

Advanced Notice - Put it in your diary

Big Day In Saturday 18th May

Topic: Life and Work Balance

Being a Christian in the Marketplace and at Home

Speaker: Dr Andrew Cameron

Time: Whole day program - details to come

Sunday 19th May: Dr Cameron will also be preaching in services

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/Seniors	Marilyn Young	9479 3700
Church Administrator	Kat Butler	9479 3700
Communications	BJ Yap	9479 3700

St Matthews Anglican Church

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

March/April
2013



Preaching Calendar

March 3 The Sacrificial Life

March 17 Love, Not Judgement

March 10 Right Living for the Day

March 24 The Missionary and His Team

March 29th - Easter Friday - Faith's Foundations
March 31st - Easter Sunday - Faith's First Fruits

April 7 Inerrancy of Scripture

April 21 Timeless Scripture

April 14 Understandability of Scripture

April 28 Sufficiency of Scripture



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.

Please join us 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 March/April 2013 Pastoral Letter

Dear sisters and brothers,

Some time this month new large-print Bibles will appear in our three congregational centres courtesy of a very generous gift which was given in memory of a much loved member of St Matt's. The donors wish to remain anonymous but I can still thank them publicly, because they know who they are and will no doubt read this letter. The donation given some time ago will cover all the costs and still leave a considerable amount, which will be forwarded to Anglicare at the request of the donors.

The process for choosing new church Bibles has been, of necessity, a long and drawn out one with staff, parish council and, to a lesser degree, the donors being involved in the final decision. I thought it would be helpful to briefly explain how we arrived at the final decision to purchase the latest 2011 NIV translation. Of course we wanted a translation that continued to be an accurate and faithful rendering of the original Hebrew and Greek texts and made for smooth, intelligible listening when read aloud. Another important and significant consideration was to find a translation that removed the unnecessary use of masculine terms when the original text refers generically to men and women. Let me quote from the preface of the 2011 NIV:

'The original NIV (1978) was published in a time when 'a man' would naturally be understood, in many contexts, to be referring to a person, whether male or female. But most English speakers today tend to hear a distinctly male connotation in this word. In recognition of this change... this edition of the NIV,...substitutes other expressions when the original text intends to refer generically to men and women equally. Thus, for instance, the NIV (1984) rendering of 1 Corinthians 8:3, 'But the man who loves God is known by God. Becomes in this edition 'But whoever loves God is known by God.' On the other hand, 'man' and 'mankind', as ways of denoting the human race, are still widely used. This edition of the NIV therefore continues to use these words, along with other expressions, in this way.'

While for some the current 1984 NIV church Bibles are just fine and the use of masculine terms is not an issue, for others it is a hindrance, so if we can remove this irritation painlessly and still keep an accurate, faithful and easy listening text it seems to make sense to do so. There are several other advantages with the Bibles we've been able to acquire. They are a much larger print yet still fit in our church seats and were very reasonably priced. Also because it is still an NIV all those who have personal NIV Bibles and study Bibles which they are happy to continue using will not need to race out and buy new ones as the text has not changed dramatically from the current NIV (1984) which most of us have been using.

At the time of writing we had not yet received enough Bibles to place them at St Matt's but once the back order has arrived we'll make the change. We also will make a decision as to what to do with the old church bibles as many are still in reasonable condition. No doubt we'll keep some to give away and find a good home for the rest. We have maintained the brown colour for use at the St Matt's facility and have selected blue for the two English speaking congregations, who meet at the schools. I hope you find this change a very positive one and enjoy this still accurate but new translation.

On Tuesday evening 12 March our Annual Church Meeting is scheduled and I would like us all to make this meeting a very important priority. Firstly, pray and then give careful consideration as to whether you will stand for the various positions (Wardens, Parish Councilors, Parish Nominators, etc.) and/or who you will nominate for these important roles in the life of our Church. Nomination forms are available in the foyer and I do hope you will use them and ensure anyone you nominate has agreed to stand for office.

Finally, we are moving close to the Easter weekend, which brings us to the centre and foundations of the Christian faith and gospel. It's a great time to invite our unchurched family and friends to church and so I invite you to do so. Over the Easter weekend we'll be preaching from 1 Corinthians 15 so I close with some wonderful words from that passage:

'And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins....But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive' 1 Corinthians 15:17, 20-22.

What a great hope we have in Christ, one worth celebrating and sharing. So let's rejoice in our Easter resurrection hope, and invite others to join us.

A fellow sharer of the hope,

Steve Abbott

Prayer Points

- Thank God for those who gathered to pray at our first quarterly gathering on 19 February, it was an encouraging occasion of prayer and a wonderful way to express our theme for the year: Radical Dependence.
- Please keep praying for the appointment of replacement staff.

