

Book of the Month ONE STEP AT A TIME Robyn Claydon

Cost: \$ 20.00

Robyn Claydon has written another book of encouragement for those on the journey of faith. Called "One Step at a time", it reflects on many different aspects of life and faith and how we should think about them. Robyn tells many wonderful stories of those she has met around the world, as well as engaging with Scripture, quotes and poems, and the lives of famous saints. Aimed at helping people navigate the Christian life well – she engages with what life is really like, and the many stresses and challenges.

Robyn and David Claydon will be with us at St Matt's on the 14 November in the morning services, to share with us and to sign books!

St Matt's Services

Sunday 8am	Morning Prayer / Holy Communion
Sunday 9am	St Matts @ School; WPH Public School
Sunday 10am	Multi Generational Family Service
Sunday 9.45am	Chinese Service; Cherrybrook Public School
Sunday 11.15am	Asian Congregation; Cherrybrook Public School
Sunday 5pm	Contemporary Service
Sunday 7pm	Contemporary Service
Wednesday 10.30am	Traditional Anglican Service

Ministers - All members of the Congregation

Minister	Steve Abbott	Mobile 0417 410 595	9479 3700
Assistants	Shane Dirks	Associate Minister	9479 3700
	Nerida Peart	Young Adults	9479 3702
	Rob Conway	Youth Minister	9479 3704
	Wendy Estall	Pastoral Care/Seniors Minister Mon - Thurs	9479 3707
	Karen Braga	Pastoral Care/Young Women	0401 933 264
	Kenneth Leung	Chinese Minister	0433 766 211
	Kenny Liew	Minister of Asian Congregation	0448 515 408
	Jacki Hellstrom	Children's Ministry Co-ordinator Tues & Fri	9479 3700
	Tina Piccione	Communications Co-ordinator	9479 3700
	Kat Butler	Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm	9479 3700
Administrator			
Organist	David Parsons		9871 8007

St Matthews Anglican Church

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Your monthly update on what Matters at St Matt's. Reflecting the generosity of Christ in and to our community.



November
2010

November 2010 Preaching Calendar

7 November	Jesus' Identity: The Great Assessor	Matthew 23:1-39
14 November	Longing For Justice	Habakkuk 1:1-11
21 November	Longing for God's Voice	Habakkuk 1:12-2:20
28 November	Longing for God	Habakkuk 3:1-19



If you are feeling new to St Matthews, please fill out a Communication Card found in the church or hall or at the back of the school hall. One of our ministry team will be in contact with you soon. Stay for morning tea/supper after the service to meet others who have made St Matt's their spiritual home.



www.stmatts.org.au

Pastoral Letter—Shane Dirks

Reflecting the generosity of Christ in and to our community.

Many businesses, groups and churches have put their minds to the task of constructing a 'vision statement.'

For some this has been a 'me too' exercise that amounts to little more than a sign being made and the redesigning of a letter head. For others the vision statement becomes a part of their corporate and even personal DNA, a purpose and drive that they get out of bed with. After a night of dreaming about this very thing, it directs priorities, resources and passions! The Vision becomes their life's conviction. As a friend of mine once told me a belief is something you hold, a conviction is something that holds you!

An example is Walt Disney's vision 'To make people happy.' How many suspense thrillers have you seen produced by Disney? Ever been to 'Disney Dentist Chain' – On the other hand, I am sure you know what happens to a child's face at the very mention of Disneyland or the movie Toy Story. The Vision directs what they do. But was everyone asleep at the wheel when we allowed the vision statement 'Reflecting the generosity of Christ in and to our community' to be the catalyst for our parish members' dreams, and the banner under which our priorities would be set. I am serious; have you considered just for one moment the ramifications on our personal and corporate life together in the event that we adopt this vision as DNA and not only as something to model our stationery around? Allow me to elaborate.

Generosity is an elusive creature in the wild, often confused with the similar-looking though unrelated, and rarely named creature 'social contract.' The theme song of my favourite television show Friends could be offered as the theme song of social contractarianism, as it declares under the guise of friendly generosity: "I'll be there for you, 'cause you're there for me too." The generous heart sings 'I will be there for you, 'cause...' and struggles to complete the phrase – beyond being a simple motivation of the heart. Generosity is a posture of giving, of other-centeredness without a thought of a return and a loose regard for one's own interest. Our situation has the potential to go beyond this...

We have prescribed a particular kind of generosity. The generosity of Christ! Let me share what you already know but may have kept in a safe compartment; I know I'd like to! The giving nature of Jesus was unlimited and it was hands on. The Generosity of God is a tremendous thing, but as we narrow the scope to the second person of the trinity, God's generosity is seen in its sharpest light. For it was he who prayed with anguished tears in the garden, he who committed his Spirit (his life breath) to the Father as he died. He who, though in very nature God generously gave up heavenly splendour to be the slave who generously offers himself as a ransom for many. The nature of Jesus' generosity was that nothing was left for himself, it was given over – you can make a generous contribution, but Jesus' Generosity is not a contribution – it is a Ransom, a Substitutionary Atonement! He has paid the lot, and it cost him the lot! Are the alarm bells going off yet?

