

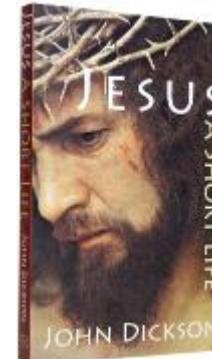
Book of the Month

Jesus—A Short Life by John Dickson

An accessible introduction to Jesus' life and his impact today. Recent claims about the life of Jesus (including The Da Vinci Code) have raised many questions about the historicity of the man from Nazareth. Now John Dickson sets the record straight. He draws on the latest scholarship to provide a succinct account of Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection - and his continuing significance today. The text is illustrated throughout with fine art reproductions and photographs of the places that Jesus knew.

Publisher Review: amazon.com

Cost: \$ 10.00



St Matt's Services

Sunday 8am Morning Prayer / Holy Communion

Sunday 9am St Matts @ School; WPH Public School

Sunday 10am Family Service for all Generations

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 Pearn	Young Adults	9479 3702
	Chris Jones	Youth 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



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

November
2011



November 2011 Preaching Calendar

6 Nov	'Living Submissively'	1 Peter 2:11-3:7
13 Nov	'Living Intentionally'	1 Peter 3:8-22
20 Nov	'Living Obediently in Suffering'	1 Peter 4:1-19
27 Nov	'Living Humbly as Leaders and Followers'	1 Peter 5:1-14



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

Senior Minister's Report November

Shane Dirks (Acting Senior Minister)

As I write to you I find myself in a state of transition. Whilst Steve Abbott has been on long service leave, I have enjoyed the support and prayers received from many of you during this period as I fill the role of Senior Minister. In particular I would like to thank the Ministry Staff, the Wardens, the Parish Council and the numerous elders of our church for their support, and accessibility to clue me in at various points of decision and direction. I am glad however that the stage of transition I enter as I write anticipates the return of Steve in just a few weeks.

We transition together now from the 'normal' part of the year into the Christmas countdown. As Christmas approaches it is always a time of preparation. Personally, I am excited that St Matt's will once again be putting on the West Pennant Hills Community Carols by Candlelight. Both our Choir Master, Sarah Woolley, and our Music Director, Jo Wilson, have been hard at work with the music team. Behind the scenes Tina Piccione and her team have been chasing sponsors, and working on promotion, whilst Sue Wright has been booking camels and many other things to make the night a hit. I am pleased to announce Parish Council member, Ben Hodgkinson, has accepted my invitation to be the Project Manager for carols. Ben has already brought clarity to my chaos as I transition out of the role and Ben assumes the reins.

I would ask you to remember in your prayers Rev. Jon Phua as he prepares to transition from St.Thomas' North Sydney to St Matthews in order to fill my place as Associate Minister. Pray also for Ken Wong who will join St Matt's as the Chinese congregation Pastor and for our brother Kenneth Leung as he completes his time as Pastor of the Chinese congregation. We should give praise to God that in his providence we have successfully honoured core value 7 – 'Untiring determination to train, send and support servants of God' and so we pray for Chris Jones as he takes on the role of Youth Minister at St Stephen's next year. An important transition for St Matt's will be finding a Youth Minister to replace CJ who has served as interim Youth Minister.

Of course I myself prepare for further transition as I see the end of my time at St Matthews approaching. Looking into 2012, I see a number of changes: new church, move house, new ministry role, my eldest child starting school, and my first overseas trip is also scheduled in January to Israel. Much of this is very exciting, though I tell a lie if I say I am not a little nervous as well!

It seems one of the certainties we have in life is transition. 'The Birds' famously adapted the words of transition from Ecclesiastes when they sang their famous song Turn! Turn! Turn! We all live in transition, we know, 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven' (Eccl 3:1). Though we know this, it is easy at times for us to be thrown by some changes. I am someone who loves change, but I know that at times I can be really knocked sideways by it. Transition can be a time of great anxiety and worry. It was my great pleasure to share, with a number of congregations, Matthew 6 in the final week of our 10 commandments series. Here Jesus tells us 'Do not worry' (Matt 6:25). It was my pleasure to share how this passage had comforted me a few years ago when my mother died. What I did not expect was the blessing I would receive in the following the weekend's services. Stirred by the words of Matthew 6 that weekend, our very own Keith Watson gave me a copy of this hymn that he penned. I have asked Keith's permission to share these words with you.

If you feel the constant transition of life, or whatever else, causing you worry, may you be comforted by these words inspired by scripture:

"Do not worry..."

