

Book of the Month

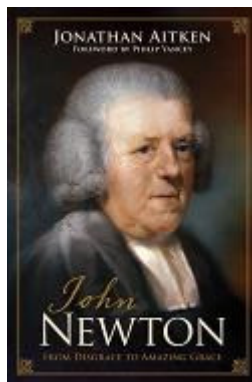
Cost: \$ 29.95

"John Newton" From Disgrace to Amazing Grace

by Johnathan Aitken

Most of us know that John Newton composed "Amazing Grace" and some of us know that he was the Captain of Slave trading ship—but how much else do YOU know of this fascinating and influential life. Johnathan Aitken's book about John Newton is beautifully written and contains material which has only recently been available. In my mind it could be called 'the making & moulding of a man of God'.

I found it to be one of the most thrilling biographies I have ever read—and it's great love story into the bargain. It will challenge and stimulate you and is worth every cent of \$ 29.95. Please read it. *Review by Elizabeth Foord*



Matt's Matters

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

April / May 2011



April 2011 Preaching Calendar

3 April	The Sign of the King	Matthew 24:1-35 & 24:36-51
10 April	The King's Judgement	Matthew 25:1-30 & 25:31-46
17 April	High Treason Against the King	Matthew 26:14-56 & 26:57-75
22 April	The King Departs	Matthew 27:11-31 & 27:32-56
24 April	The Return of the King	Matthew 28:1-20

St Matt's Services

Sunday 8am	Morning Prayer / Holy Communion
Sunday 9am	St Matts @ School; WPH Public School
Sunday 10am	For all Generations 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/Children's Minister	9479 3710
	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 Thurs	9479 3700
Administrator	Kat Butler	Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm	9479 3700

St Matthews Anglican Church

T: 02 9479 3700 F: 02 9479 3777

E: office@stmatts.org.au www.stmatts.org.au



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.



Reflecting the generosity of Christ
St Matthews
Anglican Church

www.stmatts.org.au

Pastoral Letter—Steve Abbott



Dear sisters and brothers,

We all have good cause to praise God for his answers to our prayers at the Annual Church Meeting (ACM). It was the largest attendance since my time at St Matt's. We had lots of people offering to serve for the coming year and we have, what I believe is, a terrific team serving as Church Wardens, Parish Council, Parish Nominators, Treasurer, Auditor and Synod Representatives. There were also some very encouraging verbal reports from the Asian congregation, StMatts@School congregation, Children's, Youth and Young Adults Ministries. It was also extremely encouraging to see the gracious way in which questions and recommendations to staff and incoming Parish Council were made.

At the meeting my appointment for Warden was under offer but I can now announce that Claire Jones from the 7pm Service has accepted the position. Claire brings a wonderful ministry heart, a younger generational connection than we've had for a while and professional legal training, which in more recent times has been with Churches and Christian organisations. Now it may be that some will ask, *'How can a staff spouse be a warden?'* Good question, the Diocesan regulations read as follows: "The spouse of a person in Holy Orders licensed to the parish is not qualified to be elected or appointed as a warden." Therefore we can all welcome Claire's appointment and I'm personally delighted she has accepted this position. Please pray for all the new church officers as several get oriented to their roles, have lots of issues flowing from the ACM to address as well as the month-to-month running of the church.

Hopefully by the time you have received and read this bumper April/May Matt's Matters our annual Easter Postcards will have arrived ready for hand delivery. Also we'll have plenty of additional copies for those who live outside our immediate Parish boundaries (West Pennant Hills and 'South' Cherrybrook) so you can hand deliver them to your own neighbours. In fact, we can all use them as personal invitations to encourage our neighbours, family and friends to attend one or more of our Easter celebrations. We have tried this year to keep the postcard content down and just focus on the Easter Services. We are once again indebted to Gabbi Holden who is a graphic designer, and who designed the postcard with her usual creative flair and generosity. A BIG THANKS Gabbi.

The arrival of our Easter postcards signals the beginning of a season of services, sermons and special events that will be evangelistic in their design and purpose. While it is always a great thing to invite our unchurched and unbelieving family and friends to church and special activities, it makes good sense to pray and invite them with greater enthusiasm when the messages, services and events will be intentionally planned to be more accessible to those less familiar with church. But why do we have four weeks in a row given over to direct evangelism talks? One pragmatic reason is that it gives you several opportunities to invite people and when they say, *'Oh I'm booked up for that date'*, you can say, *'That's okay there are lots of other occasions available in May.'*

However, a biblical reason for doing this each year is because its central to our vision to be a church which reflects the Generosity of Christ to our community and it aligns with our fourth value to have an *'Unquenched heart for evangelism'*. Evangelism, the proclamation of Jesus as the crucified and risen Saviour and Lord, lies at the heart of God's purposes for his disciples. At the ACM I shared some thoughts from Jesus teaching in John 15. Note in particular 15:8 *'This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.'* It appears that genuine conversion is not measured by a one off decision, nor by standing and confessing creeds of faith. Conversion is best measured by ongoing fruitfulness.

