



Matt's Matters

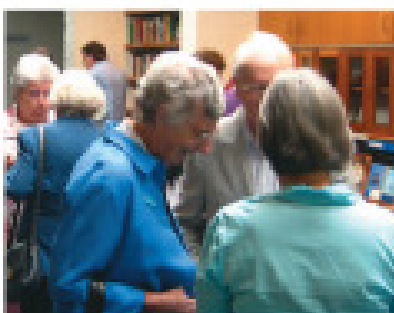
Your monthly update on what Matters at St Matt's.
Reflecting the generosity of Christ in and to our community.

May 2013



Preaching Calendar

5 May	Work is Love	Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-18 Titus 2:11-14 1 John 4:7-21
12 May	Work is Good	Genesis 1:26-2:20, Genesis 3:17-19 Matthew 12:1-14
19 May	Work and Hope	Romans 12:1-21
26 May	The Worker	Colossians 3:18-2 Titus 2:1-10



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.



Reflecting the generosity of Christ

St Matthews
Anglican Church

www.stmatts.org.au

SENIOR MINISTER'S PASTORAL LETTER

Dear sisters and brothers,

Well, Autumn has arrived and despite some gloriously warm sunny days the air is crisp and cooler at the beginning and end of each day. Our seasonal shifts may not be as pronounced as they are in the northern hemisphere but they are still evident for those who are observant. The changes of seasons are a reminder that life isn't static but as with nature, so with our bodies and our church, change and progress are realities. In this month's pastoral letter I'd like to focus on our church's change and progress. All churches go through a process of change but we want to make sure the change and progress are heading in the direction our Lord desires and not otherwise.

The first element of change and progress I want to comment on is a celebration of answered prayer. In the past two months we have welcomed Marilyn Young, BJ (Rebecca) Yap and Pauline Loughhead to our staff. We are now in a much better place, staff-wise than at the beginning of February. BJ is job sharing in the office with Kat Butler, although her specific area of focus is communications and publications. Marilyn and Pauline partner in Pastoral Care and Seniors Ministry with Marilyn in the overseeing role. All three new staff bring their own competencies and outlooks to their respective ministries, which will no doubt involve some changes. Please pray for them that they will find their feet quickly, serve joyfully and progress their ministries in effective ways. Pauline is moving her church membership to St Matt's so pray for her settling in and making new friendships of faith. So, welcome, Marilyn, Pauline and BJ. We are delighted to have you on our staff team.

The second and more expansive aspect of progress I'd like to highlight is for St Matt's to give expression to the unity we have in Christ. The importance of Christian unity or the common bond of fellowship we have in Christ and his gospel is a recurring theme of the New Testament. In Romans, we recently saw Paul's extensive concern to have the Jewish and Gentile house churches cooperating in love and fellowship (Romans 9-11; 14-15). Ephesians 2:11-22 reflects a similar concern for Gentile and Jewish believers to be one: *'Christ himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.'* However, the gospel hasn't just broken down the Jewish/Gentile divide as Galatians 3:28 so clearly demonstrates: *'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'* And our Lord himself can have the final word. In John 10:14-16 Jesus uses the image of Good Shepherd and sheep to describe his ministry to both Jews (*the sheep*) and Gentiles (*other sheep*) we read *'I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.'*

Now some of you may be asking: *‘Why place so much emphasis on this, surely we’ve got to expect that in a church with 8 weekly, quite different, congregations, diversity not unity is going to be a more common experience?’* Yet Jesus placed so much importance on believers giving expression to their unity in the gospel and in Christ. The High Priestly prayer of Jesus just before his death recorded for us in John 17, expresses a significant concern for his current disciples (17:11) and future disciples (17:20-23) being *‘brought to complete unity.’* Why is this so prominent in this expansive prayer for the community of faith? Well, for one thing, being one in fellowship has an evangelistic or missional role. So Jesus prays in John 17:21 *‘that all of them might be one, Father just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world might believe that you have sent me.’* And again, in 17:23 *‘... that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.’* There is something quite eye-catching and influential about observing people from different generations, cultures and ethnicities coming together in unity, sharing a common concern and love for one another. This is what the gospel of Christ can do.

In 2010, I had the privilege of attending the Lausanne Congress in Cape Town. At one point, on the platform were an Israeli Jewish-background believer and a Palestinian Arab-background believer, ministering side by side to the gathered sisters and brothers, united in a common bond of Christian faith. This was a testimony to divine grace and the work of the Spirit. At my table I was the only white Anglo Saxon, the rest of the table included two black Africans, one black African American, a Jamaican and a Chinese. Here we were studying the Word, praying and publicly worshipping together. Our unity was real and provided me with a wonderful reminder of the power of the gospel of Christ to change lives, break down diversity, build unity and fulfill the Abrahamic promises in Genesis 12:3 *‘...all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you [ultimately Christ the son of Abraham].’*

What does this mean for us at St Matt’s? Well certainly we don’t have the facilities to meet in one place at one time all the time. In practice we find that effective growth, in discipleship and in numbers, is assisted in many ways by having different service styles to meet the diversity of people in our community. Hence our services range from Traditional and Contemporary Anglican, Relaxed Young Family and Youth Focused, Asian and Chinese. However from time to time, there are sound biblical reasons for us to also give expression to our unity in Christ by gathering as a whole parish. Such occasions ought not to be seen as an intrusion to our regular weekly program but a significant dimension in our edifying, encouraging and evangelising ministries. In 2013 three such gatherings were built into our schedule:

1. Clean Up Australia – 3 March ‘Celebrate Creation Sunday’
2. Big Day In @ St Matt’s – All Day Saturday 18 May
3. Celebrate Twenty Thirteen – Saturday Evening 14 September

Obviously, Clean Up Day has come and gone but it was wonderfully climaxed with our congregational diversity reflected in the unity of church worship at Cherrybrook School. However, if you didn't participate in the first event I do hope you will make every effort to ensure you're engaged with the next two. I will leave commentary on Celebrate Twenty Thirteen for another day but the Big Day in is almost upon us so a little later in this 'Matt's Matters' I'll rattle all our cages in regards to this event.