The turmoil in my mind was great,
With racing pulse and heart that ached,
My worry grew, how will I cope?
The way seems dark, O where is hope?

And then my eyes searched far abroad,
There on the mount I saw my Lord,
Was here my hope amidst the strife?
The carpenter with words of life.

The truth he spoke was full of love,
Framed in the heart of God above,
"My child I care so much for you,
O worry not, keep that in view".

"Remember how on Calvary's tree,
I gave my all to set you free,
My risen life brings hope indeed,
Hold on to this and so be freed".

My gracious Lord and Sovereign King,
If dismay comes, O let me sing
of your great care and power and might,
In you alone, I'll win the fight.

St Matt's Diary and Notes



SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

13 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 Mutton (9484 0174) or

Pat Gould (9868 4630).

MAG (Mission Aid Group)

Thank you for your continued support for Tanzania. We had our last meeting for the year in October when we packed a great number of donations given in the last 2 months. They have now been dispatched to Kingsgrove.

The next and last container for the year will be packed on Thursday 10 November. If anyone would like to help with this task it would really be appreciated by the hard workers at Kingsgrove. One of their main workers is unable to attend this time so it will be a harder task for those left. Jenny Nott, the depot supervisor, is the contact for this purpose. Her No. is 9958 8653.

We continue to collect items for the rest of the year and a load will be taken over in early December. Items suggested are: 8ply wool (pure or acrylic), anything for sewing kits, elastic cotton etc. and tins suitable for packing it into. These need to be tins (such as biscuit tins) about 20cm square or round or similar dimensions please. Any other items are always appreciated.

Roslyn (Dearden)

Get Ahead of the Sermon

Did you know that each week eight questions about next week's sermon passage are on the St Matt's website. www.stmatts.org.au

Click on 'resources' and then 'Bible studies' and familiarise yourself with what the preacher will expound next Sunday. You can do this personally or in a HOME group.

Tears & Hope

A Service of Healing for Survivors of Abuse



For people of all backgrounds.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Saturday, 19th November 2011, 7pm

St John's Anglican Church,
Darlinghurst, Sydney.

120 Darlinghurst Rd, NSW 2010

For more details please contact

Miriam Stevenson (02) 92651612 or
Jenni Woodhouse (02) 9265 1500

East Africa Carwash

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the carwash last Saturday and to those of you who brought their cars to be washed. We raised \$1 680 which, with the Government matching dollar for dollar means Anglican Aid will receive \$3 360 to help people in East Africa.

Allie Mead



NOVEMBER MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tickets on sale today!

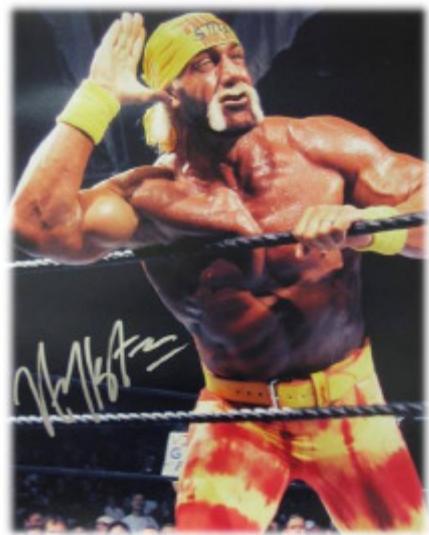
WITH GUEST SPEAKER

DR MICHAEL VESEY

DATE: 12/11/11

TIME: 7:30 TO 9AM

COST: \$10



Brought to you by
Men @ St. Matts

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.

Are you needing prayer?



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.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6

Pray for those with special needs:

Jan Barnes, Damon Beck, Margaret Dawson, Dudley Foord,
Brian Forbes, Caroline (Betty Hampton's daughter),
Betty Hampton, Jeannine Lucas, Aline Lugton,
Peter Mahler; Margaret McGilvray, Jane Mills, Cliff Perriam,
Geoff & Margaret Simpson, Stan Skillicorn, Bev Snow,
Janet Winterbotham, mother of Sally Lane.





Arvo Club News

Thank you for all your prayers about our new venture in 2011. It is going tremendously well with 70 children attending, 40 regular 30 irregular attendees.

Last term we spent each week cooking – from scones to meatballs and everything in between. Each child took home an apron to remember their time learning about different food events in the Bible. We finished the term explaining and partaking in the Lords Supper and Passover. The tables were set and lamb was baked. Quite a different experience for many of them – and the leaders too.

