

ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH AUGUST 2021

COMMUNITY MAG



ISSUE 05

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JOHN'S

GOSPEL

JOHN'S GOSPEL STUDY BOOKS ARE AVAILABE
ONLINE TO DOWNLOAD FROM OUR WEBSITE
OR SOME HARD COPIES ARE OUTSIDE THE
CHURCH FRONT DOOR

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

BEN MOLYNEUX



Dear Church,
Grace and peace to you and your families in the name of the Lord! I was thinking and praying about what to write to you to kick off this month's Community Mag when an email notification came through from Rev. Tony Bradford, our brother in Christ and Chaplain at the War Vets. It contained the very words that I felt would encourage us all during this continued time of lockdown - so I will leave them with you for your own personal reflection and encouragement.

Please be assured that our staff continue to pray for you all in the midst of this time. We miss seeing your faces each week.

God bless,
Ben

Words of Exhortation in Wake of Covid - by Rev. Tony Bradford.

Today I want to make a pastoral response to those feeling fatigue, frustration and disappointment with the latest drawn-out lock down. Like you all I also despair and like the Psalmist I lament, "How long, How Long O Lord!"

We are all greatly impacted by this with many of us cut off from family and friends, a loss of many liberties and many have the added burden of home-schooling. The impact of this cannot be minimized.

However, I was thinking this week that after the Reformation there was a war for 30 years as Catholic countries of Europe fought against Germany and tried to impose Catholicism. Germany lost a third of its population - more than in World War 1. The nations fought till they were all exhausted by war and the Catholic nations eventually ignored the Pope, following their own Kings and Princes until an uneasy peace was drawn. True religious freedom was still a long way off.

Then coming up to the end of World War I, the Spanish Flu broke out and was carried around the world by returning soldiers. It was estimated that around fifty million people died - more than in the War itself. It was not till around 1920 as people either died or developed immunity that the flu ceased.

**Why am I dwelling on these things?
Because at times the world has
suffered even greater than what we
are now suffering.**

Jesus said that in the world we would not have peace, but rather our peace is only found in Him. In the world we have wars, rumours of wars, earthquakes, pestilence and disease. But we should not fear because Jesus has overcome the world (John 16:33, 1 John 4:4).

This is not our permanent home nor is this our final resting place. We look to the new heavens and earth. Yes, we all want to see the end of Covid, and it will come, but in the meantime our hope in God sustains us. Hebrews 13:15 says, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise- the fruit of lips that openly profess his name."

Offering a sacrifice of praise to God strikes me as praising God for who He is and his blessings, regardless of our circumstances and whether we feel like it or not (see also Habakkuk 3:17-18).

Ultimately God is in control and history testifies that we have often been brought to the brink again and again but God has brought us back, and no doubt Covid will go the same way.

So let me encourage you - offer your praise to God and don't allow the world and despair to overwhelm you. We have a powerful God who will keep us safe and deliver us.



God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

PSALM 46:1-7

So Praise the Lord!! Praise the Lord!! And Praise the Lord!!!! ■

ST FAITH'S WOMEN

What a privilege it was to be able to meet together, in person, as sisters in Christ on June 19 for EQUIP. Little did we know that it might be the last time we could gather in person together for a little while. This year we heard 4 fabulous bible talks on the book of Ruth.

Ruth is set in the time of the Judges in the history of Israel and in this story, we see how our great God cares for "The Outsider". Naomi's husband and son's die in the famine that has hit, after they move to Moab. The remainder of the story shows us how God cares for Naomi and Ruth. We see God's providential hand in all the circumstances of Naomi and Ruth's lives. The speakers encouraged us to think about how we could love the outsider too - just as God did and as He does ultimately through Jesus coming and enabling us to have a relationship with Him. We had a lovely time of fellowship, great food and blessing as we spent time together in God's word.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing restrictions, we have had to postpone Inspire until next year. Stay tuned.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Give thanks that Dan and Ebony Forsyth are having their first baby, due early next year!

