



**8 FEBRUARY, 2026**

## Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us. A special welcome to Rev Christine Gapes, who will be sharing with us this morning.

## Lectionary Readings

### This week 8 February, 2026

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)  
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)  
Matthew 5:13-20

### Next week 15 February, 2026

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

## Offering Envelopes

The new Offering Envelopes for the year commencing 1 March, 2026 are now available on the back table, please take a box if you would like one.

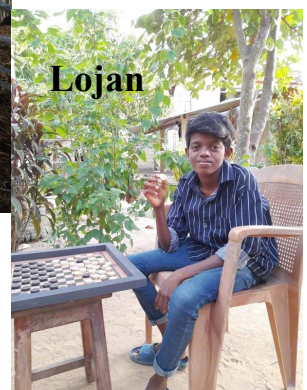
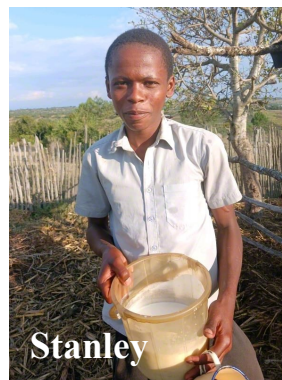
## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 18th and Gail will be available during Hands & Feet, between 8.30 and 12.30 for anyone who would like to come into the Sanctuary area to have the sign of the cross placed on their forehead for Ash Wednesday.

## World Vision Child Sponsorship

Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards our World Vision sponsorship for our three children this year. We will be collecting for another week or so if you would like to donate but have not yet done so.

You can give your gift to Karen S or transfer money direct to our bank account, the details are BSB 112 879, account number 428 172 081, please put your name and WV in the reference if possible.





### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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## **Rev Gail's Message**

**Why does the church exist?** Some thoughts from deep thinkers and insightful theologians.

C. S. Lewis: *the Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose. It is even doubtful, you know, whether the whole universe was created for any other purpose.*

William Temple: *The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: *The Church is the Church only when it exists for others.*

G. K. Chesterton: *The Church is always defending, on behalf of humanity, what the world at the moment is stupidly attacking.*

Charles Colson: *The church's job is to equip the saints for works of service in the world.*

Leonard Ravenhill: *The Church right now has more fashion than passion, is more pathetic than prophetic, is more superficial than supernatural.*

Charles Spurgeon: *The church is not formed to be a social club, to produce society for itself; not to be a political association, to be a power in politics; not even to be a religious confederacy, promoting its own opinions: it is a body created of the Lord to answer His own ends and purposes, and it exists for nothing else.*

E. M. Bounds: *The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better (people) . The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through (people) men. He does not come on machinery, but on (people) men. He does not anoint plans, but people ...People of prayer.*

The quotes above are clever and pointed and I offer them to you as a way of opening up a conversation about why the church exists. I appreciate these quotes but what really matters is how we, the people of Greystanes Uniting Church would answer this vital question. We will all have different answers and that is perfectly okay, however if our answers do not reflect the gospel they may miss the mark. And so I leave you with one more quote that certainly makes me sit up and take notice.

Martin Luther King Jr: *If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century.*