Of course, in addition to these special unique activities we also have our regular quarterly prayer gatherings, which afford shorter, but no less important, opportunities for us to unite before the throne of grace, expressing our 'Radical Dependence' (our theme for the year) upon our one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our next quarterly prayer event is a Prayer Day on Monday 13 May with hourly prayer sessions from 6am-9pm in New Line Cottage. Let me encourage us all to participate and if you can't get along to New Line Cottage please pray for an hour at home at some point in the day. As the weather gets cooler may all our hearts grow warmer in dependent trust in God.

Your dependent sheep in the Good Shepherd's one flock,

Steve Abbott



*Sue and Steve on their recent holiday to New Caledonia
on board the Carnival Spirit*

PRAYER POINTS FROM STEVE

- Thank God for the full complement of Wardens, Parish Council, Treasurer, Auditor, Safe Ministry Officer and Parish Nominators at our Annual Church Meeting. Please pray for them all that we'll serve together with a united desire to see our church fulfill our biblical vision and values.
- Thank God for the appointment of Marilyn Young, our Part-time Pastoral Care and Seniors Minister, Pauline Loughhead, Part-time Women's Pastoral Care Minister, and BJ Yap Part-time Publications Admin Officer.
- However, please keep praying for suitable applicants for the following:
 - Part-time Chinese Minister (4 days)
 - Student Minister for Years 5-8 (1.5 days)
- Pray for our second quarterly prayer event, a Prayer Day on Monday with hourly prayer sessions from 6am-9pm in New Line Cottage. Pray for good attendance and a deepening sense of Radical Dependence (our 2013 theme) to mark our life together.
- Pray for 'The Big Day In' event on 18 May. Pray for the organising team, for a large attendance from across all our congregations and for Andrew Cameron as he prepares and then delivers his talks, as well as preaches on Sunday morning 19 May.
- 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 Theology of Work, that his messages 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 encourage us all to approach our work with attitudes which glorify God and advance the gospel.
- 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.

CALL TO PRAYER

PARISH WIDE PRAYER DAY

MONDAY 13 MAY



I was very encouraged by the attendance at our first parish wide prayer event when 70 or more members gathered from across our various congregations giving a very concrete expression to our 2013 theme '**Radical Dependence: Practicing a persistent joy-full, prayer-full and thank-full life in Christ.**' God through his servant Paul provides the biblical foundation for being a praying dependent community in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 '*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*' This is our text for the year, which I hope we're all committing to memory.

Now our second opportunity to put into practice our radical dependence as a whole parish is scheduled for Monday May 13. On this occasion we'll be running consecutive hours of prayer starting at 6am and concluding at 9pm in New Line Cottage. **Over the next two Sundays you'll have the opportunity to sign up to attend one or more hours of prayer.** In most cases a member of staff will lead the hour of prayer, but other members will also be involved. Prayer resources will be provided in the Cottage so all you need to do is turn up and participate. Participation can be either offering audible praise, thanksgivings and prayers, or listening silently and joining in the 'Amen' ('So be it'), at the end of each prayer.

Come before or after work, come for lunch or whenever, but do come. Let's give concrete expression to our dependence upon God as a local church and bring our ministries and the local and the global community before the throne of grace. If it is impossible for you to attend on this day I hope you'll set aside some time during the day to join in praying for St Matt's ministry and our missionaries, using our quarterly prayer diary (available in the foyer if you don't already have one). If your HOME or Community or MAD Group meets on this day I would encourage you to either offer to run one of the evening hours of prayer (6, 7 or 8pm) or ensure you give extended time to prayer on this particular evening.

Let's gather to praise, give thanks and pray and then stand back and see what our great, sovereign and loving Father will do in and through us in fulfillment of his desire that we be perfected in Christ and advance his kingdom purposes in the world.

A fellow growing in dependence disciple,
Steve Abbott

MISSION AID GROUP (MAG)

Thank you for your donations over the last two months. These were all packed ready for the Kingsgrove Depot at our meeting on the 17 April. I can now give you the final figure for the Art Show & Car Boot Sale. A cheque for \$6,900 has been sent to MAG, so thank you again and congratulations to everyone for making this possible. It was a great effort across all services from St. Matthews.

Suggestions for the month: sewing pins, needles, cottons, small sewing scissors, tape, buttons or anything suitable for a sewing kit, sets of 4 melamine type bowls, cups with handles (available Kmart) sets of 4 dessertspoons, tea towels (these help make up hospitality sets) and of course, anything from the green brochure is great.

Yours in Christ, Roslyn

I would like to thank very sincerely all at St Matt's who have prayed for me, visited, sent cards, made phone calls and given most generous practical support during my recovery from a minor stroke. Thanks to God and the wonderful care of many I am making a very good recovery. I'm so grateful to be part of the St Matt's Family! May God bless you all.

Frances Boland

CONFIRMATION AND BAPTISM

Information meeting will be held on
Sunday 5th May in Hall 3
from 5.00-6.00pm.

