



Our Vision:

“Dependent upon God, we seek to be inspired, equipped and enabled to walk the journey of faith in Jesus Christ, so that each of us...”



...intentionally shares Jesus' message and love reaching out to all people in our local and global communities.”
Matthew 28:19-20

TODAY:

- > **Please observe the following Creche guidelines:** Only children 5yrs and under; Children must be supervised; Remove all food/packages; Take all Bibles/bulletins out at end; Put toys away after use. Thank you.
- > **BCA Box** collection this month. Please give boxes to Kevin & Chris Dawson or leave in the church office. Enquiries to 4237 7671 - new supporters welcome.
- > Berkeley Life Centre Op Shop - BLC Op Shop would like to thank everyone for their generous support over summer. They now ask that we no longer give summer items (nowhere to store them) and focus on giving winter clothing. Thank you.

COMING WEEK:

- > **Ladies Guild Social Group:** Special meeting - Tue 28 Mar 2pm Speak & Easy Café. All members please attend. (Elaine Pratt)
- > **Bible Society Youth Event:** Celebrating 200 years of Bible Society. Lots of fun activities for Year 7 and up. Sat 1 Apr 2pm Coronation Park, Kiama (Wet weather alternative - Church Point Centre)

COMING MONTH(S):

- > **Blue Haven Service:** Thu 6 Apr 2:30pm
- > **Every Member Care Oversight Team (EMCOT) Meeting:** Thu 6 Apr 9am Board Room
- > **Prime Time:** Wed 12 Apr 11am Church Point Centre
- > **Parish Council:** Wed 12 Apr 7:15pm Board Room
- > **Good Friday:** 14 Apr 8am, 8:30am and 10am services - no 6pm service
- > **Easter Sunday:** 16 Apr Dawn Service 5:45am Blowhole Lookout - bring hot cross buns and hot drink to share. All other services as usual.
- > **Missionary Support Group:** Wed 19 Apr 2:30pm Church Point Centre

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Offerory Budget for 2017 | \$495,700 |
| Budget for Jan-Feb 2017 | \$83,400 |
| Actual for Jan-Feb 2017 | \$78,142 |

NEW BANKING DETAILS

A/C Name: Anglican Church Kiama
BSB: 032 689 **A/C Number:** 211284

MINISTRY TEAM

SENIOR MINISTER

Rev Steve Stanis
4232 2066 | 0429 928 001
steve@kiamaanglican.org.au
(Rest Day Tuesday)

YOUTH MINISTRY

Steve Inman
0429 147 938
steveinman@kiamaanglican.org.au
(Rest Day Tuesday)

COMMUNICATIONS

Rachel Aitken
4232 2066
rachel.aitken@kiamaanglican.org.au

ASSISTANT MINISTER

Rev Christopher Anstiss
4232 2066 | 0403 678 602
christopher.anstiss@kiamaanglican.org.au
(Rest Day Thursday)

CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

4232 2066

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Michele Thornton
4232 2066
office@kiamaanglican.org.au
Office Hours: 9am-2pm (Mon-Tue)
9am-3pm (Wed-Fri)

Welcome!

Steve Stanis 8am, 10am; **Chris Anstiss** 8:30am, 6pm
The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

The Narrow Gate

Twelfth Ordinary Sunday (AAPB p236)

Bible Readings:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Isaiah 55:5-11 | (NIV 733) |
| James 2:20-26 (8am only) | (NIV 1197) |
| Matthew 7:13-23 | (NIV 961) |

JOIN US

This week's focus - Christians Against Poverty

Coming weeks

- 2 Apr - Yet it did not fall...
- 9 Apr - Easter - Barabbas
- 14 Apr - Good Friday
- 16 Apr - Easter Sunday
- 23 Apr - Emmaus

KAC website: <http://www.kiamaanglican.org.au>



How closely linked are persecution and praise in the Christian life?

The teachings of Jesus inexorably links them together. Blessed are the persecuted....

For many years I have been closely linked to the ministry of IGL and others in India. I have seen first-hand the obstacles to Christian faith and how believers there have faced persecution for their Lord Jesus.

Let me share with you some of the recent reports about the changing climate Indian Christians face.

Updates from various sources in India state: 'Since 2013 India has risen 16 spots to its current number 15 ranking. Every week since then more than 15 violent attacks against Christians have been documented. But those are only the ones reported, the true number is most likely much higher. But that's not the most alarming number in their report. They also list countries in which the levels of persecution are rising the most rapidly. India is number 4.'

