

Book of the Month

EPHESUS AND THE NEW HUMANITY by Reg Piper

These daily reflections cover the 40 days leading to Easter, traditionally known as Lent.

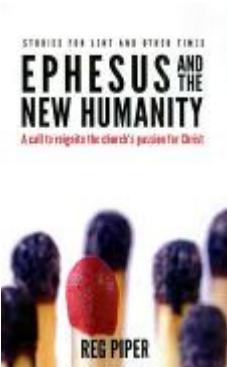
Ephesus and the New Humanity is a series of studies tracing the story of the church in Ephesus as the bride of Christ, illustrating how the church moved from being a passionate lover to a dutiful wife.

This story contains lessons for the church today as it desires to grow and fulfil its part in God's eternal purpose of a new humanity.

Reg Piper has written these studies to encourage us to rely on the Holy Spirit as we work towards God's purpose of bringing all things together in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Review from www.word.com.au

Cost: \$ 9.95



St Matt's Services

Sunday 8am	Morning Prayer / Holy Communion
Sunday 9am	St Matt's @ 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 410 596	9479 3700
Assistants	Shane Dirks	Associate Minister	9479 3700
	Nerida Peart	Young Adults	9479 3702
	Rob Conway	Youth Minister	9479 3704
	Chris Jones	Assistant Youth Minister	9479 3700
	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
Administrator	Kat Butler	Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm	9479 3700

St Matthews Anglican Church

T: 02 9479 3700 F: 02 9479 3777

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Matt's Matters

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

March
2011



March 2011 Preaching Calendar

6 March How to be a Good Minister 1 Timothy 4:1-16

13 March How to Handle Social Responsibilities 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2

20 March How to Handle Material Possessions 1 Timothy 6:3-21

27 March The King is Near Matthew 4:12-17, 16:13-23



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.

Pastoral Letter—Steve Abbott

March 2011



Dear sisters and brothers,

I want to begin my remarks this month by extending some huge THANK YOUS to all, who are too many to mention by name, who willingly gave of themselves with enthusiasm and commitment to bring together the Celebration and Launch event on Saturday 19 February at the Cherrybrook Community Centre. By all measurable criteria it was a wonderful night of encouragement as we looked back and looked ahead at what God has done and wants to do with us as a Christian Community. We heard some great stories of lives changed through St Matt's ministries and heard why many people loved their Church. There was a real buzz in the air and it was for me a personal great joy to see all eight congregations represented and to observe how much creativity and energy was put into the ministry expo. Yes we know it was way too hot (out of our control) and we also know we could do some things even better (this we can control), but for a first-off it was a terrific occasion and I thank God for allowing me to be part of such a GREAT Church!!

We know that many people unavoidably could not attend and it was suggested by several people that it would be extremely helpful if we published my 'Launch/Vision' Message from the evening. This has been done and it is available in the foyer of the church. If copies run out please let Kat Butler know in the office and we'll run off some more, we'll also try and get it onto our website.

Sunday 27 February marked Wendy Estall, our Pastoral Care and Seniors' Minister's, last day on staff. There were wonderful tributes and gifts given to Wendy who had contributed in many and significant ways to the life of St Matt's during 2009-2011. There are many who are grieving her departure, not least Wendy herself, so please pray that the sense of loss and disappointment will heal in its time and that the Lord will bring joy and comfort to all who currently feel the weight of this situation. As we seek to ensure pastoral care and seniors ministry continues I'm grateful to be able to announce that Wendy's past and present advisory team have expressed a willingness to assist with the organization and/or practice of pastoral care and seniors ministry. This situation will continue into the immediate future until we are in a place to search for and ultimately appoint a new person for this important ministry. I will myself be the staff member to oversee this ministry in the interim, although other members of staff will also take on additional responsibilities to ensure this growing ministry is given the priority it deserves and needs. A Pastoral Care and Seniors Resource Team has been put in place to ensure we cover all our bases. There are bound to be some bumps along the way so we ask for your patience, as we get up to speed in the coming weeks.

