

Book of the Month

Dr Patricia Weerakoon

Teen Sex By the Book answers your questions about teenage sexuality and relationships. Renowned sex therapist and educator Dr Patricia Weerakoon, explores the topics of sexual desire and arousal, falling in love, and dating—things like, 'How far is too far?' You'll also cover topics like cybersex, pornography and homosexuality, and the effects these can have on our sex lives. The discussion is frank and, in parts, explicit. Ultimately, it calls you to consider who you are and what you stand for.

M15+ Recommended for ages 15 and over. Contains adult themes and sexual references.

Cost: \$ 12.00



Matt's Matters

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

November 2012



November 2012 Preaching Calendar

4	The Faithful of God	Romans 4:1-25
11	The Reconciliation of God	Romans 5:1-21
18	The Slaves of God	Romans 6:1-23
25	The Struggle with God	Romans 7:1-8:4

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 9.30am	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

Senior Minister	Steve Abbott	0417 410 596/9479 3700
Associate Minister	Jon Phua	9479 3700
Young Adults Minister	Nerida Peart	9479 3702
Youth Minister	Geoff Everett	9479 3700
Asian Minister	Kenny Liew	0448 515 408
Children's Minister	Jacki Hellstrom	9479 3700
Pastoral Care/Young Women	Karen Braga	0401 933 264
Pastoral Care Wed/Thurs	Bill France	9479 3700
Church Administrator	Kat Butler	9479 3700
Communications Co Ord	Tina Piccione	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.

 **St Matthews**
Anglican Church

www.stmatts.org.au

Senior Minister's November 2012 Pastoral Letter – Matt's Matters

Dear sisters and brothers,

The current series of sermons on Romans 1-8 focusing on expounding the gospel of God's Son, has come at a wonderful time of the year. We are moving rapidly towards Christmas and the reminder that the promised Christ child would be called Jesus, because he would save his people from their sins. The birth of Jesus is in some ways the birth of the gospel, the gospel Paul is explaining in Romans.

Christmas is one of those Christian high points of the year when it's probably easier than any other time to share our faith and to invite our family and friends to church or special gatherings. I'm especially thinking of our annual Carols by Candlelight at West Pennant Hills Public School oval, which this year will be held on Friday 21 December, and also our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services.

The Romans series so far has provided massive encouragement and motivation to step out of our comfort zones and to speak boldly and prayerfully about the message of the Christ child, who was born to die on a Cross and to rise from death to wear a Crown. According to Romans 1-8 the Cradle to Crown story is one people outside of faith need to hear. It's a message that is effective, necessary and generous.



Some key truths about this gospel include:

- In Romans 1:16-17 we were reminded that the gospel is God's power to save from sin everyone who believes. There is no one for whom the good news of Jesus was not designed and relevant. The gospel isn't dependent on our cleverness or the power of our communication skills for its effectiveness. No, this lies in the fact that it possesses God's own power.
- In Romans 1:18-3:20 we recall that everyone is under the power of sin and judgment; the wrath of God rests upon them. All people outside of faith in Jesus Christ are in a desperately lost state because they are guilty before God and have no excuse or defence to justify themselves before God. How can we who know the gracious forgiveness of God and have come to possess eternal life keep this to ourselves? Surely the logic is clear that those who know the good news tell those who don't know.

- Romans 3:21-31 explains the heart of the gospel. Jesus' death is a gift of God's grace and generosity; it cannot be earned. The Cross not only brought us full forgiveness, it also brought us into a right relationship with God. His anger was turned off and his love turned on. So many people have swallowed the lie that salvation is earned by good works, religious duty, etc. We can explain the wonderful news that it is by faith alone in Jesus that people can be assured of a righteous standing with God.

- Romans 4 confirms this via two of the giants of the Old Testament: Abraham and King David. They testify to the great truth that wicked, spiritually dead, sinful people can be credited with God's own righteousness.

