



Anglican Church of Australia

Diocese of Gippsland

(Committed in Christ, Connecting in Service & Creative in Spirit)

Parish of Wonthaggi & Inverloch

St. George's,

McBride Ave., Wonthaggi

The Church of the Ascension

4-6 The Crescent, Inverloch

Bunurong Country

ABN: 18 842 576 826



Second Sunday in Lent - March 16th, 2025.

Holy Communion



Over Recent Weeks we've been looking at different prayers, at the people who prayed them and the circumstance behind them.

This week, to conclude our series, we look at the structure of God given prayers and attempt to write our own.

The question that remains is; "Is this a recipe for effective prayers?"

The risk is that we take something that is good and try to use it to our advantage, but that's not how God works.

Despite what we learn about how to pray, God wants primarily to have a relationship with us. It is only through the relationship that a prayer will indeed become effective.

As St. James writes: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective". (James 5:16)

Rev. Graeme

Sentence:

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3.20

Prayer of the Day:

God of our ancestors, whose chosen servant Abraham was given faith to obey your call and go out into the unknown: endow your Church with such faith that we may follow you with courage; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hope25 Collect:

God of Hope,
you call on us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world;
by your Spirit awaken in us a true vision of your kingdom,
a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service;
that through our words and actions the same Spirit may
bring many who are lost to be found,
and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

¹ After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.' ² But Abram said, 'Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?' ³ And Abram said, 'You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.' ⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to him: 'This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.' ⁵ He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' ⁶ Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. ⁷ He also said to him, 'I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.' ⁸ But Abram said, 'Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I shall gain possession of it?' ⁹ So the Lord said to him, 'Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.' ¹⁰ Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two

and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. ¹¹ Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹⁷ When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking brazier with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates.

*This is the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?: **the Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

² When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, come upon me to devour me: **they shall stumble and fall.**

³ If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid: **and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.**

⁴ One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require: **that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**

⁵ To see the fair beauty of the Lord: **and to seek his will in his temple.**

⁶ For he will hide me under his shelter in the day of trouble: **and conceal me in the shadow of his tent, and set me high upon a rock.**

⁷ And now he will lift up my head: **above my enemies round about me.**

⁸ And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary with exultation: **I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.**

⁹ O Lord, hear my voice when I cry: **have mercy upon me and answer me.**

¹⁰ My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face': **your face, Lord, I will seek.**

¹¹ Do not hide your face from me: **or thrust your servant aside in displeasure;**

¹² For you have been my helper: **do not cast me away or forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

¹³ Though my father and my mother forsake me: **the Lord will take me up.**

¹⁴ Teach me your way, O Lord: **and lead me in an even path, for they lie in wait for me.**

¹⁵ Do not give me over to the will of my enemies: **for false witnesses have risen against me, and those who breathe out violence.**

¹⁶ But I believe that I shall surely see the goodness of the Lord: **in the land of the living.**

¹⁷ O wait for the Lord; stand firm and he will strengthen your heart: **and wait, I say, for the Lord.**

New Testament Reading

Philippians 3.17- 4.1

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

*This is the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.*

Gospel

Luke 13.31-35

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, 'Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.' ³² He replied, 'Go and tell that fox, "I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal." ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day – for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! ³⁴ 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."'

*For the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

MISSION BOXES

If you have a Mission Box please return it as soon as possible so the money's can be distributed to the selected mission.



HOPE 25 OPEN MIC EVENT



Sunday April 13 at the Wonthaggi 'Good's Shed' from **2 – 5pm**

Free Entry. Come along - Play Music, Sing or be entertained.



We're looking for a group to sing.

Speak with Rev. Susan or Ellen Hubble for more info'.



COMBINED SERVICE 30 MARCH

Next combined service: 10 am on Sunday 30th March.

Venue: 'The Church of the Ascension', Inverloch. (Includes congregational meeting) followed by lunch

Lunch Menu: Pies, Pasties, Sausage rolls, Quiche (Gluten Free) & Ice Cream (Supplied by Paul the Pieman & the local supermarket)

Cost: \$10.00 per person. (If you're having trouble meeting this cost please let Rev. Graeme or a Warden know – We'd really love you to stay for lunch).