There are two more words in the vision that, understood well, should cause alarm; 'In' and 'to'. I am concerned because not only is there a challenge in reflecting generosity TO – which I can do at arm's length but IN – and this means being IN!

St. Augustine described the Church as a 'city within a city' and I think he is right. St Matt's exists within West Pennant Hills, and under this vision would be willing to compromise its very existence for the sake of blessing the community. Under this vision St Matt's personally and corporately, would have to sacrificially, yet joyfully look to the interests of the community. That could look like jeopardising my stipend for the sake of funding an outreach event! That could mean I would need to develop not only as a preacher but as someone who understands and studies wider demographics in order that I might generously offer Christ's truth in a way that speaks to a people who are not like me! That might mean..... for you! (I will let you fill in the space)

Are you starting to see why this is a terrifying and potentially personally destructive vision. No right-minded financial institution would ever adopt this! To give this more than 'me too' lip service could cause radical change in my life. If our leaders make their decisions, heart and soul, based on this vision people will surely leave! No intelligent person can read the vision, 'Reflecting the generosity of Christ in and to our Community' ponder it and not be made to feel a little sick. It's precisely this feeling that inspired me to become a gospel partner in this parish. Anything that pushes that hard against my sinful heart is nothing short of inspirational!

At this point in time the best way for us corporately to reflect the generosity of Christ in and to our community is by expanding our mission activities in children's ministry and by consolidating the advances made in youth ministry. Youth and Children's ministry is in many ways one of the most complex areas to minister in effectively, yet also is one the most effective ways to minister broadly to a demographic such as ours. The time is now for all who are committed to the vision, to consider tweaking our prayers, considering our emphasis and adjusting our giving in order to support another gospel worker in the form of a Youth and Children's Associate Minister. Let's begin to reflect!

Shane Dirks

Associate Minister



St Matt's Diary and Notes



MEN @ ST MATT'S BREAKFAST

Saturday 6 November,
7.30 – 9.00am @ St Matt's

Speaker: Jim Ramsay, a retired minister and former staff member of the Dept of Evangelism

Topic: *"What are men for? A biblical approach to being a man".*

Cost: \$15. Tickets on sale next week

10am FAMILY SERVICE

A family service will be held on 7 November at the 10am service. This will be followed by a Sausage Sizzle—gold coin donations.

Everyone welcome!

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

14 November 12.30—2.30pm:

If you usually eat alone on a Sunday and wish to join with others for lunch and fellowship, you are invited to our 'Second Sunday Potluck Lunch' in NewLine Cottage. Tea and coffee will be supplied and it would be appreciated if you could bring finger food to share.

Further details:

Pattie (9484 0174) or
Pat (9868 4630).

WORKING BEE—A BIG ONE!

27 November, 8am—1pm

Please diarise this date as we need as many helpers as we can get.



MISSION AID GROUP (MAG)

Thank you to everyone who made donations in October. We had a wonderful collection of goods to send to the depot, which was delivered last Tuesday.

Donations for the rest of the year include: stationery, toiletries, wool for knitting or materials for making children's clothes or babies' nighties and of course anything on the yellow brochure is really much appreciated.

Thank you again !!

Roslyn .

SAFE MINISTRY COURSE:

13 November, St Matt's, 9am-3pm. This course will be run by Youthworks. It is essential to do the course if you have volunteered to help at Matts4Kids.

CAMP OUT OF HERE:

3,4 & 5 December at Vision Valley. Pop in diaries. More info coming soon.

Matts4Kids – Christmas event

11 Dec , 2.30pm- 5 pm.

Advance Notice

MAG BOOK FAIR
to support the Mission Aid Group
of CMS

Saturday 19 March 2011
Please start gathering books
Collection begins late January
2011



St Matt's Wardens' Update Financial Matters

The Scriptures provide a lot of teaching about how Christians should handle their money but the prime motivation for giving is God's generosity to us: 2 Corinthians 8:7 *'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.'* Our giving ought to reflect our gratefulness to God for his *'Indescribable gift'* (2 Cor 9:15).

We ask each of you to review your offertory giving, not grudgingly but out of gratitude. We ask you to prayerfully consider whether you can increase it and make it regular, knowing that the request for planned, regular giving is actually a request for the support of gospel ministry in West Pennant Hills.

As indicated in the Financial Update given in all services in August, the average giving per adult across all our congregations is about \$20. Some people give regular and planned amounts, whilst it appears that others do not. Some give more on occasion, but it is a problem if their giving is not regular and/or not planned. This may be because of irregular attendance, and not prayerfully considering the amount that is given.

What can we all do?

- ✦ Pray that God will give us all generous hearts for his work at WPH.
 - ✦ Whether your giving is via the plate or is electronic (internet or bank) make it a regular payment. For electronic giving, monthly seems best for most people.
 - ✦ For those who give electronically, it would be very helpful to identify your regular church service on your payment transfer (8, 9, 10, 5, 7, Chinese, Asian, Wed).
- For those who would like to give electronically, the enclosed form provides you with the bank account details for St Matthews. You can set up the payment yourself over the internet, or ask your bank to do it for you. To use your credit card, simply fill in the details and leave the form with the office.

