

Open doors and open hearts on the holy island of Iona

Excerpt from an article on The Assembly Website
written by Rev David MacGregor.

For nine immense weeks from mid-August this year, I served as a full-time volunteer on Iona, Scotland with the ecumenical Christian community there – the blessing of a lifetime!

Anyone can come to Iona. And they do – from around the world (including several Aussie friends), as tourist for a couple of hours; for several days, or for six nights at a time as a guest of The Iona Community, joining the week's specially themed program. Yes, living tangibly in Christian community. In my case even longer, with a great team of staff and volunteers.

To make it to Iona, you can't escape significant travel. From Glasgow; train, ferry, bus across Mull; then a final ferry to that holy island of Iona. A significant pilgrimage in some way to get there.

As an Iona Community "vollie", I've been enriched and challenged like few other times in my life. Just a few weeks into my stay, amid a Sunday night Service of Quiet, I found myself asking; God, how would you want me to grow, be blessed by this unique opportunity in this unique, holy place?

The answer? To grow deeper in my love for, relationship with and discipleship of God through Jesus; God wanted some deep work from me, work needing outward expression.

The Iona Community has long embraced the hospitality of God. God indeed welcomes all. As we sang *God Welcomes All* often during my time on Iona, God's welcome deeply impacted me. It's something so lacking in these demanding times. I recall the brief reflection I offered at a weekly Service of Welcome, when reflecting on Matthew 25's 'Parable of the Sheep and the Goats', I suggested a better title would be the Parable of Welcome. It's a parable of whether we will reach out, or we won't, and yes, the implications. Whether we'll dare to see and seek Christ in our neighbour; that neighbour who's different to us. The Parable of Welcome. To those on his right, the King says ...

'I was hungry ... when you've done it for one of the least of these of mine, you have done it for me.'

When we reach out, as Jesus calls from us; whoever, however, whenever that might be; we reach out to Jesus. We meet the face of Christ. In the loving heart of God, all are welcome.

As I move forward from the enrichment of Iona, which I sense will stay with me forever, I sense God through Jesus, through the gifts and fruits of the Spirit, calling me more emphatically and joyfully to be such a person of welcome, in justice-seeking and peacemaking. To be an open-doored, open-hearted disciple of Christ. God surely calls that from each one of us.

Read the whole article at
<https://uniting.church/open-doors-and-open-hearts-on-iona/>

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Wagin Group

CONGREGATIONS OF
DARKAN, DUMBLEYUNG AND WAGIN



OUR VISION

To honour God through purposeful loving.

Pentecost 24
3 November 2024

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.*



**You shall love
your neighbor
as yourself.**

Mark 12:31

Sunday 3 November 2024 Darkan 9.00 am Wagin 10.15 am	Pentecost 24 Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley Robyn Willey	Bible Readings Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34
---	--	---

Sunday 10 November 2024 Waratah 9.15 am Wagin 10.15 am Dumblebung 11.00 am	Pentecost 25 Liz Pederick Arthur Pederick Wendy Pederick	Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12: 38-44
--	--	---

Sunday 17 November 2024 Darkan 9.00 am Wagin 10.15 am	Pentecost 26 Robyn Willey Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley	1 Samuel 1:4-10 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8
--	--	---

Sunday 24 November 2024 Waratah 9.15 am Wagin 10.15 am	Christ the King Arthur Pederick Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley	2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37
---	--	---

DATES, MEETINGS, INFORMATION:

Correction: Last Sunday's Retiring Offering of \$200 was for Team Living Child.

There will be a **Wagin Congregation Meeting Sunday 17 November 2024 after the service.**

The Church Council will meet **Saturday 23 November, 2024, 9.00 am** at the back of the Church.

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.

My times of silence before God are very important to me now. I put everything else down, every word away, and I am with the Lord. When I'm quiet, life falls into perspective for me.

I have a very active mind and I'm a worrier, but in those moments when I choose to put that away, I rest beside the Shepherd in still places.

Why don't you give yourself a gift today? Turn off the television or the car stereo, put down the newspaper or the business plan, and in the quietness, rest for a while beside the Shepherd of your soul.

Sheila Walsh



COMMUNION
Dumblebung 10 November 2024
Darkan 17 November 2024
Wagin 24 November 2024



Darkan Flower Roster
3 November 2024 D Lamont
17 November 2024 J Hartnett



THIS WEEK'S WAGIN ROSTERS	NEXT SUNDAY
Door: Ian Pederick	tba
Morning Tea: Lyn Pike	tba
Reader: Kath Powell	Joan Johansson
Worship: Robyn Willey	Arthur Pederick

The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the Sunday School class.

Following the story, the children were asked to draw some picture that would illustrate the story.

Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman.



The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve.

Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"

WAGIN REGULAR FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

TUESDAY HOME FELLOWSHIP. For information, contact Ann-Britt and Graham Wasley on 0428 611 724 or 98 611724

WhatsApp PRAYER GROUP. Wednesdays 6 am to 8 am. For information please contact Robyn Willey on 0417 924 823

CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
Mr Graham Wasley
Phone 9861 1724

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY:
Mrs Robyn Willey
Phone 0417 924 823

Email: ucawagin@gmail.com
Website: <https://wagin.ucwa.au>

ELDERS:

Darkan:
Denise Gooding 9736 1175

Dumblebung:
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