Fruit bearing is the necessary and visible sign that one is, in truth, a disciple: one who follows Jesus and remains in him (15:4-9). When carried out, this brings complete joy (15:11). Jesus concludes this wonderful section of teaching with a statement which includes two purpose clauses. John 15:16 *'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.'* These two purposes bring together in a synergistic relationship, two fundamental dimensions of discipleship and the church's vocation: evangelism and prayer. Don Carson in his commentary on John 15:16 writes, *'One purpose of election, then, is that the disciples...should win others to the faith.....[the] closing words again remind the reader that the means of fruitfulness for which they have been chosen is prayer in Jesus' name.'* What a fantastic, eternally significant purpose believers have been given in Jesus.

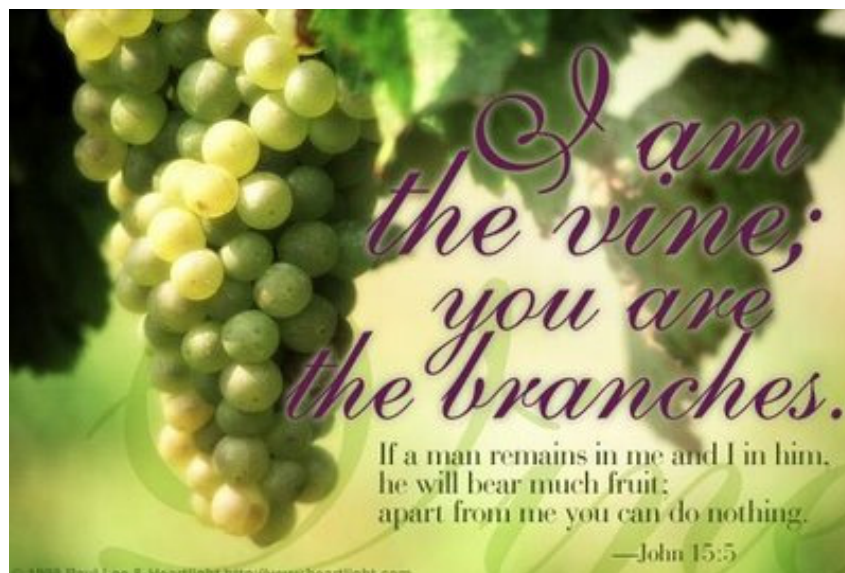
Therefore, let's give ourselves to prayer asking the God of Salvation to save people so that this May there will be an abundant harvest of fruit, fruit that will last. And having prayed let's put legs on our prayers, inviting people to join us in church or at a special event. It is my prayer that in June, the whole St Matt's family might celebrate the wonders of salvation grace in many people's lives.

Your partner in the gospel,

Steve Abbott

Prayer Points:

- ◆ Please pray for my preaching throughout April and May as we finish the series on Matthew's gospel through to Easter Sunday and then for the four gospel messages based on Mark 6-7 in May – pray that all the preachers will speak truthfully, clearly, passionately and creatively, and then that the Holy Spirit would convict people to turn from sin to the Saviour.
- ◆ Pray for wisdom and energy as I continue to oversee the Pastoral Care and Seniors' Ministry working closely with the newly appointed Pastoral Care Resource Team – we want to make sure everyone at St Matt's is appropriately cared for.
- ◆ Please pray for the new church officers as they have lots of issues flowing from the ACM to address as well as the month to month running of the church.



St Matt's Diary and Notes



COMMUNITY ISSUES NIGHT

Let's Talk About Teenagers

With Tony Willis

Monday 4 April, 7.30pm

Venue: St Matt's

Invite your friends and neighbours!

YOUR KINGDOM COME

A Northwest Community

Prayer Gathering

Come and join in praying for our churches and community as we unite to pray God's Kingdom come to this city.

When: 8 April

Where: Cherrybrook Tech High, School Hall

Time: 8pm

Child minding will be provided

TOO MUCH FUN—TMF CAMP

8th April – 11th April 2011

AYW Sites Deer Park & Chaldercot

Port Hacking

Rego forms now available

youth.stmatts.org.au

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

10 April 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.

New course starting in : 1 August 2011.

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



WORKSHOP

COPING WITH DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIPS



Workshop - 16 April 2011

Registration 1:00pm

Time - 1:30pm to 5:00pm (cost \$20)

Golden Grove, 5 Forbes Street, Newtown
(car and street parking available).

This workshop will enable you to grow in your understanding of the patterns occurring in unhelpful relationships. We will also focus on how to pray, encourage and support people who are hurting.

For more information or to obtain a registration form: phone 0407 910 238

brichards@sydney.anglican.asn.au

Recommendations to Parish Council & Staff from the Annual Church Meeting

Recommendations are made at the ACM, by members of our various congregations, which are then taken to Parish Council, Staff and the Wardens to respond to. Below are the recommendations from this year's ACM. Please bear in mind, they are only recommendations which have now been given to the newly elected Wardens, Staff and Parish Council for feedback.