Other Matters

- ✦ Our next working bee is 27th November, 8am to 12noon.
 - ✦ A larger and better designed new fridge has been purchased for the kitchen, to replace the old one which had stopped working.
- The New Line Cottage Ramp is now completed and the cottage is fully accessible to the community. A formal opening is planned for early 2011.

OH&S

Are you interested in OH&S (Occupational Health and Safety) matters? This is a very important area of our governance that needs attention.

The wardens would like someone at St Matt's with such an interest to undertake OHS reporting and communication on behalf of the parish council. It involves keeping an eye on OHS matters at St Matt's, reporting these and our policies to the diocese, and keeping the wardens and parish council up to date on changes as notified by the diocese. It is a responsible position but does not involve frequent reporting, so it would suit someone who is retired or who has full-time family responsibilities.

If you are interested please contact one of the wardens (Sue , John , John) or the church office.

Pastoral Care Ministry

Giving Encouragement



The Bible instructs us to encourage one another, and at times we all need to be encouraged by others. Paul, in writing to the Romans said: “I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong - that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith” (Romans 1:11-12). Encouragement helps us to have confidence, it builds us up and helps us to press on when we might otherwise feel that we are going nowhere.

One of the greatest encouragers was a man from Cyprus names Joseph. He was so inclined to encourage others that the early church members changed his name to Barnabas, which means, ‘son of encouragement’. One of those occasions of encouragement was when Barnabas brought Paul to the Apostles soon after he became a Christian, and stood by him when others were still wary, because they weren’t sure that Paul could be trusted.

Later, Paul too was an encourager. How uplifted Timothy would have been when he read Paul’s letter to him which said in part.... “night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers” (2 Tim.1:3).

Sometimes when people need encouragement and help, prayer is all that we can give, indeed it is the best that we can give.

Do you know someone whom you can encourage? By prayerfully seeking God, he will bring opportunities before you to speak a word ‘in season’ or to pray fervently for the needs of others. Let us begin by encouraging one another as we meet together today at Church and then let us take encouragement to others as opportunities open throughout the coming week.

Please pray for:

- ◆ those who provide ministry to residents at Woodlands, Lutanda Manor and Mawarra Village on a regular basis
- ◆ the Resource Advisory Team as we meet over Pastoral Care issues
- ◆ Lay Pastors and Pastoral Carers who faithfully pray for and encourage others
- ◆ The Meals Ministry and Fiona who oversees this ministry
- ◆ Orana and the Committee who oversee the meetings

Wendy Estall
Seniors/Pastoral Minister

CJ DAY 2010

Fundraising Dinner 13 Nov

What is CJ Day?

We have offered Chris Jones (CJ) the position of Associate Youth and Children's Minister from 2011. To be sure that we can pay for this expansion of our ministry team, we want to have "the money in the bank" prior to 2011. So our usual "C Day" appeal at this time of year is now "CJ Day".



What is C Day?

For those new to St Matts, for many years we have held a "Contribution Day" (shortened to C Day) each year at about this time, to raise funds for paying off our debt, or to send to our link missionaries, and so on. In 2009, we raised funds to employ Nerida in 2010. It is an opportunity for us to give a lump sum of money as a reflection of God's generosity to us in giving us all that we need (and much more).

Why do we need to employ an extra person?

Both our youth and children's ministries need additional time to allow them to grow and to continue growing. CJ's appointment will bring the combined hours of two part-time children's ministry positions to the equivalent of a full-time position, with the advantage of the skills and experience of two different people. This is needed to work with children of all ages across our different congregations. With the youth work, our program has grown beyond the size that can be safely and effectively managed by one person, and CJ's appointment will enable it to continue to grow and to reach youth at other high schools in our area.

So what is happening on 13 November?

A fund raising dinner is being held, to raise funds! We have a limited capacity in our halls for a dinner, and so tickets are being sold for \$5 each to ensure that those who take a ticket turn up on the night. The \$5 will be refunded at the door - it is not part of the fund-raising effort. There will be an auction of items and services, to raise some of the funds needed and to have some fun on the night. But the real purpose is to raise funds (cash, cheque or credit card), so the dinner is for those who are willing to contribute an amount of money on the night to employ CJ in 2011.

The evening starts at 6.30pm (arrival), followed by dinner, the auction, interviews and talks. We aim to finish by 9.30pm. A night of fun and fellowship is planned, with a serious purpose as well. Tickets are available from Sunday 24th October after each service.

What if I am unavailable on the night?

If you want to contribute to the CJ Day appeal before 13th November, you can place money (cash or cheque) in a clearly marked envelope in the offertory prior to 13th November, or you can make a direct debit to the church accounts, again clearly indicating the purpose of the deposit.

Please join us in praying for this event, and the expansion of God's kingdom in our local area that will occur as a result.

The Wardens - John , John , Sue

Are you needing prayer?



Is your need related to health, a relationship issue, exam worries or teen troubles. Maybe it concerns financial problems, retirement worries or any number of other issues. Is it someone you love who is needing prayer?

