



**The Uniting Church in Australia**

**KOGARAH UNITING CHURCH**

**We welcome people of all cultures and lifestyles,  
We create a safe place for the community  
We share the journey of life and faith.**

**10th May 2026 @ 10am**

**Easter 6**

**Never Far from Us**

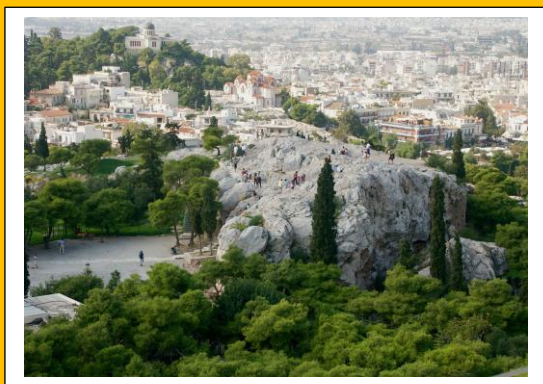
**Leader Deok Hee**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Holy Communion Deok Hee**

**Acts 17:22–31; Psalm 66:8–20; 1 Peter 3:13–22;**

**John 14:15–21**



**The Areopagus**

For details and Information about our church activities and The Kogarah Storehouse, check out the websites: kogarah.uca.org.au and <https://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/>

**For pastoral concerns, please contact  
Rev Deok Hee Cho on 0401 975 745.**

### **Scriptures**

**Acts 17:22–31**

**At the Areopagus, Paul stands among the Athenians and recognises their searching, naming God as the One in whom ‘we live and move and have our being.’**

**Psalms 66:8–20 The psalmist remembers God’s faithfulness through struggle and so vows to continue worshipping God.**

**1 Peter 3:13–22 encourages gentleness and respect as we bear witness to hope.**

**John 14:15–21**

**Jesus assures his friends that the Spirit—Advocate, Helper, and Comforter—will remain with them, grounding their love in God’s abiding presence.**

**Acts 17:22–31**

**At the Areopagus, Paul stands among the Athenians and recognises their searching, naming God as the One in whom ‘we live and move and have our being.’**

### **Theme Focus**

**Assured by Jesus that we are never left orphaned and awakened by Paul to God’s presence among all peoples, we are invited to live with love-marked openness, curiosity and respect.**

## Word for the Day

Paul is very clear that God is not in human buildings or shrines and does not need anything from people. God made the world and everything in it. God is in all places and is accessible to anyone who searches for God. Sometimes Christian rhetoric sounds like only Christians know God or are the only ones who know the right way to be in relationship with God. How does today's reading from the book of Acts challenge that idea?

### Ideas for Reflection

- Paul reminds the Athenians that God 'does not live in shrines made by human hands.' If God is not contained in temples, shrines, or even churches, how might this reshape our relationship to sacred buildings? How does it challenge assumptions about where God is found, or how the church uses its resources?
- Paul begins with the Athenians' longing.' He honours their searching and listens before speaking. How might curiosity, deep respect, and deep listening transform the way we engage with beliefs and practices different from our own? How might our Christian assumptions limit our ability to perceive God's presence elsewhere?
- Paul quotes the Athenians' own poets to build a connection. What might it look like for us to notice God's wisdom and truth expressed through neighbours, artists, thinkers, or communities we might not expect?
- For those of us living on land where indigenous cultures have long known and honoured the Creator, this is a powerful invitation. How might today's reading encourage us to recognise God's presence in the wisdom, stories, and spiritual practices that existed long before Christianity arrived? What responsibilities arise when we worship on the land shaped by those traditions?

- **Where do you sense God's nearness in your own life? Where might you look again with openness, expecting to find God where you had not noticed God before?**

## **KUC Annual Congregational Meeting and Church Council Elections**

**On Sunday June 21, we plan to hold our Annual Congregational Meeting and Church Council Elections.**

### **The church councillors at present are**

- Sue Baglin (2027)
- Joshua Chang (2026)
- Robert McAlpine (2026)

Joshua's and Robert's terms expire this year, while Sue will continue until 2027.

