



# DU Grape Vine



NOVEMBER 2020

## UNDERSTANDING AND INTERPRETING SACRED TEXTS

Over the last three weeks I have taken part in a lecture series run by the Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia from the perspective of the three Abrahamic faiths. Each week focussed on one faith with a learned person to look at their sacred text.

Rabbi Fred Morgan AM led the Jewish session to look at what they refer to as Scripture and we call the Old Testament or Hebrew Testament; some people are now referring to it as the First Testament. It is made up of the Torah (first five books), Prophets and Books (Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes). They add interpretation books called the Talmud to



ensure there is a consistent interpretation. Jews say the Shema two or three times a day not as a prayer but as a declaration of belief. They do not refer to chapters and verses but themes within each book.

Associate Professor Adam Cooper led the Christian session looking at especially the New Testament; in line with the above some refer to this as the Second Testament to remove any idea that this replaces what we might call the Old Testament. The Bible is called the Word of God as provided to the prophets or inspired by God to other writers. The big difference between Jews and Christians is that Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah of Israel who provides salvation for all. We undertook an examination of the Good Samaritan story and it was interesting how a Jew who had never seen this text before thought it gave a bad image of Jews as the people who walked past without helping.

Sheikh Alaa El Zokm from Heidelberg Mosque led the Muslim session. Like Judaism, Muslims have interpretative texts to support the Quran. The Quran is the oldest text in Arabic. Some parts are specific and some are general which require interpretation in books like the Haddith. They believe it is more important to give new Muslims an Haddith rather than a Quran. Muslims regard the Books as Gifts of the Prophets and Messengers. They recognise Jesus as a prophet who set some of the foundations for Mohammad, like other prophets such as Abraham and Jacob.

In all sessions it was noted that you need to consider the context to really understand the texts.

**Church  
Services  
available on  
Facebook  
and web  
site.**

## MESSY CHURCH @ HOME

There is no Messy Church in November but we are planning that for Sunday 13 December we will change @ Home to be Outdoors. More details next month.



## This months' services

1 Nov —9.30 am Communion service by Zoom.

All other services as Recorded services on Facebook and the Web site and distributed by email or printed form.

## PRAYER BREAKFAST @ HOME

Prayer breakfast online happened with most of our regulars taking part in the study of Titus. The book of Titus is rarely used in the lectionary but is a letter from Paul about the organisation of the church. Our second part, covering chapters 2 and 3, will be on Saturday 21 November.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Graeme and Jan Dryden celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October.



## LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

To October \$1204 = 24 stoves plus about 6 bonus stoves for the Kenya project.



These stoves are portable and can be shared with other families, are easy to clean, use about 50% less fuel, have 70% less emissions and produce about 50% more heat. They use sawdust and dung pellets and so are reasonably cheap to operate. Our appeal will close 13 December.



Happy birthday!

### NOVEMBER

Julie Marles  
Marg Cheale  
Barbara Batters  
John Norman  
Irene Stevenson  
Val Place  
Claire Sierakowski  
Edna Peel

Happy birthday!



### OFFERINGS REPORT

Jan-Oct Total	\$35543
Needed	\$40000
Less JobKeeper	\$10200
= Net	\$29800

Web site: <http://drysdale.unitingchurch.org.au>

Facebook: [Drysdale Uniting Church](#)

***Our Vision—Reaching out with God's love and care***

