

Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk^[4] from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (Acts 1: 6-14)

We are now between Easter and Pentecost. Jesus has risen and he has been instructing them for 40 days about the kingdom of God. But they continue to ask him about restoring the kingdom to Israel. In this final face to face meeting Jesus, confronts them with a new kingdom definition: God's kingdom will be enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit to reach from Jerusalem, Judea and even Samaria to the ends of the earth. For us as 21st century Gentile Australians this is Good News.

The image in this first chapter of Acts is pretty confronting. Two men dressed in white challenge the witnesses, *'Men of Galilee, why do you stand there looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'* Messengers from God declare that, yes, Jesus is no longer there, but that he will come again. And you need to tell others.

So these disciples are challenged 'Why are you looking there?' What's this question about? Does it mean: "Why are you looking there; you shouldn't be looking there?" OR would this be the better interpretation: "Having looked there – why are you still hanging around? You've got a job to do – go! Didn't you just hear Jesus say: 'You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth'?"

So this new state of affairs for the disciples will be: What to do, how to act in the absence of Jesus? This they experienced over the three days when Jesus was crucified. There was a waiting time, but with a reprieve, because Jesus returned to them for a time after the Resurrection. But the Ascension left them once again in a time of waiting. They've had intensive teaching over 40 days but stay together in Jerusalem in prayer, waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit, another cosmic event when God enters the space and time of humanity. These disciples met together in the upper room where they were staying, joining together constantly in prayer.

The disciples had to wait for the Holy Spirit Jesus had promised. They prayed together. They waited They believed Jesus was the One sent from God. All but John were martyred. They literally staked their lives on Jesus and his truth. Without them we would not know this Good News.

The mission of THREE16 now is to use our time of waiting for Jesus' return to share the same Good News with our high school students, to follow Jesus' instruction to join his mission to the ends of the earth. We don't have to leave this town or country – because God's mission is not bounded by geography and crosses over culture, race, ethnicity, status, wealth or power.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Committee worked with Ken Clifton before his retirement from the Committee to engage H&R Block as the replacement Accountant/bookkeeper with a chief responsibility to keep the wages, benefits and reimbursements for our staff up to date with a seamless and painless handover from Clifton Accountants. The move was preceded by the retirement of Cathy Phelps who managed the paperwork for THREE16. Cliftons had decided that it would not train another staff member to provide this service and we were recommended H&R Block who have accepted the work.

Because the priority has been financial issues and the Curriculum Review is on hold.

Chat-a-Box resources continue to be produced.

Andrew Perry will be taking Carer's leave from 28 May for at least 4 weeks, possibly 6, as his wife has surgery and will need some help at home. Melissa Blackwell will relieve the position. Melissa comes with a wealth of Secondary teaching experience and we are thankful for the contribution she has made to the Management Committee and for her enthusiasm.

A wages and salary review is imminent. We need to have this ready before the end of the financial year. All wages increase with the CPI and increments applied where applicable. Tayla is now teaching a lesson per week at BHS as well as her previous 2 x half days and will be back paid when the financial handover is settled. THREE16 will sponsor Tayla towards a Chaplaincy Course. Skills attained in the Chaplaincy course will add to Tayla's skill set and would not be amiss in the Chips and Chat space.

Catherine Cochrane
Chairperson

Prayer Points from the Management Committee

Praise God for:

The financial handover was smooth
The Chips and Chat Program is thriving
Finances are still healthy, depending on past dividends and interest
Teacher reports are encouraging

Please pray for:

Michelle Perry's surgery outcomes
The finalising of the curriculum review
Enthusiasm for SRE from parents and the public in general
More trained SRE teachers for casual replacement and new classes provision for 2027

PRAYER SUPPORT GROUPS

BOMADERRY/NOWRA HS prayer group - alternate Thursdays (during term), 4pm, 12 Cocos Palm Drive, Bomaderry.

VINCENTIA HS prayer group - alternate Fridays (during term), 10am, Jervis Bay Baptist Church.