Part-time Women's Pastoral Care Minister (2 days)

Part-time Chinese Minister (4 days)

Student Minister for Years 5-8 (1.5 days)

- Thank God for the appointments of BJ Yap to the Publications and Communications Officer position to job share with Kat Butler in the office, and Marilyn Young to the Pastoral Care and Seniors position.

- Pray for the Annual Church Meeting on Tuesday 12 March, that many will attend, for an encouraging evening and that God will raise up new people to serve in the various capacities.
- Pray that God will bless our plans and strategies for the year, especially that he will make us a truly radically dependent community, for which prayer is its first priority.
- Please pray for Professor Phil Mitchell, who'll lead our first Community Issues evening on 'Living with Depression' @ WPH Sports Club Function Room on 15 April. Pray that a large crowd will attend from St Matt's, The Club and our local community and that the Christian perspective on this topic will commend Christ and faith to all.
- Please keep praying that Steve will lead our church with a dependent servant compassionate heart, a wise discerning mind, a deep love of people, an enthusiasm for the glory of God and His gospel, and with great joy in Christ.
- Pray for Steve's preaching on Romans, Theology of the Word and especially over the Easter weekend that the messages he prepares will reflect the truth of God's Word with clarity, creativity, passion and relevance. Pray also that God's Spirit will use the messages to transform sinners into saints, and saints into greater Christ-likeness.
- Pray for Sue that she will reflect the generosity of Christ to both patients and the Specialist in her role as Medical Secretary, Monday through Wednesday. Pray that in her many support ministries at St Matt's: hospitality, crèche, Bible Study, etc. she will serve with joy and love.



MISSION AID GROUP (MAG)

Thank you to everyone who donated goods for MAG over the last 2 months. A wonderful amount was packed on the 20th Feb. for transporting to Kingsgrove. We had a most enjoyable Annual Meeting, with Judy Taylor giving us a most inspiring talk and encouraging us in our endeavours.

Preparations for the Art Show & Car Boot Sale are well in hand with a number of people putting in a lot of work. We have a few spaces still available for stalls which we would love to fill, maybe a few could join together and take one of these. **IT IS NOT TOO LATE.** (Ring Roslyn Dearden on 98691665 or 0419255667). If anyone has a few items they would like to donate, let us know and I am sure we can accommodate them on a stall. We hope to make this a very successful and enjoyable day, reaching out to the community to join us and be able to support our missionaries in Tanzania in their work. There will be wonderful Art for sale at the Art Show as well as jewellery, plants, new and used goods, clothing, household goods, books and much more. There is also a sausage sizzle (with onions), drinks, Devonshire teas/coffee. **Please come & support us, thus supporting Mission.**

Suggestions for the month are: Soap (preferably unperfumed), toothbrushes & toothpaste, black shoe polish, brushes & laces & shoe polishing cloths, needles, pins, zippers, cottons, etc for sewing kits and unwanted shopping bags for packing goods for Kingsgrove.

Thank you Roslyn

ORANA SENIORS FELLOWSHIP March Meeting



Date: 6 March

Time: 11.30 am

Speakers: Rob and Leanna Haynes

Rob and Leanna have been working with Aboriginal Australians for nearly 25 years. This will be a great opportunity for us to hear them speak about their work and ministry in Northern Australia.



★ Many Varied Stalls New & Used Goods

★ All Art for Sale

★ Sausage Sizzle & Drinks

★ Plants

★ Devonshire teas/coffee

All profits to **MISSION AID GROUP (MAG)**
for their work in Tanzania

**St Matthew's Church
Car Park**

Cnr. Castle Hill & New Line Roads, West Pennant Hills

PRAYER DIARY

Are you looking for a daily guide to help you pray for all the activities and links within our church? Prayer diaries are now available in the church foyer.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The St Matthews Anglican Church Annual meeting will take place on
Tuesday 12 March 2013, 7.30pm.

We invite all parishioners to attend the meeting, when the Wardens, Parish Council and Parish Reps will be elected.

The Annual Financial Statements are available for collection at the back of the church/hall for your reference.

Nomination forms in the foyer or back of school halls

SECOND SUNDAY

POTLUCK LUNCH

10 March

14 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 New Line 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
John Hain - 9872 9965

LEARN ENGLISH

St Matthews has special classes for adults who want to learn or improve their English. We have beginners through to advanced students and the service is free.

We meet every Tuesday morning, during school terms from 9:30am until 11:30am in Hall 1 at St Matthews. New students are always welcome.

Phone Frances Boland 9634 4740 or the church office 9479 3700.