There is a hugely significant meeting on Tuesday 15 March at St Matt's church. It is the Annual Church Meeting (aka: AGM or Vestry). I apologise to any people for whom the change of date from 8 March has caused problems, but we wanted to ensure our auditor had adequate time to finish the audit. At this meeting we'll have the opportunity to elect new Wardens (Senior Deacons) and Parish Councilors (Deacons), Parish Nominators (these 5 people will choose a new senior minister if I for some reason drop of my perch) and also two Synod Representatives for the next three years (these two along with myself will be involved in an election Synod for the new Archbishop in 2 years time). All the elections are extremely important and can have significant implications for the life of our church and, on this occasion, even our denomination. Nomination forms have been printed this year and are available in the foyer. The forms require the signature of both the nominator and nominee. Please give this some prayer and have the forms returned to the office no later than Sunday 13 March.

Also at the meeting there is the opportunity to formally hear the 2011 budget explained and then ratified. Annual ministry reports are tabled and some are spoken to. Questions and recommendations can be made from the floor for the incoming Parish Council. I hope you can see that this is a highly significant event in the life of our church. Please note that in the Anglican Church people who have been communicant members for the past three months and are not voting members of another Anglican Church are welcome to attend, participate and vote. Please make every effort to attend and to participate prayerfully and wisely in this priority gathering of our whole Parish.

Finally let me urge us all to make our first Prayer Day on Tuesday March 22 a 'must attend' at some point during the gathering. There are more details later in this month's Matt's Matters so I won't repeat them here. I hope to see you there.

Prayerfully yours,

Steve Abbott

Prayer Points:

- Please pray for my preaching throughout March as we conclude 1 Timothy and commence our final series on Matthew's gospel.
- Please be praying for our Annual Church Meeting (Vestry), that God will raise up godly and dedicated people who will be available to serve our church with energy, enthusiasm and Spirit inspired wisdom in 2011/12
- Pray for wisdom as I take on more responsibility for the Pastoral Care and Seniors Ministry, working closely with the newly appointed Pastoral Care Resource Team and share some other responsibilities with other members of staff.



**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
CHANGE OF DATE—
TUES 15 MARCH—7.30PM**

The ACM will now take place on the 15 March and not the week before as originally published. We encourage all members to attend this important meeting.

**MAG BOOK FAIR
SATURDAY
19 MARCH 2011**



Still looking for:

- ◆ People needed to help set up on Friday 18 March from 8:30 pm
- ◆ People needed for numerous jobs on Saturday

Pat Sutton will take names (9875 1562) if you are able to help out.

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

13 March 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 Mutton (9484 0174) or

Pat Gould (9868 4630).

BEYOND EGYPT COURSE

Beyond Egypt is a Christian Ministry for men and women struggling with unwanted same-sex attraction, as well as other forms of sexual and relational brokenness. This 15-week course, starting in August, provides information, support, accountability and prayer in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

For more information email:
info@beyondegyp.org.au

Toys 'n' Tucker

Thank you for your partnership during the 2010 Toys 'n' Tucker campaign.

Thousands of families throughout Sydney and the Illawarra had a special Christmas thanks to the generosity of those who supported this annual appeal.

In 2010, 134 parishes, 151 schools, 15 businesses, 7 youth groups and 17 ANGLICARE Shops collected food and gifts to help those who were doing it tough at Christmas. In addition, over \$30,000 was received in financial donations. Your partnership is important to ANGLICARE as it allows us to offer care and support to struggling families who would otherwise go without.

We were humbled by the generosity shown by so many in providing food and toys for those in need. Thank you for helping us demonstrate in such a practical way the reality of God's care and compassion.

From the Toys 'n' Tucker team

**COMMENCEMENT & CONFERRAL SERVICE
OF MORLING COLLEGE**

Monday 7 March, 7.30pm

Ryde Civic Hall, 1 Devlin St, Ryde

Among the graduates will be Colin Noble who has completed his Master of Divinity and is part of our church family. St Matt's is invited to attend the service and share this happy occasion.