- Romans 5 introduces some of the great fruits of the justification found in the gospel: peace, hope and joy. Fruits, which lost people search for in material things but find they are constantly disappointed. My sisters and brothers, let's explain where these abundant fruits can be found, and that is in the good news of the dying and rising Christ Jesus.

I could of course go on but I hope the point is already clear. This gospel of Jesus Christ is wonderful news for a world which has lost its way and is all too often distracted by the temporal over the eternal.

As we move towards Christmas may we be praying for opportunities to courageously share our faith in the Gospel of Jesus: noting especially His Cradle, Cross and Crown. Let's boldly invite our pre-Christian family and friends to come and hear the message at Church or a special event. And let's ensure we pray that the Spirit of Power will transform minds and hearts so that people welcome Jesus into the control centre of their lives.

Your fellow Witness,

Steve Abbott

Steve and Sue Abbott's Prayer Points:

- Praise God for the opportunity Steve had to attend the spiritual retreat with the Leighton Ford Point Group October 29 – November 3.
- Pray for great attendance at the Community Issues Night with Patricia Weerakoon on Monday November 5 and that Christ will be honoured in all that is said and that the lasting fruit of sexual integrity will flow throughout our church and community.
- Please keep praying for wisdom for myself and others as we seek to determine the most effective way to cover the various staff positions in 2013.
- Pray for the Staff and Parish Council as we seek to develop and implement the pathways for future ministry at St Matt's that came out of the combined strategic thinking day on October 13.
- Pray for all the plans for the Carols by Candlelight and Family Festival event on Friday December 21. Pray that adequate financial sponsorships will be found to cover all the costs, all the logistics will come together without a hitch and begin praying now for fine weather and effective communication so we will exceed last year's 2000 attendance.
- Pray for the current series of messages on Romans. Pray that the messages will be clear, creative and transformational for all who hear.
- Pray for the two staff planning days on Monday & Tuesday 19-20 November, that we'll be able to plan 2013 in a way which acknowledges the Radical Together feedback from the first half of the year and which will grow our Christian community in depth and breadth.



Remember!

St Matt's Diary and Notes

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

11 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:

Colleen Cummings 0403 239 321

INTERESTED IN AN AWESOME OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY IN 2013?



Join a wonderful group of volunteers and teach scripture (SRE) in one of our local Primary schools.

West Pennant Hills PS – on Fridays

Cherrybrook PS – on Fridays

John Purchase PS – on Tuesdays

Needed: teachers and assistants/helpers

Most urgent: relief teachers for when one of the regulars is sick or away.

Speak to Pat Sutton or Jacki Hellstrom.

LOST

Tan suede gloves, last seen in the 10am bulletin box of Jan Donohoo. Please contact Jan on 9873 2640 or leave with Kat in the office.

ORANA SENIORS FELLOWSHIP

7th November at 11.30am

**Come and join us for
LUNCH FELLOWSHIP**

This meeting will follow the general pattern of our Lunch Fellowships. As usual, there will be no formal address but various activities (eg a visiting soloist) during the meal to help strengthen our fellowship and provide interest and enjoyment to all. Everybody is welcome, so come with your friends and enjoy both food and fellowship with us.

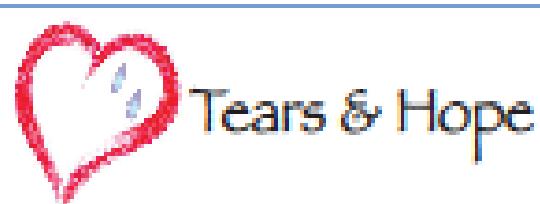
Book the date!



HILLSTON MISSION

—TENTS NEEDED

Large tents are needed to take to Hillston from 22-29 November. If you have a tent you could lend please contact John Carr 9479 3700.



A Service of Healing for Survivors of Abuse

Monday 12th November, 6.30pm

**St. John's Anglican Church, Darlinghurst
120 Darlinghurst Road, NSW 2010**

**Open to all who have been effected
by abuse in any context.**

**For more details please contact
St. John's Church Office 9360 6844**

An exciting day with
Robyn Claydon

Exploring
Biblical themes in
the poetry of.....