SCRIPTURE TEACHER

NEEDED

Looking for an awesome opportunity to serve this year? Seventeen delightful year 2 students are waiting for you to teach them about God and our saviour Jesus Christ. All you need is a heart for God and Safe Ministry training. We will supply the training and the teaching material. The half hour class starts at **9:30am on Friday mornings at West Pennant Hills Public School.**

Contact Pat Sutton 9875 1562 or Jacki Hellstrom 9479 3700



NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AT ST MATT'S

At different points in the year, St Matt's holds events register, please call the church office or email office@stmatts.org.au with your name and contact details. Please note, you must have completed safe ministry training to be able to be added to the list.



PHCCEA DEDICATION SERVICE

Location: St Matt's

Date: Wednesday 20 March 2013

Time: 7:30pm (provisional)

Duration: About one hour

This year the annual Dedication Service, where we commission our teachers, Graham Castle (Pennant Hills High School) and Peter Murphy (Cherrybrook Technology High School) for another year of teaching Christian Studies in our high schools on our behalf.

Everyone is welcome. Your attendance will be an encouragement to both our teachers, the committee, students and other supporters. You will also hear updates on the work.

Special guest speaker: Steve Abbott

Enquiries: John Hain 9872 9965

PS Thank you to all who donated to our emergency appeal in the month of December. A generous flow of donations over the December - January period has removed the immediate crisis. Regular donations are still needed at a rate of up to \$15,000 a month to get us through. Thank you for your generous support.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our staff team.

Marilyn Young will be taking on a short term pastoral care role and will always be available to members of Wednesday church and also to older members of our morning congregations. She begins with us on the 3rd of March and will be working Mondays and Wednesdays.

You can contact her either by email at myoung@stmatts.org.au or via the office phone on 9479 3700.

BJ Yap will be working alongside Kat in the office and taking on responsibilities of publications and communications. She will join us on 26th February and will work three days a week, Tuesdays to Thursdays. You can contact her either by email at bjyap@stmatts.org.au or via the office phone on 9479 3700.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

"Follow Me"

23 March 2013

7:15am for a 7:30 start

St Matt's Church Building

Tickets \$10 and on sale soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep an eye out for these events coming up in May. Details to follow.

Equip Women's Conference

Sat 11th May

Christianity Explored Course

Early May

See Jon Phua for details

Living with Depression

a free, interactive seminar

Monday, 21 April at 7.30 pm

West Pennant Hills Sports Club

103 New Line Road, WPH



Professor Philip Mitchell

Gold coin donation



E A S T E R

Good Friday

8am and 10am Holy Communion

Easter Sunday

At St Matt's Parish Centre:

8am Holy Communion

10am Easter in the Hall Family service

5pm & 7pm Contemporary services

At Cherrybrook Public School:

9:30am Chinese service

11:15am Asian service

At West Pennant Hills Public School:

9am Contemporary Family Service



AUTUMN HOLIDAY CAMPS



Choose from 3 action-packed, week-long CRU Camps for kids in school Years 3-11 these autumn school holidays. Activities include: sailing ~ laser zone ~ abseiling ~ Gold Coast theme parks ~ ice skating ~ Bible talks from Christian leaders ~ new friends & more!

For a free brochure & more info: Visit crucamps.com.au or call (02) 9874 8933 (opt 1)

Rob and Leanna Haynes visit St Matthews

The Mission Resource Group wants to thank everyone who attended the Mission lunch for Rob and Leanna Haynes on Sunday and for bringing such delicious food.

CMS missionaries, Rob and Leanna Haynes, who have been ministering and working in the Northern Territory for nearly 24 years, are on their last deputation to St Matthews as our link missionaries before retiring to Goolwa, South Australia. Rob and Leanna spent ten years on Groote Eylandt, 50 km from the eastern coast of Arnhem Land, among the Anindilyakwa people. Then in Darwin, Rob was Coordinator of the Theology Department at Nungalinya College, which trains indigenous men and women for Christian discipleship, ministry roles and church and community leadership, while Leanna worked for Anglicare developing teams of aboriginal workers to improve health and educational prospects for aboriginal children across the top end, and provide education for their parents and grandparents.

On February 24, the St Matt's family were richly blessed to hear, in the morning services, informally over lunch, and then in presentation, what the Haynes have learned about ministering to aboriginal Christians and working with aboriginal families. At the 8 and 10 am services, Rob's style of preaching gave us a taste of seeing the bible though 'another's eyes' as he explained from Romans 11:1-24 God's righteous plan to "build relationships of fruitfulness with effort and creativity so the people of God, Jews and Gentiles, can move towards the new kingdom where righteousness resides." Rob has asked us to pray as he seeks to capture in writing this new approach to bible teaching in indigenous contexts, and that bible translation work in aboriginal languages continues and expands. Leanna shared about the pressures on indigenous families, the need for bilingual programs in schools and for more ESL trained teachers and other teachers who are committed to helping aboriginal children to learn. Leanna asks us to pray for playgroups led by Christian aboriginal women as an outreach to communities, where parents and children are encouraged to improve their literacy so they can better understand the world they live in. Rob also gave us "The 5 Do's for ministry with aboriginal Christians":

- Know your bible
- Sit at their feet
- Understand the trap of money systems
- Send male Christian teachers and role models
- Know yourself so you can love the unlovely



Even though the Haynes have now left Darwin, they encourage us to continue to pray for and support Nungalinya College, led by Dr Jude Long. Let's also remember to up hold Rob and Leanna as they transition into new roles caring for family, finding a church and starting a new chapter in their adventure with God.