This term we have a Pirate theme and are learning the gospel though the Wordless Book. So far it has been great and by the end of it, the kids will have various pieces of a pirate suit all made by themselves – well mostly. Also this term we have invited the preschool kids along to transition them into the program next year. We have had 4 or 5 preschoolers come and they are really enjoying the games, craft, singing, the talk and as always the afternoon tea. We will be having a family service on 20 Novemer, inviting these families to 10am and following that with our regular BBQ out the back. We will finish our term on 9 December with a movie afternoon & sausage sizzle, inviting the whole family and encouraging them to attend our Carols by Candlelight and Family Festival on 16 December.

Each Friday afternoon we provide afternoon tea for these kids and we rely on parishioners to come in and help cut fruit and prepare the food. If you are available on a Friday anytime before 3pm, please let me know so we can include you in our roster. This will allow the leaders to concentrate on the kids at this time.

Thanks for all your encouragement!!

Jacki

Community Issues Night:



Invite your friends and
neighbours

Staying Emotionally Connected in Marriage

Monday 21st Nov, 7:30pm



St Matthew's Cnr New Line & Castle Hill Rd, West Pennant Hills



The Archbishop of Sydney's

Anglican Aid

Horn of Africa Famine Crisis Appeal

The Australian Government has offered dollar for dollar funding donations made for the Horn of Africa Famine.

Anglican Aid is one of the NGO's (non-government organisations) invited to participate in this dollar matching scheme.

Your gift to The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid Horn of Africa Famine Crisis Appeal will have double the impact until the end of November.

Donations can be made online at www.anglicanaid.org.au , by ringing our toll free number 1800 653 903, or by cheque to

Anglican Aid Horn of Africa Appeal,
PO Box Q190 QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Anglican Aid Christmas T-shirts

Anglican Aid has produced a great T-shirt, fair trade certified by non-sweat shop labour in Kolkota, India.

The T-shirts sell for \$30 (cost \$15 to produce), are good quality and \$15 supports Anglican Aid projects.



The T-shirts have a subtle Christmas\Christian statement on the front with Anglican Aid logo on the back revolving around the theme of grace.

Quantities can be ordered from Anglican Aid's office on 1800 653 903

Diarise the date now—Friday 16 December!!

Whatever you do these school holidays mark December 16 in your diary with St Matt's Carols by Candlelight, a night not to be missed! West Pennant Hills Primary School will again be our venue with everything getting underway from 5:30pm.



While there are now less than 7 weeks until our Carols night, many hands have already been working away behind the scenes to make our 2011 outreach opportunity another great success. Our band and choir have been through a number of rehearsals and without giving too much away many of the family favourites from last year will make a return.

At this point we have been blessed with a number of sponsors coming on board, including many from last year and a few new ones. If you are aware of any local businesses which might like to partner with us this year, please contact the church office.

And finally with any event of this magnitude, our Carols night will not see the same level of success without your help. In the coming weeks volunteer lists will go up at church, which are an opportunity for all members of St Matt's to use their gifts and skills to spread the load. Please prayerfully consider if you might be able to help on the night or in the lead up. Not only is it a great way to serve, but also a fantastic chance to meet some new friends.

Our objective in running Carols is again aligned with our vision to "reflect the generosity of Christ in and to our community". It's our prayer that many non-believing families will come and share in the fun and festivities, while at the same time hearing the great truth of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. Please partner with us in this prayer and seek out opportunities to invite families along to experience what we hope will be a sensational night which honours our great God.

Ben Hodgkinson



We have had a great start to the term at Matts4Minis with a large turnout, probably due to the warmer weather. All the children enjoyed making shakers with plastic bottles and rice for our music time. We are very grateful for the new fence to the playground so we can now use this area again. We are looking forward to the Carols by Candlelight when we will sing some songs on the stage during the Family Festival. Please pray for the safe arrival of Erica and Kathy's babies, due this term and give thanks for the birth of Saffron's baby, Shay, and for the Tuesday group to run smoothly while Saffron and Kathy have a few weeks off. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining our Tuesday or Wednesday group next year please contact the church office.

SMAC UPDATE

St Matt's Asian Congregation



HSC Study Seminar – 720 Hours: Make the most of it

Early September we organised an outreach event called "720 Hours: Make the most of it", aimed to equip year 11 and 12 students with study tips and strategies to help them in the final month of preparation before their HSC.

Coming straight from after school, the kids settled comfortably into the cottage at the Parish centre - there was a great welcoming atmosphere with plenty of snacks and pizza, and good conversation. After a few icebreaker games, we got straight into it with a challenging bible talk on 2 Peter 3, and then we split into smaller groups for a series of workshops geared for individual school subjects.