Points from the Teachers

Bomaderry High & Nowra High:

Andrew Perry

Bomaderry High

Points for praise and prayer:

The new students who have just started to come to our Year 7 Chips and Chat program. Tayla's table of girls is pretty full and my table had 1 new student yesterday so there are 4 now, most of them don't have their names down to do Scripture, so pray that they will begin to come to class.

About 18 to 20 Year 8 students come to class which is great. Please pray that God would continue his work in them.

Another volunteer to come into our lunchtime Chips and Chat group.

My Year 9/10 Scripture class is now quite small, around 4 or 5 students come to class, but they are very committed and one of them asked whether they could still do Scripture in Year 11 next year, Please pray for their continued spiritual growth and that we would see some more Year 9 and 10 students start to come.

Pray for more Support Class students to come to our Support Scripture class. At the moment we have 2 or 3, but yesterday we had just one. She comes to Scripture regularly even if it's just me, the teacher's aide and her. Pray for her

Nowra High

I have 2 Year 11 boys from the Support Class continuing to come to Scripture which is great. I also have another 2 boys who come from other years. They have such varied ability. Please pray that I will be able to help them all to learn more about Jesus.

We usually have 6 tables these days at our main Chips and Chat program. Thank God for all those who come in to help and pray that they will be encouraged by those they minister to.

I had a chat today with a teacher who is struggling to know how to deal with the behaviour of some students in one of his classes. I asked whether he would be happy for me to pray for him so please pray for that teacher.

Over 20 students come regularly to our Year 7 class and our 2 tables at our Year 7 Chips and Chat program are popular. Please pray that these times



Tayla and I spend with them will be productive for God's Kingdom

Tayla Smith.

Praise God for:

Year 7 Scripture is going well at Bomaderry High with between 2-6 students coming along.

Year 7 Chips and Chat is also going well at both Bomaderry and Nowra High, with students keen to come along.

Please pray for:

Students to be engaged and listening in class.



Vincentia High:

Debra Evelyn

Praise God for:

Continued student interest in the program with an average of 40+ young people attending weekly.

Thank God for each and every student who attends and hears the gospel.

Praise God particularly for those who have been coming for three years and pray that God's word bears fruit in them.

Each of the volunteers who attend faithfully Providing for our needs with new volunteers, Melissa and Doris

The faithful prayer supporters who meet at Jervis Bay Baptist and the ongoing prayer of Jervis Bay Anglican members and prayer group.

All his answers to prayer for the program.

THREE16 Committee members and his upholding of their labours.

Continued opportunities to serve at Brekky Club and help supply much needed bread

The two young women who had attended Chips and Chat and went to Jervis Bay Baptist for Easter.

Please pray for:

Ask our Lord to continue to expand and bless Chips and Chat at Vincentia High

The young people who come to have a growing thirst for knowledge of Jesus.

More students to seek out local churches and youth groups to further their knowledge and faith.

Many of those who attend to open the Bible to seek God, in the Gospels or youth Bibles we've shared, their own Bibles, or search online Bibles.

Good health for the team to do the good works God has prepared for us.



The Holy Spirit to guide the team in our interactions with the students

Eli and Hannah the school chaplains. Guard their hearts and give them God's wisdom as they deal with tough issues.

Shoalhaven High:

Narelle Lancaster

Praise God for:

The students coming to Scripture consistently.

Great support of the Year Seven Coordinator.

Students accepted Bibles.

Fabulous support from staff. Great support from mainstream teachers

Chips and Chat has 2 groups with 14 students, including 5 new Year 7 students this year. It's a safe place for them to talk about things. There have been times when a student asks in private for prayer. We also now finish our time with prayer

Please pray for:

Those coming to Scripture to become more and more consistent and to bring a friend.

Those coming each week.

Chips and Chat to continue to go well.

Pray for the Management Committee.



COMING UP

4 JULY 2026 8:00 – 9:30 am

Prayer Breakfast at St Stephen's Anglican Church Bomaderry

12 SEPTEMBER 2026 8:00 – 9:30 am

Prayer Breakfast at St Peter's Anglican Church Shoalhaven Heads.

Direct Deposit Details for Supporters

Account Name: Shoalhaven Employers of Christian Education Teachers Inc.

BSB: 082-762

Account No: 51843-2588