PENNANT HILLS CHERRYBROOK CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION Inc DEDICATION SERVICE

13 local churches form the Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Christian Education Association. This association has the responsibility of conducting timetabled Special Religious Education classes in Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook Technology Highs on behalf of the member churches. This association is in its 26th year. The association employs Peter Murphy at Cherrybrook and Graham Castle and Grant Howard (2 days) at Pennant Hills. Each year the association conducts a dedication service. In 2011 this service will be at Thornleigh Community Baptist Church.

Date: Thursday 17th March, 8.00 pm

Location: Thornleigh Community Baptist Church, Cnr Duffy Ave and The Esplanade, Thornleigh

Speaker: James Sutherland

An invitation is extended to all to hear about the work in the two schools and to support the teachers, volunteers and students.

St Matt's Intercessory Prayer Network

The confidential Intercessory Prayer Network which operates at St Matt's has been bringing the needs of many people before the Lord over the past year. The team of intercessors are praying for up to 15-20 people at one time and many have testified to the encouragement and strength received as a result of this.



We urge you, if you need prayer or know of anyone who does (they need not be a member of St Matt's), please send your requests to prayer@stmatts.org.au or else speak in private to a senior member of staff. This Prayer Network is completely confidential and private - no one will approach you or any one being prayed for without your explicit permission.

'... pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.' James 5:16

Friday Arvo Club



Last month was one of adventure. We launched our new Matts4Kids arvo club.

What an amazing, chaotic, fantastic time. We are introducing the kids to the gospel through the life and times of Shrek. The kids have been enjoying the games, story/songs and craft. The first 2 weeks brought close to 50 children - a great turn up.

Please pray that we can truthfully teach these children and reach families who are not yet connected with this or any other church. Pray for the leaders to make connections with their small group of kids so that they can pastorally care for them.

Attention: Women @ St Matt's

Come along and be encouraged and challenged to continue to grow in your relationship with God. Hear interviews with women of St Matt's while enjoying time together.

Rediscovering the Value of Spiritual Disciplines for Women

Speaker: Rev. Di Morgan

Associate Minister
St Barnabas Anglican Church,
Broadway.

**Thursday 24th March
7.30pm**

Cost \$5



Email: office@stmatts.com.au www.stmatts.org.au Ph: 9479 3700

Plans for Pastoral Care and Seniors Ministry

As we look ahead to the immediate future in 2011 we want to assure everyone at St Matt's that the ministry of Pastoral Care and Seniors is going to continue to be a very high priority. As the Senior Minister I am going to work extremely closely and alongside a small team of people who have a passion and commitment to ensure everyone, especially our senior and more frail members, have access to quality pastoral care.



It is just terrific that all of those who have worked closely with Wendy as part of her Advisory Team along with several others have agreed to be involved in a variety of ways to ensure the quality of care is maintained at St Matt's. A number have formed a Pastoral Care Resource Team who will meet once a month to discuss this vital ministry and ensure we are effectively serving our diverse and numerous congregations. I will also along with Marilyn Young and Tina Piccione, take a more hands-on role at the Wednesday Morning Tea and Service

However, we are not simply going to be in a holding pattern, but plan to run some training so we can:

1. Expand the pastoral care team across our congregations and
2. Increase the number of Lay Pastors, who exercise long-term support and encouragement to members who have requested it or have been judged to benefit from such care.

Be assured our Intercessory Prayer Network will continue unabated and all of us on the Pastoral Care Resource Team would encourage you to email through special needs requests to prayer@stmatts.org.au, or if you don't have internet access call St Matt's office and we'll send the request through for you. The meals ministry coordinated so competently by Fiona Mead, will also continue to function in the normal pattern. Marilyn Young will continue as Coordinator of HESED and the Lay Pastor elements of Pastoral Care ministry and I'll work closely with her in these roles.

I will also work alongside the Senior's Fellowship (ORANA) Committee to ensure that this important and growing dimension of St Matt's life will continue to move forward and that its members know they are valued and supported.

