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Clearing the Way for Jesus

The newsletter of **Five Islands Christian Ministries** links Christians and churches from Helensburgh to Gerroa to promote church unity. Printer-friendly 2 x A4 PDF files of the newsletter may be downloaded from www.5icm.org.au/index_files/ctwfj.html. Please send news items, prayer requests and comments to admin@5icm.org.au.
Distribution of this edition: 3,678

Prayer

1. **Robyn Gillespie** of **St John's Anglican Church**, Keiraville, reminded us to prayer for the upcoming **Scripture Union beach and family missions**. "As usual, a number of teams will set up at beaches, schools and holiday parks in the Illawarra and down the south coast after Christmas. They aim to bring the good news of Jesus to children, young people and families. The teams are considering how best to run this year in light of the need to be COVID safe."

Illawarra Church News

1. **Rev. Robin Vonk** has taken up the senior minister's position at **Albion Park Anglican Church**. Robin, his wife Cathy and children were previously at Nowra. Welcome to the Illawarra.
2. **Austinmer Uniting Church** is fund raising on [GofundMe](https://www.gofundme.com/) to save its building which needs repair. Their appeal featured on [Win News](https://www.winnews.com.au/) which said "The foundations of the almost century-old building are crumbling, as the congregation rallies to save the relic."
3. The **Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child** "is a hands-on way for you to bless children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts." A donation of \$10 per shoebox is requested to cover shipping costs. Do not include toothpaste or lollies. Illawarra churches can drop off shoeboxes at **Albion Park Uniting Church** by arrangement with [Lyn Brown](mailto:Lyn.Brown@5icm.org.au) (4256 1487 or 0425 219 233).
- 4 Churches are asked to take the [2021 National Church Life Survey](https://www.churchlife.org.au/) at a Service in October or November this year (although due to Covid restrictions, they will accept late surveys). The 5-yearly survey goals are
 - Build healthy and vital churches.
 - Equip effective leadership
 - Connect churches and communities

The cost is \$250 (ex GST) per church or parish plus (for churches over 30 people) \$2 per Attender and Child survey form (Leader and Church Census survey forms are free). Small churches may work together in clusters to reduce costs. There is also an optional online Local Community Survey at a flat \$200. All prices quoted are ex GST.
5. Now that NSW has reached 70% fully vaccinated, the Government has relaxed some **Covid-19 restrictions** for the fully vaccinated. This will be further relaxed at the 80% mark expected to be at the end of October when many churches will be recommencing Services. At that point everyone will be able to attend Services regardless of vaccination status. The 4sq m spacing rule will apply. Of course, anyone who might have Covid-19 should not

attend. Most churches that have had online Services will continue them at least until 1st December when restrictions will be further reduced.

Sicm News

1. The **Sicm Annual General Meeting** is to be held on **Monday 8th November** from 7:30 p.m. You can join us online by clicking on the link at the Sicm [Facebook page](#).
2. **Wollongong Gospel Choir** was to perform at Albion Park Community Church on 23rd October but the Covid lockdown prevented rehearsals. They have been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday 18th December Please check their [Facebook group](#) for details.
3. [Albion Park Community Church](#) will hold a service of blessing on the marriage of its senior minister, Mel Moore-Foye, and Brad Foye at the church when it resumes meetings, hopefully on Saturday 30th October. The next guest speaker will be **Capt. Robyn Black** of **Tarrawanna Salvation Army Corp** on 20th November. Robyn will tell us about the history of the Salvation Army. Visitors welcome. Services include a community dinner.
4. **Gary Hetherington** will continue his online prayer meetings. Visit [Gary's Facebook page](#) for meeting details.
5. The next issue of the monthly **Clearing the Way for Jesus newsletter** will be sent on **9th Nov**. Please email me any items for the next newsletter prior to that date.

God bless,
Derek Thompson,

Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.

A registered charity.

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Ecumenical Activities in the Illawarra

Wollongong Gospel Choir – When allowed, Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays during school term times.

7:00 pm. at Wollongong Senior Citizens Centre, 192 Gipps Road, Gwynneville.
Contact: [John Sandercock](#) 0499 444 151

Tuesday 19th October

Bible Society Good News Gathering

Tina King (Bible Society Grants Coordinator) will talk about the recent work happening with Australian Defence Force and front-line workers around Australia.

Details: 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. via Zoom. Email your name and email address to [Barb Mathie](#) (0411 212 874) for Zoom link.

Saturday 6th November (Note: change of date)

[Walking Between Worlds Workshop](#)

Learn how to offer better support for LGBTI+ people and do less harm.

Speaker: Anthony Venn-Brown OAM.

Venue: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Central Church, 4 Fitzwilliam St, Port Kembla

Cost: \$30 per person (includes morning tea). [Download flyer](#).

Monday 8th November

Sicm AGM

Find out what has been happening in the member ministries.

Details: 7:30 p.m. 1 O’Gorman St, Albion Park (Zoom attendance will be available)

See the [Sicm Events page](#) for more events and the **Regular Events** list.