If you will be staying for lunch please put your name on the list on the table at the back of the church and select whether you want a pie, pastie, quiche or sausage roll and mark if you require gluten free.

DIOCESAN HOPE 25 PRAYER MEETING

Diocesan Zoom Prayer Meeting:

Each Friday at 7.30 pm throughout Lent

Link can be found on our website or below or through using the QR Code.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82128269156?pwd=YXauO1CTxSkYctixgDQveAaiMXUJq6.1>

Or talk to Rev Susan if you would like to attend but have no Zoom facility.

HOPE 25 SONGWRITING WORKSHOP

Date & Time: Saturday 29 March 2025 from 10 am - 2.30 pm.

Venue: St James', Traralgon

For Further information: See flyer on table at the back of the Church, or email Daniel@waragulanglican.org.au

ST GEORGE'S & THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION LIBRARIES

As Christians it is wise to look to the wiser for guidance on the journey towards a deeper understanding and walk with the Lord.

Our 2 libraries cover most aspects of the Christian life.

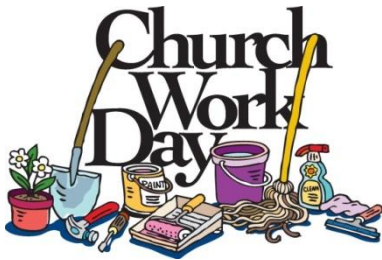
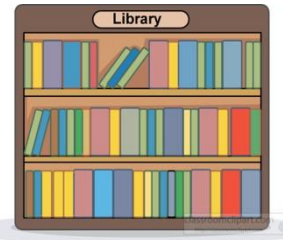
Conditions of use

Borrowers please enter details in exercise book on the bookshelf.

Book Borrow Limit: No limit **Borrow Time Limit:** No limit

Please return books as soon as you've finished reading them.

For further information contact Vivienne McInerney (St George's), & Marcia Smith (Church of the Ascension).



Inverloch & Wonthaggi Church Working Bees

Church of the Ascension - The 1st Monday of the Month @ 10.00 am. The Next, Monday the 7th of April.

St George's – The 1st Saturday of the Month @ 10.00 am. The next will be Saturday 5th April

If you would like to help give the church a freshening up and enjoy morning tea together this would be most welcome.

Please speak with Alycia & Liz for more details at Inverloch

Please speak with Leah for more details at St George's

SAFE CHURCH AWARENESS WORKSHOPS

(Full and Refresher combined) 2025

Location: St Mary's Anglican Church, 114 Ridgway, Mirboo North, Victoria

Date: Friday 2 May 2025 Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Location: St Phillip's Anglican Church, 104-110 Thompson Ave, Cowes, Victoria

Date: Saturday 25 October 2025 Time: 9.30am to 12.00pm

Location: St Thomas' Anglican Church, 16 A'Beckett Road, Bunyip, Victoria

Date: Friday 21 November 2025 Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Online registration is essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/CZVDA>

Enquiries only: 03 5144 2044 or registryoffice@gippsanglican.org.au

ON THIS DAY: The Iroquois Found John Brebeuf Brave



While still a Jesuit novice, John of Brebeuf prayed fervently that God would send him on a dangerous mission. As it turned out, his prayers were answered.

John was a French Norman with the courage of his forefathers. Selected to work in New France, he rejoiced. He arrived in Quebec in 1625 and "went native," living in a wigwam. Beginning in 1626, he and another missionary worked for two years with the Huron near Georgian Bay, but had little success in converting the Indians. Brebeuf was recalled to France in 1629 when Britain got control of the French colony. But the French regained Canada in 1633 and Brebeuf returned to the scene of his labours and his eventual death.