When the barefoot pastors at IGL train for ministry they are trained in the Moore College PTC and trained to expect to be persecuted. That final part was certainly not in my training! Yet the pastors and the people are so joyful and full of praise for the way the Spirit of God moves...even in the face of adversity.

In our sermon series from Matthew 5-7 Jesus reiterates in 5:10-12 that persecution for the believer is to be expected, life-long, and always part of Christian living. Jesus reminds us that the reward of the Kingdom makes the current persecution but a moment in God's sovereign unfolding Kingdom plan.

As I am writing this, the dark cloudy sky is lifting its veil to open up small and bright spaces for the orange, pinks and purples of a beautiful sun rise! I am reminded that on Easter morning (after the greatest persecution of all), our Lord Jesus was greeted by the first rays of a sunrise where eternal victory was to be found and is ours.

In the face of persecution our hearts, focus, and lives should not be drawn to ourselves but to our relationship with those who persecute us! Jesus calls this our blessing, and our rejoicing! When I read the prayers of my Indian brothers and sisters that is what I am reminded of. Their prayer is for their persecutors. They pray they would be salt and light to them.

The other aspect of persecution that shows powerful evidence of God's purposes is how the Church grows through this. It grows both broad and deep. Time and again we read of new Churches, rapid change and amazing testimonies as the Spirit uses persecution to convict of sin.

The temptation for us is to look to violence and other tangibles as persecution somewhere other than in our own lives or community.

Any aspect of the world that in not how God intended is a space where persecution abounds. We have the choice in the freedoms in our community to either avoid it or take it up. I am challenged that we need to embrace persecution here where we are so that the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ might change lives and grow the Church in Kiama.

May each new sun rise remind us that the Lord of mercy and grace will sustain us whatever might be before us, in India as in Kiama, so that Jesus' prayer, "as it is in heaven so it might be on earth" would abound.

Steve

World, Nation, Local Community

Pray for the nations of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia and for the Christian church there. **Pray** that the church leaders and missionaries continue to be salt and light. **Pray** regarding the hardship and strict government leadership in the Philippines, that through adversity the gospel would change lives and bring hope. **Pray** for those in our community struggling with loneliness. **Pray** for a heart to reach outside of ourselves and into other's lives with the same message and love of Jesus that gave us peace.

Mission and Partners

Pray for India and the ministry of the India Gospel League (IGL), and for the team that will partner there in 2017. **Praise** God for 618 new churches planted last December; pray for the 6,500+ pastors operating in IGL's network who are committed to planting at least one church every year. **Pray** for the Christians facing rising persecution in India. **Pray** against the groundswell that sees India face more than 15 violent attacks every week. **Pray** that believers would stand firm in their faith and that the government would act for peace. **Give** thanks for the 45 new water wells built in recent months; pray that the wells would be a testimony of God's love and provision.

PRAYER GROUPS

Thu 2pm Minnamurra Prayer Group
Contact Janet King 0438 483 572

Fri 10am Ladies Prayer Group
Contact Margaret Beazley 4232 2618

Prayer Chain requests contact
Jo Bailey phone 0424 466 935, email
praying@kiamaanglican.org.au

KAC Ministry

Pray for the small groups that meet across our church each week, that the Bible teaching and fellowship will grow each of us as disciples of Jesus.

Pray for ministry to children and youth in and from our church. **Pray** that, in the face of greater adversity, the message of salvation in Jesus may bring salt and light to many.

Pray for the right staff to join our team as we seek to fill part-time vacancies across the Children's and Senior's ministries. **Give thanks** for people working to keep programs running until staff are appointed.

People to Pray for...

Comfort and Healing

Lyn Langstaff (home) Grahame Scarratt, Harmony Smith (as she recovers from multiple foot surgeries)

Hospitals

Maureen Cleary (Wollongong Public - cards/notes welcome but, please, no visitors or calls.)

Still Needing Prayer:

Barbara Baird, Warren Divers, Elisabeth Vickery. Rachel Gregory-Wilson

Grieving families:

Margaret and Barry Silburn and families grieving the loss of Margaret's mother, Stella.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

This Coming Week - 31 Mar 2017

ROCK Move It, Mime It, Make It, Mural It
Pulse J Games

Friday Night K - Year 12 times;

K-2 CLIKK 4:30-6pm

3-6 ROCK 4:30-6pm

7-12 PULSE 6:15-8:15pm