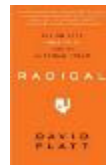


Book of the Month **RADICAL** by David Platt

During my Long Service Leave I read two books by David Platt, 'Radical' and 'Radical Together'. David is the Baptist Senior Minister of a Mega-church with a difference in Birmingham Alabama. I say 'with a difference' for David is challenging the middle class American church dream by placing it alongside the disturbing teaching of Jesus about discipleship. Reflecting on the images he saw in his church and the pictures still fresh in his mind from mission trips in impoverished persecuted churches overseas, David writes, *'I could not help but think that somewhere along the way we had missed what is radical about our faith and replaced it with comfortable. We were settling for a Christianity that revolves around catering to ourselves when the central message of Christianity [from Jesus] is actually about abandoning ourselves.'* I was deeply challenged by these books and I cannot recommend them strongly enough. So this month 'Radical' is our book of the month, get a copy, read it carefully with the Scriptures open and pray for an openness and courage to face the radical claims of Christian discipleship as taught by Christ Jesus. You might never be the same again!

Steve Abbott



Cost: \$ 14.95



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

February 2012



February 2012 Preaching Calendar

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| 5 | Radical Discipleship | Luke 9:51-62 |
| 12 | Radical Priorities: Choosing the best before the good | Phil 3:7-16 |
| 19 | Radical Grace: God's generosity lived in and worked out | Eph2:1-10 |
| 26 | The Radical Word: The Word of God does the work | John 15:1-17 |

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 9.45am	Chinese Service; Cherrybrook Public School
Sunday 11.15am	Asian Congregation; Cherrybrook Public School
Sunday 5pm	Contemporary Service
Sunday 7pm	Contemporary Service
Wednesday 10.30am	Traditional Anglican Service

Ministers - All members of the Congregation

Senior Minister	Steve Abbott	0417 410 596/9479 3700
Associate Minister	Jon Phau	9479 3700
Young Adults Minister	Nerida Peart	9479 3702
Youth Minister	Geoff Everett	9479 3700
Chinese Minister	Ken Wong	0425 272 755/9479 3700
Asian Minister	Kenny Liew	0448 515 408
Children's Minister	Jacki Hellstrom	9479 3700
Pastoral Care/Young Women	Karen Braga	0401 933 264
Pastoral Care Wed/Thurs	Bill France	9479 3700
Church Administrator	Kat Butler	9479 3700
Communications Co Ord	Tina Piccione	9479 3700

St Matthews Anglican Church

T: 02 9479 3700 F: 02 9479 3777

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



If you are feeling new to St Matthews, please fill out a Communication Card found in the church or hall or at the back of the school hall. One of our ministry team will be in contact with you soon. Stay for morning tea/supper after the service to meet others who have made St Matt's their spiritual home.



www.stmatts.org.au

Senior Minister's February 2012 Pastoral Letter

Dear sisters and brothers,

Let me say welcome to anyone who has recently decided to attend St Matt's. We are absolutely delighted that you have joined us and we look forward to getting to know you in the near future. Please fill in one of our "Welcome to St Matt's" flyers, which are in the foyer and hand it to a staff member or person with a name tag and someone from St Matt's will be in touch in the near future. Well, February marks the end of school holidays and the beginning of our regular ministry activities for 2012. I hope the January summer holidays have afforded you a break from routine and that you are now ready and excited about what the Lord will do through our daily Christian ministries at work and in our local neighbourhood, as well as through the collective ministries of St Matt's.

I'm very excited about the beginning of our 'Radical Together' series, which commences on 5 February and runs through to the end of March, 8 weeks in all. I'm praying that God, through his Holy Spirit, will work in us both individually and corporately, so that we grow in our depth of understanding of being disciples of Jesus and stronger in actually living out our discipleship in work and word. This accords with our overall theme for 2012: *'Radical Discipleship: going deeper in order to grow stronger in Christ.'* I hope that as the year progresses this will become something we all embrace and memorise, making it our own personal catch cry.