### **The elders at present are**

- John Baglin (2026)
- Dorothy Makasa (2026)
- Bobbie Miller (2028)
- Richard Goodman (2027)

John's and Dorothy's terms expire this year while Bobbie and Richard will continue as elders next year.

**Nomination forms for these positions are available from Sunday, May 10. Completed forms need to be in Richard Goodman's by the end of May.**



This article was  
submitted by Jim Bird

Dear Inner Circle,

Mother's Day arrives this Sunday. For some, it'll be a warm moment perhaps with flowers, a long phone call and breakfast in bed. For many of our people, it arrives like a lead weight, marking loss and a love denied. If you've known the embrace of a mother who was present and safe, that is worth holding gently this week. It is a boundary that seems natural, so when it is broken, it so easily breaks us.

A little while ago, a young man found himself in Kings Cross after his mother was murdered while she was working. He took off from a foster home, where a local "businessman" soon found him and took him under his wing. His life became a transaction — he would drop off drugs and money in exchange for accommodation. That accommodation was in the basement of one of the man's establishments. Each night, from the age of ten until he left at seventeen, one of the working girls would be sent down to him. Most minds would leap to the worst conclusion. Instead, each night, he would ask them to cook for him, and to then sit together to eat, after which he would request they read to him and then lie beside him until he fell asleep. These women became his mothers. He called

them all Mum, and he loved them as they loved him.

At Wayside one day, a friend of mine was sitting with him when he began staring across the room. A woman turned around, saw him, and her face lit up with recognition. She rushed over and whispered his name. He replied with a quiet smile that rose from somewhere deep. *"Mum?"* It was a beautiful reunion. In that moment, it was Mother's Day again.

We know that feeling.  
The longing to be wanted.  
To hold and be held.

It comes, sometimes, in the most unexpected ways — a basement kitchen, a whispered name. Sometimes Wayside serves as a reminder that in the unlikely places, life can be found anew. That worst assumptions can be shattered by the tenderness of love.

Thank you for being part of the Inner Circle,

Jon

Rev. Jon Owen  
CEO & Pastor  
Wayside Chapel

## Planning Ahead

- **May 10 Nomination forms for Church Councillors/Elders distributed today**
- **May 14 Kogarah Church Council via Zoom @ 7pm**
- **May 24 Pentecost**
- **June 21 – AGM for our Congregation. Election of Elders and Church Councillors**

### **Please pray for ...**

The mission and ministry of our congregation and for our Minister, Deok Hee, and Wynne Cheng as they make links to the Chinese community.

Worship leaders; helpers, leaders, followers The Kogarah Storehouse and its many clients; Lala and staff and volunteers at the Storehouse. Dorothy and Godfrey and the work of LACLA. The team, parents and children in the Early Learning Centre.

Those who are sick, sad or lonely: We pray especially today for Dennis and Robyn Lyons, Rhonda Chamberlain and family; Prema and Priya, Denis and Dolly, Ngahua, Peter and Sue; Dinah; Ern Edwards; Jim Bird, Cindy, Dorothy and Godfrey, Nives - For others whom we name in our hearts.

Pray for the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Jordan and other Middle Eastern Countries involved in the current war; Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine, especially the people of Gaza and Lebanon. The USA and the countries of Europe. Sudan.

**Next Sunday**  
**17th May 2026 @ 10am**  
**Easter 7 – Mothers' Day**

**Waiting in Prayer**

**Leader Dinah**

**Reflection Deok Hee**

**Acts 1:6–14; Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35; 1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11;  
John 17:1–11**



***Chair***

***Secretary***

***Treasurer***

***Councillors***

**Richard Goodman**

**Sue Baglin**

**John Baglin (2027)**

**Robert M<sup>c</sup>Alpine (2026)**

**Sue Baglin (2026)**

**Joshua Chang (2026)**

***Elders***

**John Baglin (2026)**

**Bobbie Miller (2028)**

**Richard Goodman (2027)**

**Dorothy Makasa (2026)**

***Culture of Safety Contact Person***

**Richard Goodman**