



ANGLICAN PARISH OF KINGSCLIFF  
BULLETIN

# Higher

“as it is in heaven”

VOL 48 JANUARY 4 2025

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# Higher

Welcome stranger! If you are visiting St James in Kingscliff or St Marks in Pottsville, this page is especially for you. We are the two Anglican Churches in this part of the world and are delighted to welcome you to our growing Parish. You can learn more by leafing through this magazine, HIGHER, our weekly bulletin, which keeps our Christian community informed and updated about all that is going on.

## Celebration

If you are curious to know more about our Christian faith please contact our Rector, Rev. Constantine Osuchukwu whose details can be found at the back of this bulletin. Give him a call and invite him for coffee. We are all about hospitality and the love of God here and would love you to join us. You can also get a better idea of who we are what we are about by attending worship on Sundays (8.30 – 9.30 am at St James, 10.30 – 11.30 am at St Marks) and staying on for morning tea afterwards.

# Letter from Constantine

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans for peace and not for disaster, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).*

As we set out on the adventure of a New Year—full of possibility and promise—I write to wish you and your loved ones God’s abundant blessings of good health, peace, joy, love, hope, and prosperity.

I also wish to thank you most sincerely for your kindness, love, friendship, dedication, encouragement, and support throughout 2025. Your generosity of spirit and commitment to our parish life are deeply appreciated.

God always has surprising and beautiful gifts in store for His children, for He loves us with a love beyond all telling (cf. John 3:16). Having created us and redeemed us, will He not also continue to guide and provide for us as we journey through history toward our eternal inheritance with Him?

All God asks of us is that we open our lives to His loving presence and welcome, with humility and joy, His plans and purposes. In a culture that values control and independence, this is not always easy. Yet when we “let go and let God,” we discover that God takes nothing away; rather, He gives us everything that makes life truly beautiful, meaningful, and good. As a friend often reminds me, “God always surprises, but never disappoints.”

I am therefore calling 2026 **our Year of God’s Surprises**, and I invite you to allow the God of surprises to surprise you anew with His goodness and love.

When we began our ministry together just over seven months ago, I invited us to grow as a more prayerful, more ecclesial, more missionary, and more ecologically conscious parish. In simple terms, this means committing ourselves to: **Meeting Jesus anew in Prayer; Becoming His Family; Sharing His Good News; and Caring for God’s Creation -human and other-than-human components.**

Last September, at our Parish Planning Day, we prayerfully discerned and adopted the following Vision and Mission statements:

*“By 2032, we will be a Christ-centred, thriving community welcoming to all.”*

*“Enabled by the Holy Spirit, we are committed to sharing Christ’s message to make a positive impact in our community.”*

Following this discernment, Parish Council agreed on five Strategic Projects that will guide our work in 2026:

- SP1: Develop a phased upgrade plan for buildings and facilities
- SP2: Recruit additional licensed lay ministers, lay leaders, and a music leader
- SP3: Formalise, structure, and publicise all parish groups and create a volunteer register
- SP4: Develop and implement an upgrade plan for IT and technology
- SP5: Develop and implement a calendar of existing and new parish events for 2026

Project teams are now being formed to define the scope of each initiative and to make recommendations to the Parish Council. The Wardens and I warmly welcome your ideas and suggestions as we work together to achieve these goals and to continue building our parish as a place of Christian communion and fellowship, as well as genuine encounter with Jesus Christ, crucified and risen.

Once again, thank you sincerely for your anticipated cooperation and support. Please be assured of my prayers that 2026 may be a year of abundant blessing, grace, and joyful surprises for you and your loved ones.

Please remember to pray for me and for my family, too.

Your brother in Christ,

Constantine

# **A Blessing for New Year** by John O'Donohue

For Josie

On the day when  
The weight deadens  
On your shoulders  
And you stumble,  
May the clay dance  
To balance you.

And when your eyes  
Freeze behind  
The grey window  
And the ghost of loss  
Gets in to you,  
May a flock of colours,  
Indigo, red, green,  
And azure blue,  
Come to awaken in you  
A meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays  
In the currach of thought  
And a stain of ocean  
Blackens beneath you,  
May there come across the waters  
A path of yellow moonlight  
To bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,  
May the clarity of light be yours,  
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,  
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow  
Wind work these words  
Of love around you,  
An invisible cloak  
To mind your life.

[Note: "Beannacht" is the Gaelic word for "blessing." A "currach" is a large boat used on the west coast of Ireland.