Some might be asking how can I add this area of ministry to my already busy schedule and the answer is twofold. First I will be sharing some of my other responsibilities with other members of staff and secondly I have a growing and committed team of people involved in and serving alongside the Pastoral Care Resource Team. It will inevitably take a little while for us to get up to speed, so we ask for your understanding as we negotiate the initial transition period. However, let me remind us all that everyone ought to take responsibility for each other's care, so please continue to exercise compassion for one another and don't hesitate to let us know through the church communication cards or by calling the office if you are aware of someone in need.

In fellowship,

Steve Abbott

Reflecting the generosity of Christ to men

Men @ St. Matts

By the time you read this, over 20 men from St Matt's will have shared the experience of Katoomba Men's convention together. This was the first of a series of opportunities this year that will see men intentionally investing in one another's lives. The goal is to help every man be a disciple making disciple.

In case you missed the ministry launch, below is copy of the men's calendar for 2011. The original is colour coded to help you know the best events to bring your non Christian friends to. Please drop by the church office or speak to one of the guys on the men's ministry team to get hold of one of your own.

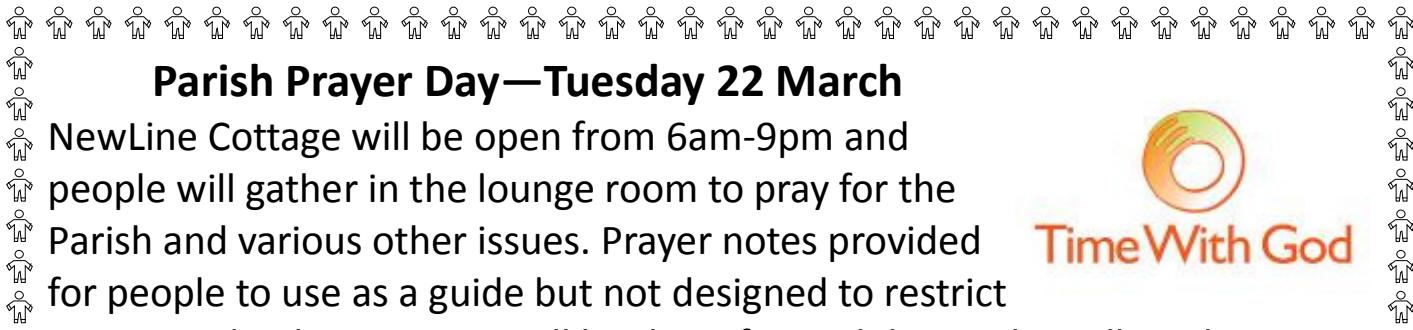
On behalf of the team

(Shane Dirks, Ian Wall, David MacDonald, Alan McGuigan, Ben Hodgkinson, and Jack Packham)



MEN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR 2011

4-5 March Katoomba Men's Convention Shane Dirks 9479 3700	26 March Men's Breakfast 'Temptation' Ian Wall 0410 522 948
14th May Men and Meat (As promoted on 2UE & SMH) David MacDonald 0410 685 626	18 July Annual Dinner World Cup-winning Wallaby Nick Farr-Jones. Ben Hodgkinson 0401 526 685
3 Sep Father's Day Door knock Shane Dirks 9479 3700	9 Sep – 23 Oct 'A Heavenly Season' Rugby world cup events TBA
12 November 'Movember' Men's Breakfast. Men's health with a Christian doctor. Alan McGuigan 0415 611 586	



Parish Prayer Day—Tuesday 22 March

NewLine Cottage will be open from 6am-9pm and people will gather in the lounge room to pray for the Parish and various other issues. Prayer notes provided for people to use as a guide but not designed to restrict prayers. A leader in prayer will be there for each hour who will read a passage of Scripture of their choosing at the start of each hour and this will go on throughout the day concluding at 9pm.



We encourage you to come for as long or as little as you can during the day. The focus will be prayer for St Matt's and our Missionaries but not restricted to these foci.