John Donne,
Gerard Manley Hopkins
& T.S. Eliot.

A short course for those who love poetry and those who never thought they would!

Where Beecroft Anglican Church, 60A Beecroft Rd, Beecroft.

When Saturday 1 December 9.30am – 3.00pm

Who is it for? Men and women. No previous knowledge of poetry required!

Donation \$20 (Bring your own lunch)

Robyn has been an English and Christian Studies teacher for over 30 years and was the Deputy Principal at Abbotsleigh, Wahroonga. She has a Master's degree in English literature, a Dip.Ed. and a Th.L and is a Fellow of the Australian College of Education.



To register go to www.mac.edu.au or

Phone: 9284 1470

RSVP by Wednesday 28 Nov

MattSafe



MattSafe is the name we give to our Risk Management program at St Matt's.

We care

When people visit the church or participate in church activities, they need to feel they're in a safe and caring environment.

At St Matthews, we believe the way we care for our visitors, our congregations, our volunteers and our ministry team is an expression of our commitment to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We demonstrate our care by addressing those issues that may cause personal harm – and compromise our mission to 'reflect the generosity of Christ'.

Risk management is in essence love in action. It's an expression of one of St Matts' core values: 'unreserved commitment to love people impartially'.

Our program aims to ensure that we:

- provide a safe environment for gospel-centred ministry
- protect people as well as the assets and reputation of the church, and
- comply with our legal obligations.

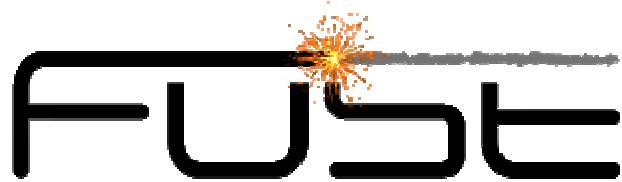
We can all contribute

The wardens and parish council encourage all members of the church community to be aware of risk.

Each month we plan to highlight a specific aspect of our MattSafe program in this bulletin. Please look for this information and read it carefully. If you see something that could pose a risk to people's health or safety, please bring the matter to our attention. Being aware of risk is one way that we 'look out for the interests of others' (Philippians 2:4).

Like to be involved in helping us implement the program? Just let a member of staff know. We are looking for someone from each congregation to be part of the MattSafe team.

Rob McGregor
Warden/Risk Management Co-ordinator



FUSE is St Matts' exciting new youth group for kids in years 5-6!

When? Friday Evenings 4:45—6:00pm

Cost: \$2 each week at the door

What to expect:

Games and activities; Talks and discussion
and lots more...

All aimed at older kids!

FUSE SLEEPOVER YEAR 5 & 6's

5pm Saturday, 10th November

Transformers theme

\$10

Dinner, a Talk, Supper and Fun Activities

Children are encouraged to attend 10am kids church the following morning.

Pick up at 9:30am (before church) or at 11:30am (after church).

ARVO CLUB: Term 4 is shaping up to be great fun. We have lost our older kids to

FUSE, but have gained some of our preschoolers to join in the fun.

This term we are looking at the days of creation and God's awesome power, all within a SPACE theme. Lots of fun craft, games and small group discussions.

We have a group of dedicated young leaders who come to help after school each week. Please pray for them as we move to the end of the year with exams and considering what they will be able to commit to next year.