Those unwell:

Kerry Nagel

Walter McGregor (Peter MacGregor's Dad)

Kerry Nagel

Rosemary Irwin

Imelda Krause

Larry Tolnay

Isabelle Furness

John Richards

Albert Burgess

Nerilyn Schooley

Trent Thoroughgood

Deborah Hunter

Robyn Ohlsson

Gillian Stumbles

CLARE
FROGGART
IS THE NEW
DIRECTOR
OF GUMNUT
KINDY, &
HERE SHE
SHARES HER
HEART &
VISION.

The years teach much which the days never knew.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Regardless of our age, I think most of us can still remember an experience or memory from our early childhood. These were the days when we discovered how to make friends, how to organise our belongings or how to persist with a challenging task. These were the days that taught us how to develop confidence as we left home for the first time. They were the days we began to develop resilience for the challenges that lay ahead.



These experiences - the experiences of our early childhood - are foundational to our social and emotional learning and include our ability to self-regulate, self-manage, make responsible decisions, be socially aware and have relational skills.

Longitudinal research (Durlak et al., 2010) has found just how important social and emotional learning is to set people up for success in life. These so called, 'soft skills' are more recognised in today's society than ever before, particularly now we have evidence that those with social and emotional skills demonstrate higher academic performance.

GUMNUT Kindergarten

The impact of our investment in early childhood can't be understated. Harvard University findings highlight investment in early childhood "is a foundation for a prosperous and sustainable society." (Center on the Developing Child, 2007). Recent research has found the first 2000 days of a child's life has the strongest impact on health outcomes as an adult.

As the director at Gumnut Kindergarten, it is my responsibility to communicate the immense value of a preschool education and to deliver an outstanding program that will equip each child for their life now and in the future. As a Christian, it's also my vision that Gumnut Kindergarten would be a witness to the community we have been placed in.

I have long been inspired by the passage in 1 Kings 10 that discusses when the Queen of Sheba visited Solomon's Temple.

"When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed."

It is my strong desire that our Christian preschool be a light to the community around us because of the excellence we offer in every area of early childhood education and care. It is my prayer that this reputation will draw people to this church community and that all who visit might have the same reaction as the Queen of Sheba did when she visited the temple saying,

"The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your people must be!"

My father, an Anglican minister, taught me two values: the value of excellence and the value of education. As representatives of Christ in the world, I believe there is no higher calling than to offer the youngest members of our local community an excellent education that will equip them to thrive in life. It is these values that have inspired me personally in my life work and education.

My husband and I have been involved in church planting since we were married 36 years ago. We have raised three adult children who profess Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. I have studied both a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and Master of Education (Student Wellbeing). I have taught in a variety of contexts in both the secular and Christian school settings. I have been a Junior School Chaplain, a leader of wellbeing (K-6) and a classroom teacher of every stage in Primary School.

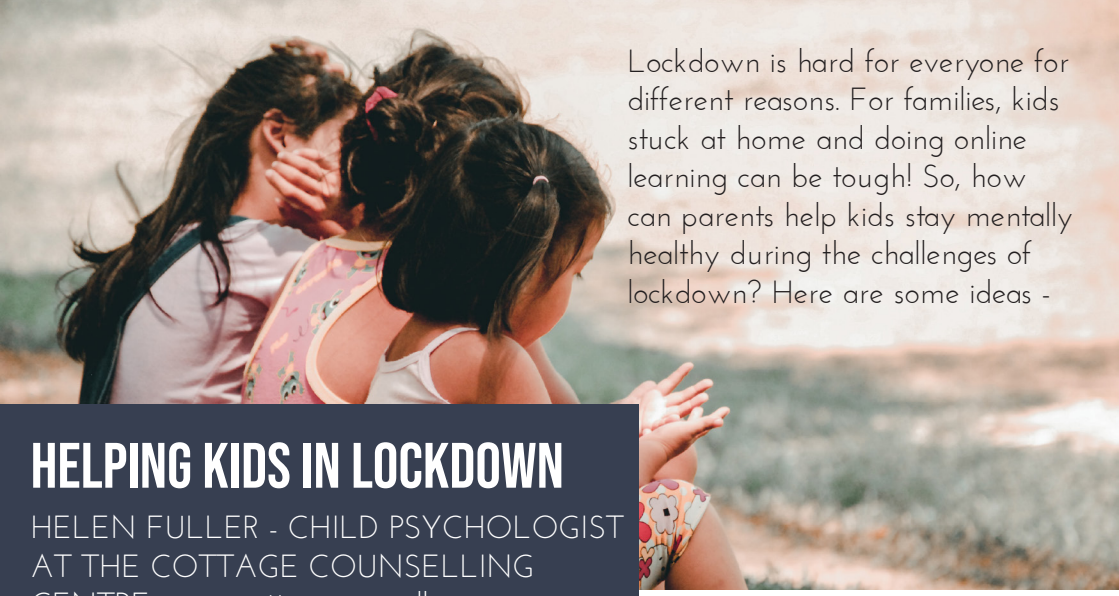
However, it is my knowledge of the deep impact we can have on the individual life of every child who comes to preschool that inspires me to return to Early Childhood education. I am excited about partnering with the community at St Faith's Anglican Church so the families of our local area will hear of the great impact of this little Kindergarten, in the way the Queen of Sheba did of Solomon's Temple.