ORANA SENIORS FELLOWSHIP

APRIL MEETING

Date: 6th April Time: 11.30am

Come and join us for

LUNCH 'off-site': Berowra Waters Fish Café

Following Wednesday Church we will meet at 11.30am and proceed to Berowra Waters by car for lunch. The cost of the meal (fish, chips & salad, dessert and tea/coffee) will be \$14.50. We extend a very warm invitation for you and your friends to enjoy lunch and fellowship with us in this delightful setting.

Please let Mary Coles (9484 2497) or Judy Full (9484 3074) know by 3rd April if you are coming. **All welcome!**

Pray for those with special needs:

Jan Barnes, Damon Beck, Helen Boxwell, Margaret Dawson, Dudley, Brian, Caroline (Betty daughter), Betty, Jeannine, Jane, Jill, Cliff, Geoff & Margaret, Stan, Bev, Elsie Smith, Max, Rob (Kim father), Janet, mother of Sally (Member 10am).



St Matthews Asian Congregation

11.15am church service

9.30am crossfire youth group

all meetings @ cherrybrook public school, 131 new line road

To generously proclaim the gospel to Asians in the Hills and surrounding communities

WHAT'S HAPPENED IN 2010?

Our ministries largely consist of:

- ◆ church service @ 11.15am @ Cherrybrook Public School
- ◆ a youth group ("crossfire") @ 9.30am @ Cherrybrook Public School
- ◆ new small groups ministries during the week (e.g. young adults; mothers)
- ◆ and through Kenny Liew - ISCF outreach ministries at Cherrybrook Tech and Baulkham Hills High schools and The Connect (year 12 leavers' summer Bible ministry)
- ◆ **80 members** on the "roll". Church weekly attendance of 60+ people.



These figures represent a doubling of numbers over the last two years (since Parish Council's decision to change our mission).

- ◆ **Youth** ~ 40 (when the year 12's were still around – which grew from 3 to 10 in the last year)

We are a young congregation and it's been an uphill battle to continually challenge them in terms of how they use their time, to welcome and love each other. But this year has seen an improvement in commitment to church and small groups. We continue to put effort into building Christian relationships with one another (they are all still new to each other!).

PRAISE POINTS!

- ◆ The youth has grown (15 new faces - 2/3 through external contacts and 1/3 through the Chinese Congregation families).
- ◆ A year of serious training has resulted in a leadership team of 12 dedicated and motivated young leaders. We have also been training new leaders throughout the year.
- ◆ We have had 40 visitors (half have stayed on). Curiously, these visitors have only come in the second half of the year.
- ◆ Thank God that a whole heap of year 12 (now 1st years) have joined our church!

St Matthews Asian Congregation cont.

URGENT PRAYER!

- ◆ For Bible Study groups as they start off in March. Pray especially for the start up of a new university group and a new young workers' group.
- ◆ 5 March | For Billy Kwan's wedding & marriage. Thank God for his last few years of service to us. Unfortunately, he'll be leaving to join his future wife's church. Pray that he will adjust quickly to a new church and that they will adjust quickly to life together.
- ◆ 12 March | The CORE (Combined Chinese Churches) Training Event – that our leaders and upcoming leaders will be trained well by Colin Marshall.
- ◆ 13 March | For the youth's Bring A Friend Day – that lots of new friends will come and be welcomed into God's family! For Jason Tam (youth group leader) as he gives an evangelistic talk.
- ◆ 21-25 April | For our Easter camp– organisation and signups – pray that it will be a great time of fellowship and bonding in the midst of learning God's word.

Kenny Liew

28 February 2011



St Matt's Celebration Launch 2011

On Saturday 20 February over 400 members from across all the congregations of St Matt's came together at Cherrybrook Community Centre to celebrate all that God has done within our church community.

We heard from the lives of a variety of church members, enjoyed some great music and explored the Ministry Expo. Steve Abbott shared with us his vision for us as we launch into 2011 and continue to strive to demonstrate the generosity of Christ in and to our community.



Young Adults Summer Exodus Report 2011.

On the 11-13 February the St Matt's Young Adults community headed for the mountains (Springwood!) and settled into a drizzling weekend away. With 80 people there, it was the biggest attendance we have had yet and everyone was excited to be together.