- ♦ Implement a 3 minute time of silent meditation immediately after every sermon at all services. This would be without anyone standing out front and without music.
Anne
- ♦ A second CJ Day to help raise the rest of the funds for his position. *Greg*
- ♦ To consider installing some form of air-conditioning, especially when it is very hot several people have had difficulties and some have collapsed. *Peter*
- ♦ Create a plan how St Matt's is going to fund the roof . Comment - To me it seems we are living beyond our means as funds are raised by one off gifts. *Malcolm*
- ♦ By reducing our security cost of \$1900, how will that affect our insurance, and by how much?
Jono
- ♦ A person be specifically designated to oversee the 5pm service. Noted that 5pm attendance is dropping. Recommendation that we have a second CJ Day to give CJ security of income.
- ♦ An outline of a plan from ministry staff, Wardens and Parish Council for 3 New Line Road.
- ♦ Can the Kairos Prison ministry be included in the mission's allocation. Background - Lyndal Nixey and Pamela (and others) – are involved in ministry to women in prisons: see women's lives being changed. Kairos in desperate need of money.
Pamela
- ♦ Can a sign up outside NewLine Cottage letting people know that it's a place of care in our church complex.
Maxine
- ♦ Parish Council to come up with a position on Climate Change and the environment. because it is incredibly important and Australia is the worst polluter per capita in the world.
Ralph
- ♦ What plans are there to fill the gap in Seniors ministry? Recommendation that we do look at trying to fill that position soon.
Greg
- ♦ Report - Went to another service at an Anglican Church in Neutral Bay. Used multimedia which enhanced the service and songs, had a baptism and communion. Didn't collect an offertory. Had a retiring offertory at the back. Served communion in individual pews. Service started on time, and finished after an hour and a quarter. Service leader didn't see the need to re-amplify what had just been spoken already. Recommendation to incorporate some of those elements in our service.
Bruce

Rediscovering the Value of Spiritual Disciplines

Over 70 women from across all the congregations of St Matt's came together on Thursday 24 March, to "Rediscover the value of Spiritual Disciplines". It was a night of great encouragement as we heard interviews with Alana Hiley, Robyn Thompson and Dorothy Voss before our guest speaker Di Morgan reminded us of God's deep desire for us to spend time with him and to seek to grow in our personal relationship with God, as he longs to be the lover of our soul. Having the opportunity to share our experiences and joys from spending time with God, with each other, was an enriching and very rewarding experience.

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



Pupil Free Day 27 April

Wed 27 April 8:30-3:30pm
Registration forms NOW on the website!

Can you help?

We need :

- 12 slices for afternoon tea
- 8 Loaves of sandwiches for leaders
- # paint shirts - do you have some old shirts hanging round that we can use for paint smocks? Please bring them to Jacki's office as soon as you can.

If you can help with these, please pop you name on the list at the back of the church/hall. Thank you!

CELEBRATING CHRISTIANS IN STATE SCHOOLS

Sunday 22 May at 2:00pm-4:00pm
Wyndham College;
Nirimba Education Precinct,
Quakers Hill

Speaker: Greg Clarke; National
Director of Bible Society Australia

**Join us – For a time of thanksgiving,
prayer, encouragement and
networking for our ministry for
Christ in State Schools.**

Further details:
info@aec.edu.au or 0422 372 937

MISSION AID GROUP (MAG)

On behalf of MAG I would like to thank everyone who ways contributed to our successful book fair on 19 March. Despite the weather, it went very smoothly. I have to thank Pat Sutton for coordinating the book fair. Her tireless energy and great organisation made it all go so smoothly. We ended up with a total of over \$ 5000, an amount MAG will be thrilled to receive. Thank you to the book sorters, who came for 8 weeks. We enjoyed a great fellowship during this time.

Thanks also to those who donated books, help set up, pack up and work throughout the day on Saturday. Of course, thanks also go to those who bought books. Many thanks also go to Trama , and her workers in the kitchen, who kept us hydrated and nourished during the day . We also thank John Doherty for counting the money during the day and thanks to the 5 men who took books to a collecting point on Monday. A great result for Tanzania.

Our next meeting is on Wed
20 April, at 1.pm in Hall 1.

Roslyn Dearden



Pastoral Care and Seniors Ministry Update

I'm very happy to report that the Pastoral Care and Seniors Resource Team has begun meeting each month. Currently the team is made up of Marilyn Young, Ros Dearden, Pattie Mutton, Helen Boxwell, Robyn Thompson; James Clarke and myself. We will probably add one or two more people to our number to ensure we have all the services and necessary ministries well covered. The team has begun well and we would ask that you pray for us as we oversee this significant and growing ministry during the interim between ministers. The team agrees that it would be wise to have a substantial break before we begin searching for another minister to lead this team. Members of the Resource Team have indicated a willingness to give both more of their time as well as do more ministry and we feel we can sustain this as long as everyone who needs support is getting the care they need.