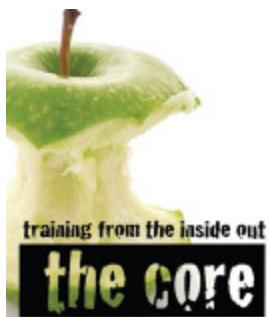
Our goal for the day though wasn't just to provide helpful exam techniques, but more importantly to encourage a Christian support network for these students - for both the upcoming stressful times, and for the long summer break, which is always a great opportunity for gospel growth.

This was the second time we ran the event - last year was a great success in growing our youth ministry; it was the first time a few of the current first year uni students came into contact with St Matt's, and we hope to continue this momentum. Of the 15 students who came, 11 were newcomers, many of whom weren't planted in a Christian community outside of their school. We found this event a great platform to invite friends to, and hope to continue again next year.

The talk on 2 Peter had challenged us to make the most of our time; whether the few weeks before the HSC, or the few years we're here on Earth. We hope too to make the most of the new relationships the outreach offered - so please pray for us that we can continue to follow up and encourage the non-Christian and unchurched high schoolers into our St Matt's family.

Danny Jang

The CORE – Training from the inside out



Over the course of 2011, the leadership team and several young adults from the Asian congregation attended a series of training days run by an inter-church group called The CORE. The CORE's primary aim is to provide training and encouragement for current and upcoming leaders, predominantly within Chinese/Asian churches across Sydney over a series of 4 days spread over the year.

This year's theme was "The Trellis and the Vine", based on the popular book by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne. At each training day, there was a bible talk followed by 2 workshops with a nice catered lunch in between. This year's talks were given by speakers -- including Colin Marshall (the man himself), Raj Gupta (Toongabbie Anglican pastor), Archie Poulos (Moore College lecturer) and Eugene Hor (GracePoint Presbyterian Burwood pastor) -- who all challenged us in various ways to seek true gospel growth through partnership with other Christians, through giving up ourselves for the sake of God's kingdom and through building others up and equipping them to serve alongside us. Complementing the talks were workshops that provided practical ways in serving the church by dealing with issues such as conflict resolution, progressing youth groups, doing 1to1s, addressing ministry burnout, evangelising to oral learners, plus many other topics.

All in all, everyone from the Asian congregation who attended The CORE was challenged by the teaching from the training days and thoroughly enjoyed their time learning from the Bible and being trained up to serve God's church. We definitely look forward to The CORE in 2012!

Kenneth Chan

This Christmas come along to Taste & See.....

At our **Gourmet Summer Christmas**
cooking demonstration and tasting with
Cordon Bleu chef Rachel Billington

Ladies **enjoy** an evening with friends
& hear our guest speaker Suzanne Gorham

Wednesday 23 November @ 7.30pm

Cost: \$25; Student \$20
Limited Tickets. Bookings close 13 Nov.

Tickets on sale today!



APPLYING GOD'S WORD TO HEART AND MIND

Mary Andrews College offers three types of courses for women who want to grow in their understanding of the Bible, ministry skills and confidence.

These are:

Diploma / Advanced Diploma of Theology/ Ministry
Certificate in Theology
Pastoral Care Course

Registration is now open for next year, so if you are thinking of attending any of these courses find out more www.mac.edu.au pr 02 9284 1470.

WARDENS' UPDATE.....

Capital Works

A lot has been happening recently around the grounds, particularly after the damage caused by the fallen tree on the boundary of the play area. Construction and realignment of fences alongside 3NLR and the play area has been completed and work to repair the play area surface is continuing and will be completed shortly.

This first step in upgrading our video facilities has been completed with the installation of a new in-church computer including upgraded presentation software and dual monitors. It is hoped that with additional operator training this computer will allow visual displays in the church to operate seamlessly.

Church Roof / Gift Day appeal

We are encouraged by responses so far to the gift day appeal - at the time of writing we have received approximately 40% of our target. A big thank to those who have generously given and a reminder to those who have planned, but not yet passed on their gifts, that it is not too late. Special envelopes are available or gifts can also be made by direct debit. The office can provide all the details.

Church Finances

Disappointingly, our Average Weekly Giving ("AWG") for the month of September dropped down to \$14,651. This was \$1,397 (8.7%) below budget and \$4,548 (23.7%) down on last year. This is the lowest monthly AWG so far this year (by comparison the lowest monthly AWG in 2010 was \$10,837). Average weekly giving for the 9 months to the end of September is \$17,116, which is \$1,068 (6.6%) up on budget and \$2,625 (18.1%) up on last year.