We looked at the doctrine of Creation for the weekend, studying God as Creator, us as his creatures (what it means to be made in the image of God) and also his ultimate goal of new creation for the whole world. It was a great weekend, where the new members of the Young Adults community started to settle in and get to know people. Highlights included a time for "creativity" on Saturday afternoon where people attended workshops on art, dance, writing poetry from the psalms and music. The aim of this was to reflect the creativity of God that we had been learning about, and to explore something different. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves immensely and participated whole-heartedly. Another highlight was a games night on Saturday followed by a prayer and praise session. Ian McGilvray also shared about his journey as an architect, and now beginning to study fine arts, and how he has participated in both those arenas as a way of honouring and serving God and bringing him glory.

It was a great start to the year, and we are looking forward this week to a kick-off prayer and praise night for all our ministries (3 March), as we start Community Groups the next week.

Please do pray that the Yr 13's will continue to settle in to the community well, and that people will grow and mature throughout the year, not only to be an incredibly loving and inclusive community, but also to be outwardly focused and constantly loving and blessing outsiders and inviting them into our community, so that they may come into relationship with God.

Blessings In Christ,
Nerida

Chinese Congregation

Summer course

The regular Adult Sunday School has stopped temporarily during the summer holiday. However, we had conducted a number of interesting topics for the summer course from January to February, such as "Are Science and the Bible in contradiction?", "Is it true that there are heaven and hell?", "Fa Lun Gong", "Islam", and "Catholicism".

Though many people have been away for their holiday, attendance at the course has been pretty good. People have had the chance to know more about different topics, especially about other religions, which is helpful to them in sharing the gospel with others. Furthermore, in the class we have had lots of opportunities to share our views and raise questions. It is edifying for us to know about the belief of other religions and encouraging for us to hear stories and testimonies about people who have been converted to Christianity.

Brothers and sisters, let's hold firm to the truth and pray earnestly for those who have been misled by false teaching and incorrect doctrines and also those who have been persecuted because of their Christian belief.

中文堂暑期班

成人主日学在暑期暫時停課。 但我們為一月至二月的暑期班安排了一連串的有趣題目，例如“科學和聖經是否不相符？”，“是否真的有天堂和地獄？”，“法輪功”，“回教”，和“天主教”。

即使很多弟兄姊妹在渡假中，參加人數亦不錯。 大家有機會多些認識不同題目，特別是關於其他宗教，這對向別人傳福音有幫助。 再者，我們在班裏有很多機會分享大家的看法和發問問題。能夠認識其他宗教信仰，讓我們得着啟發，而聽到其他人的故事和他們信主的見証，亦讓我們得着鼓勵。

弟兄姊妹，讓我們持守真理，並為那些被假教導和不正確教義引導錯謬的人及那些因信基督而被逼迫的人懇切祈禱。



St matts youth update

The past two Months have been another exciting time at St Matt's Youth. 30 Leaders attended the Next Gen leadership conference in January, and a record number of kids attended Summer Madness Camp over the Australia Day weekend. We have started the year with a record number of 220 kids attending youth group each week through February. This certainly positions us as one of the biggest Anglican youth groups in Australia.

Summer Madness was a great time for all involved. Mark Roberts did a great job teaching from Ephesians. Here is what one of the yr 12 guys posted online in the days after camp.

"Summer Madness 2011 - Thankyou all for an epic camp. The fellowship was such an encouragement, and it was an awesome four days spent worshipping and praising our Lord together."

(Michael - Year 12)



Yr 9-12 Lunchtime groups at Penno High have started up for the year.

The group meets each Tuesday lunchtime. We have had 40- 50 kids attending each week, and on the last Tuesday of February a year 10 boy became a Christian following attendance at the group.



Please give thanks for Chris Jones' s appointment to help with the youth ministry. His support is greatly appreciated and needed. Please do consider supporting his ministry through prayer and finance. There is still a significant amount of support required to have Chris remain on staff through to the end of 2011.

Please also pray for one of our senior leaders, Mark Roberts, as he is studying full-time at SMBC this year.