St Matts Intercessory Prayer Network (IPN) is ready to help. This network of Intercessors, chosen by the Senior Minister, will pray for you.

Your request will be kept in the strictest confidence and not discussed with anyone, unless it concerns someone at risk.

To access the IPN, you send your prayer request by email to prayer@stmatts.org.au. If you do not have email, you are invited to phone your request to Wendy Estall on 9479 3707 or if the request is urgent, please phone 0437 885 848.

As your need is met, or as changes take place, you are requested to keep the team updated so that prayer remains appropriate and accurate.

At no time will you be approached by team members over prayer issues, other than the Co-ordinator who may contact you to ask for progress reports, or Pastoral staff who may care for you.

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16 NIV).

ORANA SENIORS' FELLOWSHIP

November Meeting

Date: 3rd November Time: 11.30am

Speaker: Gerald Mills

Subject: “In the steps of St Paul”

Gerald and Nita have recently returned from visiting parts of the Middle East and Turkey with a tour group led by David and Robyn Claydon. This illustrated talk will retrace some of Paul's missionary journeys and also 'visit' the seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelation. We are sure this will be a special time of interest, learning and fellowship. **Book the date!**

We extend a very warm welcome for all to join us at this Orana meeting.

The Celsus Library in Ephesus

Pray for those with special needs:

Jan , Damon , Margaret , Dudley ,
Brian , Moby (Grandson of Keith),
Caroline (Betty daughter), Win ,
Jeannine , Jane , Jill , Kevin ,
Cliff , Geoff & Margaret , Stan ,
Bev , Elsie , Rob (Kim father),
Janet , mother of Sally (Member 10am)





Ceramics @ Christmas

Ladies come along and bring your friends!

- ❖ Paint your own 20cm plate to keep or give away!
- ❖ Hear an inspiring Christmas talk & have fun with friends.
- ❖ Templates are provided so anyone can do it!!

When: **24th November 2010**

Time: **7 pm**

Where: St Matthews Anglican Church

Cnr Castle Hill & New Line Rds

West Pennant Hills

Contact: office@stmatts.org.au, Ph: 9479 3700

Cost: **\$25 pp**



NOTE: Plates will be taken away to be fired at the conclusion of the evening and may be collected after all services at St Matt's from 12 December or from the church office during business hours.



Saturday 11th December

Would you be interested?

**Please let us know
on the clipboard
after the service**



Exciting Ministry Opportunity in 2011

Join a dedicated team of volunteers!

Scripture (SRE) teachers and relief teachers needed at West Pennant Hills, Cherrybrook & John Purchase Public Schools.

Scripture (SRE) times are:

John Purchase PS on Tuesdays -

11:30 Infants; 12:00 Primary

Cherrybrook PS on Fridays -

10:30 Primary; 11:20 Infants

West Pennant Hills on Fridays -

9:00 Primary; 9:30 Infants

Teachers and relief teachers needed.

Speak to Jacki Hellstrom or Pat Sutton if you can help. 9479 3700

st matts youth update

The past month has been an exciting time at St Matt's Youth.
Over 40 youth attended Camp 78 on the 10-12 September at Camp Kedron.

For all the Camp pics, logon to:
<http://youth.stmatts.org.au/gallery/>

The theme of the weekend was 'Investigating Jesus.'
Praise God for the awesome job Andrew did in teaching us from Matthews Gospel.
A big thanks to the Club 78 leaders, especially Amelia Thompson and Simon Walker who helped oversee the smooth running of another great Camp 78.



Camp was truly a great time of fellowship, fun, learning and group development. Many kids were challenged in their faith.

Each week we continue to have around 190 young people attend the Friday Youth Groups, and about 20 kids attend Sunday 78 at 10am church. Please pray for the following leaders:

- ♦ Chris and Claire as they continue to help oversee FNL
- ♦ Mark and Natalie as they continue to help oversee Club 78
- ♦ Mitch and Jess as they continue to help oversee Sunday 78

In September at Pennant Hills High, we continued to get between 30 kids each week at the lunchtime Bible Study (TLT). Praise God that a good number of year 9 students have started attending.

In this short term 4 the youth groups are studying the following:

Club 78 is looking at passages from Romans

Sunday 78 is studying James

FNL is studying Daniel

Upcoming Events to look out for and keep praying for:

End of Year Combined youth Party	3 December
Youth Leaders Retreat	10-12 December

For your 2011 Planners;

Summer Madness 2011	23 -26 January
FNL Recommences	28 Jan 2011
Club 78 re-commences	4 Feb 2011
Sunday 78 re-commences	6 Feb 2011
TMF 2011	8-11 April

For Term Plans, Camp forms and any further info please check youth.stmatts.org.au or please contact Rob Conway at rconway.stmatts.org.au.

St Matts @ School

Connecting Encouraging Growing

It's difficult to look back and report on what has happened at St Matts @ School when the most exciting things are just ahead, not only for St. Matts @ School but for the whole parish. What I mean is the excellent opportunity we have this December to reflect the generosity of Christ in and to our community by the staging of the Family Festival and Carols by Candlelight. And it will all happen right on the oval at West Pennant Hills Public School! I want to say a huge thanks to Mr. Bruce Francis, acting principal of WPHPS for his permission and encouragement for this event to go ahead. It's a credit to the St Matts @ School family that in a recent conversation I had with Mr. Francis he commented, "It's great that you guys put so much back into the community!" With members of the congregation participating on P&C, and participating in school events his comments are not unsubstantiated.