A booklet with the 8 studies has been produced and there is a copy for every member of St Matt's. If you haven't taken yours already please take one or if you have misplaced it, feel free to take another one. They are available in the church foyer. Let me reiterate what I have written elsewhere: these studies, while primarily designed for use in a small group context, can be used for individual reflection on the Bible passages and personal application. I invite all of us to take up the challenge of doing these studies through February and March. Alongside these 8 studies, it would also be a wonderfully edifying and encouraging activity to buy and read 'Radical' David Platt's first book. The studies are primarily based on his second book 'Radical Together'. Several of our HOME Group leader's have read 'Radical' and have found it extremely helpful and challenging. Platt's 'Radical' is in fact our book of the month and at \$14.95 is unbelievably good value. We have several copies on our bookstall so let me encourage you to buy yours today.

Last year we had our inaugural 'Celebration of St Matt's' event at Cherrybrook Community Centre on a very hot, sweltering February day. Despite the heat, it was a terrifically encouraging 'whole parish' activity where we fellowshiped across congregations, ate great food, praised God and celebrated some of the blessings of 2010 plus looked forward with anticipation to 2011. Our second such event is on Saturday 25 February (5.30-8pm) and is well advanced in planning. The team, who are pulling it together, have come up with a name for these annual events, which is simply: 'Celebrate'. So this year it will be 'Celebrate Twenty Twelve'.

The purpose for these annual occasions remains the same. We want to celebrate God's generosity to St Matt's throughout the past year and also explore God's vision for our future. However, the shape of each annual event will be different so there is no reason to say to yourself, '*Been there done that*' and decide not to come. This year we are meeting at Roselea Community Centre in Beecroft, which is air conditioned. Also the food will be supplied free of charge. It will be served as finger food, a little like at a cocktail style reception, where we stand or sit, fellowshiping with all across our 8 congregations. We'll hear some great personal stories, spend time praising God for his goodness towards us. I'll give a brief vision message as we look ahead to the rest of 2012 and beyond. There will be a crèche for the little ones and a children's program available after the food service is finished. Towards the end of the evening there'll be the opportunity to make a thank offering to assist with covering the costs of the evening so please come prepared for this. We have so few occasions when all our congregations can join under one roof, fellowship together and get a better idea of the rich and wonderful diversity of our Christian community, at St Matt's. Don't miss out. Put this date in your diary and encourage others from your congregation to come.

Finally, let me say a huge welcome to our four new staff, who commenced ministry with us in 2012: Ken Wong (Chinese Minister), Geoff Everett (Youth Minister), Jon Phua (Associate Minister – 9am & 5pm) and Bill France (Pastoral Care Minister – 2 days). In addition from 1 March, Karen Braga will take on an additional day of Pastoral Care among our women. Leigh Zadro returns as a Student Minister and is joined by Ben Hodgkinson. Both are studying in 2012 at Sydney Missionary Bible College. Jon Carr is taking time out from his University Studies to explore ministry and will be serving as a Children's and Youth Trainee Minister for four days a week. Also, Briana Baltrop and Jono Morrison will be participating in Youthworks Y13 programme and will serve in ministry at St Matt's. We welcome you all to the team and pray God will make 2012 a year of tremendous blessing for all of you and you a blessing to St Matt's as you serve among us.

With excitement and anticipation,

Steve Abbott

Steve's Prayer Requests:

- ♦ Thank God for a full complement of ministry staff. Please pray for them as they settle into ministry at St Matt's and that the whole staff team will quickly become a cohesive and effective team. Pray for my wise and godly leadership of the team.
- ♦ Please pray that our 'Radical Together' preaching and study series throughout February and March will truly deepen our grasp of what is involved in following Christ and strengthen our resolve to follow Jesus no matter what and confess him no matter who we're with. Pray also that this response will flow from a deep gratitude not guilt or duty.
- ♦ Pray for all the preaching teams' preparation and delivery of their messages. Pray for creative, clear and concise messages, which will communicate the radical nature of discipleship with authentic passion and conviction.
- ♦ Pray for the 'Celebrate Twenty Twelve' parish event on 25 February; that everything will run smoothly, that many will attend and be encouraged and strengthened in their faith in and their love of God.
- ♦ Pray that Sue and I will be disciplined in our reading of the Scriptures and prayers.



