



# Newsletter

## September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

9:30am Online — Rev David O'Brien: **Everyone is Important** — Colossians 4:7-18  
Evening Service suspended due to Coronavirus

J. I. Packer, author of "Knowing God", and many other influential and helpful Christian works, was one of the most famous and influential evangelical leaders of our time. He died Friday, July 17, at age 93.



THEOLOGIAN &  
'KNOWING GOD' AUTHOR  
**J. I. PACKER  
DIES AT 93**

When Packer left Oxford with his doctorate on Richard Baxter in 1952, he did not immediately begin his academic career but spent a three-year term as a parish minister in suburban Birmingham.

J. I. Packer was born in a village outside of Gloucester, England, on July 22, 1926. He came from humble stock, being born into a family that he called lower middle class. The religious climate at home and church was that of nominal Anglicanism rather than evangelical belief in Christ as Saviour (something that Packer was not taught in his home church).

Packer's life-changing childhood experience came at the age of seven when he was chased out of the schoolyard by a bully onto the busy London Road in Gloucester, where he was struck by a bread van and sustained a serious head injury. He carried a visible dent in the side of his head for the rest of his life. Nevertheless, Packer was uncomplaining and accepting of what providence brought into his life from childhood on.

Much more important than Packer's accident was his conversion to Christ, which happened within two weeks of his matriculation as an undergraduate at Oxford University. Packer committed his life to Christ on October 22, 1944, while attending an evangelistic service sponsored by the campus InterVarsity chapter.

Although Packer was a serious student pursuing a classics degree, the heartbeat of his life at Oxford was spiritual. It was at Oxford that Packer first heard lectures from C. S. Lewis, and though they were never personally acquainted, Lewis would exert a powerful influence on Packer's life and work.

Packer had a varied professional life. He spent the first half of his career in England before moving to Canada for the second half. In England, Packer held various teaching posts at theological colleges in Bristol, during which he had a decade-long interlude as warden (director) of Latimer House in Oxford, a clearinghouse for evangelical interests in the Church of England. In that role, Packer was one of the three most influential evangelical leaders in England (along with John Stott and Martyn Lloyd-Jones). Packer's move to Regent College in Vancouver in 1979 shocked the evangelical world but enlarged Packer's influence for the rest of his life.

Although Packer was a humble man who repudiated the success ethic, his life nonetheless reads like a success story. His first book, *Fundamentalism and the Word of God* (published in 1958) sold 20,000 copies in its first year and has consistently been in print since. In 2005, *Time* magazine named Packer one of the 25 most influential evangelicals.

When Christianity Today conducted a survey to determine the top 50 books that have shaped evangelicals, Packer's book *Knowing God* came in fifth. His fame and

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Remember to Check  
[www.waverleybaptist.org.au](http://www.waverleybaptist.org.au)  
for links, updates & changes.

## TODAY

These are unprecedented times! Today we are streaming our service live on the Internet and welcome you to join us <http://livestream.waverleybaptist.org.au> Though we cannot meet together face to face we can still talk by phone or facetime, we can correspond by email or other social media.

Please send your prayer points in and keep in contact, using the details in the Church Directory to minister to one another.

May you know the peace of our Lord during this time.



### HEALING SERVICE

**Wed 7th October 7:30pm**

**Topic:** "Prevention Better than cure?"

**Venue:** On Zoom ID 860 0808 7003

Contact Rabi (Mobile: 0425 867 522)

## Dates for Diaries

### September / October

7 Healing Service Zoom Mtg	7.00pm
14 Church Council Zoom	4.30pm
14 Stitches—Zoom	7.30pm
21 Pastoral Team Zoom Mtg	4.30pm

## Services

**4<sup>th</sup> October**

9:30am — Rabi Gunaratnam:

**The Body** — Ephesians 1:15 - 2:10

## Rosters

**4<sup>th</sup> October**

Most Rosters are cancelled. Those still needed for the coming week are:

**Worship Leader** — Harry Chudasko

**Bible Reading** — Carolyn Goff

**Data & Sound** — Livestream Team

PHONE  
A  
FRIEND  
TODAY!

## Finance

Remember your Tithes and Offerings

Contact Roger Thorp (last page) if you have any questions.

Church Council decided a long time ago not to publish giving figures in the online Newsletter, but any member can receive a full report from Roger Thorp (last page).

### Welfare Offerings—by Direct Deposit

Thank you to all who are donating. Please contact David, Harold or Ashley if you are or know someone in need.

