

Embracing Ministries



An initiative of the Anglican church of Canberra and Goulburn



Music Engagement

When: Mondays from 8 February 2021

Where: via Zoom

Praise and Worship Circle

When: Wednesdays fortnightly from 27 January 2021

Where: via Zoom



Little Treasures Holiday Program

When: 5 April 2021 Meet and Greet
Program running 6 to 8 April, 2021.

Minnows Music and Bend and Stretch

When: 6 week terms on Saturdays from
8 May, 31 July and 30 October 2021

Session Times:

9.45am Minnows Music (Age 4-6)

10.15am Minnow Music (Age 6+)

11.30am Bend & Stretch (Ages 4-12)

Where: Malkara Specialist School

Minnows Music – Tiny Tots

When: 8 week terms on Fridays starting
30 April, 23 July and 22 October 2021

Time: 10am-11am

Where: St Mary in the Valley, Anglican
Church, Calwell

SPRING

Spring Holiday Program for youth with
special needs

Save the date: 21st - 24th September 2021

MENTOR

Mentoring training

11 September 2021 - Mentor Training

Safe Ministries and Key Sign

18 October 2021 - Mentor Training

ASPECT and PD Punk – understanding
Autism and brain development

Embracing Siblings

What: Connecting siblings of children
with special needs going through similar
situations.

When: April, once a fortnight

Junior group: Ages 6-9

Senior group: Ages 10-14



Parent Retreats

When: 5 - 7 of February, 23 - 25 April,
16 - 18 July, 15 - 17 October 2021

Where: Long Beach, NSW



Youth Music Engagement

When: Term 2

Where: Woden Specialist School

If you are interested in any of the
programs listed please contact us:
info@embracingministries.org

I look forward to seeing you all next year.
Embracing Ministries programs will begin
in April next year, except for the Music
Engagement Program and Worship Circle,
which will both continue via Zoom and
will start in February.

If you need to chat or if you need to see or
speak to a Chaplain, please feel free to call
me.

As we have not charged for any of our
programs this year as it has been a difficult
year. We would like to ask that if you can
afford to pay some contribution to
Embracing Ministries, we will gift it to our
refugee families.

Our contact details are,

Embracing Ministries

info@embracingministries.org

Revd Andrea de Vaal Horciu
0404 256 714

Bank Details:

Anglican Investment Development
Fund (AIDF)

BSB: 702 389 Account: 0520 9841

If at Christmas you would like to join in
prayers or in a family service please feel
free to join Dave and his team at St Mary
in the Valley Anglican Church on the
south side or St James on the north side.
Both church families would make you feel
welcome and cared for.

When:

Christmas Eve Kids Service - 6pm

Christmas Eve Eucharist Service - 11pm

Christmas Day - 8am and 10am

Where:

St Mary in the Valley Anglican Church
17 Webber Cres, Calwell ACT 2905

**For more information for these services
and how to book tickets contact**

Revd. Dave McLennan

Phone 6291 7752, or 0468 634 351

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A message from the Director

What a year!

Bushfires, poor air-quality from smoke, hail and the global pandemic have made 2020 a year to remember, and a time of particular hardship and isolation for many in our community.

In the Pandemic when many other services were closing, Embracing Ministries rose to the challenge with the help of Anglicare and an amazing team of volunteers.

The team at Embracing Ministries found new ways to connect and engage with the families we serve, including transferral of programs online via Zoom, sourcing technology for isolated families, delivering food, activity packs and song bags, and learning to provide pastoral care while wearing Personal Protective Equipment to the most vulnerable in the community.

This year was tough. To keep our most vulnerable kids safe I had to pray and bless the children in hospital through a window. As tough as this was, it was a wonderful gift to still be present and bring the love and peace of God to the most precious little ones in our community.

This year could not have happened without a great deal of commitment and support from our beautiful volunteers and parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all.

I would like to especially thank our weekly volunteers who make our programs possible. We give thanks for Euthica, Lulu, Deb, Charlotte and Pat. And a great big thanks to our many wonderful mentors who give up their time to support our children.

We give thanks for all those who have supported, donated and helped care for our refugee families. We thank all the churches and individual donors who have sponsored therapies and equipment for children who could not otherwise have afforded these necessities. We thank Anglicare and the Stening Charitable Trust because without their donations we would

not be able to offer the support we do to all our families. We give a big shout out to Malkara School and St Mary in the Valley Anglican Church who offer the physical space and help with pastoral care for our programs.

We give thanks this year for being able to start back at Minnows Music and Minnow Bend and Stretch. Each of the children have grown in so many ways this year. The highlights in all our groups have been the joy we have experienced during the songs “Dino Stomp” and “Teddy jumping on the parachute”. All of the songs have brought us fun, laughter and sense of pride as the children joined in and learned the actions.

We have had so much fun getting to know our Siblings Group. These brothers and sisters of children with disabilities have proven themselves to be resourceful, creative and a lot of fun. Siblings of children with disabilities can often take on a lot of responsibility from a young age and feel isolated amongst their peers. We have been focussing on having fun with the siblings and offering a safe space for friendship and understanding. We give thanks that even in the pandemic we had social distancing outings to the Cinema, Bowling, swimming at Malkara and Inflatable World.

Our outings and activities could not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of the Chinese Church. We give thanks for their support, not just in providing for the activities but also for providing a nutritious home-cooked meal for the group to share each fortnight at Malkara. We give thanks for the wonderful Christmas gifts they gave to each of our siblings that made them feel so special and cared for.

THANK YOU!

Jesus: Coming to show the way

It is that time again!

For some, the Christmas season is a time of joy, peace, and celebration. For others, it is a time of managing expectations, sensory overload, and hectic schedules.

For most of us, it is a mix of all of the above!

Many people today, as they did in Jesus’ day, seek money and fame. We define success as wealth and pay attention to the opinions of movie stars and those in power. Jesus’ way is more concerned with giving than receiving, humility than fame, and weakness than strength. He tells us that his provision and strength are enough for all of us. It was amazing at the first Christmas when a tiny baby was born. It is still amazing today. Jesus tells us we are all equal and introduces a way of life that stands in sharp contrast to the world around us.

And frankly, *I love it!*

I am reminded of this amazing way of life daily in my work with people with disabilities at Embracing Ministries, there are times this year when I was exhausted and I did not think I could do any more. I looked at each of you and your kids and felt an overwhelming sense of God’s love. A deep sense of God’s presence and love for every single one of you.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul paints a picture of the church as Jesus’ body. Jesus is the head, and all of us make up the different parts. He says all parts are important and have a purpose. Then he goes further and says, “those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour.” (1 Cor 12:22-23, NIV)

You may be asking yourself, “How is this related to Christmas?”

At Christmas, Jesus introduced us to a whole new set of values. Up is down, the weak are strong, the poor will inherit the world, and people who seem to be weaker are in fact the ones we really need. Jesus’ values are the opposite of the world’s values.

This Christmas season is a great time to start demonstrating the way of Jesus by practicing his values. By loving and caring for all people and including those you would not normally include.

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May this Christmas be a time of peace, hope, and rest for you, wherever you are and whatever your situation, give instead of receiving – and be a little bit of heaven to others on earth.

With much love and Many Blessings, Andrea