MISSION AID GROUP (MAG) February 2012



Welcome to the start of our 2012 activities for MAG. Firstly we have our annual meeting on the 15th February at 1pm in Hall 1. This year we are very pleased to have Kees and Cindy Bootsma as our guest speakers. They have been missionaries in Tanzania until very recently and will speak about their life and work there. It is wonderful to be able to have visiting speakers that know about, and are in receipt of the containers we send over. We extend a very warm invitation to any parishioners who would like to hear the end result of all our endeavours. A date to put in your diaries: We will have the "SYDNEY MALE CHOIR" visit us for a concert on the 29th April. They are a wonderful choir and well worth hearing. More details later. Invite your friends. Suggestions for Feb. for donations: Any stationery items: exercise books, biros, pencils, erasers, reams of computer paper, etc. They, hopefully, may still be on special. Other items the Kingsgrove Depot has asked for are children's toothpaste and toothbrushes, adult toothpaste, bath towels, face cloths, plain personal soap, dessert spoons, shoe brushes, polish and black laces. If there are any knitters out there, I would be very grateful to have some knitted matinee jackets to put in the Baby Kits. These as always are only suggestions for you, we are very grateful for any donations and thank you for all that has been donated over the past year.

Roslyn Dearden.

Message from Pat Gould.....

Dear Friends

After 36 years at St Matthew's I am leaving as I am going to live on the south coast of NSW – in a small suburb called Towradgi. I will miss all of you and I am very sad to leave. I have received wonderful Bible teaching and have been blessed in being involved in ministries working alongside many of you. I pray you will continue to reach out to non-Christians and keep focussed on knowing God through His Scriptures.

Yours in Christ,

Pat Gould

St Matt's Diary and Notes



RE-COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Morgan and Anna Powell's Re-Commissioning Service will be on 12 February at 2.30pm at St Matt's followed by Arvo tea (bring a plate). . Anyone who would like to help with afternoon tea please contact either the office or Jenny Gibbs (94843377).

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA

Cleanup Australia is scheduled for 4 March 2012. St Matt's will once again be involved and seek your participation. Look out for sign up sheets in the foyer soon. If you'd like to assist with planning please contact Steve Abbott.

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

12 February 12.30—2.30pm:

If you usually eat alone on a Sunday and wish to join with others for lunch and fellowship, you are invited to our 'Second Sunday Potluck Lunch' in NewLine Cottage. Tea and coffee will be supplied and it would be appreciated if you could bring finger food to share.

Further details:

Pattie Mutton (9484 0174)

SUMMER EXODUS

Weekend 10 - 12 February

Young Adults Camp

For more information contact Nerida Peart 9479 3700.

KATOOMBA MEN'S COVENTION

Weekend 2-3 March

If you would like to join the St Matt's men to this great convention, please contact Ian Wall for more information 0410 522 948. Don't forget "Clean up Australia" on Sunday 4 March.

The Mary Andrews COLLEGE Vinegrowers CONFERENCE

Join us for a stimulating, eye-opening and motivating day with Colin Marshall author of "The Trellis and the Vine"

17 March 2012
10am - 4pm
Registrations from 9.30am

Venue: St Anne's Anglican Church
42 Church St, Ryde 2112

Cost for the day is \$60 including lunch, with a church discount for groups of ten or more. RSVP by Monday 12 March

"We want to understand people as we minister to them from the Word. We want to grow disciples of Christ throughout their lifetimes, and particularly, on this day, we want to see the women of local parishes equipped to lead others in this life-long growth."

Mary Andrews College is thrilled to be partnering with Vinegrowers in our first conference together.