The days of a child's life in kindergarten prepare for years of success in life.

Clare Froggart

www.gumnutkindy.org.au





Lockdown is hard for everyone for different reasons. For families, kids stuck at home and doing online learning can be tough! So, how can parents help kids stay mentally healthy during the challenges of lockdown? Here are some ideas -

HELPING KIDS IN LOCKDOWN

HELEN FULLER - CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST
AT THE COTTAGE COUNSELLING
CENTRE www.cottagecounselling.org.au

Keep Routines

With so many changes in their world right now, keeping to consistent routines of wake-up times, getting dressed, school timetables, meal and bed-times will help bring stability and reassurance to children.

Stay Active And Get Outdoors

Physical activity not only benefits the body, but also the mind. Exercise releases endorphins, the body's natural pain killers, improving mood, energy and sleep. If you can get outdoors, even better! Sunlight increases the brain's release of serotonin, another mood-lifting hormone. Going for a walk, run, bike-ride, jumping on a trampoline, or playing backyard cricket, are all fun ways to keep active!

Keep Connected

Phone-calls and video-chats with friends, family and church family are all important. It can also help to discover ways to serve others, which can give them a sense of purpose. Perhaps there is a grandparent, neighbour or friend from church who they could call, write a letter to or send a craft or drawing, to help brighten their day.

Gratefulness Is Greater Than Grumbling

"Be thankful in all circumstances" (1 Thess 5:18). Despite what the world throws at you, there is still plenty to be thankful for. That's not to disregard the real hardships your family may be facing - but Habakkuk 3:17-19 is a great reminder to rejoice in the Lord no matter what. Each night, help your child write or draw three things they can thank God for from the day.

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Find Things To Look Forward To

With so much cancelled, it might be hard to find things to look forward to. But anticipation increases hope, so help them find something each day and week to look forward to. It could be as simple as a bike-ride or walk on the beach, or choosing what take-away to have for dinner. Creating a "wish jar" or vision board, can inspire hope for what they want to do when lockdown ends: Which friend will they invite over first? What have they missed about school? Where do they want to go for their next holiday? And of course, keep pointing them to the hope of heaven - where there will be no sickness, crying or pain (Rev 21:4).

Be Still...

In the busyness of life, kids' schedules are usually jam-packed! Now, they are forced to slow down and appreciate the small gifts of God's grace they haven't noticed before. Playing games like "I spy" or slowing down and noticing their five senses - listening to the wind, finding shapes in the clouds, smelling dinner cooking, feeling a furry soft toy, or savouring their favourite food, can help kids to treasure the small joys. Praying with kids helps remind them God's in control and he is good. Help them focus on things they can control, and leave the rest to God!

Boredom Sparks Creativity

It's OK (and necessary!) for kids to experience a bit of boredom - it helps minds wander and leads to great creativity! Imagine all the artists, musicians, inventors and other creative geniuses that are honing their skills during these lockdowns! Perhaps your child has a particular hobby or interest they can develop or discover?

Be Kind To Yourself And Each Other

Give each other space when needed - and remember, behind the tantrums and meltdowns, are big feelings like worry, frustration, disappointment, which kids are still learning how to manage! Make time to talk with your children and validate these feelings, answer their questions, and help them learn coping skills, like deep breathing, or muscle relaxation.

