

## From Australian Prayer Network Newsletter 23 July 2023

### Top British Businesses Discuss Being “Faith-Friendly”

Global brands have come together in Downing Street to discuss and share ideas on being faith-friendly employers. The first “Faith and Work” summit the government has held, was hosted by Chief Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen MP, who is a Christian. “It’s time to share that there’s actually some good news that many companies are becoming faith friendly.” Brian J. Grim told Premier before the gathering. Brian is President of the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation, and an expert on the positive socio-economic impact of religious freedom: “There’s a long way to go. But we’re off to a good start,” he said. Google, American Express, Salesforce, Rolls Royce, Thames Water, and OVO energy were among a range of companies present in Downing Street to meet the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Freedom of Religion and Belief in parliament, to discuss how a person’s religious beliefs are an asset in the workplace, rather than a problem.

“There’s a sea change happening right now,” explained Dr Grim. Speaking to Premier Christian News, he said the global customer service software platform, Salesforce is a good example. “In Australia, there was a Christian member of Salesforce who had an LGBT friend, who said to him, ‘How come it is that I can come out as gay and you can’t come out as Christian? ...I’m gonna raise that in our next, All Hands meeting’.” “And the gay guy raised his hand and said, ‘Hey, I don’t know why my buddy here, he’s Christian, can’t come out, like I’ve come out? He can come out as Christian, as I can come out as gay.’ And that started the change in the company,” he explained. Grim works with U.S Fortune 500 companies to include Religion and Belief as part of their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and says current business practice is not equitable.

“It’s not fair that some identities that are important to people – whether it’s race, gender, disabilities, sexual orientation... somehow get elevated, and faith is left behind”, he said. “What we’re seeing is that companies, especially some of the biggest and best companies, are embracing this and moving in this direction... There’s a long way to go, many companies haven’t embraced it, but this is a breakthrough, truly a breakthrough,” he argued. Geoff Sweeney of the University of Derby’s Multifaith Centre agreed that businesses are doing more to embrace faith, which leads to a happier and more productive workforce. Grim, who’s from the United States, says that the evidence points in the direction that shows where religious freedom is respected by governments and societies, they do better and are more competitive.

“Our largest protein producer in America, Tyson Foods, employs chaplains at every one of their production facilities to care for the spiritual needs of their employees,” Grim continued. “They say, ‘Well, you know, we realise not everybody shares the same faith, but out of our compassion, we want to make sure that we care spiritually for the whole person and their family, and not just, you know, expect workers to come here’,” Grim said. Following the summit, Salesforce have announced they will host a Faith and Work Summit on 20th November, which will bring together companies from around the world to meet each other and share best practice.

Source: Premier Christian News

## UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

### Wagin Group

CONGREGATIONS OF  
DARKAN, DUMBLEYUNG AND WAGIN

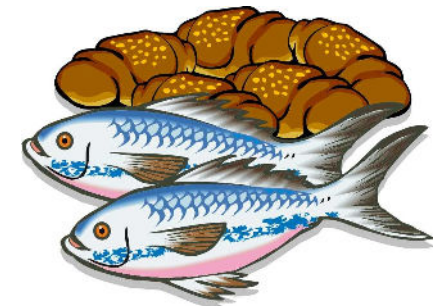


## OUR VISION

*To honour God through purposeful loving.*

**Pentecost 10**  
**6 August 2023**

Members of



### OUR MISSION

*To be a prayerful,  
Spirit-filled people,  
encouraging one another  
to Christ-like maturity,  
reaching out and  
affirming all people  
with the love of God.*

**Taking the five loaves  
and the two fish,  
he looked up to heaven,  
and blessed and broke  
the loaves, and gave  
them to the disciples,  
and the disciples gave  
them to the crowds.**

Matthew 14.19



**Sunday, 6 August 2023**

Darkan 9.00 am  
Wagin 10.15 am

**Pentecost 10**

Neil Vagg  
Arthur Pederick

**Bible Readings**

Genesis 32:22-31  
Psalm 17:1-5, 15  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

**Sunday, 13 August 2023**

Waratah 9.15 am  
Wagin 10.15 am  
Dumbleyung 11.00 am

**Pentecost 11**

Liz Pederick  
Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley  
Liz Pederick

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28  
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

**Sunday, 20 August 2023**

Darkan 9.00 am  
Wagin 10.15 am

**Pentecost 12**

Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley  
Arthur Pederick

Genesis 45: 1-15  
Psalm 133  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15:10-28

**Sunday, 27 August 2023**

Waratah 9.15 am  
Wagin 10.15 am

**Pentecost 13**

Liz Pederick  
Wendy Pederick

Exodus 1:8 -2:10  
Psalm 124  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20

**Communion**

Dumbleyung 13 August 2023  
Darkan 20 August 2023  
Wagin 27 August 2023

**Darkan Flower Roster**

6 August 2023 D Gooding  
20 August 2023 A Hart

**THIS WEEK'S WAGIN ROSTERS**

Door: Joan Johansson  
Morning Tea: Sharon Diver  
Reader: Fred Wharton  
Worship: Arthur Pederick

**NEXT WEEK**

Sharon Diver  
Joan Johansson  
Edna Vagg  
Graham & Ann-Britt



A mother read the story of Jacob and Esau to her five-year-old daughter, Sarah.

After they read how Esau had given up his birthright for one paltry meal, the mother said, "Esau traded the right to lead his family, and all he got for it was a bowl of stew."

Little Sarah piped up and replied, "Yeah, and he didn't even get dessert!"

**DATES, MEETINGS, INFORMATION:**

The next meeting of **Wagin Aglow** will be **Saturday 12 August 2023, 10.00 am at the home of Mrs Robyn Willey, 21 Johnston Street.**

**CommuniTEA Hub, Wesley Hall, Ranford Street, Wagin. Every Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm.** A place for a cuppa, chat and connection. For more information contact Wendy Pederick on 0429 171 676, Ann-Britt & Graham Wasley on 9861 1724.

*"What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbour as yourself—will last into God's future.*

*These activities are not simply ways  
of making the present life a little less beastly,  
a little more bearable,  
until the day when we leave it behind altogether.*

*They are part of what we may call building for God's kingdom."*

*N. T. Wright*

**WAGIN REGULAR FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP GROUP** is in recess until further notice.  
Contact Liz Pederick on 0429 087 733

**FRIDAY MORNING CELL GROUP** meets every Friday at **10.00 am** at the back of Wagin church. Contact Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley on 98611724.

**The FRIDAY PRAYER MEETING** is at **12 noon** at the back of Wagin Church.  
Contact Graham & Ann-Britt on 98611724

**CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON**  
Mr Graham Wasley  
Phone 9861 1724

**CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY:**  
Mrs Robyn Willey  
Phone 0417 924 823

email: [ucawagin@gmail.com](mailto:ucawagin@gmail.com)  
[www.unitingchurchwa.org.au/wagin](http://www.unitingchurchwa.org.au/wagin)

**ELDERS:****Darkan:**

Denise Gooding 9736 1175

**Dumbleyung:**

Sue McDougall 9823 5035

**Wagin:**

Arthur Pederick 0427 350 351  
Wendy Pederick 0429 171 676  
Liz Pederick 0429 087 733  
Lyn Pike 0408 952 565  
Graham Wasley 9861 1724  
Ann-Britt Wasley 0428 611 724