

Newsletter

March 2020



plentylife

mernda and doreen anglican church

discovering friends | encountering God | embracing life



Pastor's Spot

Our new year is on the way!

It was wonderful to regather with many of you at our commencement prayer service to hear from God about His heart and plans for us as a community in 2020. I'd encourage us all to continue to seek the Lord's leading in the months ahead, and if ever you sense He's giving you a word for our community please do get in touch. It is together that we are able to discern what God is saying to us as His church in the Plenty Valley.

As shared at our first service, we are spending the next few months looking at the gospel of Luke and discovering more about who Jesus is through Luke's eyes. My prayer is that this will be a time of great encouragement to you as you seek to follow and worship Him all the more in your own lives.

We see in the life of Jesus one who is committed to being and sharing the good news to those in communities and towns throughout the world, and it was so good to celebrate nine years of following this example at our birthday on Sunday the 16th of February. I especially want to thank those who have been with us from the very beginning, serving faithfully and fruitfully over many years. I have loved being on this great adventure with you all for almost a decade now!

It's been something of a sporty month, with representatives of the Northern Eagles Soccer Club (with whom we partner) joining us for one of our services, and the Pink Stumps Cricket and Family Fun Day that raised a huge \$1271 for the McGrath Foundation. A big thanks especially to our missional community KINect for their vision for this day and for all those who participated and helped make it such a success.

Last month we also held a Shrove Tuesday pancake evening, which marked the beginning of Lent. Lent is an ancient Christian practice of giving up certain things for the 40 days leading up to Easter, when Jesus gave Himself up for us all. It's a time of sacrifice and reflection and can take many forms such as fasting from foods like meat and chocolate, or some people even choose to give up social media. I'd encourage us all to consider continuing this practice throughout this month as a way of going deeper in our reflection on the sacrifice Jesus made.

Something that I'd really love you to have on your radar that's coming up in just a few months is our 2020 Plentylife Camp (June 5-8) This is a great opportunity for us to grow in our friendships with each other whilst enjoying stunning scenery, fun activities and great food (it'll be fully catered) - all at a very reasonable price! Please be on the lookout for camp forms that'll be coming your way this month.

I'm looking forward to the year ahead with you all and invite you to look through the different activities that are listed in this newsletter as there is much on the go. May God bless you richly this month and may you know His love and leading in your lives both now and throughout the year.

Blessings,

Contact Us:

Plentylife Pastor

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Media and Communications

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Missional Communities Coach

Kylie Towt: kylie@plentylife.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Plentylife/

Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday 1st March

First Sunday in Lent

Whole Church Service

10am @ Hazel Glen Child and Family Centre, 65 Eminence Bld, Doreen

Mernda Community Fair

10am-5pm @ Mernda Recreation Reserve

Thursday 5th March

Senior Youth Study Group

7:30pm-9pm @ Smokin' Joe's
940 Bridge Inn Rd, Doreen

Saturday 7th-Monday 9th March

Missional Community Gatherings

Saturday 7th March

Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

Monday 9th March

Youth 3:30pm-5:30pm - Mosaic Art
@ David Jack's Studio

Friday 13th March

Youth 6:15pm-10:30pm Rock Climbing, meet @ the Ogdens'

Sunday 15th March

Whole Church Service

10am @ Hazel Glen Child and Family Centre, 65 Eminence Bld, Doreen

Building Consultation: Question and Answer time after the service

Monday 16th March

Alpha Training Course

7:30pm @ the Ogdens'

Thursday 19th March

Senior Youth Study Group

7:30pm-9pm @ Smokin' Joe's
940 Bridge Inn Rd, Doreen

Saturday 21st/Sunday 22nd March

Missional Community Gatherings

Saturday 21st March

Youth 3pm-5pm Mountain biking @ Westerfolds Park

Friday 27th March

Youth 6:30pm-9pm Wide games & stargazing @ the Farm

Sunday 29th March

Passion Sunday

Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

On Saturday the 7th of March we'll be gathering at Mernda Bunnings for our annual BBQ fundraiser. With set-up starting at 8am, and sausages being sold until 4pm, there is plenty of time to come along and join in the fun. A sign-up sheet will be available after the service on March 1st, or email through your availability to: admin@plentylife.org.au.

Kids Time Helpers Wanted

Did you have an adult who made a positive impact for Jesus in your life when you were a child or teenager? What difference did that person have on your faith? You could have this impact on another young person. We would love to have at least two more adults join our *Kids Time* team, leading sessions with our primary school aged children. If this is something you feel God prompting you to do, please speak with any of our current team: Anne, Vanessa, Andrea and Taryn.