Seek Support If You Need It

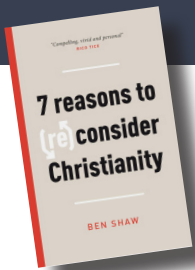
If you find you or your children are really struggling, it might help to talk things through. Seeking help is not a sign of failure; it's a sign of wisdom and strength. The Cottage Counselling Centre has Christian Counsellors and Psychologists who are available to support you or your children through this tough time. Remember, you are not alone! Christ is with you, and He has provided others who can support you when needed. ■

BOOK REVIEW

7 REASONS TO (RE)CONSIDER CHRISTIANITY

BY BEN SHAW

REVIEW BY STEPH SMITH
(CLINICAL NURSE CONSULTANT | MEDICAL ONCOLOGY,
FROM MORNING CHURCH)



I had the pleasure of caring for Ben Shaw in the last 6 months of his life. During this time, we had many discussions around his final book and how he came to write it. Since his diagnosis, Ben conducted a serious reassessment of his faith. In doing so, Ben revisited key questions; did he really believe in God, are the claims made by Jesus true and is the bible accurate? Given his terminal diagnosis, Ben reconsidered the integrity and credibility of his beliefs. Instead of being shaken by this, it actually sharpened and increased his faith. Ben was more confident than ever in the claims of Christ.

7 reasons to (re)consider Christ is a book that explores Ben's reassessment of his faith. The book outlines 7 reasons why Christianity is worth considering or reconsidering and invites the sceptical reader to think again. The book touches on expected topics, such as Christianity being intellectually credible, evil in the world, and humanity and some misconceptions unbelievers have towards the Christian faith. The book also explores the good news of Jesus and asks the question; if Jesus did rise from the dead, isn't Christianity worth investigating?

Ben's writing is warm, honest and relaxed, and makes you feel as if you were having a conversation over a cup of coffee. As a reader you are not bombarded with heavy theology and Christian jargon, Ben writes in an inviting and non - threatening manner. One of my favourite illustrations in this book is in the opening chapter. Two friends are walking along the beach when they discover a message in a bottle that had been washed up on shore. The message was actually deeds to an estate that was worth



Ben's book invites you to consider, reconsider, and question what Christianity is all about. It breaks down modern misconceptions of our faith whilst showing how essential a relationship with Christ is.

5 million pounds. One friend did not believe that this was true and thought it was a hoax, the other friend took the time to investigate whether this was true or not. It ended up being true and he inherited 5 million pounds. Ben suggests that if Jesus is offering eternal life then surely the evidence is worth investigating as eternity is worth so much more than money.

Ben's book invites you to consider, reconsider, and question what Christianity is all about. It breaks down modern misconceptions of our faith whilst showing how essential a relationship with Christ is. Ben was a great encouragement and servant of the Lord right up until his last days on earth (he died earlier this year). He was determined that everyone needed to consider Christianity. Ben gave copies of his book to a number of staff within the hospital and since his passing many discussions about what it means to follow Christ have followed. I highly recommend reading Ben's final book and consider sharing this with family and friends, especially those that are (re) considering Christ. ■

KNOWING JESUS

A POEM INSPIRED
BY JOHN 1:1-18
BY HELENI SUTTON
(ST FAITH'S MEMBER)

Jesus is the Word
who gave us hope and love,
the true light-
the only true God.

It is so special knowing Jesus
who has existed
before all time,
Eternally- and he wants
us to trust him.

John the Baptist told us
about him and showed us
the light, who was and is
Jesus Christ.

The word became human
and made his home among us.
Everything that we are and have
belong to him.
Everyday we know his presence
And he revealed God to us
As HE is God.

I believe that he was raised
from the dead,
so I commit myself to him
knowing that I am saved
because of him and the faith
he has given me.

I am reborn! Praise God! ■

MEET A MEMBER

LYN & PHIL
BUTCHER



FAST FIVE

FAV MOVIE

LYN : BOURNE SUPREMACY

PHIL : THE SHAWSHANK
REDEMPTION

FAV FOOD

LYN : CHOCOLATE

PHIL : TIRAMISU

BEST BEACH

LYN : MONA VALE

PHIL : MANLY

IF YOU COULD VISIT

ANYWHERE IN THE
WORLD WHERE WOULD
YOU GO

LYN : ICELAND

PHIL : SERENGETI WILDLIFE
PLAINS, TANZANIA

Tell us how long you have been at St Faith's, what you serve at church and what service you are a part of.