All parents of year 10 youth are invited to attend along with their children. The meeting is also open to older youth and adults who have not been confirmed and are interested in finding out more.

THE CIRCLE

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND BRUNCH

When: Saturday 11 May
from 9:30-11:30am

Where: Ash Brice's house

Cost: \$10 per mother & daughter

Please let us know if you're coming!

Contact Claire Stickley on 0407 883 822

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

The fundraising this year is helping Madeleine Noble get to Fiji for the Year 13 Anglican Youthworks mission trip. This involves serving for a month in Fiji by partnering with local Christians and churches to minister the gospel in many contexts, including orphanages, villages, schools and universities. Experiencing life first-hand in the homes of Fijian families, participating in hands-on community projects and working with the team to present two Fijian Youth Leadership Conferences. The books will be sold after all Sunday services, or order by calling Madeleine on 0435 139 030.



FORSTER MISSION TO COAST EC

From **7-11 July** we will be running a kids' holiday program called "Holiday Hang-out", with a view to making connections with the broader community.

We are having a meeting after the 7pm service on **Sunday 5 May** for 'expressions of interest' for youth, young adults and the possible inclusion of 'Team Parents'.

See Geoff Everett for more details.

WEDNESDAY CHURCH 9TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE at 11:45am

SPEAKER: RIGHT REV. HARRY GOODHEW
FORMER ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

COST: \$15

Tickets available from Wednesday 8 May

See Marilyn or Pauline for more details

SECOND SUNDAY

POTLUCK LUNCH

12 May, 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.

More information:

Colleen Cummings - 0403 239 321

John Hain - 9872 9965

EQUIP CONFERENCE

Women Meeting Jesus

Saturday 11 May

Darling Harbour Convention Centre

There are 2 conference times,
either 9am-3:30pm **OR**
2:30pm-8pm (9am women are attending
the 2:30-8pm session).

If you would like to go, please register on the website www.equip.org.au (before 9th May \$67).

Contact Ruth Middleton (9980 9914) for more information, or if you would like to join other St. Matt's women and car pool together.

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 the church office 9479 3700.

The Hills Area CWCI Committee

invites ladies to a **Saturday morning
Teach-in with Jo-Anne Berthelsen**

Date: Saturday 25 May 2013

Time: 9:30am - 12 noon

Where: Mary Mount Mercy Centre
36 David Road, Cherrybrook

Cost: \$10 - to be paid on the day

Contact: Glennis Saunders - 9484 5686

CWCI (Christian Women Communicating International Inc) is a worldwide Bible-based faith ministry which began in Australia in 1957.

Jenny Dixon



**BIG DAY IN
@ ST MATT'S
SATURDAY MAY 18**



'The Big Day In' is like an in-house family camp where we'll have a great speaker, great Bible talks, great fellowship, great food and a great day together.

Andrew Cameron from Moore College will be our speaker and will present three talks on the theme of **'Life Balance: Being Christian in the Marketplace and at Home'**. There will be break-out groups after each talk where there will be time to reflect both individually and corporately in mixed congregational groups on the issues raised by the three talks. We've arranged adequate time to hang out with each other over some excellent food and refreshments. There will also be time for singing, and a kids program for primary aged kids and a crèche for pre-school children, but teenagers will be encouraged to participate in the adult sessions. Registration is now open for this event and I would encourage you to fill in the form and pay early as there will be a limited number of places available given the size of our facilities. We don't want anyone not being able to come due to the cost so if finances are problematic please contact Steve directly.

Please be praying for this significant event in the life of our community that it will be transformational, deepening our love for each other and our commitment to keeping in step with the Spirit every day, whether we be at work, play or home. I look forward to sharing with many of you at 'The Big Day In' as we meet together as one flock, under one shepherd to worship, pray, learn and be *'built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.'* (Ephesians 2:22).

BIG DAY IN - OUTLINE FOR THE DAY

Time	Session
8:00am	Registration and light breakfast
9:00am	Introduction and Session 1**
10:45am	Morning tea
11:15am	Session 2**
1:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm	Session 3**
3:15pm	Afternoon tea
3:45pm	Wrap up
5:00pm	Start Dinner
** Sessions could include formal teaching times, informal break out sessions, interactive components and personal reflections	

Prices for the day

	Full Day Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner	Half Day Breakfast/Lunch or Dinner
Adult	\$45	\$25
Concession	\$35	\$25
Child (6-12)	\$20	\$10

Registration options

You can register by filling out a registration form and using either the cash or credit card payment options, or you can fill in your details and pay online at: <http://www.trybooking.com> and search for Big Day In.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED COURSE IN MAY/JUNE

Are you keen to know what Christianity is all about? Looking for answers for your questions about God and the Bible?

Then Christianity Explored Course is for you!

Everyone is welcome, you don't have to attend church or have a Christian background at all. The course involves looking at Mark's Gospel from the Bible, group discussion, watching short DVD segments from British Pastor Rico Tice who clearly explains Christianity, in an interesting way. Participants are not required to read the bible aloud, pray, sing or make any commitment. Feel free to ask any questions you like, or just listen and take it all in.

Duration: 7 Monday nights, starting Monday 6 May, ending Monday 17 June

Time: 7:45pm – 9pm

Location: New Line Cottage, 1 New Line Rd, West Pennant Hills
(Next to St Matt's church building)

Cost: Free – be our guest!

Facilitator: Jon Phua, Associate Minister of St Matt's

If you are a Christian at St Matt's, why not invite your friend, neighbour or family member to come along with you to the course? We all know how hard it is to go to something new, somewhere new, without knowing anyone, so you can say: 'I'm going, come with me as well'.