For more information call (02) 9284 1470 or visit www.mac.edu.au

Summer Madness 2012...

This year, 'Summer Madness' well and truly lived up to its name and reputation. To quote some un-named sources... *"It was the maddest camp yet"* and *"It was totally awesome!"*.

Camp started with a bang (literally) as thunder clapped overhead and rain poured down. Once we were on the road, however, it was not long before the sun was shining and we were straight down to the beach. God was kind indeed, providing us with both a dry set-up and a dry pack-up! Surf conditions were somewhat variable and on day 2 a number of our crew needed a hand getting back into the beach from the men in red and gold. Day 3 and 4 were subsequently non-swimming days due to unsafe conditions. Thank God for keeping us safe on the road and in the surf! Once again the support crew (ably captained by Gareth Hadden) did an amazing job of setting up the site, running the sound and lighting and keeping us remarkably well fed. A big thank you to each and every one of them!

The main theme of camp this year was 'Justification' and we were blessed to have some excellent talks from the first eight chapters of Romans, delivered by the combined efforts of John and Will Carr. The sharing and reflection time on the final night indicated the extent to which God had used camp to challenge and impact lives for the gospel, including a young man who gave his life to Christ. The celebrations that followed on the 'dance floor' and the spirit of unity and love evident throughout camp were a credit to the planning efforts of camp directors Ben Hodgkinson and Alex MacDonald, and the combined efforts of a fantastic team of leaders. Thanks everyone! Great work...

Please continue to pray for us each week as we meet for 'Friday Night Live' and pray that many more lives may be impacted by the Gospel this year through the youth program.

Many thanks, on behalf of the youth team.

Geoff Everett

(Youth Minister)

CELEBRATE TWENTY TWELVE

Join us in celebrating 2011 and
looking forward to 2012 as the St Matt's family.
Saturday, 25 February, 5.30 – 8.00pm
Roslea Community Centre (air conditioned YEAH!!)



- Thank offering on the night
- Register your children
- Helpers required – sign up sheets are available today!



Annual Women's Autumn Dinner

Kara Gilbert

will speak on ...

6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m.
Tuesday, 20 March, 2012
Bowman Hall, Blacktown

**Dangerous
Discipleship**

Musician ...

Annie Zoghbi

Tickets \$20 each

*Unless previously
sold out*

**Bookings Close:
Tuesday, 6 March, 2012**



The year is flying and once again we are getting ready to start all the kids' programs. Kids church is gearing up to run the Radical Series modified to cater for the kids. What a great book! Let us all be inspired to use our gifts, share the gospel and provide excellent programs for the community.

Arvo club will have begun by the time you are reading this. Please pray for the families who are coming, especially those who otherwise have no other connection with St Matt's. Pray for the families and their children in a great term of CIRCUS theme.

I am excited that all our programs are fully staffed with leaders. We had a children's ministry training afternoon which was well attended and Gary Hill came to speak to us and encourage us about the importance of prayer, in our own lives as well as in our programs. Each week we pray in small groups with the kids at all our programs—after all it is our first core value.

SRE will be starting in the middle of February and with Pat Sutton (our SRE co-ordinator) on holidays I will be matching teachers with classes next week.

Thank you for your continued support of children's ministry as we aim to make a difference in the lives of those who live in and around our community. I welcome the addition of John Carr to the team who will be doing kids and youth ministry as a trainee minister – this will free me up to do more planning, support and training of our leaders – praise God.

Jacki Hellstrom



The team and I are very excited about Matts4Minis in 2012 as we have most of our families returning from 2011.

As a result of this our Tuesday group is full, however if you would like to join the Wednesday group please contact the church office and I will contact you. Our theme for the term is 'Water' and we are looking forward to some outside activities where we might get wet!

