poles Part but Connected at the Core

with Professor Bill Loader (Poster attached)

Five Interactive Lecture Presentations via Zoom

Mondays, 7.30 – 9.00 pm from the 20th July 2020

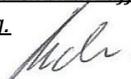
Register with the Church Office if you would like to receive the Zoom invitation via email.

Soul Connections (Flyer attached)

We invite you to our new group, Soul Connections, on Fridays from 5.30pm-6.30pm, beginning on the 7th of August.

Please register your interest with the Church Office so that we can accurately plan for social distancing.

Hopefully see you soon. God bless.



This Week

Wednesday 15th July

- ◆ Creation Care Working Group 7.30 pm—Zoom

Saturday 18th July

- ◆ Hot Meals Outreach 5.00 pm—Church Hall

Sunday 19th July

- ◆ Recorded Service 8.30 am—YouTube
- ◆ Online Gathering 10.30 am—Zoom

Monday 20th July

- ◆ Additional Minister Position Description Meeting

Wednesday 22nd July

- ◆ Spending Review Meeting
- ◆ Audio Visual Upgrade Meeting

Thursday 23rd July

- ◆ Orange City Council OUC Masterplan Meeting

Giving Direct

Confidential giving via electronic banking can be used for either a regular payment or one-off payment from your bank account to make your offering.

Account Name: Giving Direct – Orange UC

BSB: 634 634

Account Number: 100046973

- all deposits made to this account are taken as offering payments.

- do not use this account for any other church related deposits.