For more information or enquiries please contact:

Jon Phua

(w) 9479 3703 (direct)

(m) 0424 983 808



HOW TO READ THE BIBLE ... WELL!

We all read the Bible, but how do we read it?

Are we even aware of the “lenses” that we bring to it?

Do we just assume we will understand all of it straight off?

Where do we get background knowledge to understand it?

What do we do when we get to a bit that we don't understand?

In light of our month on the authority of Scripture, Chris Forbes and Nerida Peart are going to run a seminar on **“How to read the Bible ... Well”**.

Sunday Afternoon, 3-5pm, 2 June.

This is designed for new Christians and long time Christians alike. Come for a refresher, or come for the first time.

Review things like historical context, literary context, content, genre.

Practice reading and interpreting a passage from the Old and New Testaments.

DR CATHERINE HAMLIN AC HAS A NEW FUNDRAISING ENTITY IN AUSTRALIA

Australian churches and congregations have for decades supported the work of Dr Catherine Hamlin AC and her late husband Dr Reg Hamlin, curing obstetric fistula patients in Ethiopia, and now training local midwives to prevent this terrible injury. The work continues and your support is vital to its ongoing success.

Whatever you do for the least of these, my brethren, you do for me. Matthew 25:40

Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (Australia)
Ph 02 9440 7001 • hq@hamlin.org.au

hamlin.org.au



**Hamlin
Fistula
Ethiopia**



*The Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital
and the Hamlin College of Midwives*

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

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event of a serious emergency, we need a safe and orderly method to evacuate our buildings.

Orderly movement is vital

The most senior ministry team member present or the Activity Leader will give the instruction to evacuate, co-opt capable people to assist in managing the evacuation and keep everyone informed throughout the emergency. At the church, key procedures for St Matt's personnel helping to manage the situation are listed on cards permanently located at the front of the church (near the vestry) and in the kitchen.

Evacuation procedure

1. KEEP CALM

Remain seated until you are instructed to leave. Follow the directions from the Leader at the front.

2. LEAVE VIA THE EXITS

Take the nearest safe exit to leave the building. DO NOT go searching for other members of your family or group. Look for them in the Assembly Area.

3. GO TO THE ASSEMBLY AREA

At the church, this is the far corner of the car park near the noticeboard. If this area is too congested the Leader will advise that Koala Park is the Assembly Area. At other venues, a member of the ministry team will advise the location of the appropriate Assembly Area.

4. TELL THE LEADER IF ANYONE IS MISSING

Groups or families who travelled together should meet up and do a 'head count'. If someone is missing tell the Leader, who, if appropriate, will advise Emergency Services personnel (Fire or Police).

5. DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING

Wait at the Assembly Area until you are advised to leave or it is safe to go back inside.

Small group leaders

If you're leading a small group, especially a children's group, you are responsible for the welfare of those in your group. Co-ordinate your group's movement to the Assembly Area. Ensure that members of your group are re-united with parents or carers who are present, or make arrangements for them to be looked after until their family does collect them. Notify the Activity Leader if anyone is missing.

NOTE: Anyone attempting to cross New Line Road or Castle Hill Road should only do so at designated pedestrian crossings.

EQUITY IN MISSIONS GIVING

The wardens and Parish Council are fully supportive of the recommendation that St Matthews' ministry team, wardens, Parish Council, Strategic Mission Resource Team and all congregations support all our link missions equally, both in prayer and finances.

Individuals within the congregation always have personal connections and passions in relation to particular missions. Steve recognises Jan's point that leadership carries influence and agrees that there is a need to be really careful about how that is exercised in relation to his own passions.

We must also be careful in attempting to make comparisons of the mission giving using the figures in the annual financial report. The report does not include any gifts, and there are many, made directly by parishioners to specific missionary organisations. However, as St Matthews is, at this stage, the only outside financial supporter of Living Word Ministries and as the banking system in Zimbabwe is unreliable all donations are being managed through the St Matthews accounts. Consequently, all gifts to Zimbabwe must go via St Matthews (simply because there is no other viable mechanism available) and are included in the annual report. On the other hand, we have no knowledge of the overall level of giving to other organisations (such as CMS) from St Matthews. We only know how much was given to us to pass on to them (which is the figure in Column A of the report).

Whenever link missionaries return on Home Assignment or a story is told about a particular mission there is an increase in giving at St Matthews for that mission. The support for Zimbabwe was generated in response to the first-hand experience of parishioners. The trip was fully funded by the participants and Steve took annual leave to attend so there was no cost to the parish. The sum in 2012 Financial Statements was raised on the "Taste of Zimbabwe" evening held by the team on their return. A considerable portion of these funds came from people other than parishioners of St Matthews (such as work colleagues and family and friends of some of the team).

St Matthews is now giving 8.5% of the parish budget to missions – 3% to Anglicare, 1% to PHCCEA and 4.5% to be shared between our ten link missionaries. The Mission Finance Allocation Committee allocates this amount equitably each quarter. Now that the Living Word Ministries has been adopted as an official link mission they will receive a portion of that distribution.

The Strategic Mission Resource Team has established a working party to review the benefit and usefulness or limitations of short term missions and to consider how they might be deployed (if it all) in a way that reflects the needs and opportunities presented by all our Link Missionaries.

If anybody wants to contribute to the review, please contact a warden or PC member.