The table below for September compares last year to this year and budget:

	2011	2010	2011 Budget
Offerings + Building + Rectory	58,605	76,796	64,192
Weeks	4	4	4
AWG - Current Month	14,651	19,199	16,048
AWG - YTD	17,116	14,491	16,048

The net income for the 9 months to the end of September 2011 is \$10,149. This compares to a budgeted loss for this period of \$47,258, an improvement of \$57,407. This improvement is in part due to lower than budgeted expenses.

John Parker

(On behalf of the wardens including Claire Jones and Rob McGregor)



40 Hour Famine Update!

Church donations to date: \$10, 834.85

Well, the 40 Hour Famine has drawn to a close for another year, but I must say, it has been an absolute privilege to see the way

God has blessed us with generosity, especially in 2011.

Not only did we raise more than we set out to, we have raised more as a church group than we have in the past! St Matt's youth played a large role in the fundraising but also in learning about the issues of global hunger and poverty, in particular about East Timor, the country which this year's funds will primarily be sent to.

Throughout Term 3 across all the youth groups, we spent time learning about East Timor's hungry season, where some families are left with nothing but 'akar', ground up tree bark, to eat for several months of the year. We prayed for families that are living in extreme poverty, with children such as Lily and Abito not able to go to school or have adequate drinking water or sanitation facilities.

A highlight of the term was perhaps our East Timor simulation night, where at FNL, all the students were put into 'family groups' and were forced to work hard to build their own cardboard houses, find work to earn money for food, water and medicine when they needed it. Some, the fortunate ones, were able to purchase good food for supper. Everyone else was left with bread, or even worse, carrot scraps...

We heard some encouraging feedback from the kids at the end of the night in light of what we had experienced then and all throughout the term. We should not take for granted what we have in a privileged area of Sydney, but instead we should be loving and generous with what we have. We learned more fully what it means that God loves the poor and needy in this world, and what we can do as his followers, seeking to demonstrate God's love in action. We learned to let our hearts break with the things that break God's heart...

I am so excited to see that many kids and leaders alike were challenged to do something real and practical for the families in East Timor, by giving something up and putting so much effort into raising money. I am so thankful to God for blessing us in this way, and now we must continue to pray that the funds that have been raised, at St Matt's, but also all across the country, will be used in a way which glorifies God – to help people in East Timor lift themselves out of poverty, that they may experience God's great love.

Thank you all for your support in the 40 Hour Famine this year.

Marissa Flynn



9am Report

As the year draws toward its conclusion we are looking forward to celebrating a number of baptisms at 9am, having started with Jacqueline Flower on 30th October. In fact it has been a year to welcome a number of new babies, and we have more on the way! We thank God for these new lives, and that we are able to celebrate that they belong to Jesus with the sacrament of baptism.

After much discussion with members of our 3 leadership teams (CLL, SPT, MST), the ministry staff, and parish council, 9am will take a 'summer recharge.' The last two years have seen many of our members work tirelessly at making Sunday mornings happen. We now wish to honour them with a well earned recharge. The intention is to kick off our recharge period with a great morning in the parish. On the 18th December the StMatts@school'ers will be joining with the 10am service for what should be an extra special year at the St. Matts Christmas pageant. Following that we will enjoy Christmas together, and the month of January whilst many members are away on holidays. We hope it will be a great chance to recharge a little, allow some of the newer members at the school congregation to get to know and feel comfy in the parish centre, as well as allowing old friends the chance to catch up and church together at different St Matt's services.

During this period we can encourage one another, welcome Rev. Jon Phua the new St Matt's Associate minister, and get things planned for a great 2012. Please pray that as 2012 opens God will continue to raise up Children's ministry leaders under Jackie Hellstrom, with the departure of Rachel Dirks who has assisted Jackie by being the children's ministry leader at 9am.

Shane Dirks

MISSION DINNER

REPORT – SAT 15 OCT 2011

Thank you to those of you who prayed for our Mission Dinner on 15 October. God answered our prayers, with some 150-plus people packing into our halls for what proved to be a great night. The program was very full in a number of ways. This year we were treated to not just one speaker but two of our link missionary couples. Morgan and Anna Powell helped us understand more of their work in the Latin American culture in which they work with an enlightening interactive presentation. Then after dessert Daniel and Dominica Lai shared about their work in Africa and Daniel's recent work of challenging and involving Chinese churches in worldwide mission.