Building Consultation Q&A Session

During morning tea after the service on Sunday March 15th, Craig will be sharing an update about the progress on the plans for our building. After the update your questions and feedback will be invited, so do stay around after the service to learn more about this exciting project.

Alpha

In April we will be commencing another Alpha course, with training happening this month. Alpha is a powerful way of helping others to get to know about the life we share together that comes from a knowledge of Jesus. We would encourage everyone to be praying about whether there is someone God is calling you to invite to the introductory dinner that will be held on Monday the 20th of April.

Plentylife Church Camp

Save the Date! Our 2020 camp is coming up on the Queen's Birthday weekend, 5th-8th June. We will be heading to Upper Plenty Conference Centre to enjoy time together as we learn more about 'Living as God Made Me'. We look forward to building relationships as we have fun playing games and eating delicious food. Booking forms will soon be hitting your email inboxes and we look forward to receiving your confirmation and deposit by the end of March.



Whittlesea Region Community Rewards Program

The Whittlesea Region Community Rewards Program is a unique and local program that benefits local families; raises funds for local schools, clubs and charities and supports local businesses. By joining the program for \$39, families will receive a huge range of discounted goods and services, and by nominating Plentylife as the chosen group to support, our KIDS HOPE program will receive \$15.90 from every membership. More information can be found here: <https://wrcr.myrewards.com.au/perk>

Community News



Mernda Community Fair – 10am-5pm on Sunday 1st March

The Mernda Community Fair will be a low-cost family fun day at Mernda Recreation Reserve, Schotters Road, Mernda. There will be train rides, classic cars, face painting, market stalls and lots more! Plentylife will be working with MADRA to host a variety of youth

activities in a dedicated youth zone.

Raising Children in a Digital World

Facilitated by Martine Oglethorpe from 'the modern PARENT', (www.themodernparent.net) this workshop will help you find balance in managing gaming, digital distractions and the crucial role the parent has in a digital world.

When: Wednesday 11 March 2020, 7pm-9pm.

Where: Jindi Family and Community Centre, 48 Breadalbane Avenue, Mernda.

Cost: \$22

Bookings: Booking is essential and must be done by 7 March 2020 via www.trybooking.com/BGFLQ

Further information: Refer attached flyer or contact Council's Family Services Education Officer on 9404 8865 or email: familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



FREE EVENT: Despair to Action in Times of Changing Climate

It can be tough staying positive and resolute in the face of increasingly severe climate impacts and political inertia. Many people are experiencing grief, anxiety and powerlessness about the future. Carol Ride, psychologist and one of the founders of the not for profit group *Psychology for a Safe Climate*, will discuss the connection between climate change and mental health, and the strategies we can employ to maintain hope and take action.

When: Tuesday 3 March 2020, 12pm-1pm

Where: City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang

Information and free tickets available via:

<https://events.humanitix.com.au/despair-to-action-in-times-of-changing-climate>

Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday 29th March

Whole Church Service
10am @ Hazel Glen Child and Family Centre, 65 Eminence Bld, Doreen

Weekly Events:

Every Tuesday

(except school/public holidays)
Women's Afternoon Bible Study
1:30pm-3:15pm
Nola Young's home

Every Wednesday

The Hive Craft Group
9:30am-12pm
Mernda Community House
Schotters Rd, Mernda

Every Thursday

Women's Evening Bible Study
7:30pm
Michelle Peterson Clark's home

At Plentylife we exist for God's glory to know, love and serve Jesus; walk together in His ways as we engage with our local communities; and pursue His mission of sharing the fullness of life with all.

Plentylife Youth: Go to: www.facebook.com/PlentylifeYouth or contact Craig on 0430 505 593

Missional Communities:

Balance: Helping families live in a healthy balance between work, rest and play as they follow the ways of Jesus. (Contact Leigh: 0429 138 932)

Home Base: Being good news to the elderly by bringing church to local nursing homes. (Contact Jeannie: 0410 123 567)

KINect: Building family relationships by having fun together. (Contact Anne: 0407 223 905)

Love Thy Neighbour: Making disciples of Jesus by extending our hands in service and friendship to those in Mernda and Doreen – seeking to meet their practical and spiritual needs. (Contact Nola: 0433 055 694)

Thrive: Connecting with the Mill Park community. (Contact Sandy: 0403 362 003)

Xinc: Showing hospitality to asylum seekers, refugees and those looking for belonging through monthly luncheons. (Contact Craig: 0430 505 593)

Zest: Building family with wisdom and love in Whittlesea and beyond. (Contact Kylie: 0408 178 082)