"Well done, good and faithful servants"



Postcard from Broome

Greetings to Everybody at St. Matt's!! We have been here just over two weeks now and aren't in a hurry to come home!! The Lord has blessed us in so many ways. The people have welcomed and embraced us – feels like we have always been part of the fellowship. We

have already had several opportunities to meet with folk, one-on-one, and in various groups for formal and informal sharing and study. We have had meals out – Jackie has had ladies inviting her for coffees and lunches – Bill has been meeting with the assistant minister here, and a couple of guys for a coffee and chat. The church services are relaxed and with a nice balance of formal and informal – not too long either. Bill has preached at both so far, and attended the Peoples' Church (Indigenous mainly) in the evening.

Our house is great – 4 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, 3 loos, air-conditioning in every room, large outside area, two cars!!!! (told you we aren't in a hurry to come home). No need to use the hot water either – so far the cold tap has provided water at the right temperature for showering! We have signed up at the local pool and swim every morning. Red earth, turquoise sea, white sands, green vegetation, blue skies (they are hanging out for rain up here!!!).

Please pray:

- Give thanks for all the above!
- Jackie's weekly bible study (looking at 'Ruth') with the ladies on Friday mornings.
- Our weekly bible study on Tuesdays nights – we attend but don't lead.
- Wisdom in developing relationships with some needy people we have come across.
- God's leading in Bill's preaching: 9 of the 13 weeks we will be here – on John's gospel.
- Wisdom too in our sharing and support role with the assistant minister and his wife, Eion and Claire – it's their first parish and only the second year.



Bill and Jackie

Each month we highlight key aspects of how we seek to protect the health and safety of our ministry team; anyone participating in a church activity and visitors to our premises.

Bon appétit!

Christians believe that sharing food is an important part of fellowship. Being committed to good food hygiene and safe handling practices shows we care for one another and the wider community. We need to demonstrate this care whether we share food informally (in Home groups for example) or at more formal events, whether or not they are held on church premises. While this summary refers to our responsibilities for formal events, our full Food Safety policy¹ addresses a broader range of responsibilities.

Taking care with food

If you are coordinating a formal church activity in which food is served, you must make sure that someone exercises the role of Food Supervisor. The Food Supervisor is responsible for making sure that those who are handling, preparing, packaging and serving food follow safe food practice. Those preparing food for church at home also need to follow sound practice.

Clean scene and good hygiene

The kitchen and anywhere else where food may be prepared, stored or served must be kept clean. Spillages should be cleaned up immediately they happen. Equipment and utensils must be properly cleaned after each use. Floors and surfaces should be clean – before and after each event.

If you are suffering from an illness or disease, excuse yourself from handling food.

Otherwise please be sure that you:

- wash your hands before and during food handling, especially after any toilet or meal breaks and after handling rubbish bins
- keep any cuts and sores covered
- make sure hair cannot get into food you are preparing. Tie it back or use the caps provided in St Matt's kitchen. This applies to men as well!
- wear disposable gloves, where available
- store and prepare raw and cooked foods separately – do not use the same knife to cut raw food then cooked food
- throw out any food and drinks left in the fridge past their 'use by' date.

Managing food intolerances and allergies

Some people may be intolerant of or allergic to particular food additives or ingredients. Food Supervisors must make an effort to find out what ingredients are in foods being served so they can inform anyone who asks. Should anyone suffer anaphylactic shock, those able to provide first aid should note that EpiPens for children (up to 15) and adults are available in the kitchen at St Matt's. You can find instructions for recognizing symptoms and administering the treatment on the wall.

¹ Procedure 140 *Food Safety* can be accessed from the MattSafe binder in the foyer of the church.

Youth Update – Completely MAD!!

This year at St Matt's Youth we are keen to *make a difference!* Living to 'Make A Difference' isn't a new idea for St Matt's Youth, in fact it has always been an integral part of our goal to 'Know, Grow, Love, (and) Tell' others about Jesus. So in spite of the fact it's not a 'new' idea, making a difference is something we need to keep promoting through our weekly meetings and especially through our MAD groups. "MAD" is of course an acronym for 'Make A Difference' and youth in years 9-12 are strongly encouraged to participate in weekly Bible study groups (in addition to Friday Night Live) where they are faithfully taught and discipled by their leaders. This of course happens at Sunday 78 and Club 78 too, although it happens within the normal weekly program.