# After the Celebration

Once celebrations are over, a time of reflection and forward planning usually follows. Its “out with the old and in with the new” as the saying goes. Many of us will have made New Years Resolutions earlier this week - and perhaps broken them already! Whatever hopes and dreams we might have for the coming year we know that God is always with us : He forgives us our human frailties, struggles with temptation and clumsy attempts to do better, even those that fail dismally. Whatever 2026 may bring, we continue to rejoice in the gift of the faith that saves us.



FAITH IS THE  
GIFT OF  
GRACE THAT  
MOVES US  
TOWARDS GOD

# Nativity Play and Carols

The Parish's annual Nativity Play and Carols Evening returned - twice - over Christmas with performances on Sunday 21 Dec, and Christmas Eve, ahead of a packed Church for the Family and Children's Worship Service. Starring the talented (and age-appropriate) young Charlotte in the lead role as The Virgin Mary, and with Huck and Kim as the squabbling Innkeeper and his wife, the play telling the "true story of Christmas" entertained an appreciative crowd in St James' makeshift "Auditorium" on Marine Pde. Those who came joined in afterwards to enthusiastically sing "Joy to the World", "O Come All Ye Faithful" and other much-loved carols. More photos next week!



# **Quiet January looms**

With Christmas and New Year celebrations behind us, and with Rev. Constantine away for most of the month, it's looking like a quiet January ahead. Many ministries are taking a summer break and will return in due course (watch this space). Happily, the Parish's food ministries continue to serve those in need, with Soup Kitchen at 6pm on Monday evenings and meal distribution on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 - 1 pm.

Constantine will be back to lead worship on the 25<sup>th</sup>. In his absence Rev. Sue Woodcock will preach on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> and Rev. Graeme will lead the services on 11th and 18<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Celebration of the Life of Hal Lawson**

On Jan 7<sup>th</sup> the family and friends of Hal Lawson will gather at St James to remember and celebrate the life of Hal Lawson, who was a member of the congregation for some 30 years. Rev. Greg March will lead the service which begins at 11 am and will be followed by morning tea. All those who knew Hal and would like to participate in the celebration are encouraged to attend.

## **Soup Kitchen Roster**

A regular Soup Kitchen Roster for Q1 2026 will be published in Feb. Throughout January the Soup Kitchen Roster will be run on a strictly volunteer basis. Adrienne has put her hand up to prepare a pot of her delicious Pea and Ham soup on Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are a cook and would like to volunteer to provide the meal on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the 19<sup>th</sup> or the 26<sup>th</sup> please let Jason know.



# Tweed Coast Christian Education Association Inc.

*Newsletter December 2025*

## **End of year wrap!** from our president, Michael Boyd

This year introduced a new model of teaching and ministry in Banora Point and Tweed River. The team from Pais is now well established and finding many opportunities to share the Gospel both in the classroom and informally in the playground. We praise God for serious conversations and the spiritual growth of many students. Please pray for the potential to continue SRE into Year 9 next year at Banora Point, and for the drop-in time Pais have instituted at Tweed Salvos (just near the school).

We mark another milestone at the end of this year as Kirsten Strong, our teacher at Kingscliff, will not be continuing next year. Kirsten has had a fantastic ministry since April 2022. The Association is deeply grateful for her hard work in timetabling and negotiating classes, for her clear Gospel presentation, and for the way she was a clear ambassador for Jesus. She leaves the work in a strong position, with students actively enrolling for SRE.

The Board is currently in discussions with Pais about the possibility for a team to continue the work in Kingscliff next year.

The vision of the Association is to see all local churches actively partnering together through prayer and giving so the work can continue and grow. Please encourage your church to set aside **Sunday 22 March as SRE Sunday** as a focus for prayer and giving. Currently the work is supported by a small number of individuals in a small number of local churches. While God keeps the door open in State schools, it would be a travesty to see the work fold due to lack of support from the Tweed Christian community. Please pray.

## **Make your tax-deductible donation today**, by

- A) Direct deposit (EFT) into the TCCEA bank account, or
- B) Paid into TCCEA bank account over the counter at any branch of the Commonwealth Bank, or
- C) Handed to your Church TCCEA representative who will forward it onto the TCCEA treasurer, or
- D) Donations made by cheque can be posted to TCCEA PO Box 6954 Tweed Heads South NSW 2486

### **TCCEA Bank Details as follows**

Bank Commonwealth Bank  
BSB 062-611  
Account no: 10359407

For any further information about TCCEA please email: [tcceainc@yahoo.com](mailto:tcceainc@yahoo.com)  
or visit our website at [tccea.org.au](http://tccea.org.au)

## **Kirsten Strong - SRE teacher at Kingscliff High School**

As 2025 draws to a close, a particular verse comes to mind:

*"There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place"* - Deuteronomy 1:31.