Kathy Romanis

WARDENS' UPDATE.....February 2012

The Roof

You might recall in December we wrote:

"Your generosity has provided over \$100,000. Unfortunately there is insufficient time to thoroughly assess all the options and quotes and to issue firm contracts before the end of the year. Our plan is to hold a general information meeting for those interested from all congregations in either late January or early February 2012. This meeting will provide an opportunity for discussion and feedback on the wardens' initial recommendations with the intention of having the work carried out around March 2012."

The above quote formed part of the Wardens' Update in the last issue. Due to the impact of short, but heavy rain showers we have suffered further damage, particularly in the office and crèche. Clearly the sooner we can implement our proposed re-roofing the better it will be - it would be great to be able to concentrate on more significant matters than our leaking roof. As it turned out even if we had been able to plan the work for January, the weather would not have permitted any real progress.

Our thanks go out to all those who have contacted the wardens both in writing and by conversation with their concerns and suggestions on the re-roofing. They have been carefully considered and form part of the final recommendations which will be made by the wardens at the planned information meeting to be held after 11.45am, after the 10am service on 19 February. The meeting will be fairly brief, and anyone who has a particular interest is encouraged to attend.

3A NewLine Road (the home of Jon and Lika Phua)

A number of improvements to the interior were carried out in January which included floor sanding and coatings, new carpets, painting and new light fittings. The wardens would particularly like to thank those who also worked hard mowing lawns and generally making the grounds more presentable. Plans are in hand for the next working bee to concentrate on further general cleaning to the exterior and some additional pruning in the garden.

Report on Asbestos and Other Hazardous Materials

Background

As part of a Diocese-wide program, a firm of consultants recently inspected our parish properties to identify hazardous materials.

The consultants have prepared a detailed report and management plan for our sites. Included in the report is a register that identifies the location and condition of all Asbestos Containing Material ("ACM"). It also includes information regarding the location of lead-based paint and certain other hazardous materials.

The key findings

Asbestos and other hazardous materials were found in the interior of No.1 New Line Road and in the interior and exterior of No's 3 and 3a New Line Road.

Asbestos was also found in the kitchenette in the south-west corner of the church building. No asbestos was found at 1 Trinity Place, Cherrybrook or in the garage or shed at No.3 New Line Road.

The asbestos risk

ACM that is bonded and in good condition is not an immediate health threat.

Asbestos is harmful when fibres from ACM are inhaled and to be inhaled they have to be airborne. Provided that the ACM is in good condition and fibres can not become airborne, there is no immediate health threat.

We must, however, be very careful in how we treat ACM. Any actions such as drilling, boring, cutting, filing, brushing, grinding, sanding or breaking can release fibres into the air.

Action taken

The report has been tabled at Parish Council. It has been circulated to ministry staff and information about the report has been provided to people who regularly use No 1 and No 3 New Line Road and to cleaners. The report should be read by anyone involved in maintenance of the church buildings and grounds. Warning labels have been attached to building interiors where required. Loose fibres that were on the ground below the porch at the western end of No 3 at the time of the inspection have been washed away by rain. The broken fibro panel that was the source of the fibres has been temporarily sealed and will be replaced. Where appropriate, contractors will be required to read the report before undertaking work on site.

The wardens will organise an annual visual inspection to ensure that the condition of the ACM does not deteriorate and become harmful. Please notify the church office if you suspect any ACM has been disturbed or removed.

John Parker

Rob McGregor

Wardens

St Matthews Chinese Congregation

主內親愛的弟兄姊妹：感謝神！轉眼間我已與你們相處了三個星期，一切安好。當中我留意到你們喜愛聽故事；在這裏就給你們講一個故事：一個人在海邊散步，見到無數的魚群被海水衝到沙灘上，面臨死亡。他撿起一條又一條的魚，送回大海。可是別處又有許多魚兒被海水衝上。朋友告誡他，別費心了，憑你一個人是救不了牠們的。這人卻堅定地說：「我撿起一條魚，送回大海，就是救了一條生命；我要永遠做下去，直到我自己倒下。」