The primary reason for mentioning this is to facilitate opportunities for our youth to serve the broader community of St Matt's. There are lots of ways we can achieve this, however, without a little bit of communication and some connections being made it's difficult for our youth to know what they can do.

Over the coming weeks we'd like to invite people within the St Matt's community and particularly those in need, to sign-up to see if it might be possible to have some of our youth come and serve them in some practical way. Whether it be help around the house, or in the garden, or simply to facilitate an opportunity for a cup of tea and a chat, our youth are keen to serve you.

We look forward to making a difference sometime soon!
In Christ,
Geoff



Pray for those with special needs:

Jan , Damon , Roy ,
Margaret , Dudley , Brian ,
Betty , Carolyn (Betty daughter),
Jane , Cliff , John , and
Geoff & Margaret .





Matts4Kids News

The month's fly by and we are heading for our next pupil-free day. And once again we will be in need of helpers. Each pupil-free day we have around 80 children attend this service to the community. It is a whole day of fun, Bible teaching, craft, food and running around. The next one is on **Tuesday 30th April** and runs from 8:30am-3:30pm. Each room has a team leader and each group has a few age group leaders. The more the merrier. There are many tasks from helping setting up, registrations with Pat Sutton, kitchen help, praying on the day, making slices for the leaders' morning tea, providing loaves of bread for kids sandwiches, making gourmet sandwiches for the leaders, connecting with parents at pick up time, official photographer, musicians for the talk sessions. If you are interested in volunteering put your name down on the sheets that you will find at the back of the church at the end of March. (Safe Ministry trained personnel essential). If you have a specific hobby that you would like to share with these young ones and would be interested in running a craft session please let me know at jhellstrom@stmatts.org.au

Please pray:

- for John Carr as he begins to prepare his talks for the kids
- for the children who will be coming
- that we might be a blessing to the community
- for good weather and safety
- for there to be plenty of volunteers

Men's Katoomba Convention

22-23rd February 2013

This year at MKC, like every year, provided great bible teaching and fellowship for those who attended! **This year's theme was 'Follow Me', on what it means to be disciples of Christ.** The main speakers were Chris Wright, who is the International Director of Christian Organisation: Langham Partnership. The other main speaker was Leon Stead, Senior Pastor of Narrabeen Baptist Church.

On Friday night, Chris Wright's first talk was from John 13, where Jesus' example of washing his disciples feet is a model of serving and loving one another. That as we are freed by Christ, then we are secure in him, freed to love and serve, this being counter cultural especially to masculine pride.

On Saturday morning, Leon Stead's first talk was from Mark 1:14-20, as Jesus called his first disciples to be Fishers of Men. We were encouraged to not hook onto lifeless things, but join in God's mission of fishing for men, in evangelism.

Chris Wright's next talk was from Romans 14,15, where we love fellow Christians by mutual acceptance. That earnest, loving debate and disagreement can happen amongst believers, but must not mean being divisive or judgmental of our brethren.

'Tin Shed Time' (the session after lunch), had two punchy talks from Jim Ramsay and Tim Abbey. Jim challenged us to follow Jesus maturely at home, avoiding a 'Peter Pan' mentality, giving specific and pointed examples in how we should relate to wives, children, and parents. Tim exhorted us to follow Jesus at church, by attending regularly, putting energies into serving, mission and outreach.

All four speakers plus Chairman Luke Tattersall formed a panel to then answer questions men had generally, or arising from the talks. As usual, questions were answered wisely on their feet!

Leon Stead's final talk was from Mark 8, where Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him, requiring our humility, self-denial and readiness to suffer.

We hope and pray that the remaining two MKCs (March 1-2 & 8-9) prove challenging to all the men attending, just as this first one was for us!

In Christ,
Jon Phua

Wonderful Night of Prayer

On Tuesday evening 19 February around 70 members of the St Matt's family gathered to pray for the year ahead. Nearly all the congregations were represented. The night began with a reminder of our text for the year:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 'Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus'

and theme for the year:

'Radical Dependence: practising a persistent joy-full, prayer-full and thank-full life in Christ'.