ST MATTS@SCHOOL – 9AM CONGREGATION

Easter Sunday, 31st March, saw another uplifting 9am Family Service in the West Pennant Hills Public School! All the children remained in the service with their parents, so all our format was at a child-friendly level. Songs, prayers and bible readings involved children and parents, the message from 1 Corinthians 15, was interactive and everyone enjoyed the St Matt's Easter show bags, including party poppers at the end rejoicing that Jesus is alive! We were glad to have a number of visitors with us, many of whom were friends and family of our regular people. Some have started to attend 9am since then.

We are excited at the way God has been opening the doors to further connections within the School in three main ways:

- The principal has kindly given permission for us to advertise St Matts@School within the School newsletter under Community Groups.
- She has also given permission for Christian friends of ours to run Prayer Meetings within the School, which we as school parents from St Matt's, will keenly support.
- Our friends in the P&C are inviting us to have a St Matt's stall in the School Spring Fair again in November.

Please give thanks to the Lord for these great answers to prayer, pray that He will keep granting us connections and opportunities to share our faith in Jesus. Pray that He will bring more school families to us, and for us to meet them!

In Christ,
Jon Phua
Associate Minister



PASTORAL CARE UPDATE

It has been a great privilege to serve the older people of St Matthew's in a more formal way in the last two months. It has also been wonderful to welcome Pauline Loughhead to the role of Pastoral carer with a particular focus on women.

Wednesday church continues to offer warm fellowship, worship and spiritual inspiration to around 30 of our older members, plus a couple of younger ones. The morning tea time is full of conversation and happy greetings. A very warm welcome is extended to anyone with free Wednesdays to come and join in. Transport is available to and from church for anyone needing help to come to the service.

In March, we started a Wednesday Home Group which has met and will continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month after church. We meet in NewLine Cottage, have BYO lunch together, share fellowship and prayer, and do a short devotional. Again, a warm welcome to join us there. The next Home Group will be on Wednesday 15th May.

On 8th April, 15 of our Lay Pastors gathered for a practical session on dementia, led by Fiona Li. Fiona gave us very helpful information, tips for visiting, and creative suggestions on how to care better for our older church members and others we know who have this debilitating condition. We are very grateful to Fiona for all her work in preparing and presenting this much appreciated in-service night.

The Pastoral Care resource group continues to meet monthly to discuss how we can best care for people in our church, particularly those with special needs. If you have suggestions about how we could do better at pastoral care at St Matt's, please contact Pauline or Marilyn.

ADVANCE NOTICE!! On Wednesday 5th June, we will be having our 9th Anniversary lunch for Wednesday church. The speaker will be Rev Harry Goodhew, former Archbishop of Sydney. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate our birthday, hear a great speaker, and share in fellowship. Tickets and more details coming soon!



Pray for those with special needs:

Jan , Damon , Roy ,
Kay , Margaret , Dudley ,
the Forbes family, Norma , Betty , Carolyn (Betty
daughter), Lindy ,
Jane , Cliff , the Sawyer family,
Geoff & Margaret and Sarah .





MATTS4KIDS NEWS

PUPIL FREE DAY

30 APRIL

What a great day we had at Pupil free day! 80 children came along to meet 10 animals from Taronga Zoo, play games, create a bed out of biscuits and icing for 2 tiny teddies and a teddy bear driving a mars bar car, decorating your own pencil case, have a paper plane competition and hear about the "need to know" of the Bible. Thank you to all our volunteers from the music team to the kitchen and everywhere in between. We are truly blessed to have such an opportunity to spread the gospel throughout our community. God absolutely answered our prayers for safety, weather and enough leaders for the numbers of children.

Now onto the next one...put it in your diaries **Monday 15th July!**

In His service, Jacki





We have had a lovely first term at Matts4Minis, welcoming back many families from last year and some new ones. Our topic this term has been '**Thank you God for people who help us**'. We have learnt about the farmer and we grew beans; the police officer and we made police badges; the fire fighter and we made fire engines out of nappy boxes. The highlight of the term was the trip to Beecroft Fire Station where we talked to the fire fighters, used the hose and got to sit in the fire engine!

Steve did a great kids talk for us in the church at Easter and we filled our Easter baskets with the eggs we found on our egg hunt. We return in week 2 of term 2 and we will be doing 'Numbers'. If you are interested in joining our playgroup or have friends or neighbours who are please contact me.

Kathy Romanis (0419 622 769)



Vintage TMF...

I'd like to begin by thanking you for your prayers and support, both leading up to and during TMF this year. A camp such as TMF involves months of planning and the mobilization of a large number of people.



Once again, God was remarkably kind to us and we had one of the best TMF camps, yet! The camp speakers did an excellent job of opening God's Word, the weather was outstanding and (once again) the combined efforts of the team produced an amazing result. Furthermore,

lives were transformed and changed by the gospel, with a number of kids committing their lives to Christ.

I would especially like to highlight the role Lachie Murray played this year, directing camp for the first time. Lachie was completely on top of the program, aware of the arrivals and departures of leaders and youth in addition to striking the perfect balance between being up-front directing events and being behind the scenes.

In Christ, Geoff.



RIDE FOR REFUGEES

On the 13th of April, a group of 32 riders set out for Ride for Refugees to raise awareness and support for refugee projects around the world. The individual distance each member of the team rode varied from 25km to 100km, however we were all united by our strong desire to see the fundraising from this event assist in bringing justice to a marginalised and disadvantaged group. This was demonstrated financially through the \$4, 956 raised by the St Matt's team.