**Direct Deposit A/C for all Giving:**

**A/C: Waverley Baptist Church**

**BSB: 013 231 A/C No: 270412822**

**Our Vision: The Bible** — *We strive to be a people who honour the Bible as God's Word and regularly study it, a people who are open to hear from God and seek to apply what is learned so we might be more like Jesus.*

## Waverley Baptist Church Our Wider Ministries



### Mentoring Children at Jells Park Primary

#### *Praise God for the ...*

✚ *Those Mentors still able to contact their children, although it is not direct at this stage.*

#### *Pray for ...*

✚ *Those still unable to communicate with their child due to having to contact them via the school, often with no reply from the child.*

✚ *The opportunity to open up in the last term after children have gone back, and the virus no longer a threat to contacts.*

### Samaritans Purse—Christmas Boxes

- ▶ As we are not able to pack a box this year because of the pandemic, we are suggesting you make a cash donation instead.
- ▶ Samaritan's purse will use the funds to benefit the children by gifts and "The Greatest Journey" which is a 12 lesson course to discover, follow and share Jesus.
- ▶ Deposit direct to WBC A/C marked "Christmas Box" or "Samaritan's Purse"
- ▶ Due by 11th October WBC will forward..
- ▶ Suggested Donation \$50 for 1 box.

### Passing of George Sproul

Dear George who, with Carol, faithfully attended Waverley for many years, passed away on Monday Sept 21st aged 92.

A Thanksgiving Service will be live streamed on <https://studio45.live/saf-georgesroule/> at **1.15pm on Monday September 28th.**

*A life well lived, now with the Saviour he loved and served.*

### FOR PRAYER & PRAISE

- ✚ Praise God for his Word that is a "Lamp for our feet and a Light on our Path" of following Jesus.
- ✚ Praise God for the rain this week. Continue to pray for drought stricken areas of Australia.
- ✚ Pray for those infected with CoVid, especially for the aged and infirm. Praise God the numbers are coming down in Vic. Pray for the nations of the world where numbers are rising.
- ✚ Pray for the health workers, for their safety. Praise God for their devotion.
- ✚ Pray for the lonely—maybe pray that you may be the answers to someone else's prayer for contact.
- ✚ Pray for the Lord to indicate who He has chosen to be Elders and Deacons in our Church.
- ✚ Pray for our Church Council as preparations are made for a Pastoral search.

**Please send new Prayer or Praise points to the office each week by Thurs. night.**

**Prayer Chain Ph: Elaine 0421 311 987  
Email: [petexx@optusnet.com.au](mailto:petexx@optusnet.com.au)**

### Happy Birthday — Sep / Oct

Sarra Chudasko	30
Marie Woodcock	30
Colin Chan	01
Margaret Bucknell	02
Peter Brook	03



**Wishing you Birthday Blessings from all at  
Waverley Baptist Church**

### CYCLE OF PRAYER

Congregations Praying Together  
As part of our local district Inter-Church  
*Cycle of Prayer* please pray for  
the following community and  
their needs:

**Fr. John Dowling  
St. Leonard's Catholic**



## Healing Service

**Date:**  
Wednesday 7th  
October  
**Time:** 7.30 pm  
**Venue:** Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID:  
860 0808 7003

## Prevention Better Than Cure?

**Teaching:** Deut. 7:12–15, Prov. 4:20–27

- Does the Bible promise good health?
- Can we really prevent sickness?
- Do these passages apply to all sicknesses?
- Are they applicable today?

*A time of  
worship,  
Bible based  
teaching, and  
prayer for  
healing.*



### AGM in November Are you available?

- ▶ This year Rod Knight reaches his 6 year limit and needs to take a year off! We will need a new Secretary!
- ▶ Roger and Jeremy both complete 2 year terms and will need re-election.
- ▶ Next year Paul and Don will need to step down..
- ▶ Continuity is very important and we need to be filling positions now to have experienced people to cover the changes that will occur.
- ▶ Please pray and consider your willingness to serve in this way.



### Lockdown Implications

- ▶ Until the end of October, we will still be severely restricted in our operations.
- ▶ No more than 5 people can be in the building and must always be more than 1.5m apart, so only one person is allowed at our sound / data desk
- ▶ Thanks again to all those who are enabling online streaming of services.
- ▶ Meetings are using online portals like Zoom. Ministry groups will still be online for the foreseeable future.

influence were not something that he set out to accomplish. He steadfastly refused to cultivate a following. Instead, he made his mark with his typewriter (which he used to compose his articles and books throughout his life).

Packer's fame as a speaker rivaled his stature as an author. In both spheres, his generosity was unsurpassed. No audience or venue was too small to elicit Packer's best effort.

In both his publishing and speaking, Packer was famous as a Puritan scholar, but he was also a dedicated churchman who said that his teaching was primarily aimed at the education of future ministers, and he spent countless hours serving on church committees.

J. I. Packer's primary legacy is the influence he held over events in Christendom and over people's lives during his lifetime.

Packer's first book was a defense of the authority of the Bible, and this became both a lifelong passion and one of Packer's most significant contributions to the evangelical church. Packer had an extraordinarily strong commitment to the view that the words of the Bible are the very words of God. He served as general editor of the English Standard Version of the Bible, calling that project the greatest achievement of his life.

J. I. Packer gave evangelicals a place to stand in regard to the authority of the Bible. Personally, no Packer legacy has been more important to me than this one.

Packer helped to hold the conservative evangelical line on numerous theological issues, such as the nature of Scripture and its interpretation, women's roles in the church, and the church's position regarding homosexuality. He was a traditionalist who looked to the past for truth. In *Knowing God*, he quoted Jeremiah 6:16, with its image of the "ancient paths ... where the good way is," claiming that his book was a call to follow those old paths.