Pointing kids to God

**Let's talk about
“Mateship” @ 7.15am
with a Cooked breakfast**

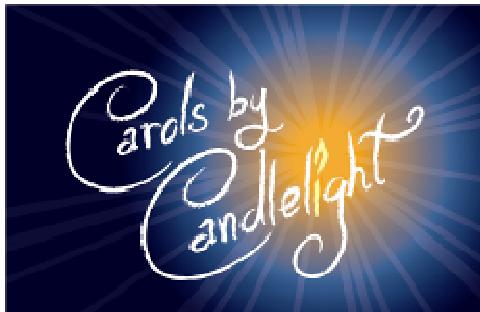
Tickets on sale today or go to to

**MEN'S BREAKFAST
SAT 10 NOV - \$10**

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday 21st December,

West Pennant Hills Public School



The countdown to our Christmas Carols outreach night is on with only 51 sleeps to go! In the coming weeks sign-up sheets will be available for you to put your name down to help serve on the night. This is a great opportunity to mix with others in our St Matt's family and also reflect the generosity of Christ to our wider community. Specifically, the position of security co-ordinator is yet to be filled, so if this is something you feel you could take on please let Ben Hodgkinson (0401 526 685) know.

It would be great to be praying for Carols, particularly for Al Stewart as he prepares to speak and the many non-church families who will be coming on the night, that they will be receptive to Al's message. Please also pray for the progress of our sponsorship - to date we have \$ 5,000. However this is still a fair way off our budget. If you own or work for a business that you think might be interested in coming on board, please get in contact with Ben or the church office.

Finally it would be great to start inviting your friends and family along. The Family Festival begins from 5:30pm and the Carols themselves from around 7:45pm on Friday 21st December at WPH Primary School.

Pray for those with special needs:

Jan , Damon , Roy , Es and Laurie ,
Margaret , Dudley ,
Brian , Carolyn (Betty daughter),
Betty , Colleen , Jeannine , Jane ,
Cliff , Geoff & Margaret ,
Irene .



Service of Remembrance

Our annual Service of Remembrance for families and friends of children who have died or are missing will be held on Wednesday December 5 commencing at 7.30 pm.

The aim of the service is to provide hope and support for the families whose children have died or are missing.

The speaker at the service will be Rev Kirk Patston. Kirk will have a great understanding with those attending as he and his wife have suffered the death of their child.

Representatives from several denominations will also be participating in the service.

During the service those present will be invited to place a flower on the communion table in recognition of the life of their child. People may bring a flower of their choice, however flowers will also be available at the church.

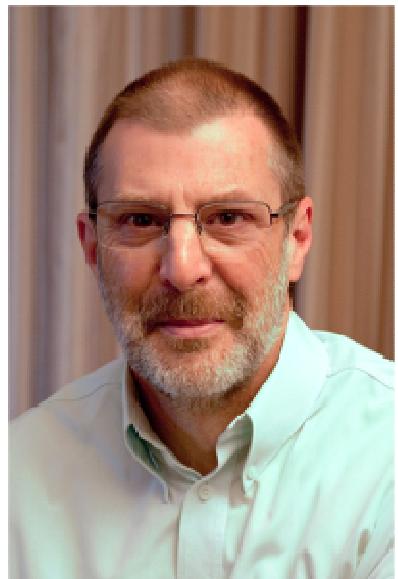
People travel from all over Sydney, Blue Mountains and other country areas to join us for the service. Everyone is welcome. Perhaps you would consider coming to support some of the families.

Following the service supper is served. This too has proved to be a successful part of the service as people who have never met before gain comfort from being with and talking with those who share that common bond - the love for their children.

60 Seconds with a Warden

Rob McGregor

1970 was a fateful year. Rob had the privilege of teaching his wife-to-be Chris in 3 Unit Ancient History at Inverell High School in northern NSW. Rob and Chris were engaged when Chris later came to Sydney (UNSW) to study drama. Rob and Chris will celebrate 40 wonderful years of marriage in April 2013.



After 10 years in State education, Rob taught English at Barker College Hornsby for a further 10 years – though one of those years was spent at the University of Exeter, UK.

In 1994, Rob left teaching to become a consultant writer, information designer and researcher and now helps government and big business to communicate more effectively with clients and customers.

The 1959 Billy Graham Crusade had a profound influence on Rob – as did Scripture Union camps, ISCF at Normanhurst Boys' High and Sydney University Evangelical Union. Books like John Stott's *Basic Christianity*, Harry Blamires *The Christian Mind* and the writings of CS Lewis, Francis Schaeffer and Os Guinness helped Rob deal with the big questions of life.