The Wednesday Service Annual Anniversary lunch will be held on 4 May and we are very fortunate and excited to announce that we have the outstanding speaker and author John Chapman as our guest. John is an extremely gifted communicator of the gospel bringing together a wonderful sense of humour, great story-telling skills and most importantly a clarity and passion for communicating the gospel. This is an event not to miss and one that would be terrific to invite our friends along to. In the coming week tickets will be organized and available for purchase for \$15 after church so be on the look out. It will be a spectacular occasion.



In fellowship,

Steve Abbott

ORANA SENIORS FELLOWSHIP

APRIL MEETING

Date: 6th April Time: 11.30am

**Come and join us for
LUNCH at 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 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!

Songs of Praise and Pilgrimage: An Easter Celebration

Sunday, 17th April, 2.30pm

**Organist: David Parsons
Guest Soloist: David Watson**

**Come and praise God in song
on Palm Sunday
Afternoon tea will be provided
All Welcome**

Second Sunday Potluck Lunch

St Matthew's 2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch began in September 2008. We meet every month in NewLine Cottage from 12.30pm – 2.30pm.

Everyone brings food to share and we end up with all sorts of of favourite dishes to try. Each month there is a group of between 7 and 17 people. We always find lots to chat about and we sometimes spend time praying for matters which are raised.

The lunch is for people who usually eat alone and would like to share lunch and fellowship with others. So come along - tea and coffee is provided and there is no charge.

More information from Pattie Mutton, 9484 0174 or Pat Gould, 9868 4630

Photo from left to right: Pat Redlich, Keith Watson, Pattie Mutton, John Hain, Colleen Cummings and Bill Allen. Photo taken by Pat Gould.



'Know Your Bible' Women's Group

In Term 2 we are studying the second half of the book of Romans, chapters 9 to 16.

You are most welcome to join us on Wednesday nights 7.45-9:30pm in Hall 3 beginning Wednesday 4 May 2011.

Most people come to faith in Jesus without understanding what it really means for a person to be redeemed, transformed, sealed and sanctified for that day when we will all stand before the Lord (Romans 14:10-12). Romans was a turning point in the thinking of Martin Luther, it caused John Wesley's heart to be "strangely warmed." If you desire spiritual renewal, studying Romans with a friendly group of women is a great place to start.

Please talk to either Wendy Noble (9484 2108) or Pat Gould (9868 4630) if you want further details and let us know you are coming along so that we can order a study book for you.

STRESS, WOMEN & CHOCOLATE

Saturday 7th May

@

7.30 am for breakfast

Guest speaker: Dr Helen Rienits



This is a St Matt's
Women's
Outreach Event,
so please invite your
friends and neighbours.

Tickets available 17 April 2011

Easter Postcards coming soon - get ready for the post box drop next week.



Dear Neighbour

St Matt's is looking forward to the Easter Season and we would love to invite you to join us and be part of our Celebrations. Why not check the times below. If you are having a holiday break we trust you will have a fantastic, fun and safe time away.

Your friends at St Matt's

For more information about St Matts log on to our website www.stmatts.org.au

親愛的鄰居,

我們聖公會聖馬太堂期待著快要來臨的復活佳節。我們甚願邀請你參與其中的復活節慶祝。請留意以下的時間。假如你將會在這復活節假期中去渡假, 我們預祝你有一個安全及快樂的時光。

你的朋友
聖馬太堂

如想知道更多關於聖馬太堂, 請參閱我們的網頁:
www.stmatts.org.au.

Service Times	
Good Friday 22nd April at St Matts 8 & 10am Holy Communion	Good Friday 22nd April at Cherrybrook Public School 9.45am Chinese service
Easter Sunday 24th April at St Matts 10am Special Family 'Easter in the Hall' 8am, 5 & 7pm Celebrations	Easter Sunday 24th April at Cherrybrook School 9.45am Chinese Celebrations
St Matthews Anglican Church, West Pennant Hills, Cnr New Line and Castle Hill Roads. For enquiries please Phone: 9479 3700 or Email: office@stmatts.org.au	



受難節 (四月二十二日星期五) 及 復活節 (四月二十四日星期日)
中文(粵語國語) 敬拜
上午 9:45

地點: Cherrybrook Public School,
131 New Line Road, Cherrybrook.
查詢電話: 0433 766211 梁平莊傳道
(Kenneth Leung)