弟兄姊妹，您我就像那些魚兒，原本都是「死在罪惡過犯中」，但卻是被主親手撿回來的。主對我們這何等大的深恩厚愛，真是無以為報！您我唯有學效「那人」，現在就為主拯救生命；獻上生命到最後。

在此，我建議大家可以向天父有以下真誠的立志：

每日一靈修（每天有靈修親近主的時間）、

每年一事奉（今年每人最少有一事奉崗位）、

每年一果子（今年最少領一人信主或領一位未信者出席教會之福音性聚會或尋回一隻迷羊）。

期盼我們能引領教會外更多的人歸信基督，同時又造就教會內的信徒成為成熟委身的基督跟隨者。

主僕：王 鴻 溪 牧師



Clean Up  Day
 Sunday 4 March 2012

Agenda:

- 09:20 Drop off for littlies
- 09:30 Clean up starts
- 11:00 Morning Tea
- 11.30 Celebration Service



ORANA SENIORS FELLOWSHIP

MARCH MEETING

Date: 7th March Time: 11.30am

Come and join us for

LUNCH 'off-site': Berowra Waters Fish Café

Following Wednesday Church we will meet at 11.30am and proceed to Berowra Waters by car for lunch. The cost of the meal (fish, chips & salad, dessert and tea/coffee) will be \$14.50. We extend a very warm invitation for you and your friends to enjoy lunch and fellowship with us in this delightful setting.

If possible, please let Mary Coles (9484 2497) or Judy Full (9484 3074) know by Monday, 5th March if you are coming. **All welcome!**

Pray for those with special needs:

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



60 Seconds with Jon Phua

Name – Jonathan (Jon) Phua

Nick Name – Jonno

Married - to Lika Phua

Pets - None, unless our 6 year old Joanna counts! :)

Residence- 3a New Line Rd West Pennant Hills

Work – Associate Minister at St Matt's

Food - I love seafood & anything Lika cooks

Social Activities – Golf, board games, movies, watching sports

Found Jesus – Brought up in a Christian home, but took Jesus seriously for myself as a teenager, & haven't looked back since!

Fellowship – St Matt's, particularly 9am & 5pm

Currently Reading – The Bible; The Trellis & the Vine (Colin Marshall & Tony Payne)

Words of Encouragement – Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.



ST MATTS MISSION UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2012

Please pray for link missionaries each week. For more information on all of our link missionaries please see the missions page at www.stmatts.org.au

5 February Scripture Teachers—West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook Public Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give thanks for our dedicated and faithful team of teachers, helpers and relief teachers• Give special thanks for those who are retiring – some after many, many years and for those who are finishing for various reasons• Pray for others to take on scripture teaching in 2012• Give thanks for Shane’s wonderful support of scripture• Pray for a good start to the 2012 year: West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook probably school week 4—Friday 17 February• John Purchase probably week 5 – Tuesday 21 February	12 February - Chris & Sharon Ekins, Coast Evangelical Church, Forster <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feb 26th - AGM. Pray for a great gathering of members as we review God’s work amongst us over the last year and think about the year ahead.• Pray for like-mindedness and commitment to gospel priorities.• Sharon is expecting no 3 baby. Pray for safe pregnancy and birth.• You can keep up-to-date with the Coast EC team by visiting their website: www.coastec.net.au
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	26 February - Ian & Ruth Batey—CMS Spain <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the kids will settle well into school• For our deputation. Pray we will be able to communicate in a clear and engaging way what we have been doing in Seville and what we hope to do when we return. Pray that our supporters will be encouraged, and that the Lord will raise up new supporters as well• Also that we will be able to manage well the various demands of home assignment. <p>We continue to be grateful every day for your partnership. Without your prayer and financial support through CMS there would be no Anglican minister in Seville, and we couldn’t train and encourage people like Eliseo, Ashton and Nacho, or teach the scriptures at bible study, or share the only testimony (that we know of) available to the parents at the school, neighbours, the bartender, or the friend-of-a-friend, etc, of the gospel of God’s salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.</p>