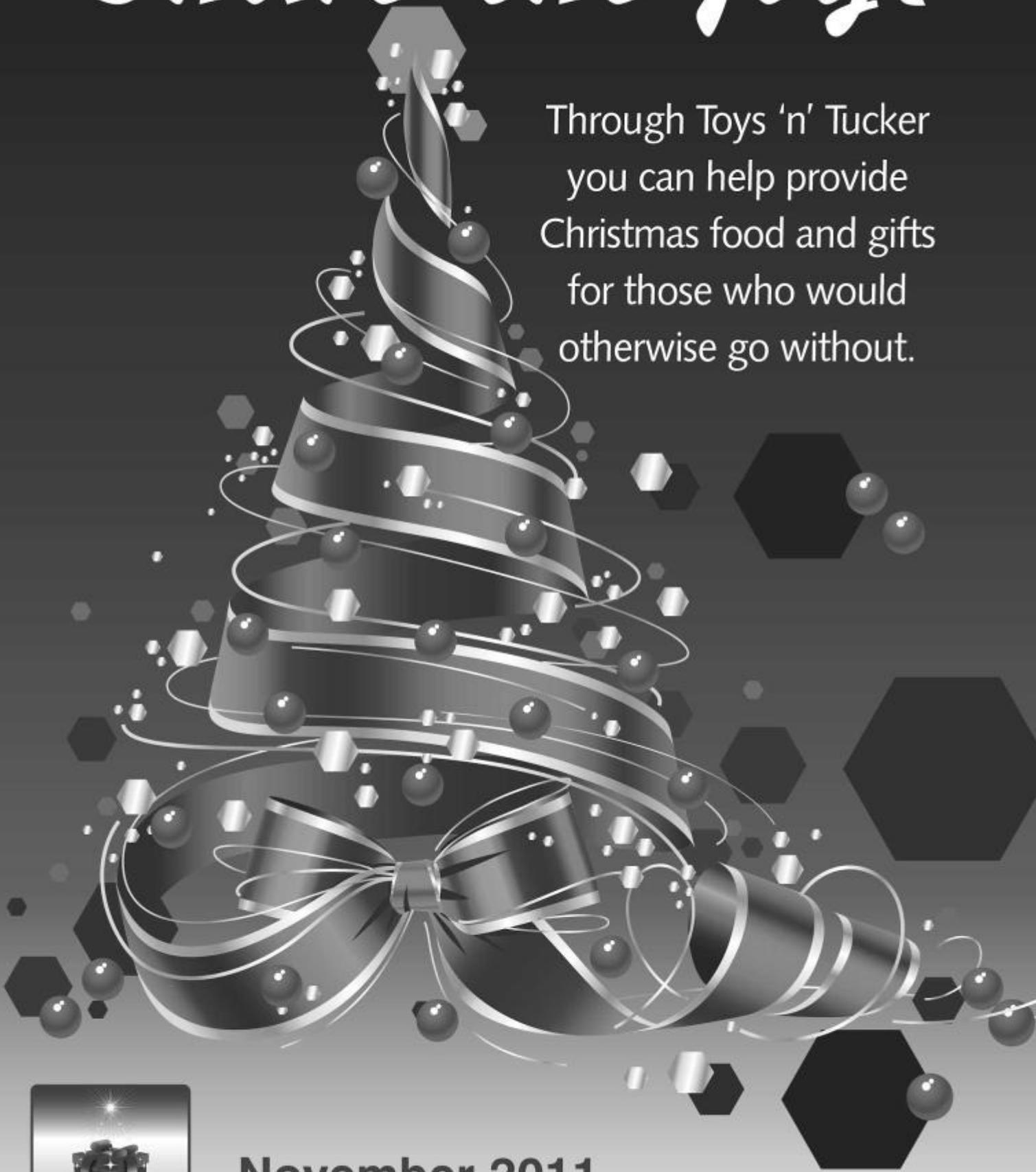
On top of that we enjoyed a very good DVD from the whole Batey family especially produced for the dinner – something to whet our appetites for when they return to Australia later this year. In addition to the speakers there were informative mission displays from missions linked to St Matt's in some way – SIM, Wycliffe, Global Recordings, Pioneers, and a Fair Trade stall. A new feature of special interest was a confronting SIM walk-through experience about HIV AIDS.

The program was woven around a sumptuous barbecue dinner, with some Asian dishes added, and tasty desserts. In this regard, it was wonderful to have a number from our Asian congregations filling several tables at the dinner.