Perhaps one of the most exciting activities in recent weeks was during St Matt's mission week, when the St Matts @ School crew ended the Sunday service after just 30min to go participate in the school working bee, and provide morning tea. And it was not just the adults who were in on the action, the Matts 4 Kids church kids helped to build the school's brand new scarecrow!



As I said, it's hard to look backwards. At time of writing, the month of October heads towards a sensational conclusion with the Baptism of Lloyd (24th Oct). Rachel and I, accompanied by 9am Elders Ernest & Simone, and Meredith will be heading to the 2010 Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit (22-23 October). This will be a great time of learning and equipping in order to keep challenging the entire parish to new and exciting endeavours for the Kingdom. Speaking of which we prayerfully sent off Greg (Gospel Outreach Ministries) doing mission events in Singleton, and then in Broke. Also 9am Elder Geoff heads off this week with Andrew Fisher and the Jesus Racing team in a week of outreach that will take them to the Gold Coast Indy Event. Who wants to look back on a month, when God's got so much in store ahead.

Shane Dirks
Associate Minister

Young Adults Mid Year Teaching Series

Ethics – the Shape of the Christian Life

As the second semester of University started, the Young Adult Home Groups gathered for 6 weeks every Tuesday night. Why? Not just to eat great food, hang out and get to know each other. But also ... to listen to some great teaching on various topics of Christian



ethics. “What is ethics?” as someone asked the first week. It is how we should live well as Christians – what decision should we make in any given situation - what the shape of the Christian life should be. And often this involves hard theological thinking, rather than just trying to read the rules and keep them (deontological ethics!), because very often situations don’t fit clearly into an ethical command such as “don’t steal” or “don’t kill anyone”. So – firstly we looked at a framework for ethics – how to think ethically and theologically, and Stuart Heath of the Porterbrook network led us through this. The two main questions he got us to ask were, as we look at a particular topic, we need to think about what the Bible says the “Nature of something is” (what is it?) and also “what is its purpose” (what is it for?). And that these two questions help us navigate the wilds of Christian ethics, whether it is money, family, euthanasia, or sex. The following week Stuart led us through the example of how to decide who to get married to – which some of the Young Adults were VERY interested in!

Justine Toh, a lecturer from Macquarie University then helped us look at the Ethics of consumerism, and how we should battle with the overwhelming culture that we live in of advertising and marketing. On to issues of addiction and then sexuality with our very own Shane Dirks – the man who is candid, straight forward, and very challenging and helpful on these topics. Then we finished up with the ethics of greed and poverty with John Beckett from the Micah Challenge which is a Christian organisation that works to alleviate world poverty.

The feedback from the Young Adults on this series was great – they enjoyed all the different aspects of it – the teaching, the fellowship, the food! So ... we will be making it a regular part of our calendar for all Home Groups.

Please pray for our Home Groups as they get to the end of the year – most flourishing, and a few limping! Please pray also for the Year 12s who will join us soon – that they will integrate quickly, and that none of them will fall away over the Christmas period, which is quite common.

In Christ,

Nerida

ST MATT'S CHINESE CONGREGATION

2 Year Bible Reading Plan

Every year the Chinese Congregation has a theme. Last year's theme was "Joining a Group, Serving the Church." This year's theme is **"Grow Strong in God's Word."** We have implemented this by encouraging the whole congregation to read the whole Bible together and to finish reading the 66 books within 2 years. We have divided the 66 books into 10 stages and anyone who has finished each stage will be presented with a beautifully designed bookmark.



It is wonderful to see 1/3 of the congregation has participated in this reading plan and especially encouraging to see both the young and the elderly eagerly and joyfully read the Bible every day.

We pray that brothers and sisters will enjoy reading the Bible and that we will all grow healthily in God's Word and be more like Christ!

兩年讀經計劃

我們中文堂每年都有一個主題。前年是“人人入組，個個事奉。”今年是“建基真理，茁壯成長。”因此我們定了一個兩年讀經計劃，讓弟兄姊妹可以一同讀聖經，希望可以在兩年內一起讀完整本聖經66本書一次。我們將66本書分成十期，而每次能夠在定期完成的弟兄姊妹，都可獲精美書籤一個。

非常高興見到1/3的會眾參加了這個讀經計劃，而特別值得鼓勵的是年青和年長的弟兄姊妹都樂意每天讀聖經。

我們祈求各弟兄姊妹都能享受閱讀聖經，及我們都可以在神的話語中，茁壯成長，更似基督！

From the desk of the Church Office..... Kat Butler

As I sit in my office I am afforded one of the most amazing views. Each day I get to see the true heart of St Matt's and the wheels that make it move. Without fail each day there is a multitude of people showing their servant hearts using their gifts to serve God in unpaid ministry. The ministry of these people encourages me immensely and so I don't want to keep it to myself. Come on a journey with me and meet some (and I stress some!) of these gracious people who do so much without any want for praise.