Lyn : I can't remember the exact year when we came to St Faith's church but we have been here since the last year Steven Gibson was senior minister at St Faiths (someone help me - when was that?)

Phil : Started when our 2 teenage daughters started at St Faiths.

Lyn : The main way I serve St Faiths church is in my role as Rector's Warden, which in turn involves me with the Parish Council. I am also a Community Pantry Team Co-ordinator.

Phil : I serve St Faiths church by answering structural engineering questions.

Lyn & Phil : We attend Sunday 6pm Night Service

How and when did you both start following Jesus?

Lyn : When I was a child it was as a matter of course that children went to Sunday School whether or not the parents were practising Christians or not- and so I was sent to Sunday School with my elder brother and my twin brother.

I always loved going to Sunday School, loved going to CSSM Beach Missions, loved going to fellowship during my teenage years - and at the ripe old age of 15 I also loved teaching Sunday School and leading Girls Brigade.

Although throughout my childhood I had always felt drawn to God when I was 16 I could sense a difference between some others and myself in my fellowship group. I remember asking Pam (who I greatly admired) why she seemed so different - and she explained that knowing "about God" was very different to "knowing God in a personal relationship". That was my light bulb moment and I made that personal acceptance of Jesus as my Saviour and began the rest of my life journey in relationship with God.

Phil : When I was going to University every one was telling me of all these new ideas and philosophies, but they made no sense to me, but the new Testament books, like Romans, made more sense, so I drew closer to the Christian ideals and grew in my faith.

Why is it important for you and your family to be a part of a church family?

Lyn : There is a dual importance for being part of a church family. It is in the setting of "family" that you can

both give and receive God's love, encouragement, support, guidance, wisdom, insight, knowledge and even rebuke!

My Christian walk is, and has been, so enriched by all that I have received from my sisters and brothers in Christ - and I am blessed all the more if and when I am able to "give" to my church family is whatever way God leads me.

Phil : To experience the caring fellowship of the people at church, who show the love that we can all share by being a member of the church.

What have been the main things you have learnt from studying Genesis together at church and in community group?

Lyn : I must confess that I often find studying anything from the old testament hard going - BUT - that said - studying Genesis again confirmed for me that God is the creator God, God has a plan that goes beyond our human "intellect" and understanding, that God regularly uses flawed human being to bring about His ultimate purposes and blessings and that I live today based on all that God has done bore forehead.

Phil : Some of the leaders in Genesis that God put his faith into were not the best of characters, but God used them to build a great nation. ■



NARRABEEN SPORTS HIGH- ELLEN STRETTON

Hi I'm Ellen; long-time churchgoer - first time community mag-er! For those who don't know, I work at Narrabeen High as a Social Worker. I started off as a part-time Chaplain which was paid for by an incredibly generous donor at St Faith's and supported by many of you who prayed for my work. This testimony is mostly a big thank you and an update on what has happened since. To really understand we need to go back to the beginning ..

In 2011 I finished my Social Work degree and started studying at SMBC and working at St Faith's as an apprentice. In 2013 I became the Children's Minister and completed a chaplaincy course at Bible College. Due to college, I wasn't able to go to staff meeting all term, but the one week I had off I went to the meeting and Kerry Nagel shared with the team that the Principal at Narrabeen High had asked for a chaplain. He explained some of the issues and I promptly put my social work hat on and started talking about things they could do. Kerry looked at me and said, "Oh, that's right, you're a social worker" to which I replied, "I couldn't do that job in a school. Absolutely not! Could you imagine me in a staff room? With adults? No way." We then discussed members of church who might be suitable candidates and left it at that. But as I drove home I felt God convicting me that I should check this out further.

When I got home I sent Ben an email saying that I felt God prompting me to consider this but I outlined to him all the reasons why it was a terrible idea. Fast forward and a few weeks later I had become the candidate, Kerry spoke about it at church and a generous donor stepped forward to cover the financial cost. I remember saying to Ben, "dang, when God wants something done, he gets it done!"

