



The VINES Uniting Church

152 Reynell Road Woodcroft SA 5162



THE GRAPEVINE – 30th March 2025

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Three Parables of Grace

If you have time, I encourage you to read Luke 15 before worship. The Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Lost Son, sometimes referred to as The Two Lost Sons, are parables of the unconditional love, or *Grace* of God.

The Title, “The Two Lost Sons” draws us to the behaviour of the elder son, compared with that of the younger son and the Father.

Today we will think about The Lost Son, or The Prodigal Son, who is not someone who returns, but an extravagant waster!

Rembrandt’s painting, “The Return of the Prodigal Son”, which hangs in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia, is the inspiration for the book with that name by The Dutch Catholic Priest, Henri Nouwen. His sub-title is: A story of Homecoming. Nouwen is one of my favorite writers of profound pastoral theology, whose book, “The Return of the Prodigal Son” has fed some of today’s message.

If you Google Rembrandt’s painting, you may experience some of its power, in the way the Parable is interpreted.

This parable raises many questions, not least of which is, “How do I react to actions and personalities that I find offensive and destructive?”

Love and Peace,

Malcolm



❖ OUR VISION:

To be a vibrant, growing community of Faith.

❖ OUR MISSION:

To reach out and reflect God's Love –connecting others to Christ.

EASTER SERVICES AT THE VINES

April 17th Maundy Thursday 7.00 pm

April 18th Good Friday 9.30 am

April 20th Easter Sunday 9.30 am



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

This Sunday, March 30th, is The Vines Uniting Church Congregational AGM. Due to illness, the Congregational Chairperson is unable to chair this meeting, and we are in need of a volunteer from the congregation to take this on.

It is not a difficult task, nor a long agenda and the Church Council would appreciate your help. If you could fill this role this coming Sunday, please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Marj Dredge (Chair of the Church Council)

EASTER SERVICES

Details of our Easter Services are available in the church foyer for distribution. Would you please take some and deliver in your area? Thank you for your willingness to help advertise these important services.

PANTRY 152

Thank you for your continued support for the Pantry. If you wish to contribute, there are some leaflets with suggestions of items needed in the church foyer.

FRIDAY FRIENDS is on again on Friday 28th March. All are welcome to come along and share in coffee/tea, yummy food and friendly conversation, for a gold coin donation in aid of Pantry 152.



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON STUDY GROUP

The Wednesday afternoon Bible Study is now up and running.

No previous experience is needed to join us, simply an open heart, an inquisitive mind, and an interest in the Bible and what it has to say to us in our modern world, and everyone is welcome to join us.

The study and discussion group is an open forum, meeting every Wednesday at the Church, starting at 2.30 pm.

We have a great time reading from God's Word, as we discuss the many things revealed to our interactive group, both from the Bible itself and from the With Love the World series, from Strathfield Uniting Church, in Sydney.

Join us too, for the time of prayer, extended discussion and fellowship over a cuppa afterwards.

For further information, speak with Richard or Sue Bissmire after the service, or call them at home on 0415 401 402.

HOME ALONERS LUNCH – TUESDAY 1ST April 2025

Our meeting will be at the Flagstaff Hotel, Main South Road, Darlington.

We are booked in for lunch at 12 noon.

Please RSVP to Bob Manson on 0499 001 883 or Bob Stone 0439 817 613

By Sunday 30th March to enable confirmation of Hotel booking numbers.

BANK ACCOUNT – OFFERING

For members of our congregation who wish to give with flexibility on time and amount, The Vines church has set up a bank account with Westpac to receive such offerings. The details are:

Name of Account - Vines Uniting Church BSB 035 053

Account Number 479588

No further details will be required so the information will remain private.

Colin Dredge, Acting Treasurer.

NEXT WEEK: Sunday 6th April

Reverend Malcolm Bottrill



Our Goal

*To reconnect
with
the community
and share God's
Love*

LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES

Each Sunday our worship services at the Vines can be accessed live at 9:30am via our YouTube channel. Please use the following link to access our services,

<https://www.youtube.com/@thevinesunitingchurch6373/streams>

After the livestream, each service will remain on our YouTube channel for watching later. They can be accessed using the same link.

Contacts at the VINES Uniting Church

Colleen Farmer	Secretary	0430 646 844
Colin Dredge	Acting Treasurer	0403 003 534
Marj Dredge	Outreach Activities / Pastoral Team	0421 279 935
Jacqui Vanstone	Pastoral Team Convenor	0413 995 159
David McAvenna	Worship Team	0421 278 345

Please send Newsletter articles to Colleen Farmer
by 12 noon Wednesday poppy@adam.com.au