The prayer was divided into three sections, starting with praise and thanksgiving as a whole group. We then broke into small groups of between 4-8 people to pray firstly for our St Matt's ministry and then we turned our focus to the global mission of the church, interceding for our link missionaries and other ministries, in which members of St Matt's are involved. **If you'd like a copy of the prayer notes from the evening there are copies on the table in the foyer.** I'm glad to report we started and finished right on time. But after we had finished it was wonderful to see so many people linger for informal fellowship all around the church. For Carol Gorman, one of our newer members this was her first full blown prayer meeting and as she left she told me, *'It was wonderful'*, and she had already asked my Sue, *'Why weren't there more people here?'* Well maybe next time. Let me encourage you to diarise our next three dates for parish wide focused prayer:

- **13 May** Monday Prayer Day 6am-9pm in 1 hour sessions in New Line Cottage Lounge
- **24 August** Saturday Prayer Breakfast 7.30-9.30am
- **13 November** Monday Prayer Day 6am-9pm in 1 hour sessions in New Line Cottage Lounge

I cannot stress enough how important and strategic are the prayers of God's people for the Sovereign purposes of God in the world. Let's do all we can to make 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 a reality in our corporate and personal lives. See you at prayer.

Steve Abbott



A Prayer Flowing out of Romans 9:1-6

In my recent message on Romans 9 I wrote a prayer to capture some of the challenges flowing from Romans 9:1-6. We then prayed this together during the sermon. I was asked to produce the prayer for publication, as it was thought to be helpful. Therefore, a copy is provided below.

Dear Father,

Break our heart for the lost as Jesus broke
his. Help us to say what he said, '*Not my will
but yours be done*' and mean it.

Have mercy on our lost family and friends,

(you may add your personal list of names here).

Soften their hearts to the gospel and draw
them to yourself.

Give us courage to share the gospel with
compassion and conviction, so that your
name is honoured in our, and their lives.

In Jesus name, Amen.

It would be my prayer that God would hear and answer this and we'd all see the wonderful fruit of lost family and friends coming to Christ in 2013.

In prayerful fellowship,
Steve Abbott

Summer Exodus



On the second weekend
Of February this year,
Young adults from St Matt's
Went to Toukley, you hear.

Mike Paget was there,
He opened God's word;
'be transformed by God's grace',
From Colossians, we heard.

Hanging out, praising God,
Sharing coffee and a chat.
As we danced we too asked,
"Why are you wearing that?"

We scavenged the town,
Ended up at the beach.
We prayed for our world,
Ate a sausage, and a peach.



We'd appreciate your prayers
For the young adults, oh yeah,
That we'd be changed by God's grace
Through action and prayer.



Community Groups 2013

Young Adult Community Groups kicked off this year at a Combined Night on the 6th of Feb. We had a meal together, had a time of prayer and praise, (ie singing) together. At the Combined Night, we also discussed Philippians 4, and the centrality of prayer, as our YA theme for the year is "**Transformation through Prayer and Action**". In Philippians we focused on the passage at 4:6 "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*" This verse reflects the emphasis on prayer we have at St Matt's this year - "Radical Dependence -practising a persistent joy-full, prayer -full and thank-full life in Christ". It also reflects our desire as a church to have Home Groups and Community Groups be the source of getting out and serving in the community, doing mission, and reaching out to the poor. So in this vein we also looked at James Chapter 1:22, "*do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says*". I am hoping that our Community Groups can get out and serve their communities, and people who are vulnerable and in need, and that this will be a great source of discipleship and maturity in their faith. I want them not merely to be informed, but transformed!

This year we have 9 community Groups which is one more than last year, and we are super pleased to welcome a swag of new leaders. This year we welcome Greg and Jenny Swanton, Nick Morrison and Jo Forbes, Simon Hill and Jess Morrison and Angus Belling to leading. And we are incredibly thankful to David and Julie Smith, Greg and Sue Wright, Jack and Zara Packham, Matt and Elise Hill, and Geoff Everett in continuing to serve in leadership. Please pray for these leaders throughout the year - for character, for love of God, for stamina, and for pastoral skills.

Please also pray for the groups as they settle into their dynamics. Pray that people will form easy friendships and begin to care for one another quickly. Pray especially for the Year 13s as they transition into Young Adults, as it is a difficult time for them spiritually.

In Christ,
Nerida



SAFE MINISTRY TRAINING WEEK

MARCH 9-16, 2013

HELP KEEP YOUR CHURCH A SAFE PLACE!

This week is for anyone involved in ministry to children and youth who need to do Safe Ministry training for the first time or need to update their training.

Safe Ministry training is part of the Diocesan Parish Administration Ordinance (Safe Ministry). It requires that everyone involved in ministry to children and young people must undertake Safe Ministry training every three years.

COURSES

- ▲ **Safe Ministry Essentials (Part A & B)** 4.5 hours
For those who have not completed any training.
- ▲ **Safe Ministry (Refresher)** 2.5 hours
For those who need to update their training.

COST

- ▲ **Safe Ministry Essentials (Part A & B)**
\$50 (\$40 for Anglicans)
- ▲ **Safe Ministry (Refresher)**
\$25 (\$20 for Anglicans)

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is required through our website www.youthworks.net/events.