In 2014 I started at Narrabeen. It took about six months for the students there to capture my heart, but I have never felt so well suited to anything in my life! Anyone who knows me is well aware of how much I love working at the

school and a number of years later it became obvious that this was where God wanted me so I stepped down as the Children's Minister at St Faith's and took a 'leap of faith' to work at Narrabeen part-time and take on further study at Uni doing a Masters in Education.

Around this time, I found a prayer I had written a few years beforehand. I wrote the prayer one night after a friend had just died, quite tragically, and I was at the wake. One of my youth girls rang me saying that her friend was in a bad way so I left the wake and drove to where they were. I sat with her friend while she talked and cried. I listened, calmed her down, prayed with her and when I got home I wrote a prayer expressing to God that this is what I needed to be doing - working with teenagers who were struggling and, in the midst of their emotion, ensuring that they know and feel loved through his strength. When I found it, I did what any reasonable human does and started crying uncontrollably on my bed because God had answered this prayer so powerfully and precisely, in a way I had never fathomed but that was so unbelievably perfect.

Fast forward a few years and the school offered to pay for two days in addition to the, now, three days paid for by church and I was at the school full-time. I was convicted by God at this point to ensure that the right people know and understand the need for Social

Workers in schools. I was distressed by the idea that there were students in other schools without someone in the same role and so with the help of Nathan Bale, I presented some data along with my own personal experiences to our local MP, Rob Stokes. Praise God that months later he announced a new initiative to see counsellors and fulltime student support offices (who must be trained social workers or youth workers) in every public high school in the state!

Meanwhile, Narrabeen High has recently announced that I will be fully-funded for the next four years from their own budget. It has been a huge privilege to do what I do and I wanted to thank the people who prayed for me so long ago. We live in a world that expects instant results, but it's taken eight years for this to happen. It hasn't always been easy and to be honest I haven't always been stoked with how God has played his hand however, I can't help but acknowledge God with a big old "touché well played". I cannot doubt his providence and love for me or for the students in our state who will benefit from this. It is the craziest thing to see how it has unfolded and the more I think about it, the more I see God's fingerprints all over the place.

Ellen Stretton



AUGUST PRAYER DIARY

SUN 1	Pray for MARCUS DRUITT as he speaks this weekend on John's Gospel. Pray for clarity and that God's word would be faithfully taught. Ask God to prepare the hearts of all people listening as God's word is taught this week.
MON 2	ESL - Please pray for our students at this challenging time. As they are in lockdown, they potentially could be feeling even more alone "in an alien landscape". Pray for them to feel connected through the texts, calls and emails that our team members are sending. Pray that though we are not initially meeting face to face, that they will still be aware of our care and friendship. Pray for our team members during this period of lockdown, that God will restore their energy levels and prepare them for the return to class in mid-August. Give praise and thanks to our Father God, that ESL finished Term 2 well and for the blessing of seeing students regularly coming to the post class Bible Study.
TUE 3	Pray for all students and parents who are juggling HOME LEARNING AND WORK WHEN IN LOCKDOWN . Ask God for a special blessing of patience, wisdom and understanding for parents in this situation. Pray also for our students in Year 12. Ask that God would give them the calm of his peace and comfort of his Spirit.
WED 4	Pray for BARRY DUDDING AND PHILIP SELDEN as they prepare to speak on John 2 this weekend. Ask God to speak through them to encourage and strengthen us through their ministry.
THU 5	Pray for our STAFF TEAM today who are working with an organisation called Reach Australia to spend some time reviewing our current situation and planning for the future of St Faith's. Pray for God's wisdom and discernment for this time as a staff together and that his Spirit would guide our conversation, thinking and dreaming together.
FRI 6	Pray for the SOULIES YOUTH who have been meeting online since mid-July. Pray that God might sustain their faith and that they might grow during this time.
SAT 7	THE COTTAGE COUNSELLING CENTRE - Please pray for our counselling team as they manage their own lockdown experiences, while at the same time caring for all their clients who are also in lockdown. Give thanks that sessions can continue online. Please pray for wisdom and grace as they navigate what this season brings. Give thanks for Keren and John who are the directors of the Cottage.
SUN 8	Please pray for wisdom for the planning of the ALPHA COURSE , which will go online next Tuesday 10th August. Pray that people don't lose confidence, or let evangelism go off the radar through this time. Pray that many of us will invite someone to this Alpha course. Pray that God will be at work in many hearts leading them to Him and convicting them of their need for a saviour. Who are your five? Pray for them!