On Monday mornings I always come in to find my office light on, curtains open and, if it's cold, air-conditioner on. My friend Pat is always here ahead of me, starting the many tasks he commonly spends Monday mornings patiently doing. He finalises the paperwork for the banking and reconciles the tally sheet, he cleans up anything left in the entryway and halls, puts away tables and chairs left out, and he cleans out any paperwork left in the pews and neatens all the books. He is always willing to pop up any other day and help out.

On Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays every week the ladies of Cubby Club grace our halls. This ministry brings through our doors weekly great opportunities to proclaim Christ's love to many non-Christian mothers and kids who come because it's such a good playgroup. Each week our groups share Christ through conversations, activities and sharing their lives. The backbones of this outreach are the tireless mothers and "grandmas" who organise and run the activities and morning tea, as well as the other St Matt's mums who come and share their lives.

On Wednesdays the lovely Charmaine is here, she helps set up for the Wednesday service and then does any admin tasks I have for her. Also on Wednesdays are the lovely morning tea ladies, those who set up communion for the service, those who play the piano or organ, those who do sound and also count the offertory.

Fridays are the busiest days, as preparation for all of the Sunday services is completed. There are the never tiring Debbie and Marion who are here each week making sure there are enough copies of the bulletins, songs and any other print outs for everyone. There are the many ladies who come and clean the church, sharpen the pencils and insert any flyers into the bulletins. Also, the patient Linda or Geoff is here to set up the slide show for all the services.

I realise as I leave on Friday afternoons and don't return until Mondays I don't get to see the youth leaders, Sunday school teachers, crèche helpers, band members, sound people, data projector people, service leaders, morning tea helpers, those who set up communion, those who pray during and after the service, those who welcome, those who count the offertory, bible readers and many more tasks. Then there are those who at different times in the year do tasks like help at Matts 4 Kids, do database updates, organise camps, organise the working bees and other maintenance to the church, co-ordinate rosters and many other tasks that I'm unaware of.

How encouraging is it that so many people serve St Matt's with their time, gifts and energy? I know I find it inspiring and makes me wonder which of these I could give to my church. I know there is always more to be done at St Matt's, and space for more to serve. Have you considered where you could serve?



Barraba Mission Review

On Sunday the 26 September our family (Hellstrom's) and other families from Cherrybrook Anglican Church drove out to Barraba in NSW, which is roughly 6-8 hours away from Sydney. Most of the families stayed in the caravan park, or the Playhouse Hotel. We arrived on the night of the bush-dance, which was a BBQ dinner and dancing to socialize with the people of the town. We had a lot of other opportunities to get to know the Barrabians (the nickname for the people of Barraba) during the Mission, which included church on Sunday morning, kids club, youth events, women's and men's events, and the footy event – as well as the dinner on the Friday night. We arrived at the church in the early morning (around 7:30am) for bible study and prayer. Compared to St Matt's, West Pennant Hills, St Laurence's in Barraba is quite a small church with few people (or youth, for that matter). I was a leader for the Kindergarteners with Sophia (Cherrybrook Anglican) for the Kids Club, and we had about 5 kids who turned up for the three days, with about 35-50 K-6. Kids Club ran from Wednesday to Friday, and I believe that the kids from Barraba had quite a lot of fun with it. The youth events were on Tuesday and Thursday – the Thursday event was probably the most fun, as we met most of the kids who go to the youth. Rebecca (also from Cherrybrook) gave a talk and a testimony. We talked to the nine Barraba youth who turned up, plus a couple of the youth from Cherrybrook, as well as my brother and myself; it was all a lot of fun. The most rewarding part of the mission was definitely seeing God work in the hearts of the children at the kids club, and the youth of the town at the youth event. It's safe to say that you definitely grow in your faith and learn so much more about where you are with God during your time on mission.

Lizzie Hellstrom

Barraba
a habitat of the endangered Regent Honeyeater

ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2010

Please pray for link missionaries each week. For more information on all of our link missionaries please see the missions page at www.stmatts.org.au

Pray for organising ongoing mission opportunities in St Matthews now and in the future!

7th November - Jenny Fallon, SIM Sydney

- Praise God for Jenny's new home in Punchbowl and her enjoyment living in this multicultural area.
- Give thanks for the success and mutual encouragement of Jenny's pastoral trip visiting Aussie SIM missionaries in South America with Jill McGilvray and Greg and Jenny Swanton in September.
- Give praise for networking opportunities with others involved in missionary member care and ideas gained from a member care training course in July.
- Pray for Jenny to have a Personal Assistant that will help relieve of much paper work so more time can be spent on member care issues.
- Pray for the continuing work of the Hope for AIDS program in Burkina Faso with Moise, Marie, Marcus and Jen who are returning there.
- Pray for the Evangelical church in PNG and the first missionary, Mathew, to Asia through SIM. Pray for logistics such as visas, and that God will enable great work to be done through Mathew and the church.
- Pray that ESL students who don't know Jesus may be challenged through reading the bible and interacting with Christians.