TIMES

Mid-Week
7:00 – 9:30 pm Refresher

Saturday

9:00 – 11:30 am SM Essential Part A
9:00 – 11:30 am Refresher
12:00 – 2:30 pm SM Essential Part B
12:00 – 2:30 pm Refresher

If you can't make
Safe Ministry Week
in March 2013,
the next week will be
held in November 2013.
For more details visit
our website.

If you have experience in training or teaching you can become a Local Safe Ministry Trainer and run the Safe Ministry training in your church.

If you are already a Local Safe Ministry Trainer you are required to complete a Trainer Update seminar every three years.

For 2013 dates and full details on trainer accreditation visit our website.

LOCATIONS

	NORTH	SOUTH	GEORGES RIVER	WEST	WOLLONGONG
SAT 9 Mar	St Stephen's Anglican Church 2 Kenley Rd Normanhurst			St Stephen's Anglican Church 254 High St Penrith	Albion Park Anglican Church 253 Tongarra Rd Albion Park Engadine Anglican Church Waratah Rd Engadine
MON 11 Mar		St Luke's Anglican Church Cnr Arden & Varna Sts Clovelly			
TUES 12 Mar			St John's Anglican Church 102 Iberia St Padstow	Rouse Hill Anglican Church Cnr Windsor & Mile End Rds Rouse Hill	
WED 13 Mar			Holy Trinity Anglican Church 25 Sturt St Kingsford		
THURS 14 Mar	St Paul's Anglican Church 1 View St Chatswood				
SAT 16 Mar			All Saints Anglican Church 325 Stanmore Rd Petersham		

ENQUIRIES

For more information
contact Anglican Youthworks

P (02) 8268 3355
E training@youthworks.net
W www.youthworks.net/safeministry



60 Seconds with BJ Yap Communications Officer at St Matt's



What is your full name? Rebecca Lynne Yap.

Your nick name? BJ (It stands for Bec Johnson. Johnson being my maiden name).

Who is in your family? I've been happily married to Tim for 9 years and we have two daughters, Bella, aged 4, and Jess, aged 1½.

Where do you live? Baulkham Hills, which I know is not exactly close to St Matt's, but it's a lot closer than Turramurra where we lived when we first started attending St Matt's 5 years ago.

Where do you work? I've just been appointed as the Publications and Communications Officer right here at St Matt's. Previously, I was a Preschool teacher at Christ Church St Ives Preschool, but I am looking forward to a new direction in work, and a bit of a challenge!

Favourite food? I absolutely adore sweet food, especially chocolate. When dining out, I will often choose a restaurant purely on its dessert menu!

What do you do for fun? I go to the gym several times a week, and I particularly enjoy going to boxing classes. On the weekends I love spending time with my family and catching up with friends and their families. I also love a good sleep in, but they are very rare with two young children.

When did you find Jesus? I was very privileged to grow up in a Christian household and have been going to church all my life. I'm not sure of an exact date for when I became a Christian, it was more of an evolving understanding of what Jesus had done for me and what that meant for my life. Something that I still learn a bit more about every day.

What service do you currently attend? Tim, Bella, Jess and I currently attend the 10am service and have been doing so since July last year when we moved from the 5pm service.

What are you currently reading? I'm not really big on reading, but I have started using a bible reading plan on my phone that guided me through daily bible passages and sends me reminders if I don't keep up with it!

Words of Encouragement - "Don't underestimate the importance of HOME groups. These small groups are a great way to strengthen church relationships, deepen our knowledge of God through studying his Word, and support the body of Christ through prayer. If you're not in a group, what are you waiting for?"