Rob and Chris live in Epping – OK, not exactly St Matt's territory – and have been in a St Matt's home group since 1996. Rob says, 'It's great to know that there are people who are committed to sharing, learning, caring and praying for you and your family through all the ups and downs of life. If anyone is not in a home group I encourage you to talk to Steve Abbott or another member of staff about finding that regular fellowship. It really makes a difference.'

STORIES OF RECONCILIATION

On Saturday night, 27 October, St Matt's was privileged to be the first of many speaking venues across Sydney, for 'Stories of Reconciliation' from Mr Rory Steyn, former bodyguard to President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, who shared moving accounts from that period!



Rory's speaking engagements have been sponsored by Anglican Aid: a ministry of Sydney Diocese, and its head, Rev. David Mansfield, co-presented with Rory. David helpfully explained three important areas:

- The work of Anglican Aid both in Australia and overseas in training, development and aid for those in needy and strategic circumstances.
- Essential South African background information to Rory's presentation, including movie clips from 'Cry the Beloved Country' and 'Invictus'.
- Interviewing and introducing Rory about his family and background history.

Rory's presentation was vivid, personal and powerful, as he began by importantly affirming for us that 'Invictus' was a very accurate portrayal of Nelson Mandela, the events and people of the time. Interwoven in the presentation, Rory shared about South Africa in 1995, the character of Nelson Mandela, and his own personal perceptions. Many riveting points included: the obvious racial tensions existing when Nelson Mandela was elected President; Mandela's extraordinary personal touch to communicate forgiveness and acceptance to White South Africans, including Presidential staff who expected to be dismissed, only to be asked to stay and continue serving. Also, the same conciliatory attitude to White South African police who formerly mistreated Black Mandela supporters.

As Rory honestly shared about his initial racial prejudices against Mandela and other Black activists, which was typical of the upbringing of many White South Africans. He changed to having a deep respect and affection for Mandela, and warm outlook towards other South Africans. This was coupled with sharing his own spiritual journey in coming to personal faith in Jesus, and the powerful reality of Christ earning forgiveness for us by his death on the cross. Rory ended by inviting people to pray a prayer of response, to give their lives to Christ.

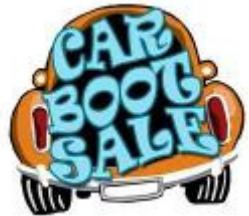
A wonderful supper awaited us afterwards, which everyone enjoyed.

Feedback cards overwhelmingly indicated people's enjoyment of the night, including wanting Rory to share even more, as his presentation could have been longer! Some have indicated they prayed the prayer of response, and would like to be contacted.

A big thank you to all who helped the night run so well: Kat Butler, Pat Redlich, Tina Piccione, John Hain, Geoff Litchfield, Ruth Lynch and the whole Supper Team!

In Christ,
Jon Phua

CAR BOOT SALE & ST MATT'S ART SHOW – 16 MARCH 2013
TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MISSION AID GROUP
BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW!!!



Combined with an art show, Devonshire teas, coffee and a sausage sizzle, MAG will be holding a Car Boot Sale and Art Show. Book your stall for \$10 and sell whatever you wish. There will be approximately 44 spots in the car park. Of course, you don't have to use your boot, you could put up a table with a shelter, etc. The art group is already working towards this day. We would love to fill the spaces with St Matt's parishioners as stall holders.

Contact Roslyn Dearden to secure your spot: 9869 1665.

**TEAR Australia's
Useful Gifts**

The original way to
buy a goat and other
poverty-fighting gifts.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (2 Cor. 8:9)

Give a useful gift this Christmas. Each gift contributes to the poverty-fighting work of TEAR Australia's Christian partners, and spreads God's kingdom.