In all, a very satisfying and rewarding evening of good food, good company and great mission input was had by all. A special thanks to all who helped out in any way, especially some high school age students.



Share the joy!



Through Toys 'n' Tucker
you can help provide
Christmas food and gifts
for those who would
otherwise go without.



November 2011

www.toysntucker.org.au
telephone 02 9895 8088

 **ANGLICARE**
THE CARE THAT CHANGES LIVES

Help ANGLICARE provide Christmas food and gifts for those in greatest need.

What we need

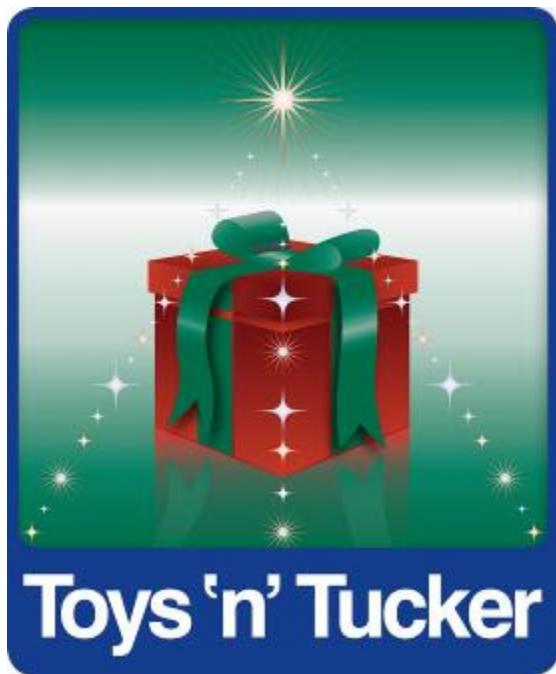
Gifts for children and teens:

- ◊ Toys
- ◊ Board games
- ◊ Sports equipment
- Retail gift cards

Christmas food for festive meals:

- ◊ Christmas puddings
- ◊ Christmas cakes
- ◊ Long-life custard
- ◊ Tinned ham

Cash for Essentials Cards so those we help can choose the fresh food they would like for a special Christmas meal.



Visit www.toysntucker.org.au
Phone 13 26 22

Bring your donations into St Matt's all
during November 2011.
Pick up of all donations will be in the
first week in December.

Service of Remembrance for families whose children have died or are missing

This Service, open to families (and friends) who've lost a child (of any age), seeks to ease that pain a little by offering a means of acknowledging and remembering a deeply loved and missed family member.

**Wednesday 7th December 2011
7.30pm**

**With A Brief Message from Margaret Robertson,
Chaplain at the Children's Hospital at Westmead.**

During the service those present are invited to place a flower at the front of the church, in memory of the child who has died, or is missing. If you'd like to bring your own flower, please do. Flowers will also be available.

Several denominations will be represented
A crèche will be available during the service.
Everyone is welcome to stay for supper following the service.



Cnr Castle Hill Road and New Line Road, West Pennant Hills, Enquiries 9479 3700

The beginning of grace

studies from Genesis 1–11



CMS Summer School is:

- **Life-changing Bible teaching**
- **A mind-expanding global mission focus**
- **Time for fellowship and refreshment**

Register now

www.nswsummerschool.org.au



Only CMS gives you the opportunity to invest in the perfect gift – people! Everything in the *Looking for the Perfect Gift?* catalogue directly supports the spread of the gospel.

At CMS our vision is to see God's Church growing in all the world as lives and communities are transformed by Christ. At CMS our vision is to see God's Church growing in all the world as lives and communities are transformed by Christ. Our missionaries work in five strategic areas of ministry:

- Church-based ministry
- Student ministry
- Leadership training
- Mission in Muslim areas
- Development and caring

Drawn from CMS's bursaries and grants budget, each of the gifts in the *Looking for the Perfect Gift?* catalogue supports one of these vital areas of gospel ministry.

If the gift you choose is over-funded, your money will go into CMS's general fund, to support the costs of our missionaries on the field.

For more information and online access to the gift catalogue go to www.cms.org.au/giftcatalogue or pick up a catalogue in the church foyer.

ST MATTS YOUTH UPDATE



Term 4 always goes by very quickly at St Matts Youth! Our regular, week-to-week activities at Sunday 78, Club 78, and Friday Night Live conclude on Dec 2nd with our combined End of Year Christmas Party.

What's been happening?