It was heartbreaking work. A lesser man might have dropped aside. For the most part, the Indians were not very interested in Christianity. For sixteen years Brebeuf laboured among various tribes, gaining a small but growing success only among the Huron.

In 1648 the Iroquois attacked the Huron. John escaped death that year. In March of the following year, messengers raced to warn the Huron at St. Ignace and St. Louis that the Iroquois were on the war path. John could have fled. Instead, he helped women and children escape into the woods. Only the braves remained. They urged Brebeuf and his young assistant, Gabriel Lalemant, to flee. This was not their fight, they said. The Jesuits refused to go, although they knew they would be tortured if captured. They reasoned that now more than ever, the Huron needed spiritual counsel, baptism, and the last rites.

When the assault began, the two Jesuits raced among the men, shouting encouragement, urging them to pray, tending the wounded, baptizing the dying. The Iroquois prevailed, capturing Brebeuf, Lalemant and sixty Huron warriors, whom they beat and herded to St. Ignace. Brebeuf called on the Huron warriors to stay true to Christ until death.

Stripped naked, the Jesuits were tied to stakes and tortured with fire. Brebeuf suffered from noon until four p.m. **on this day, March 16, 1649.** When he would not scream out, but continued to pray for the salvation of his tormentors, the Iroquois heated cauldrons of boiling water and poured it over him in mockery of baptism. They cut and hacked his body, and gouged out his eyes. Before he died, they scalped him and cut out his heart, which they ate. Lalemant died of similar tortures early the next morning.

Dan Graves

www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1601-1700/the-iroquois

Intercessory Prayers:

Please pray with us for:

Our Bishop: Richard Treloar & Leanna

Our Rector: Graeme & Susan

Parish of Moe/Newborough: Philip Muston (locum), P.I.C. Elect Fr Giles Motisi

Ordination Candidates

Growth in Ministry – Ordination Training: Graham Knott

Those in discernment for ordination. Vocations Panel.

Missions Bible Society

Diocese of North Queensland Bishop: Keith Joseph

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC)

Special Focus

Service Clubs in our towns; St John's Ambulance Service

Workers who maintain our Essential Services – Gas, Electricity, Water, Fire-brigades, CFA, SES and all Emergency Service Workers

Our Link Missionaries – BCA, Topher & Chica Hallyburton – ‘Alice Springs’

CMS, Lauren Raiter – ‘Spain’

Please comfort and heal all those suffering in Spirit, Soul or Body.

Please give people the courage to face their illness head on and to be assured of their salvation in Jesus Christ.

Please bring healing and strength to those we have been asked to pray for:

Bill Peters, Paula, Chris Peters, James, Murray, Doug, Ron & Pam Lawson, Jeter & family, Simone, Mark, Marie Wilson, Don & Cecily, Robin, Tania, Russell, Hayley, Meredith, Richard B, Lee, Bev, Elijah, Rodney W, Luke M, Terry, Micah, John G, Phil, Elizabeth, Jenny Rivers, Marnie Fletcher, Matt Fletcher, Barbara Manns, Valerie & Graeme Reid, Susan F, Glenda, Merridee, Florence H, Robert M, Pauline, Jenny, Rita, Betty, Peter, Elizabeth M, Jill, Robert D, Dianne B, Dianne, Ian & Wendy.

We give thanks for the faithful departed. We thank you Lord for the lives of Josiah Yeoh & Ian McLennan and all those who have gone before us.

Please comfort all families & friends who are grieving at this time the loss of loved ones, especially the families of Josiah Yeoh and Ian McLennan.