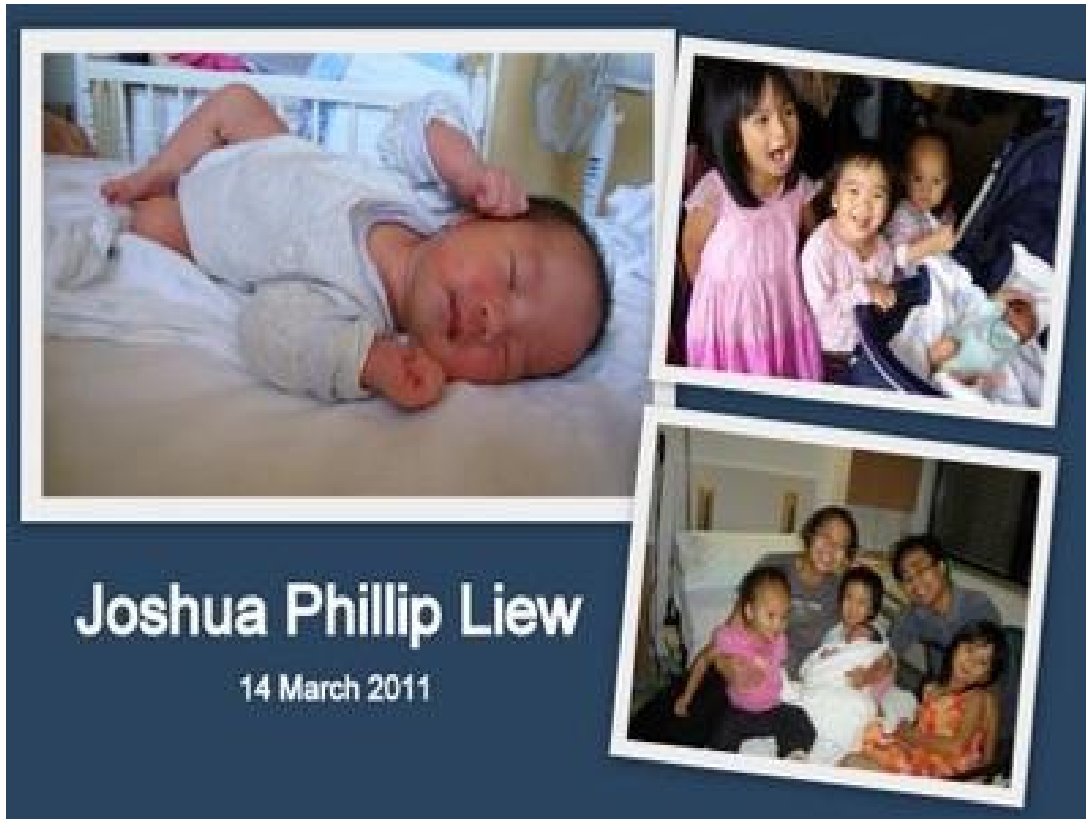
Pray for those with special needs:

Jan , Damon , Helen , Margaret , Dudley , Brian ,
Caroline (Betty's daughter), Betty ,
Jeannine Lucas, Jane Mills, Jill Munro,
Cliff , Geoff & Margaret , Stan , Bev , Rob (Kim 's father),
Janet , mother of Sally (Member 10am) .



Baby Joshua and Riley

Give thanks for the healthy birth of Joshua Liew (son of Kenny and Loretta Liew, Asian Minister @ St Matt's) and Riley Dirks (son of Shane and Rachel Dirks, Associate Minister @ St Matt's). Praise God !



Riley & Shane Dirks

Riley Jacob Dirks
3.38kg, 47cm, 6:05pm
26 March



60 Seconds with Chris Jones



Name – Chris Jones

Nickname – CJ

Married – Yes! To the lovely Claire for the past six years.

Pets - None at the moment

Residence- We're currently enjoying living in North Parramatta.

Work – Youth & Children's Minister right here at St Matt's.

Food – Favourite foods would include good Thai food, Indian food or gourmet pizza.

Social Activities – Huge fan of the Sydney Swans AFL team, and regularly attend home games. Enjoy playing tennis with friends.

Found Jesus – I grew up in a Christian family (for which I'm very thankful), but made a personal decision to actively follow Jesus wholeheartedly shortly after finishing high school.

Currently Reading – Slowly working my way through 'The Cross of Christ' by John Stott. It's pretty meaty, but there's a lot of good stuff in there.

Words of Encouragement – Work hard at relationships. The Christian life is about our relationship with God and with one another. Don't neglect spending time on them!

**Reflecting the generosity of Christ in school.
9am Church.**

It's all about family dynamics! I say that on a number of levels. First let me give praise to God, and thanks to many who have prayed, served, or asked after my family in the last 9 months. On Saturday 26 March Rachel, Levi, Mia and myself welcomed our son and brother Riley into the world. Whilst the most intense part may be behind us, our family must now readjust a little. Please pray that we adjust swiftly and in a godly fashion to our change in family dynamic. Pray specifically for Rachel as she helps our Matts4Kids church leaders minister without her at the coal face. Thank God for the great team that has been built, and for the support of our Children's Minister Jackie Hellstrom.