During my time teaching SRE at Kingscliff High School, I have experienced firsthand how God both makes a way and holds us close to his heart – *all the way*. Through the SRE program, the good news of the freedom we have in Jesus has been shared with young people, some of whom had never heard of God's love for them.

This truth is communicated so powerfully through the story of Christmas, the gospels' recount of which we have been exploring together in recent weeks. We've explored the Bible's answer to the question: *What is Christmas all about?* along with other meaningful discussions the students have initiated about prayer, eternity and ...do you believe in Santa, Miss?

As our Year 8 students finish their SRE program, I invite you to pray that they would continue to grow in their faith and be encouraged in their walk with God through connection with local youth groups and churches. Please also pray for our Year 7 students as they continue in the SRE program next year, and for the Year 6 students who will begin at Kingscliff High in 2026. May they have the power to understand, together with all God's people, "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge." - Ephesians 3:18, 19a Finally, to each of you who support this ministry in so many ways - through giving, prayer and practical support – thank you. Your grace, generosity and compassion shine irrepressibly, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.

## **PAIS Team – SRE teachers Tweed River High School**

We've been teaching Jonah this term, exploring what it means to live authentically and how God calls us to follow Him. Students are reflecting on their own choices and how to live faithfully in daily life. Overall, engagement is high. Students are happy to participate, answer questions, and read Scripture aloud when prompted. Many are expressing gratitude for our presence and genuinely enjoying Scripture class. In the playground, students are more open to conversations about faith, asking questions, and building relationships with the team.

## **PAIS Team – SRE teachers Banora Point High School**

This term, we too have been exploring the story of Jonah and what it teaches us about living authentically in relationship with God. We're also starting to focus more intentionally on Bible study skills, helping students read Scripture and reflect on it through guided questions.

Connections with students are continuing to grow, particularly with Year 7s. Many students are engaging dynamically in discussions about faith, asking thoughtful questions, and showing genuine curiosity about God. Breakthrough moments continue to happen during recess and lunch breaks, with students approaching team members to chat about faith or ask deeper questions. Facilitating Bible study in small groups has been fruitful, and students are increasingly excited about Scripture class. A few students occasionally choose PE over Scripture, which lowers attendance. Encouragement around prioritising Scripture, particularly for these classes, would be helpful.

## Prayer of the Week

Almighty God,  
by whom the world has been  
filled  
with the light of your  
incarnate Word:  
grant, we pray,  
that as he kindles the flame  
of faith and love in our hearts  
so his light may shine forth in  
our lives;  
who now lives and reigns  
with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.



## Bank Account Details

If you would like to contribute financially  
to the life and mission of both churches in  
the Parish of Kingscliff by electronic  
means, our bank account details are:

**BSB:** 062-673

**Account:** 1001 5155

**Account Name:** Anglican Parish of  
Kingscliff

Thank you for your support, we appreciate  
your generosity.



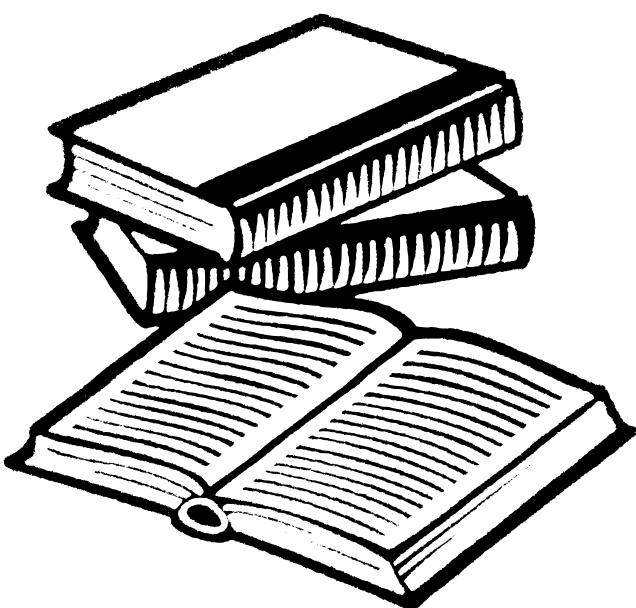
# Parish Food Ministry

The Parish would like to thank all who helped distribute the meals through the Food Ministry this week, add both St Marks and St James. Well done all for keeping this vital long running ministry alive.

St James -15 meals

St Marks - 12 meals

Praise be to God!