INFORMATION

Readings Sun 23rd Mar Lent 3	Isaiah 55.1-9 1 Corinthians 10.1-13	Psalm 63.1-9 Luke 13.1-9
Tuesday March 18th	10:00 am – Ascension – H.C. – Rev. Amy 11:00 am – Funeral (Handley & Anderson’s) - Graeme 11:30 am - Prayer group – Inverloch	
Wednesday March 19th	10:00 am – St George’s - H.C. – Rev. Graeme	
Thursday March 20th	10.00 am – Staff Meeting, St George’s.	
Friday March 21st	9.00 am – Deanery meeting – Foster – Rev. Graeme 10:30 am – Rose Lodge Service – ? 7.30 pm – Diocesan Prayer Meeting via Zoom	

Rosters: March 23rd – Third Sunday of Lent – Prayer, Praise & Proclamation

<u>Activity</u>	<u>St George’s</u>	<u>Church of the Ascension</u>
Bible Reader	Merridee	Ray Smith
Sides Person	Robert Mesley	Ray
Prayers	Alan Price	Ray Smith
Service Leader	Rev Graeme	Rev Graeme
Eucharistic Assist	X	X
Musician	Renee Chan	Tonya/Elise
Children’s Ministry		Liz Watkins

If you are unable to fulfil your roster position, would you please organise for someone else to take your place.

BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUPS

Davies Group: Thursday, 1:30pm at St George’s Hall. Contact John Davies for more details.



Liersch Group: Tuesday, 4:00pm at Jill & Alan Price’s, Inverloch.

Tonya’s group: Friday, 1.30 pm at Liz Watkins’, Inverloch.

Interested in being part of a Bible Study Group?
Then let Graeme, Susan or Leah in the office know.
We’re hoping to start a new group soon.

Ministry Team

Bishop: Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Treloar, Sale 5144 2044

Rector: Rev. Capt. Graeme Liersch 0417 513 390 (*Monday-Day Off*)

graemel@basscoastanglican.org.au

Youth & Young Families

Minister: Rev. Susan Liersch 0427 099 391 susanl@basscoastanglican.org.au

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Leah Mesley

Parish Council +

Retired Clergy: Rev's John Davies 5672 4710, Liam Matthews 0411 339 344,
Amy Turner 0412 727 711

Rector's Warden: Alan Price 0407 343 876

People's Wardens: Robert Mesley 0416 246 349

Liz Watkins 0404 379 005 Ray Smith 0419 315 198

Parish Treasurer: Geoff Boer

Parish Office Worker: Leah Mesley 0407 337 236 (2 mornings/week–Wed & Thurs)

Parish Postal Address: PO Box 201, Wonthaggi 3995. Phone: 5672 4590

Welfare Support: Rev. Graeme

Food Rescue: Ron Osborne

Prayer requests for prayer chain: Jill Price 0409 745 554

Parish E-mail: admin@basscoastanglican.org.au

Parish Website: <http://www.basscoastanglican.org.au>

Direct Debit: Would you please, if you haven't already, consider giving to the ministry through setting up a direct debit from your account. Thank you!

Our Bank Details: Anglican Parish of Wonthaggi & Inverloch

BSB: 083-975 **Acc No:** 51 612 6552



Thank you to all who have already set up this means to support the Parish!



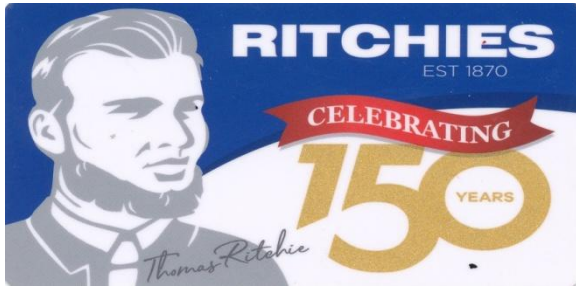
HEALING SERVICE

The **next** Healing Service will be at St George's on Wednesday
April 2nd at 6.00 pm.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

If you would like a set of offertory envelopes please contact Leah Mesley.

RITCHIES COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAM



When shopping at Ritchies IGA select the 'Anglican Church of Wonthaggi/Inverloch' as your favourite charitable recipient and they will donate to us.

Donations received through this programme go to Missions and Food Relief.

Need help with this App or changing your recipient? Contact Leah Mesley.

CONTINUING WAR IN UKRAINE

Please continue to pray for Alison Giblets (CMS UK) who is currently back in the UK on leave from working in Ukraine.