In term 1 the youth groups are studying the following;

Club 78 is looking at what it means to be a Christian

Sunday 78 is doing a series based on the Two Ways to Live series

FNL (our senior group) is doing a series from the book of Acts.

In terms of upcoming events, please be praying and keeping an eye out for:

TMF 2011 on the 8th – 11th of April

For term plans, pictures, camp forms and any further info please check youth.stmatts.org.au or please contact:

Rob Conway rconway@stmatts.org.au

Chris Jones cjones@stmatts.org.au





Matts4Minis 2011

The launch of **Matts4Minis** this month has been very exciting. Formally known as Cubby Club, this great new name clearly links us with all our Matts4Kids ministries to children and their families here at St Matt's.

Matts4Minis runs an exciting programme of craft and imaginative play, combined with singing and story time where children are introduced to the awesome God who loves them. Designed for families with children 0-5yrs, **Matts4Minis** will run on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 10am -11.45am, here at the church.

Matts4Minis is a primary point of contact for St Matthews, as this wonderful ministry reaches out to the young families in our local community. Each year, by God's grace, we see women come to Christ through the love, care and friendships they experience. Matts4Minis can only run with the support of our church community and we are in need of your help. If you are able to assist us from as little as one morning a month, or more often if possible, to help hold the babies or assist in the kitchen, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the **Matts4Minis** coordinator from our 9am congregation Kathy Romanis on 0419 622 769 or Karen Braga on 0401 933 264 for more information.



A note from the Missions Resource Group (MRG)...

In case you haven't heard of us, St Matt's has a **Missions Resource Group** (otherwise known as the MRG) which meets to plan and strategise how St Matt's can better integrate mission into the heart and life of our church.

Some of the things we endeavour to do and encourage others to do include:

- supporting link missionaries with contact, prayer, financial donations, care packages;
- supporting members of our church who are involved with short term missions;
- praying regularly in church congregations;
- encouraging home-groups to pray for mission and link missionaries;
- providing resources to individuals or groups about any form of mission.

The MRG is made up of representatives from most of our congregations so that we have church-wide and collaborative discussions and decision-making. We were part of the recent launch night and were able to share in many great conversations with people about mission at St Matt's.

Each year we also run a Mission Night, with the aim of promoting the work of mission and how people can be encouraged and also consider getting more involved. Last year we ran a mission BBQ in September and we were able to showcase our link missionaries as well as a huge array of mission and Christian humanitarian organisations. We heard from Kay Elliot from 5pm, sharing about her work at Crossroads, as well as Greg Anderson from Moore College. It was a very successful night with faithful testimonies and conversations about mission; we look forward to our next Mission event in 2011. We hope you consider using this as an opportunity to support mission and also to be inspired and encouraged, alongside us, by God's work in the world.



Recently, we had a collection for Morgan & Anna Powell who have returned to Sydney for a time after serving with SIM in Ecuador. We were able to provide them with a large welcome basket (a few actually!) to help them settle into their new home. We and the Powells would like to thank you for your generosity and support. We will endeavour to do this for all our visiting missionaries as a way to show our care and partnership with them.

We look forward to a new year when we will continue to encourage new things and deepen the St Matt's commitment to integral mission in all congregations and groups across the church.

If you are interested in any further information or would like some follow up, please contact the office and someone from the MRG will get back to you.

ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

MARCH 2011

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!