## Sunday Worship Readings

### **Sunday 4 January 2026**

Isaiah 60 v 1-6  
Psalm 72 v 1-7,10-14  
Ephesians 3 v 1-12  
Matthew 2 v 1-12

### **Sunday 11 January 2026**

Isaiah 42 v 1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10 v 34-43  
Matthew 3 v 13-17

# Service Schedule

**St James @ 8.30am**

**Sunday 4 January 2026**

**Officiant & Preacher:**

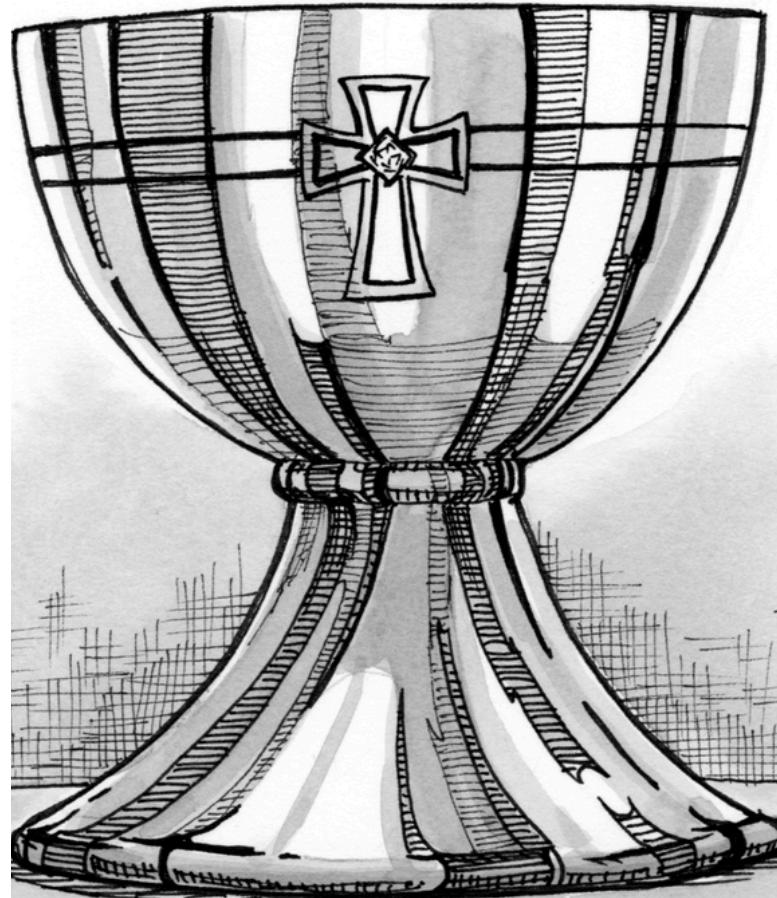
Rev. Sue Woodcock

**St Marks @ 10.30am**

**Sunday 4 January 2026**

**Officiant & Preacher:**

Rev. Sue Woodcock



## Contacts

### **Parish Office**

[www.apok.org.au](http://www.apok.org.au)  
p: 02 6674 1513  
e: office@apok.org.au

### **Rector**

Reverend Constantine Osuchukwu  
0435 750 155  
rector@apok.org.au

### **Wardens**

Stephen Elworthy  
0408 757 876  
Jason Saltearn  
0406 450 056  
jsaltearn@gmail.com  
Peter Pine  
0407 732 440

### **Grievance Officers**

Graeme Hodgkinson  
0407 209 819  
Marg Dephoff  
0437 400 429

# Parish Calendar for January 2026

## ● Mondays

- U3A Art Group – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–12:00pm
- *Evening Prayer – St James Kingscliff, 5:15pm–5:30pm*

## ● Tuesdays

- Meal Handout – St Mark's Pottsville 11:00am–1:00pm
- AA Meeting – St James Kingscliff, 7:30pm
- Pottsville Community Association – Last Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm

## ● Wednesdays

- **No Mid-week Services** for the rest of December and all of January 2026.

## ● Thursdays

- Ladies Craft Group – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–12:00pm
- Meal Handout – St James Kingscliff, 11:00am–1:00pm
- AA Meeting – St Mark's Pottsville, 6:00pm

## ● Fridays

- **Activities resume in Feb 2026**

## ● Saturdays

- Community Garden Club – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–11:00am
- Seven-Day Adventist Church at St Mark's, 9.00am -1.00pm

## ● Sundays

- *Holy Communion/Eucharist*  
– St James Kingscliff, 8:30am  
– St Mark's Pottsville, 10:30am

---*Contemporary Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the Month at St James at 5pm.*

## ● Upcoming Events:

- **Next Contemporary Service** is on Sunday, 11 January 2026 at 5pm at St James.