14th November - Rob & Leanna Haynes CMS Nungalinga College, NT

- Praise God for the jobs that have been provided for 10 Aboriginal women in the remote programs for children that Leanna manages.
- Give thanks for the large numbers coming to IVEC bible courses and full classes in the Cert III in Theology and Ministry studies
- Pray for Christie and Jake Etherington and their young children; Christie has had recent health complications, so pray for healing and restoration.
- Pray for Leanna's recent stroke which restricts her sight. Pray it will not impede too much on her computer work and that she may be healed by God's grace.
- Pray for College and Diocese staff for continued peace and harmony, new management roles and a principal; that God will be working and providing faithful workers; and that Rob and Leanna will set a godly example of Christian ministry.



21st November—Steve & Melinda McKerney, AFES Murdoch University Perth

- Pray for our MCU 'BASH' (6th) - that it will be a time of rejoicing as we look back at all God has done in us and through us at Murdoch this year.
- Exams become the focus at this time of year. Pray for the MCU students to be disciplined in their study and that God will help them all pass their exams. Pray that God will give them peace during this stressful time and that those who have heard the gospel will turn to Jesus at this time.
- Pray for the annual 'bus trip' to Canberra. The bus leaves on November 28. Pray for safety in travel and that students will grow in their knowledge and skills at National Training Event (NTE) and put them to good use in our church-based missions in Sydney afterward.



28th November—Lindsay & Lyn Whybrow BCA Hillston NSW

- Give thanks that these busy few months recently have been a time of growth and ministering to people in the community and wider.
- Give thanks for Lindsay's 60th birthday celebration and the Whybrow's time overseas visiting family, that it has been joyous and refreshing.
- Pray for the partnership the church in Hillston has with other churches including St Matt's, as well as St Mary's and Hoxton Park.
- Pray that those who attended Back to Church Sunday in September were able to discover the good news of Jesus.
- Continue praying for the formation and provision of a youth group for local kids to be excited to come and hear about Jesus.
- Continue praying for Lyn's health to improve.



ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

MISSION EVENTS IN AND AROUND ST MATTS :

MISSION PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 3rd November, 7.30 in New Line Cottage.

Please come along and join us in the important ministry of praying for mission throughout the world.
(Mission prayer nights are held the first Wednesday of every month) Next month: 5th December

A note from the Missions Resource Group...

Dear friends,

We would like to thank you all for coming along and being a part of St Matthews mission week 2010. We hope that it was encouraging for you to be reminded about the work of the gospel throughout the world.



The mission BBQ on 18 September was a great success, with over 100 people from across the congregations. We heard from Kay Elliot about the wonderful work of Crossroads in Hong Kong. We were also challenged to being a missionary wherever we are in life from Greg Anderson from Moore College.

Throughout the night we were confronted with beggars, water sellers, and translators. Our knowledge of mission and agencies was tested through a group quiz, utilising the mission displays around the halls. There was a great time of fellowship throughout the night as we shared in a delicious dinner and dessert and were able to talk to people we hadn't met before from other St Matts services. It was a splendid sight to see and a glorious thing to be a part of. Praise God!

The proceeds from the night, at almost \$900, will go towards the work of our faithful link missionaries.

Thank you for your support!

Continue to pray for mission at St Matt's, in our wider community and throughout the nations.

A banner for a summer school program. On the left is a close-up of a pear. The text reads: "When church goes pear-shaped", "Summer School", "8-14 January 2011", and "Keeping Christ at the centre".