Another unifying theme in Packer's life was his elevation of the common person, and this, too, is part of his legacy. Packer never lost the common touch that he absorbed in

his upbringing, and the same spirit was fostered by his identity as a latter-day Puritan. Although Packer could write specialized scholarship with the best, his calling was to write mid-level scholarship for the layperson. He was utterly devoid of careerism.

Another part of Packer's legacy during his lifetime was his exemplary Christian character that served as a model and inspiration to those who knew him. His godliness was apparent at every moment, and his presence was a benediction on people who spent time with him. His words were words of wisdom. He was hardworking, but at the same time generous with his time.

Packer's list of priorities included the Bible, the church, correct theology, holiness in life, and vocation. The reason Packer wrote on such a broad array of subjects is not only that he had an active and capacious mind but also that he was concerned that Christians think correctly on all subjects that relate to life. Packer had a passion for truth in every sphere.

Packer himself ascribed the fame and success that he achieved to divine providence, and it is obvious that this is the case. He did not set out to be famous. He simply did the task that was placed before him and left the outcome to God. Speaking to teenagers in a living room was as likely an assignment for him as addressing a packed auditorium. J. I. Packer was above all serviceable to the kingdom and its King.

His ministry concluded in 2016, when he became unable to read, travel, or speak publicly due to going blind from macular degeneration.

When asked late in life what his final words to the church might be, Packer replied, "I think I can boil it down to four words: Glorify Christ every way." That can serve as an epitaph for what Packer did in his lifetime and what he is doing now.

Leland Ryken is Emeritus Professor of English at Wheaton College, where he taught for half a century. He has written a biography of J. I. Packer, titled *J. I. Packer: An Evangelical Life*.

Edited by Pastor David O'Brien

From: [christianitytoday.com](http://christianitytoday.com)

## Cell Groups

If you are interested in joining or visiting a cell group, please contact

**Pastor David O'Brien**

**ADULT CELLS** meet

**Tuesday or Thursday** at 7.30pm

**YOUNG ADULT CELLS** meet

**Thursday** 7.30pm

## Bible Studies

**Friday 10.30am**

**In Recess**

Studying: John's Gospel.

Leader: David O'Brien

**Sundays 11.00am**

**Via Zoom**

Studying: Malachi

Leader: Rabi Gunaratnam 0407956223

## During the Term

**Kids Church**

**9.30am Sundays**

Christina Kim 0403 510 323  
kidschurch@waverleybaptist.org.au

**Re-WYRED – Youth**

**9.30am Sundays**

Deborah Chang 0435 259 580

**Boys Brigade**

**6.15pm Mondays**

Peter McGilvery 9763 2829

**Girls Brigade**

**7pm Tuesdays**

Elaine Waterworth 9887 6171

**Bibs Playgroup**

**10am Fridays**

Neil Mullucks 0411 464 411  
Carol Mullucks 0433 322 979

**Live-WYRED**

**7.30pm Fridays**

Kirsty Agnew 0466 040 316

**Life Group – Youth**

**Sundays**

Andy Agnew 0437 987 484

**Conversational English**

**9:45am Saturdays**

Lyndel Holt 03 9561 4618

**Ladies Morning Tea**

**1st Wed of the Month 10.00am**

Sharon Thorp 9802 3295

**Stitching Time 2nd Wed of the Month**

At various homes **7.30pm**

Elaine Waterworth 9887 6171

**Kids Hope**

**Weekly Mentoring**

Don Leigh 0413 272 612

Lynne Jones 0430 537 747

## Contacts

**CHURCH OFFICE**

2-4 Lum Rd, Wheelers Hill 3150

**office@waverleybaptist.org.au**

**Office phone is 9560 2052 (Ans Machine)**

**Newsletter deadline is Tuesday evening.**

Newsletter Editor: Roger Thorp

All items to [office@waverleybaptist.org.au](mailto:office@waverleybaptist.org.au)

**WEBSITE**

**[www.waverleybaptist.org.au](http://www.waverleybaptist.org.au)**

Check it out!

**NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE IF YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY**

**Better Viewed in colour on your Smartphone or Tablet!**

**SENIOR PASTOR**

Rev. David O'Brien — 0425 876 536

(Rest Day — Monday)

[dbrien@waverleybaptist.org.au](mailto:dbrien@waverleybaptist.org.au)

**PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKERS**

Neil Mullucks 0411 464 411

Carol (Yi Danhua) 0433 322 979

[bibs@waverleybaptist.org.au](mailto:bibs@waverleybaptist.org.au)

**ELDER**

Ashley How 9886 6243

**CHURCH SECRETARY**

Rod Knight 9561 5801

0400 311 215

**CHURCH TREASURER**

Roger Thorp 9802 3295

## Prayer Ministry

Our Elders are available for prayer ministry at your request. Call an Elder to arrange a time.

James 5:14—*Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.*

**Healing Services** - Call Rabi: 0407 956 223