<p>6th March - Scripture Teachers Cherrybrook and WPH Public Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Praise God for the provision of many Scripture teachers, in partnership with Cherrybrook Anglican Church, at John Purchase, Cherrybrook Public and West Pennant Hills Public schools.• Give thanks for the start of the new year and commencement of the SRE classes.• Pray that all SRE teachers will be able to faithfully teach each week—forming good relationships with their students and conveying their Big Ideas each week.• Pray in the lead up to Easter that kids will be eager to hear the truth about Jesus and will be excited to understand what Easter is all about. Pray that many of the kids and their families will be keen to come to St Matt's events around Easter, including Easter in the Park.	<p>13th March - Chris & Sharon Ekins, Forster Coast Evangelical Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Praise God for year 7 scripture at Forster which kicked off in February, an awesome answer to prayer! Pray for the students in these classes to be changed by the message of the gospel.• Pray for similar opportunities to open up at the Tuncurry school.• Continued prayers of thanks for God's blessing upon the CEC church family. Pray that God will continue to strengthen us spiritually as well as grow us numerically.• Thank God for home groups—we ask for prayer that God will raise up more leaders and that people's faith will be nurtured well by the Word of God.• Pray for the Ekins family having a holiday in mid-March, that it will be a time of refreshment.• Pray also for our Admin Committee that will meet in April to plan and manage church affairs. Pray for wisdom and guidance.
	<p>27th March - Ian & Ruth Batey, CMS Spain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pray for us as a family—that our relationships with each other will always be marked by the fruit of the Spirit.• Please pray that we will be wise and loving parents and be able to demonstrate in our lives the significance of our faith to our children.• Pray that by the time you read this, there will have been some progress on having a church building. The plan is to sell the church flat and buy a 'local', which will be discussed in March.• Pray for Ian helping church members to develop their ministry skills—preparing a 2 Ways 2 Live course in Spanish for small groups, and that all will be prepared to defend their faith.• Pray as we disciple a new Christian and for the people doing training in evangelism, small groups and preaching. 

ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

MISSION @ ST MATTS :

MISSION PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 6 April, 7.30pm.

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: 6th April

Welcome back to Australia Morgan, Anna and Anika! The Powells are back in Sydney for a homestay from their ministry in Ecuador, where they have served for the last couple of years. Before that, Morgan was an assistant Minister here at St Matt's. We will no doubt see them around!



**Saturday
19th March
6.45—10.30pm
At SMBC,
Croydon**



Reachout e-track is a mission-focus evening with a key speaker as well as choice of elective seminars. Come and hear David Staling speak on Matthew 25 and how we might live more deliberately given the coming return of Christ, using the gifts he has given us to proclaim his gospel to the nations. There is also supper and a chance to check our mission agency stalls and time to get your questions answered about God's work in the world. It's a wonderful and challenging evening, so why not come along~!

There is more information on the website: www.reachoutmissions.com.au
You can pre-register online for \$10 or just pay \$15 at the door.

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ ...”
Colossians 4:2–3 (NIV)

“How vital it is that we should pray, not just for our missionaries, but for the mission fields, calling upon our gracious God to have mercy on many and bring them into his kingdom.”
Peter Jensen

***Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8***

Ian and Ruth Batey **CMS Missionaries – Spain**

After a number of years working as Associate Minister at St Matthews, Ian and Ruth, with their children, Samuel, Emma and William, moved to St Andrew's College (CMS) in Melbourne in 2007 to prepare for overseas missionary assignment. Ian had heard a call from Bishop Carlos of La Iglesia Espanola Reformada Episcopal (IERE) in Spain for more evangelical pastors to work in Spain.



In February 2008 the family moved to Madrid and after familiarisation and language study they moved in 2009 to the Church of the Ascension, an Anglican parish in Seville that had been without a pastor for four years.

Ian has concentrated his work on building up the biblical knowledge and understanding of the existing, small congregation and developing their gifts for ministry, as well as making every effort to connect with the local people.

The current, ongoing financial crisis in Spain has complicated matters for the church, with members being out of work and very unsettled.

Please pray for Ian as he continues to improve his Spanish and work hard at teaching and encouraging his small congregation in an environment where they are amongst a very small percentage of a population which is, on the whole, indifferent to Christianity, particularly Bible-based belief.

Please pray for Ruth as she cares for the children in a foreign culture, helping them cope with their schooling and takes part in the ministry to friends and neighbours.

Please pray for the children studying in a foreign language. Schooling in Spain is very different to Australia and the children have a very large amount of homework to deal with.

Please pray for the Church of the Ascension, with small numbers and, at this time, meeting in less than satisfactory premises. They are hoping to sell some land and an apartment owned by the church and move to a more suitable building and location – not an easy task given the depressed state of the Spanish economy.