Prices: \$5-\$10,000

Catalogues available now. Cards will be sold after each service from Sunday 9 December, or call

5pm: James Waugh, 0414 723 351

7pm: Louise Young, 0402 284 096

9am: Peter and Jane Ryan, 0414713011

MISSION AID GROUP or A MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL (MAG)

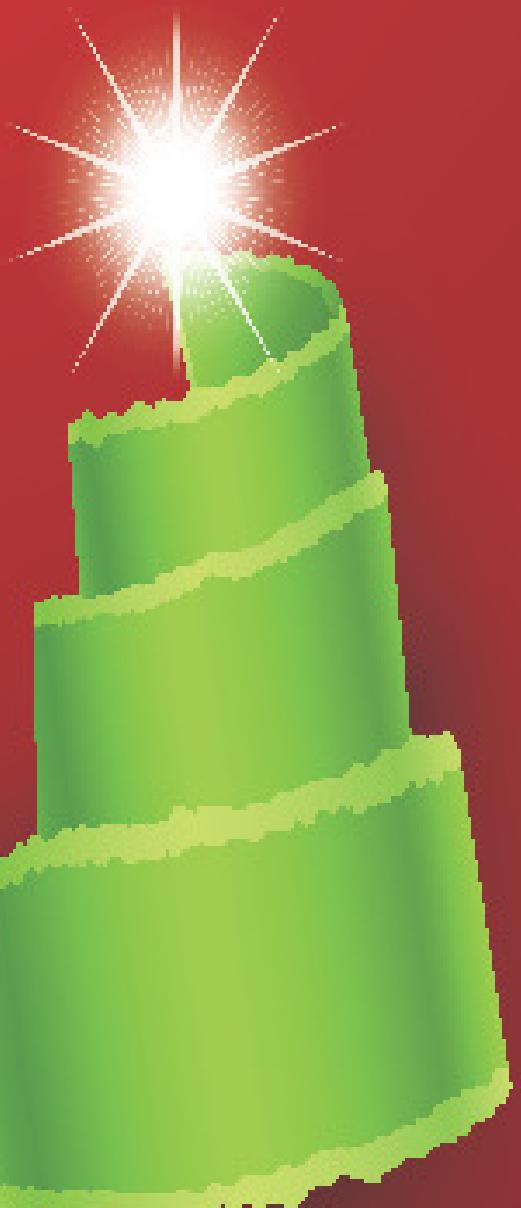
Thank you for your continued support of MAG over the year. In the latest edition of the MAG Newsletter there is a great article on a visit to Tanzania by Rod and Carol James. Rod is the Chairperson of MAG and it is so encouraging to read first hand of the incredible need that we are assisting to meet in that land. They were able to visit several CMS missionaries and to see their work first hand and give some extra rugs, jumpers, books, etc. to these people. They saw many of the items MAG sends being used and worn in the theology college, schools, sewing groups, etc.

Suggestions for this month are: empty biscuit tins for sewing kits, sewing needles and cottons, small sewing scissors, personal soap (non-scented), baby soap, black socks (children's or adults) 8 ply wool (acrylics are fine) for jumpers and squares, any stationery or toiletry items. We are also very thankful for any knitted jumpers. There is a request from MAG for jumpers for children from about 2 to 15 years old.

Thank you, Roslyn

Share the joy!

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



November 2012
www.toysntucker.org.au
telephone 02 9895 8088

ANGLICARE
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHARITIES

ST MATT'S STAFF NEWS

The New Testament refers to the church as a household: fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers, in Christ. Therefore, when sad and unfortunate things happen in the St Matt's family I believe it's right and appropriate for me, as the overseer, to be transparent so you can pray appropriately in an informed manner.