As I have mentioned previously the family dynamics at StMatts@School are changing. With the growth of the service we will be working now to change the shape of the eldership at 9am. We shall move from a singular core team (who are to be commended on getting us to where we are under God) to a "matrix model" of leadership. Over the next period I will be working with congregation members to assess, install and train elders in one of three teams of eldership. Team 1 will work on Sunday services specifically; Team 2 will be 'congregational life leaders' who help us 'do life together' well, and Team 3 will head up support ministries so that things function. By doing this we hope to share leadership, and help every one at 9am be all they can be under God. Please pray for godly discernment in this process, and thank God for wisdom acquired from our recent study of 1 Timothy.

Finally I am sure everyone at 9am is looking forward to sharing the Easter weekend together with our church family at the main centre. Services will not run at school over Easter, instead the whole church will be together celebrating the most important family dynamic change of all. Jesus the Son of God, who died and rose again to take us from being God's enemies and make us the sons of God, our "Abba" Father.

Shane Dirks.

Young Adult Community Groups have started for 2011!

This is very exciting, and there has been a lot of anticipation both from leaders, and from group members. We have 116 people in Community Groups this year, in 8 groups with 16 leaders. I am very excited to welcome to the YA leadership team Sue and Greg Wright, Zara Wood and Jack Packham, Chris and Claire Jones, and Jill and Ian McGilvray. I am particularly thrilled that Ian and Jill are going to be running a special Community Group that has as its members those with creative skills such as music, art, writing and dancing.

Here is a word from them:

"We are very excited about beginning a YA Community Group this year.

God has made us in his image, and part of that image is creativity. Apart from all the usual aims of a Bible Study/Community Group, our group has the particular intention of recognizing that our creativity comes from God, and considering how we can use it as integrated, whole, creative people who live to serve Him. We're looking at what the Bible says, what other writers have said, and what we ourselves think about this, and plan to find ways to put it all into practice too – engaging as salt and light in our world."

The Community Groups are the heart and soul of the YA community. And I pray that they will be the source of life and growth and encouragement for all YA members this year, as well as being examples of communities of God's new creation to reach and love the world.

Blessings In Christ,

Nerida

Photo: Ian & Jill McGilvray



Chinese Congregation Family Camp

We will have our family camp at Kiah Ridge from 8 April to 10 April. We have invited Rev Samuel Lui to be our speaker. Rev Lui is the senior minister of the Evangelical Free Church of Australia. It is a blessing to us that Rev Lui can come to speak to us at the camp even in his busyness.

Our topic for the camp is “Come, follow me!” and we really wish that brothers and sisters can learn from God’s word on how to serve and live as a true disciple of Jesus. Furthermore, this is the first time that we will have both Cantonese and Mandarin speaking people coming to the camp and we hope that we can all have a wonderful time of fellowship together.

聖馬太堂退修營

我們將會於四月八日至四月十日在Kiah Ridge舉行家庭營。我們邀請了澳洲基督教播道會靈福堂的主任牧師呂家聲牧師為講員。呂牧師在他極繁忙中能夠與我們分享神的訊息實在是我們的福氣。

我們的主題是 “來, 跟從我!” 希望弟兄姊妹可以從神的話語中學習怎樣活出一個真正主門徒的樣式。還有, 這是第一次我們有講粵語和講國語的弟兄姊妹一起參加這個營會, 希望我們一起有一個愉快的團契時間。

講道資料:

基督是主

- (一) 萬有的主 (腓 2:6-11 ; 西 1:15-17)
- (二) 你我的主 (羅10:9-10 ; 西 1:18-22)

活着為主

- (一) 以生命為祭 (羅12:1-2)
- (二) 以委身為價 (路14:25-33)

全情事主 (羅12:1-18)

- (一) 事奉的必須性
- (二) 全情投入的事奉

May 2011 Preaching Calendar

1 May	The Sign of the King	Matthew 24:1-35 & 24:36-51
8 May	The King's Judgement	Matthew 25:1-30 & 25:31-46
15 May	High Treason Against the King	Matthew 26:14-56 & 26:57-75
22 May	The King Departs	Matthew 27:11-31 & 27:32-56
29 May	The Return of the King	Matthew 28:1-20

st matts youth update

Yr 9-12 Lunchtime groups at the Penno High (TLT)

The group meets each Tuesday lunchtime.

The main purpose of this group is to encourage the kids to live for Christ at school, and to be a positive witness throughout the week.



This term we have studied the book of Philippians and have had a regular 40- 50 kids attending each week.

- ◆ Please pray for Chris Jones and I as we meet to encourage the kids each week.
- ◆ Pray also that this group will be a powerful witness to the school community, and a great encouragement to Graham Castle's ministry in the school.

◆ Rob Conway rconway@stmatts.org.au

Chris Jones cjones@stmatts.org.au



Cubby Club has been running at St Matt's for many years and in 2010 was running on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in Hall 3. At the end of 2010 a review of this wonderful ministry took place. As a result the decision was made to rebrand the ministry as Matts4Minis, tying it in closely with the Matts4Kids name and giving the group a closer identity and ownership by St Matt's. Our Church vision to 'reflect the generosity of Christ in and to our community' has a special focus in Matts4Minis on families with children aged between 0-5 years.