Her Prayer Requests:

- Victory for Ukraine.
- Protection for those who are defending the country.
- Protection for electrical power stations.
- For both physical and spiritual strength.
- That Schools will continue to function well.
- That many will hear and accept the Word of God for salvation.

PRAY FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CONFLICT IN GAZA, LEBANON, SYRIA AND ISRAEL

Almighty and Everlasting God: thank you for your everlasting love toward us; we thank you for the present cease fire in Gaza and ask that it will continue. We lift up those in the Holy Land who are victims of the current conflict, and ask that you might empower your Church to bring healing to the wounded, relief to the suffering, and comfort to those who mourn; please bring an end to terrorism, and that all will be led to work for justice and lasting peace in the land where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, first came to bring hope and abundant life to all people; these things we ask in his Holy Name. **Amen.**



WIN MEETING

The next WIN Meeting is at The Church of the Ascension, Inverloch on Tuesday 18th March at 1.30 pm. We will be making Palm Crosses.



Sharing your faith story is an important part of evangelism. We are seeking faith stories from members of our church family to put into our newsletter Hope25 insert. Graeme has provided a how-to-write your story video to help you do this. You can find this on our church website:

<https://www.basscoastanglican.org.au/projects-6>



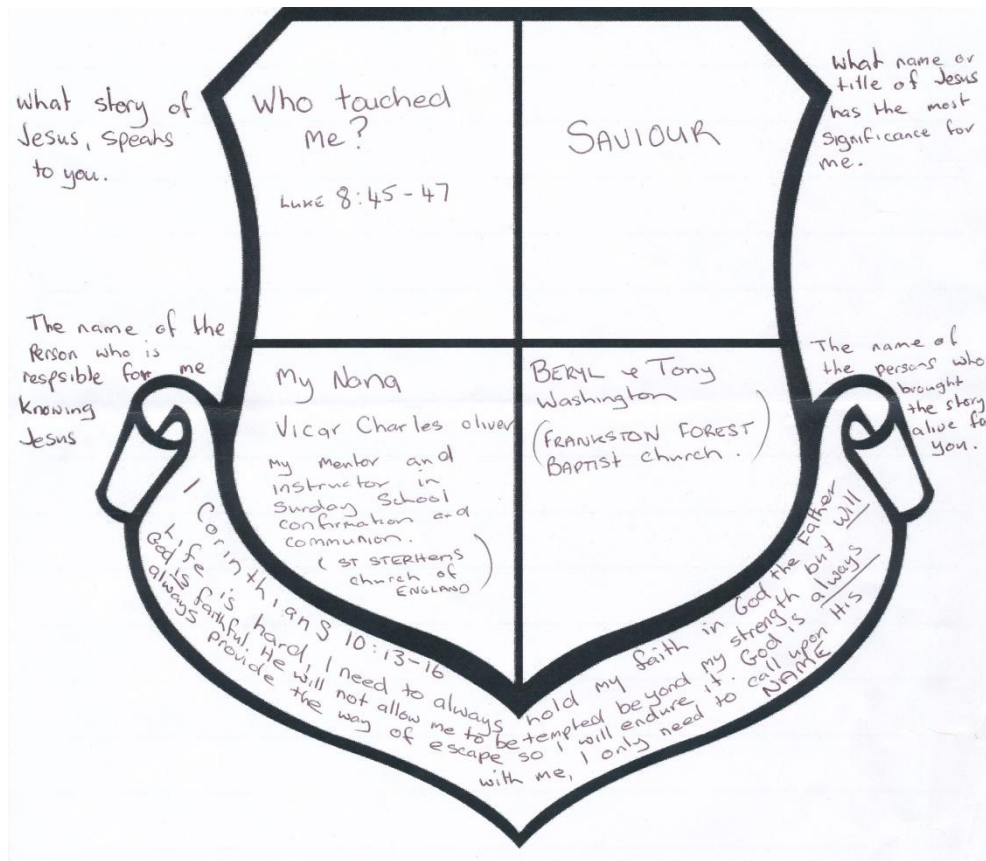
To sign up to the Hope25 email list go to:

<https://www.hope25.com.au/> or scan the QR code.