Despite my initial apathy to the event and to the refugee issue as a whole, I was amazed at how God used this event to make me aware of the importance of social justice in a Christian context. I was convicted that social justice does not revolve around our own personal altruistic ambitions, but rather a tangible way we can extend God's love to others in Australia and abroad. God's purpose for His people is clear in Exodus: "Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt" Exodus 22:21. His desire for us is to do the same:

"And what does the require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8.

Jono Swanton



LINK MISSIONARIES UPDATE

LETTERS OF THANKS FROM LINK MISSIONARIES FOR 'GIFT DAY' & MISSION GIVING

Dear Wardens and Parish Council,

We want to thank you and the people at St Matthews for your overwhelming generosity in providing funds towards the purchase of a car. A car makes our life and ministry here less stressful (sometimes juggling two kids and shopping on a rickshaw is just too much) but also enables us to visit some people we previously couldn't, due to lack of transport.

We are so thankful for your incredibly generous support for the work here in South Asia over many years. Looking forward to seeing you all later in the year.

In Him,

Mike, Jo, Matthew and Emily

Dear St Matt's,

Thank you very much for supporting my theological studies at Year 13 this year. Your generosity blew me away! I'm looking forward to our mission to Fiji in June. Tell you all about it when I get back.

Many thanks again,

Mads Noble (Anglican Youth Works Year 13 student)

To all members of St Matthews,

Thank you for the most generous gift for the SIM project which is helping women learn about the Bible.

This is a most encouraging result, the news of which I have already shared with Elspeth Slater, the missionary who began the Equipping Women project (which is the one for which I had requested St Matts' support). Elspeth is now back in Melbourne, but recently visited Burkina to encourage the women who deliver the training, as well as some of the women's groups who receive it. Funds to continue were particularly low at the time, so Elspeth was 'over the moon' when I called her today to tell her of the generous gift from St Matt's. This project is really seeking to strengthen the church by growing women in their understanding of the Bible and how to apply it to their lives, families and communities. It is having a significant impact, so that the men are asking for similar teaching! They have seen the difference in their wives and are very appreciative too.

Jenny Fallon

Dear Friends at St Matthews,

We have received your cheque raised on the Gift Day 2012. It is quite overwhelming, and we are rather dumbfounded. We are chiefly thankful to God through His provision of people like yourselves, in taking care of our needs and expressing fellowship to us in this way.

Putting money aside for a replacement car is something we would not normally be able to do. And of course, the need could arise quite quickly and unexpectedly. Therefore we will place it in a safe account where it will remain dedicated to the purpose for which it was given.

Sometimes we feel unworthy of the attention, prayers and offerings given to us from faithful supporters. Nevertheless, we are sure the Lord has us all in His hand as we build up the body of Christ and care for one another in so many ways.

Please convey our appreciation to the leadership and the people in the church that they may be aware of the blessings they have brought.

Yours faithfully,

Lindsay and Lyn Whybrow

Dear Friends at St Matthews,

The Diocese of the Northern Territory and the parish of Numbulwar is most grateful for your generous donation for the Numbulwar building project. This is an enormously helpful donation. Through the generosity of God's people we have been able to fix the wiring on the Numbulwar Church and install lights and fans. This is so important for services in the tropical heat. We have patched the roof but as soon as the roads are open to trucks, we hope to completely fix the roof after wet season.

We have had a builder fly out to scope the extent of the building repairs and we remain confident that God will supply all that is needed and your gift has been part of that supply.

Rev Peter Gundhu has been so encouraged at receiving this support. He and his wife have prayed with us for a long time for this help and so we thank you again for partnering with us. May God bless each of you for this kindness.

Yours in Christ's service

Bp Greg Thompson

Bishop of the Diocese of the Northern Territory

Just wanted to say a big fat thank you for your crazy generosity and partnership in the gospel! We received the cheques you sent to help pay for our kids church dinners and the hall rent for our youth group. Please pray for many young people in our region to meet Jesus!

God bless,

Chris Ekins (on behalf of Coast EC, Forster)



Greetings again to Everybody at St. Matt's!! By the time you get to read this we will be home, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers and interest in what we have been doing and ask you to pray for a few things.

The three months have flown by. Our weekly routine has involved a swim every weekday at 7.00am – Bill has been swimming a km and Jackie ½ km – we have enjoyed the fitness. Jackie made friends there with an 83 year-old Catholic sister who came to Beagle Bay Aboriginal Mission in 1949 – the Order allowed them to speak to one another only 5 times a year – they were allowed home once in their lifetime and that only after 15 years. Fortunately her family came to visit her!! She invited us round for afternoon tea – a remarkable lady.

We thank the Lord for the opportunities he has given us to meet with and care for many of the people here. Both one-on-one with men and women, and in Jackie's ladies bible study, folk have opened up about varying degrees of hurt, pain, and confusion in their lives. Services here have generally been good – the music leaves a bit to be desired at times as it is all CD songs and hymns – you are stuck with the style and singing of the artists or groups!!

The Indigenous Peoples' Church at night has been a new experience – most can't read, or read well, so there's a lot of singing (a group plays guitars and a violin), exhortations, prayers, and a sermon.

We are home for 6 weeks and then drive back across to Exmouth in WA (about as far away from Sydney as you can get) where we will be spending 6 months looking after the parish there.

Please give thanks for:

- * The opportunities we have had to share God's love, grace, and sufficiency with people.
- * The kindness and friendship we have been shown by the people here, and the fellowship we have enjoyed with them.