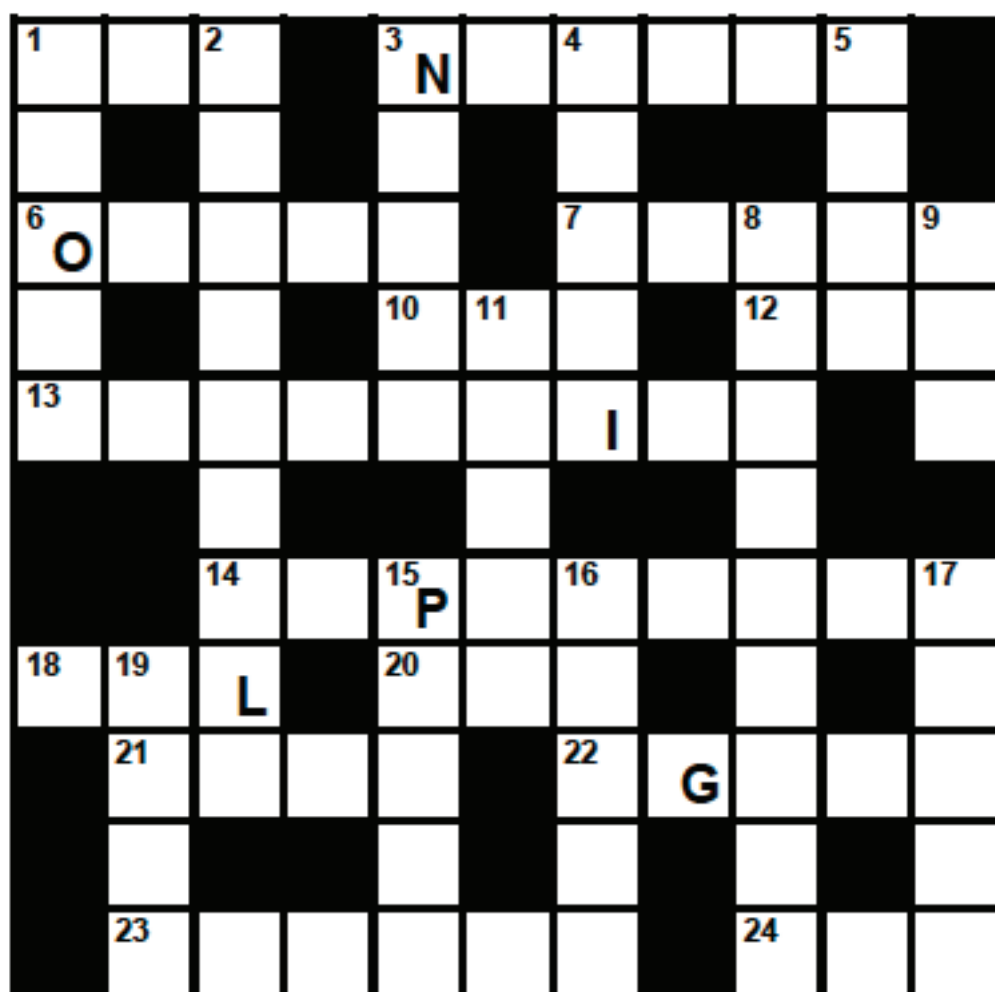
When church goes pear-shaped
Summer School
8-14 January 2011
Keeping Christ at the centre

Registration is open now! See their website to register or for more information. Held at KCC.
All welcome, kids program available.
<http://www.cms.org.au/nswsummerschool>

*Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.
Sing praises to the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done.*

Psalms 9:10-11

St Matt's Monthly Puzzle Use the Bible verses to help you with some of the answers. Some of the letters are given to help you.



Across

- 1 Name of a bench inside the church
- 3 Thick juice of apricots
- 6 Perform better than
- 7 St Matt's playgroup is called ... Club
- 10 Got together for a meeting
- 12 The organ of sight
- 13 God won't remember our sins because he is a ... god
- 14 Oven or toaster, e.g.
- 18 Name for a friend
- 20 Donkey
- 21 Slimy garden bug
- 22 Growing old
- 23 Open-air meal like at the feeding of the 5,000
- 24 Jesus said to Peter, "... behind me, Satan! " (Matt 16:23)

Down

- 1 Evidence that something is true
- 2 Cascade that flows more when it rains
- 3 The mother-in-law of Ruth (Ruth 1)
- 4 Spiky plants in the desert
- 5 Deep red gemstone
- 8 The third word of Genesis
- 9 "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "..., it is as you say," Jesus replied. (Mark 15:2)
- 11 All these ... come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' (Mark 7:23)
- 15 Non-believer (see Matthew 6:7)
- 16 Abraham's son (Genesis 21:3)
- 17 Abraham circumcised his son when he was ... days old (Genesis 21:4)
- 19 As Soon As Possible (1,1,1,1)

Children's Ministry Update

We are fast approaching our busiest time of the year in children's ministry (as if we had had a quiet time!)

We have been planning all sorts of activities for the children related to Christmas and beyond, which will be here before we know it.

Our plan had been to launch a new kid's club, after school on a Friday, in term 4 this year and unfortunately we didn't have the leaders to staff such a venture. However, excitingly, we will be

starting that program next year. It will be a kid's club for years K-6, providing a very natural progression to Youth as it will be the norm to do some sort of church activity on the Friday afternoon. If you are available and would be interested in supporting us in some way we would love for many of St Matt's people to be involved. Please pray for us as we plan the ins and outs of the program and for the children who might join us from the community.

Matts4kids is always a fantastic opportunity for spreading the good news of God's rescue plan to a mixed group of kids from the local schools. This time, 11 Dec, we are expecting up to 200 kids to participate in craft, games and story and music all to do with the promise we have in the birth of Jesus. Shane and Rachel will be preparing the talk for that day so please pray for soft hearted children to hear and obey.

Next is the 'Camp Out of Here' held on the first weekend of December. This is a great time for years 5 and 6 to get away with their leaders and form closer relationships, as well as saying farewell to the yr 6 going to bigger things in the youth group. This year Chris Jones is talking to the kids at the Vision Valley camp site. Please pray for this event as it is a highlight for these kids. Lastly, but by no means least, are our end of year Scripture assemblies at John Purchase PS (30 Dec), Cherrybrook PS and West Pennant Hills PS (3 Dec). Cherrybrook Presbyterian is running the assembly at John Purchase and Cherrybrook and we are taking responsibility for the assembly at WPHPS. This is also a great opportunity to spread the truth about Christmas and Shane will be talking about the greatest present. Please pray for all these events and that God's kingdom will grow larger, by the truth we have to share.

Thank you for all your prayers for me as I co-ordinate these activities.

Yours faithfully,

Jacki Hellstrom

