



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.**

14th June 2026 @ 10am

Pentecost + 3 - Promise at the Door

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Holy Communion Deok Hee

Genesis 18:1–15, (21:1–7);

Psalm 116: 1–2, 12–19; Romans 5:1–8; Matthew 9:35–10:8, (9–23)



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/>

New email address for Kogarah Uniting Church: kogarahuc@gmail.com

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

Scriptures

Genesis 18:1–15, (21:1–7) God's promise arrives at the tent door in the heat of the day; Sarah's laugh of disbelief becomes the laughter of a child named Isaac ('he laughs'). Promise ripens on God's timeline, not ours.

Psalms 116: 1–2, 12–19 is a thanksgiving song from someone pulled back from the brink: the God who hears our cries also receives our vows and simple gratitude.

Romans 5:1–8 In Christ we stand in grace; suffering does not have the last word but is transfigured into endurance, character, and hope through the Spirit's poured-out love.

Matthew 9:35–10:8, (9–23) Jesus sees exhausted crowds and sends ordinary disciples to enact mercy; the mission is generous (heal, raise, free) and costly (expect resistance), but God's compassion remains the centre.

Theme Focus

We notice how God arrives with a living promise when hope feels delayed and reflect on how we might carry that hope to weary neighbours.

Word for the Day

Promise surprises at the tent; gratitude answers with hope; grace holds us steady as suffering matures into hope; Jesus' compassion becomes a people on the move.

This week's readings invite us to notice how God's promise meets us in ordinary moments and sends us outward in compassion. In Genesis 18, God's promise arrives at the tent door in the heat of the day. Hospitality is offered to unexpected visitors, while from inside the tent, Sarah responds with laughter that carries both scepticism and longing. Yet the promise of new life does not depend on human certainty. What seems delayed or impossible becomes the beginning of joy.

The psalm gives voice to gratitude from someone who has known distress and rescue and now chooses to live again in God's presence. Paul echoes this encouragement in Romans: suffering does not extinguish hope, because God's love has already been poured into our hearts. Promise does not remove struggle; it reshapes it.

Moved by compassion, Jesus calls and sends disciples to bring healing, restoration, and good news. What begins with God's promise at Abraham's tent becomes a community sent into the world with acts of mercy.

This week, express promise as hospitality to God and compassion to our neighbour: make room at the table and room in the day.

Ideas for Reflection

- Where have you stopped setting a place for promise?
- What simple gratitude can you offer God today?
- Where might hope feel delayed in your life, and what might it mean to trust God's promise there?
- Who might be waiting for a word, gesture, or act of compassion this week?

- **What small act of mercy might carry God's love into an ordinary moment this week?**

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 following people are standing for election:

For the church council -

Joshua Chang
Robert McAlpine

To be an elder -

Dorothy Makasa

From the Wayside Chapel – submitted by Jim Bird

There are moments in the life of a community that deserve to be named out loud. Last week, we paused to mark one of them.

On 6 May 2001, a door opened quietly at [66 Darlington Road, Potts Point](#) without fanfare or a ribbon cutting that the evening news would remember. Just a door, and on the other side of it, people who needed somewhere safe to be, and those prepared to be there, to give them what they needed.

That was the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, the first of its kind in the English-speaking world, and this week it turned 25. A fellow Waysider and I took a cake down there to celebrate this milestone, we blew out candles and, after about 15 minutes, the staff found a knife to cut it up to share it.

We celebrated twenty-five years, we celebrated 1,355,382 supervised injections, we celebrated the 12,292 overdoses that were safely managed and the innumerable lives saved on their watch.

Wayside and the MSIC share more than a postcode. Long before the facility opened at its current address, the trial began here at Wayside in 1999, when we made a decision that many considered reckless and few considered holy. We chose presence over policy. If people are going to use, let them use somewhere they won't die. It was the kind of logic that makes lawyers nervous and keeps pastors up at night, and it was the right thing to do — which is rarely the “safe” thing to do. Last week in the horseshoe, which is the place where everyone

can sit together, attend to the world's problems, and tell jokes often with a ciggie on the go, a man I'd never met looked me up and down and observed: *"You don't look like a reverend."* *"Well, what does one look like?"* He thought about it for a moment. *"Less happy,"* taking a long drag. Maybe that's a part of it, just showing up to the place where people are, looking like someone who actually believes something new is possible, just like they do at MSIC every single day. It's nice to have a neighbour on the other side of the street that mirrors us.

There are communities across this country where people are still dying because no such door exists. The anniversary is worth celebrating, and it is also a chance to issue the call that more doors like theirs need to open.

Here at Wayside, we know what it means to be in the business of keeping people alive long enough for something better to become possible. MSIC knows it too. On their 25th birthday, we raise a cup of something warm and say: Thank you. Keep going. You are not alone in this.

Thank you for being part of the Inner Circle,

Jon (Rev. Jon Owen, CEO & Pastor, Wayside Chapel)



Planning Ahead

- **June 19 Chinese Community Health Seminar 10:30-12**
- **June 21 – AGM for our Congregation. Election of Elders and Church Councillors**
- **August 6 – Worship Task Group meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**
- **September 18 Chinese Community Health Seminar 10:30-12**

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, Mike - 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

21st June 2026 @ 10am

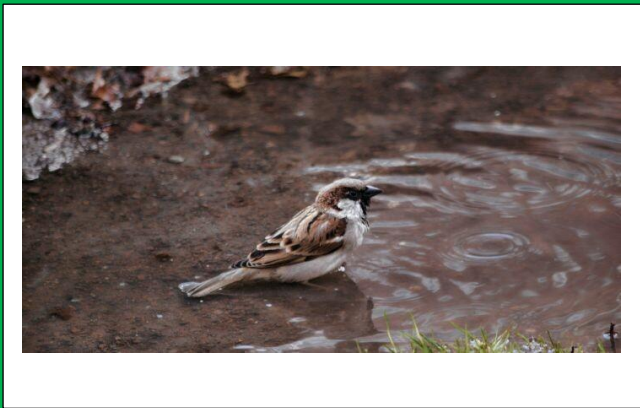
Pentecost + 4 - Wells in the Wilderness

Leader Deok Hee

Reflection Deok Hee

Genesis 21:8–21;

Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17; Romans 6:1b–11; Matthew 10:24–39



Church Council 2025-2026

Chair

Richard Goodman

Secretary

Sue Baglin

Treasurer

John Baglin (2027)

Councillors

Robert M^cAlpine (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