It grieves me to inform the St Matt's family that on Sunday 30 September our probationary Chinese Minister Ken Wong formally announced his resignation. This was due to an irreconcilable breakdown in relationship with the leadership and other members of the congregation. This only came to my attention around the sixth month of his ministry. It appears that Ken's leadership style and pastoral manner have been the major cause in the breakdown of communication and relationship with the majority of the existing Chinese leadership and several members of the congregation. Clearly, the collapse in relationship within the church is far more complex than pointing the finger at one thing or one person. It needs to be said that both Ken and I have done all in our power over the past 2-3 months in order to bring about mediation between the disillusioned members and Ken. However, it was impossible to organize such a meeting, which was hugely disappointing to both Ken and myself. Chinese culture was a significant factor in this, yet without mediation there was ultimately no way to address the issues and move positively forward.

Consequently Ken resigned and I've sadly had to accept. It would have been intolerable to expect an inexperienced minister to attempt to lead a church where he had lost the confidence of the majority of leaders and significant numbers of the Chinese congregation. On Sunday Ken finished with dignity and good grace by reading a letter of explanation, which gave expression to his personal disappointment, an admission of his mistakes, an apology and a commitment to pray for the congregation. Please pray for Ken, Winnie and their two boys Jeremy and Jonathan. This has been a very difficult time for them all and the future is of course uncertain. Our wardens have generously committed to paying him until the end of November and we've been able to set in place two sources of pastoral care and support, one from the Diocese and the other a Chinese Minister. I would also ask you to please partner with me in praying for God to bring good out of this very difficult outcome; good for the Wong family, and for the Chinese Congregation.

I also need to announce that Rev Bill France, part-time Pastoral Care and Seniors' Minister and John Carr, Ministry Trainee have both informed me that they will not be continuing in their positions in 2013. They will both be missed as they have done excellent ministry and we thank God for them. Bill reports that he enjoyed his role at St Matt's but decided not to continue beyond the year he'd committed to, because he has a real heart to do more locum roles in North West Australia. These local church oversight roles provide a wider variety of opportunities for him to use his various gifts for ministry. John Carr also decided to cut his time down to one year as he was already convinced that he wanted to pursue fulltime ministry in the future. Therefore, he desired to finish his original degree, get some work experience and then move towards theological training for ministry sooner rather than delay another year. These departures will leave some ministry holes to fill and so I will be exploring, along with others, the most effective way to proceed. Please pray for wisdom in this whole process.

Help ANGLICARE provide Christmas food and gifts for those who would otherwise go without.

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
- Complete this form and mail to ANGLICARE PO Box 427 Parramatta 2124



Name:	
Address:	Postcode:
Telephone:	Donation amount:
Email:	

Methods of payment

Cheque/Money Order (please make payable to ANGLICARE)

Name on card

Please charge my MasterCard Visa Amex Others

Card number:

 | | | | | | | |

Signature

Expiry date:

 | |



Ladies come and make a



Ginger- bread House

At St Matt's & hear an engaging Christmas message

Wednesday 21st November

7.30 pm \$30

Limited Tickets Available

Everything provided & feel free to bring your
own extra special decorating lollies

St Matthews Anglican Church
Cnr Castle Hill & New Line Rds.
West Pennant Hills
Email: office@stmatts.org.au
Ph: 9479 3700





ARVO CLUB: Term 4 is shaping up to be great fun. We have lost our older kids to FUSE, but have gained some of our preschoolers to join in the fun. This term we are looking at the days of creation and God's awesome power, all within a SPACE theme. Lots of fun craft, games and small group discussions. We have a group of dedicated young leaders who come to help after school each week. Please pray for them as we move to the end of the year with exams and considering what they will be able to commit to next year.

Pointing kids to God



This year for our Gift Day Giving, we intend to focus on others, in particular the very special needs of our link missionaries, our target..\$85,000.

Over the next couple of weeks we will provide further details on the individual needs of each link missionary. We have received requests ranging from a stove to transport, including cars.

Please pray and consider how you will be able to support this Gift Day over and above your normal commitments to the work here at St Matt's.

Envelopes are available in the church foyer or at the back of the school hall. Alternatively a direct deposit can be made using the ref: Gift Day 2012:

Account Name: St Matthews Anglican Church
BSB: 012306 Account No. 108494487