Matts4Minis now runs on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in Hall 3. Both groups now run identically with myself as coordinator and the groups are solely run by St Matt's mums and other helpers from St Matt's, which enables us to keep our St Matt's vision and values central to our meetings. Currently both mornings are full and there is a waiting list for families who are not currently directly connected to St Matt's fellowship. The more members of St Matt's we have involved the more we can consider expanding this ministry. Karen Braga Pastoral minister for younger women from St Matt's staff is involved and has a significant ministry of support and relationship evangelism, which continues to bear fruit.

Our programme includes indoor and outdoor free play time, Christian teaching, music and story time, craft tied into the teaching and morning tea. We currently have about 40 families attending with a good balance between Christian and community mums. The groups have transitioned well from 3 days into 2, and I feel that the year has started well with the mums responding positively to the new programme. I feel very blessed to be a part of this valuable ministry, showing God's love and care to families of West Pennant Hills. I am also very thankful to have such a fantastic leadership and support team and I am excited to see how God will grow Matts4Minis over the coming months and years.

Kathy Romanis, Matts4Minis Coordinator

[Kathy Romanis on 0419 622 769](#) or [Karen Braga on 0401 933 264](#) for more information.

ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

April 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!

3rd April - Morgan & Anna Powell, SIM Ecuador

- Pray for Morgan and Anna as they settle into their home assignment in Sydney.
- They have passed on their roles to the SIM team in Ecuador, Anna as the bookkeeper and Morgan on council. Pray for a good transition and that the team will continue to run smoothly and work together in unity and for the Director, Lindsay Gilliam, as he leads the team.
- Please continue to pray with those they have been meeting with one to one. Pray that others will continue to invest in the lives of these Ecuadorians. These people are Susi, Patricia, Diego, Julio, Luis, Juan Carlos and Fabricio all at different levels of their faith journey.
- Pray for Morgan and Anna as they continue to learn to be good parents and for Anika as she grows up so quickly.

• Pray for them as they make decisions about their future service in South America.

P.S. They will be out Here with us for all Of June.



10th April - William & Grace Eyika, Dagoretti Corner, Kenya

- Pray for the new headmaster of the primary school as he continues in his role ; pray that he will be obedient to God in his work.
- Pray for peace in Uganda and other surrounding regions following elections, including the prosecution of perpetrators of the 2007 Kenyan violence.
- Pray for the provision of new school buildings and vocational centre.
- Ask for healing for Grace's father who is unwell
- Ask God to be working in the hearts of the students that many may come to faith and be baptised.
- Praise for the Eyikas moving into their new house and that will be a safe place for home comfort and to serve in ministry.



17th April—Grant Howard, Peter Murphy & Graham Castle, Christian Studies PHCCEA

- Give thanks for some really mind expanding and life changing 'ah hah' moments the students have had
- Praise God for the enthusiasm and growth in all the Christian groups in the schools
- Thanks for the great questions in class, bibles given out to students and the partnership in this gospel work.
- Pray that the foundations laid in many classes will continue to be built on with the gospel—to be a huge contrast against messages students receive through TV video games and Internet that impact young minds.
- Pray for students that are struggling with things in their life which may be harmful—pray that God will be a source of freedom and comfort for them and that they may find truth in God's word through the Spirit.
- Pray for the logistics of organising timetables, rooms and resources over the coming period.



24th April—Jenny Fallon, SIM Sydney

- Give thanks for an increasing number of long and short term candidates in the process of serving with SIM.
- Praise for the provision of the new NSW Mission Mobiliser, Alec Wallis and the special focus on sports ministries.
- Give thanks for Bruce Lyman who has recently joined SIM in the promotion of SIMAID projects.
- Pray for the personnel needs of SIM's national Personnel department (several people needed), as Jenny's main assistant will retire at the end of June.
- Pray for a SIM international consultation on helping ministries thrive, which Jenny will attend in May in the UK. Pray we will continue to do better at preparing missionaries to serve cross-culturally and thriving in every area of their lives.



ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

May 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!

1st May - Rob & Leanna Haynes CMS Nungalinga College, NT

- Praise for two families going to St Andrew's Hall preparing for work in the NT next year.
- Please continue to pray for Leanna's health and praise that it seems to be manageable.
- Give thanks for the powerful testimony of the college's new principal Jude Long. Praise for her experience and skills in adult education and theology training.
- Praise for provision of new teaching staff at the college and overseers for new building and campus development, including child-care facilities.
- Pray for 8 men and women from Bickerton Island coming to Nungalinga college to study.
- Pray that the new and strong ministries among Aboriginal men will develop in the remote NT parishes.