Please pray:

- * That those who shared their lives with us will rest in the grace and sufficiency of God.
- * That Tim and Kathy, the rector and his wife, will return from their extended leave refreshed.
- * That we will get done all we need to do in preparation for Exmouth – and spend 'quality' time with our sons, their wives, and grandkids.
- * That the Lord will raise up a new rector (self-funded!!) for Exmouth.

Bill and Jackie.

BREAKING NEWS

Steve McKerney, the AFES Staff worker at Murdoch University in Perth, along with his team at Murdoch Christians United, has just run, ***Jesus Month***, consisting of four short talks for the 'curious.' Please pray the seed of the gospel planted in faith will grow in the hearts and minds of uni students who attended.

Mike and Jo, with CMS in South Asia, write about upcoming elections and the reaction against fundamentalism by a 'people movement' resulting in both sides holding almost daily rallies with each side attracting 200,000-500,000 people! In a country of great poverty, corruption, pollution and unemployment as well as political instability, Jo and Mike see this as an opportunity for people to be drawn to the Son as happened 40 years ago. Pray that it happens again! Pray too for good leaders and for peace leading up to the election.

Daniel and Dominica Lai with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Daniel has recently been travelling to Hong Kong, speaking in Ghana and on a mission trip to Senegal. Daniel wrote this note from Sydney airport: "I am boarding at the gate now for the CCCOWE's conference in Africa. Dominica told me that her mum has just been admitted to hospital tonight and may need blood transmission. Appreciate your prayers." Pray too for Daniel's family time with his 91 year-old father when he stops over in Hong Kong, for Dominica's complete return to health, and for Nathaniel & Hannah, in their final year of university.

William & Grace Eyika, at Dagoretti Corner, Nairobi, Kenya, ask for prayer for three important projects already underway:

The Ulu Project, 2012-2022, that it will witness to the Maasai tribes who are globally marginalised and are nomadic, like the Aborigines in Australia.

South Coast Project, 2012-2022, that will witness to Muslim, animist and atheist rural community that marry off girls at 10yrs. We have purchased 38 acres of land here with plans for a hospital, a vocational centre, primary school, high school, staff and guest houses and churches, Bible School, etc.

Uganda Project - Completion of the church building and bible school by 2014.

Small groups tackle mighty prayer – Finally in breaking news, a number of small groups have committed to pray for one of our link missionaries whenever they meet. If this is something your group would like to do, please contact Debbie Bunn (debbie_bunn@optusnet.com.au)

"Since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives" (Colossians 1:9).

A MESSAGE FROM ROB AND LEANNA HAYNES

Dear Steve, Sue and parishioners of St Matt's,

We want to thank you so much for your support, generosity and partnership in the gospel of Christ. You are dear to us in so many ways and we will never forget our times with you and your interest in CMS's ministry with Aboriginal people in Northern Australia. Your commitment has been a constant source of encouragement.

We wish you God's rich blessings as you continue to minister both locally and beyond.

With our love in Christ,

Rob and Leanna Haynes.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:4-8

PENNANT HILLS & CHERRYBROOK CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (PHCCEA)



The Eastwood Uniting Church Musical Society is staging a production of Narnia, based on C S Lewis's tales and they have offered us some charity tickets to the 7:30pm performance on Saturday 25 May. That's the weekend after our "Big Day In". Part of the price of the tickets goes to support the work of the PHCCEA. We have secured twenty tickets for St Matthews and they include some very good seats. If you would like to join us contact John Hain (9872 9965) or Jenny Gibbs (9484 3377). Adults \$22. Pensioners \$16. Children (16 or under) \$12.

Our annual appeal will be launched this month. It takes about a quarter of a million dollars to keep this work running each year. It's a big sum, but spread between 13 churches, It is quite "do-able" as our almost thirty year history shows. We aim to raise half of this sum in the annual appeal and raise the other half throughout the year though regular donations. This money keeps our two teachers, Graham and Peter teaching Christian Studies (Scripture) in our two local high schools - a great ministry. Please give generously.

Our annual dinner is coming up on Saturday 31 August. Mark the date in your diary now. Come and learn about the work and what God is doing in our schools. It's exciting. This year our hosts will be Hillcrest Uniting Church. More details will be available later.

*Jenny Gibbs and John Hain.
St Matts Reps.*

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

Kairos is an interdenominational Christian ministry to and for prison inmates (Kairos Inside), their families and those affected by someone in prison (Kairos Outside) and juvenile offenders (Torch Program).

The principal purpose of Kairos is to “go and make disciples of all nations...” in the one particular environment of prison and to share with residents, juvenile offenders and their families, the unconditional love of God in Christ, as presented in the Gospel.

It’s been my privilege along with Pamela Webster to be part of the Kairos Inside team at Dillwynia Women’s Correctional Centre, South Windsor. The team of 30 is made up of Christians from varying church backgrounds across Sydney.

Each year we run a four- day “Short Course in Christianity”. This year it is being run on 14-17 May. Residents apply to come, with the Chaplain and General Manager making the final decision. We have 18 participants with wide differences in cultural and social backgrounds and Biblical knowledge. We show the women unconditional love while sharing the gospel through a series of talks and discussions. The team shares their own struggles they have experienced in life and how God has acted in their lives. Gradually, barriers are broken down as we get to know each other.

A team at Windsor Baptist Church prepares all the meals for the 4 days and brings them inside for us. The food is beautiful – a popular reason for wanting to do Kairos!

The 4 days end with a Closing Ceremony where the women are invited to share what they’ve experienced with 20 Christian guests present. This is often very (joyfully) emotional as we see God’s Spirit at work in these women’s lives.

Each Sunday afternoon we run a “Journey” program as a follow up to the 4 days. It is open to anyone else who wishes to come.