The next HOPE25 Meeting will be at 2.00 pm, Wednesday, 26th March at St George's, Wonthaggi.

Pray with Us for Hope25

1. *Lord be with the Anglican church across Australia during this year of Hope25, bring unity and empower our churches to connect communities to your good news of hope*
2. *Lord enable all training to be helpful and effective*
3. *Lord help us to boldly pray for people who are yet to know Jesus in our community*
4. *Lead us Lord to those people you want us to share your hope with and guide us as we do so*
5. *Holy Spirit help us as we plan and roll out the Gospel Music Open Mic in Wonthaggi at the Good Shed on April 13th*
6. *Holy Spirit reveal to us other ways we can proclaim your good news as a church family*



MY STORY – ELAINE SAMMIT

I was born the second child of seven children in the 1950's, a baby boomer. My parents were hard working and worked as market gardeners for mum's dad, my grandfather.

I was raised for the first three years of my life by my mum's mum, 'my dearest Nana'. Nan loved the Lord, her mother and my great grandma had migrated from London, England in the 1800's. Great grandma had worked with the poor alongside Catherine Booth, the first woman of the Salvation Army.

Great grandma was a Salvation Army Soldier in London. Nan and her brothers and sisters were raised as God fearing but loving Christians. Nan raised me the same way. She was very loving and nurturing to me.

My Nan taught me about Jesus, told me His story, how Jesus loved me and would always be with me. Nan taught me prayers. 'The Lord's Prayer' and the bed time prayer 'Now I lay me down to sleep' are just two of them.

Nan would take me to St Stephens High Church of England, which was opposite her home. Every Sunday was church, whether it was Sunday school, an Evening

service, or Family Sunday service with Communion. I received my Holy Confirmation at St Pauls Cathedral in Melbourne.

The 50's were hard years for children, as children were seen but never heard. I learnt this myself when I was three years old and became a victim of a bad man. Fortunately Nan comforted me and listened but sadly no-one else did, even Dad and Mum believed the man (an Uncle) that I was telling fibs. My Nan did hold her ground with my parents though, banning that uncle from visiting again.

I was 8 when my Nan died. My grief was immense. I felt so alone and I was so angry at God for taking my Nana. To this day I grieve for the Nana I lost, and for the life I could have had, had she lived longer. Nan seeing me grow-up, enter womanhood, and helping me to be a good Christian and know God's Son.

I do know, and believe with my whole heart that Jesus and Nan, with all my Christian family, wait for me to die and enter Heaven.

I started High School, but sadly at 12 my Uncle abused me again. The anger and uncleanness that I felt towards myself was overwhelming. I became unruly, nasty and out of control. I wagged most school days. No stranger would tell me to go to school and not cop a mouthful of foul language from me.

Sometimes I would hitch hike to St Kilda. In St Kilda I met a man who was a biker. I was yelling at some boys to get away from me when this man intervened and chased the boys off. I thanked him. Steve at the time was 23. He became a friend but he really was more like a big brother. Steve told me he had a sister who would have been my age, had she lived – she died of type 1 diabetes at the age of 7. Upon reflection, I now realise that I became his little sister. He protected me, told me off when I swore and made sure I was safe.

I know this is a glimpse of my early years, but in that short time I realised that my God, who my Nan had taught me about, was real. With grief and anger I had distanced myself from Him. He didn't cause my grief or my uncle to abuse me. In every challenge that has happened in my life, God is always there. I believe that HE will never allow me to be hurt but, with every challenge, will provide the safe answer to my situation.

For now, I will end this testimony. It is only a small glimpse of my life showing you the reader, how my God – Father, Saviour and Holy Spirit have become my EVERYTHING.

Shalom, (Peace).