8th May—Steve & Melinda McKerney, AFES Murdoch University, Perth

- Pray continually for the ongoing running of Murdoch Christian Union; Steve's teaching on Luke, one on one discipleship, running EQUIP training course, student training in evangelism, small group bible studies and more.
- Pray for students as they head towards exams, that they will keep meeting up with other Christians and keep standing firm and standing out as Christians.
- Ask that the End of Semester Party on May 21 will be a time of great encouragement, especially to those from overseas who will be leaving us.



15th May—Lindsay & Lyn Whybrow, BCA Hillston NSW

- Give thanks for recent events including Hoxton Park Children's Club in April, combined service, Shrove Tuesday and Easter services and events. Pray that these events encourage community spirit and unity and a great way to host gospel sharing opportunities.
- Give thanks for Lyn attending Women's Conference, Lindsay at a preaching conference at Dubbo. Pray that these events have further equipped the Whybrows for effective ministry.
- Pray for the Bishop's visit in May and for Confirmation service in Hillston, only 1 candidate so far.
- Pray for the district bible teach-in with Ernie Carnaby on May 28th.
- Pray for the Missional visit from St Mary Magdelene group from Sydney to Hillston on June long weekend.



22nd May—Daniel & Dominica Lai, Wycliffe Bible

- Give thanks that the Laits, mission mobilisation will be based in Sydney for coming 2 years, making them available to help family members.
- Thank God for their trip to attend some mission prayer meetings and some vision sharing in Taiwan and Hong Kong in January-February.
- Continued prayer is appreciated for Daniel's father and Dominica's mother who are both very ill with multiple health problems and need constant care.
- Pray also for Dominica's sister and brother as the siblings share the care for their mother.
- Give thanks for Nathaniel and Hannah both at university. Pray for their continued growth and maturity. Pray for their safety in driving.



29th May—Scripture Teachers, West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook Public Schools

- Give thanks for all the Scripture teachers who faithfully give up their time to prepare and teach local children about our Creator God and the Lord Jesus who loves them
- Praise for Term 1 teaching series on 'Knowing God our Creator' - pray that it was able to impact the lives of many kids and that they will understand the true meaning of Easter as they celebrate the holidays.
- Ask that God will provide refreshment for teachers over the break and energy to start in term 2 with a new teaching series on Trusting God.
- Pray that the children will be excited and engaged in lessons, and that Matts4Kids Afternoon Club may be something they're interested in going to and that parents will be supportive of that.
- Pray that God will keep students and teachers alike healthy in the lead up to the Winter months.

ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

MISSION EVENTS IN AND AROUND ST MATTS :

MISSION PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 6th April, 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 months: 4th May and 1st June

EASTER IS A TIME TO REMEMBER AN UN-FAIR TRADE BETWEEN JESUS AND US.

**BUT WHEN IT'S BETWEEN US AND THIRD WORLD PRODUCERS...
IT REALLY SHOULD BE FAIR-TRADE.**

Buy Fair-trade Easter Products in 2011 so that we are caring for the world's poor by supporting their work with justice and helping them to secure a safe and sustainable future for them and their families.

Did you know that you can buy fair-trade Easter products as conveniently as from your local supermarket and other stores? Look out for these brands:

Just Organic from ALDI

AlterEco available from Oxfam Shops (Macquarie Centre and Chatswood)

Cadbury Dairy Milk available from most supermarkets

Chocolatier available from Oxfam Shops, David Jones, Myer or online

Cocolo available from organic, health food and independent retailers (including IGA)

Green & Black's available from supermarkets or online

Lindsay & Edmunds available from online store

Scarborough Fair available from Woolworths or online

Oxfam Shop products available from Oxfam Shops or online

Whittaker's available from most supermarkets



Look out for this
Fair-trade
certification label:

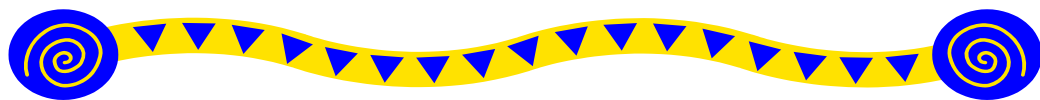
To find out more, visit www.fta.org.au (Australia's fair-trade association)

“ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”. Matthew 5:16

Can you find Jesus' 12 Disciples?

In the story below, I have hidden the 12 disciples of Jesus: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Matthew, Bartholomew, Thomas, Simon, Thaddeus, James the Less and Judas. Be careful, because the punctuation and missing capitals will try to trick you.

I love it when my band get together to jam, especially when the animals join in. "Hey, Bart. Holo" mewed the cat sitting on the mat. The whole band rewarded him with a perfect song except for the trumpet error from James. The lesson continued on, even tho' Master Jud, as the guitarist had "de usual" way of doing things. With Olivia Newton-John as the singer for the band it was a triumph. I lip-synched for the video, but when we went to uploaded it to Youtube, I dropped my sim on the floor!



And a
New
Sudoku
for You

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7				8				4
		5			1			
	4		8					6
				7				
6					2		3	
			1			6		
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		7		3	5		9	