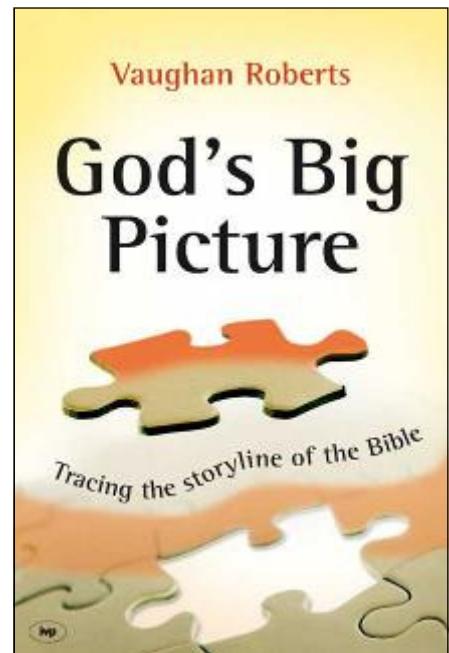
Book of the Month

March - God's Big Picture

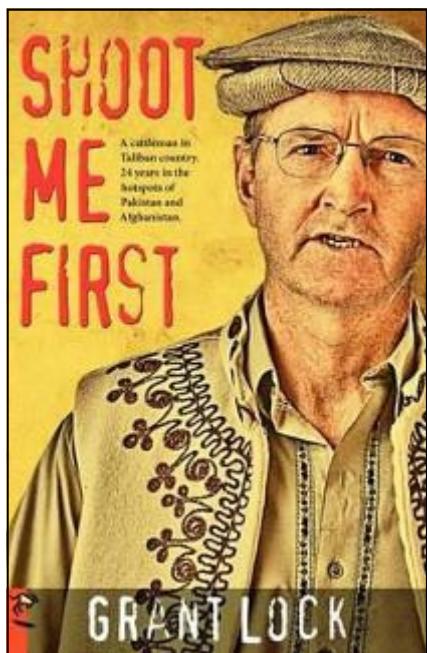
by Vaughan Roberts

Cost \$6

God's Big Picture is a book that all our SRE teachers have had to read as part of their on-going training. Vaughan Roberts clearly pulls together the Old and New Testament as one long storyline, not two. The New Testament completes the Old. God's plan for salvation was not a Plan B but Plan A from the very beginning. This is a very easy to read overview of the Bible which helps the reader understand the connection between each and every part of the Bible pointing towards the salvation in Jesus.



Review written by Jacki Hellstrom



April - Shoot Me First

by Grant Lock

Cost \$25

As former CMS missionaries Grant and Janna Lock's development work included supporting micro-hydroelectric systems, empowering Afghan widows and overseeing a massive eye-care program. They are in a unique position to talk in a practical way about how they see this part of the world.

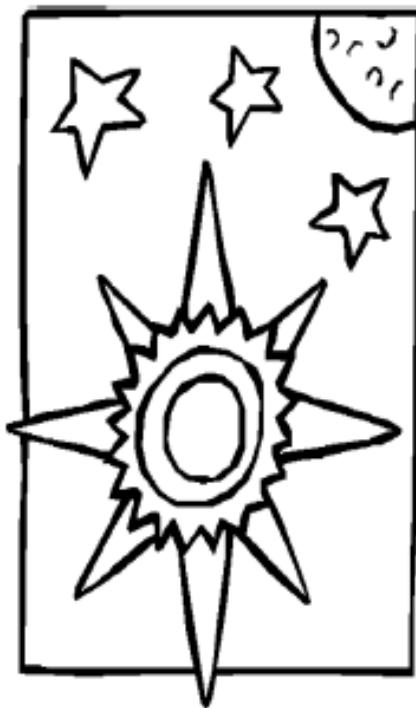
Shoot Me First is their personal account of how they served God and the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan for over 25 years. Grant talks of their experiences working in a very different part of the world and gives insights into the culture of the tribal territories that straddle the two countries. This is the home of the Taliban and a part of the world that continues to absorb so much of the world's attention and military endeavour. He tells it as he sees it in a very readable and compassionate way and gives insights into how he sees two of the world's major religions within the context of their work.

Review written by Mission Resource Team

Find-a-Word: God's Creation

Look around you and see all the things that God has made. Many of them are listed here. Find the words in the grid always in a straight line. There should be 12 letters left which spell out a short sentence.

G	N	R	E	F	L	O	W	E	R	F	I	S	H
C	L	O	U	D	S	T	N	A	L	P	S	E	S
S	O	C	S	E	E	R	T	F	O	P	T	V	W
P	N	K	H	T	R	A	E	I	L	B	O	A	A
I	A	S	K	Y	U	A	H	D	U	I	N	E	M
D	C	M	W	A	T	E	R	T	M	R	E	L	P
E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	H	O	D	F	S	A
R	O	D	E	V	E	E	G	G	U	S	L	W	O
S	V	R	E	S	R	E	V	I	N	U	S	D	H
T	E	N	I	F	C	S	A	L	T	T	A	U	O
O	S	L	L	E	H	S	L	Y	A	H	M	S	C
R	L	Y	S	E	K	A	L	A	I	A	G	T	E
M	H	C	A	E	B	R	E	D	N	A	L	I	A
C	A	V	E	S	L	G	Y	S	T	A	R	S	N



Beach	Feather	Leaves	Stars
Birds	Fern	Mountain	Stone
Butterfly	Fish	Night	Storm
Caves	Flies	Ocean	Sun
Clouds	Flower	Owls	Swamp
Creatures	Fruit	People	Trees
Daylight	Grass	Plants	Universe
Dust	Heavens	Rocks	Valley
Earth	Humans	Shells	Volcano
Egg	Lakes	Sky	Water
Elephant	Land	Spider	

**Answer from
leftover
letters:**