- This term sees the following teaching series at our youth groups – Sunday 78 are studying the book of Genesis; Club 78 are learning from some of Jesus' parables as recorded in Matthew; and Friday Night Live are hearing talks from the book of Exodus.
- During the recent school holidays 'Unreal Day' was held on Sat 8th Oct. This was a great day up the coast with our year 11 students and leaders. We spent time thinking through the particular challenges they would face as they enter their final year of high school.

What's coming up?

- Please pray for all our groups – that we would finish the year strongly. God has greatly blessed St Matts Youth this year, for which we are very thankful.
- Leader's Retreat is on the weekend of the 9th-11th Dec. Once again we will spend the weekend in Bathurst as we reflect on the year, and plan for next year.

Dates for the diary

End of Year Party – Friday 2nd December
Summer Madness 2012 – Sat 21st – Tues 24th Jan
Too Much Fun 2012 – Thurs 19th – Sun 22nd April

Stay up-to-date

 youth.stmatts.org.au

 facebook.com/stmattsyouthwph

 twitter.com/stmattsyouthwph



ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

NOVEMBER 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!

6th November - Daniel & Dominica Lai, Wycliffe

- Pray for Daniel's mission mobilisation preaching to different churches' mission events (fellowship, mission dinner, mission Sunday) in Sydney.
- Please continue to pray for our health issues: the high blood pressure and cholesterol of Daniel & Dominica, and Dominica's fatty liver problem.
- Please pray for Nathaniel that he must find an internship for mechatronic engineering during Dec 11- Feb 12 to fulfil the faculty's requirement.
- Pray for Hannah preparing for Beach Mission 29 Dec 2011- 9 Jan 2012. She is finding part-time jobs to cover costs of going on Beach Mission.
- Praise for the opportunity to speak at St Matt's Mission dinner on October 15—a great way to connect with supporters and provide insight into the work of Wycliffe.



13th November - Scripture Teachers, West Pennant Hills, Cherrybrook and John Purchase in partnership with Cherrybrook Anglican Church.

- Give thanks for a great team including those who are retiring after many years or who are finishing for various reasons.
- Praise God for the success of the new *Connect* teaching material and that teachers have completed the new SRE Accreditation requirements
- Pray that the last 3 or 4 lessons about *Trusting and Following Jesus* will impact the children
- Pray for the end of year assemblies at each school – John Purchase PS – Nov 29, Cherrybrook PS Dec 2 both led by Steven Fong of Cherrybrook Presbyterian, and West Pennant Hills PS Dec 9 led by Shane Dirks.
- Pray that God will be preparing people to be Scripture teachers in 2012.

***If you would like to volunteer to teach or assist with scripture in 2012, please contact Jacki Hellstrom or Pat Sutton, they would love to hear from you!

20th November—Chris & Sharon Ekins, Coast EC, Forster

- We recently baptized 4 of our members down at Main Beach. It was an amazing day of testifying to God's grace and celebrating the work He has done in their lives. I will never forget the hug that one of the teenage girls gave the elderly Aboriginal man when they were both coming out of the water having just been baptized into the same faith. God not only reconciles us to Himself, but unites us to each other.
- We have just finished teaching the yr 7 students at the Tuncurry Campus. Praise God for the way the school worked with us, and for the positive response of the students (like Jordan, who shared with his teacher that he'd become a Christian). Pray now for the word that was sown to take root in their hearts and for many more to come to faith and get established in a church or youth group where they can keep growing.
- Praise for the ongoing growth of our church community. Pray that God will be faithful in providing adequate and faithful leaders for all the ministries that we have in Forster.



ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

MISSION EVENTS IN AND AROUND ST MATTS :

MISSION PRAYER MEETING Wednesday 2nd 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: 7th December

MISSION HAPPENINGS AT ST MATTS:

In **November**, a team will be going out to Hillston with the Whybrows to run some outreach and church encouragement events with BCA and the churches in Hillston. If you would like to be involved, please speak to Nerida.



Please pray for this ministry and that details and program will be finalised. Pray that God will be preparing the hearts of those in the town and that the time there will be blessed.



In **December**, a group of people will be heading up to Crossroads in Hong Kong to serve there. Crossroads is an aid organisation that sends superseded goods to communities in need around the world. Please pray for those going.

For more information visit www.crossroads.org.hk



Over the summer **December – January** many of our church members will be away... on BEACH MISSION! People will go away for a couple of weeks all up and down the coast of NSW with SUFM's annual beach mission involving kids programs and outreach for many families who holiday in those areas over the summer. Please pray for fruit to bear during these missions and that God will bless all the teams going.

Visit www.nsw.su.org.au for more info.



Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.