For many of these women being in prison is the lowest point in their lives and a time of serious thinking about the purpose of life and their future. We are honoured to be trusted by them as we share Christ.

Lyndell Nixey



*Dillwynia Women’s Correctional Centre,
South Windsor*



60 SECONDS WITH DON WILLIAMS



Don is our new Safe Ministry Representative.

The role of the Safe Ministry Representative is to assist the St Matthews parish to comply with the safe ministry requirements of the Sydney Diocese of the Anglican Church.

Name: Donald Williams (but everyone calls me Don).

Family? My wife Gwyn and I have eleven grandchildren in the families of our four daughters.

Where do you live? Home has been in Castle Hill for the last three years. Before that, we were in Cherrybrook.

Work? I am an Emeritus Professor of the University of Western Sydney where, many years ago, I was Dean of the Faculty of Education and Languages.

Favourite food? My wife's cooking.

What do you do for fun? Computing.

When and how did you find Jesus? At Crusader meetings at a secondary boarding school in Brisbane.

When did you start coming to St Matthews? In 1985, so we are currently in our 28th year!

What service do you attend? Gwyn and I currently attend the 10am service.

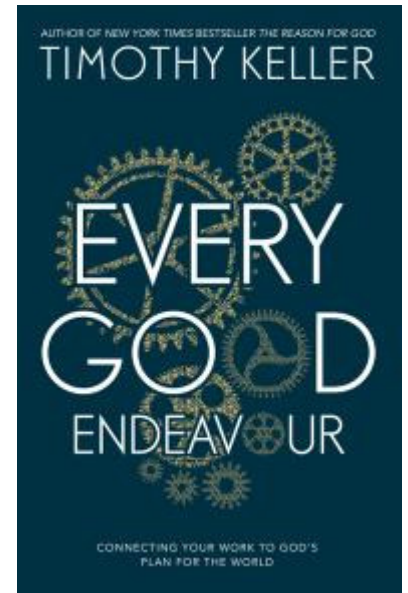
What are you currently reading? Safe ministry literature so that I may represent the parish effectively! I have yet to complete a training course conducted by the Diocese for parish representatives.

Any words of encouragement? The Anglican Church has developed detailed strategies for safe ministry. It is my prayer that children (and adults) will enjoy a safe environment at St Matthews as we implement those strategies.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

EVERY GOOD ENDEAVOUR

TIMOTHY KELLER



Most of us spend a huge amount of our time working – whether in paid work, or in unpaid, but equally arduous domestic, child, or caring work. Often we have many questions about our work and how it relates to our faith. We wonder whether God cares what we do for work? Does he care how we work? Does our work have anything to do with his mission in the world if it is not “full time paid ministry”?

Tim Keller has grappled with all the questions we have with work, and provided lucid, clear, biblical answers to all of them. He outlines the goodness of work, its inherent dignity under the purposes of God established in Genesis, and goes on from there. He also explains the impact of the fall on work – explaining why we can find it frustrating and hard. He then reframes how we think about work so we can understand how it fits into serving God. He (and the Centre for Faith and Work at Redeemer) try to reorient peoples attitudes to their work in 10 ways (*Every Good Endeavour* (page 254)):

From ‘individual salvation’ to ‘the gospel changes everything (hearts, community and world)’.

From ‘being good’ to ‘being saved’.

From ‘cheap grace’ to ‘costly grace (awareness of our sin)’.

From ‘heaven is “up there”’ to ‘Christ will come again – to this earth’.

From ‘God is value-add to us’ to ‘in God’s providence, we could contribute to his work on earth’.

From ‘idols of this world’ to ‘living for God’.

From ‘disdain of this world’ to ‘engaged in this world’.

From ‘bowling alone’ to ‘accepting community’.

From ‘people matter’ to ‘institutions matter’.

From ‘Christian superiority’ to ‘God can work through whomever he wants’.

This is a must read book!

**There will be a “Book Club Night” to discuss the book on
Monday 27 May at 7.30pm.
Co-hosted by Nerida Peart and Colin Noble.**

Find-a-Word: Prayer

All these listed words are used in prayer or are about prayer. Find the words in the grid always in a straight line. There should be 12 letters left which spell out three words about prayer in Matthew 7:7.

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



Adore
Almighty
Amen
Commands
Confess
Dear
Faith
Father
Forgive

God
Heart
Heavenly
Holy Spirit
In Jesus' Name
Obey
Petition
Please
Prayer

Seek
Silent
Sorry
Thank You
Thanksgiving
Thoughts
Worship

**Answers
from
leftovers**

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

Sudoku

We know that lots of you like Sudoku, and we haven't had one this year.

The numbers 1 to 9 have to fit in each row, each column and in each box.

Parish Prayer Day

Monday 13 May 6am-9pm

Please sign up on the clipboards in the foyer or call the office.

A part of our 2013 theme '**Radical Dependence: Practicing a persistent joy-full, prayer-full and thank-full life in Christ.**'

'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.' 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

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 3703
Young Adults Minister	Nerida Peart	0404 100 844
Youth Minister	Geoff Everett	9479 3704
Asian Minister	Kenny Liew	0448 515 408
Children's Minister	Jacki Hellstrom	9479 3700
Pastoral Care/Seniors	Marilyn Young	9479 3700
Pastoral Care	Pauline Loughhead	9479 3700
Church Administrator	Kat Butler	9479 3700
Communications	BJ Yap	9479 3700

St Matthews Anglican Church

T: 02 9479 3700 F: 02 9479 3777

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