MON 9	Thank God for a small group of people who are keen to get involved in WALK UP EVANGELISM . Give thanks for their heart, their enthusiasm, and their passion. Pray that God will use them powerfully for God's Kingdom and provide many opportunities to point others to Jesus.
TUE 10	Pray for ALPHA starting tonight and for Marcus as he runs this course. Pray for those who are attending – both Christians and those investigating the Christian faith. Pray that all are able to connect online without issue and remain open to learning more about Jesus in the following weeks.
WED 11	THE COMMUNITY PANTRY – Praise God for always providing. Thank God that TCP can still provide take-away meals for their guests from the Shark's Clubhouse. Pray for wisdom during lockdown and that guests and volunteers are protected. Praise God for the guests who have attended Alpha and that they can finish the course after lockdown. Pray that this will be a time for all to lean more into God and that guests come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Pray that tonight the volunteers will have opportunities to speak about faith in Christ to those who are dropping in to pick up takeaway meals. Give thanks for Kathy N, Brad D, Chris R, Neil S and all the wonderful volunteers who cook and help each week.
THU 12	MISSION - Irwan and Catherine AFES at Wollongong Uni – Give thanks for bringing about 180 students and staff to dig deep into His word about Resurrection during our online Mid Year Conference (19-22 July). Pray for students who are still investigating God and those on the fringe, may He be merciful in saving them and convicting and encouraging them to trust and to give their life to Him. Pray that in the second semester we can encourage students to do more than just get involved, but to keep reaching out even though our campus will be running all classes online till at least 20th of August.
FRI 13	WAR VETS – Pray God will keep the residents and staff safe from covid particularly at this time. Pray that online streamed services and hymn video clips will encourage the Christians particularly in the hostels and nursing homes while in total lock down. Pray chaplains Bob and Tony can encourage the residents particularly by phone and through visits to those independents that they can still call on.
SAT 14	RENEE MILES - Please pray that she will lean on God's strength through the changes to ministry in an online format. Give thanks for the encouragement it is to catch up 1-2-1 with Tilly each week and particularly digging into the book of Ephesians together!
SUN 15	Pray for the SOULIES YOUTH who were going to be baptised or confirmed today. Give thanks for their faith, and the faithfulness of God in bringing them to this point. Pray that that they might have an opportunity to publicly share their faith sometime soon. Pray for Bishop Chris Edwards as he preaches today and at the confirmation service this evening.

MON 16	MISSION - Meagan Llewelyn - AFES Sydney Uni - Please pray for students returning for second semester, many are both stressed and excited, pray for wisdom in how to continue to encourage them in evangelism and in their own faith during this tough time. Pray for John and Meagan in their marriage together - that whilst working from home and constant zoom calls - pray they continue to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus.
TUE 17	PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES as they learn from home during lockdown that they will trust in God and grow in their faith during this time. Pray for children who are feeling lonely, anxious and disappointed at this time that they will look to God for comfort and strength. Please pray that lockdown will provide families with opportunities to connect in new ways and time to spend together in Bible reading and prayer.
WED 18	Pray for GLENN DAVIES AS HE SPEAKS TONIGHT AT CHURCH (and via livestream) on the question: "If God is sovereign, why do my choices in life matter?" As you pray for Glenn, give thanks for the many years of leadership he provided for our wider Diocese in Sydney as Archbishop. Pray for Glenn and Di as they transition into this new stage of life together.
THU 19	COVID 19 - Pray for our nation and the world during this pandemic. Pray for healing for those who are sick, comfort for those who have lost loved ones and those who have been negatively impacted by the loss of jobs. Pray for protection for those who are in the frontline, that God will sustain them and keep them healthy. Pray for our vaccination rollout in Australia, that enough supplies will arrive to enable those who wish to be vaccinated to get vaccinated and that we can all get back to some type of 'normal'.
FRI 20	NPSRE - CROMER CAMPUS - give thanks for Rachel Purcell and her work at Cromer Campus teaching SRE. Pray for her as she continues to look for ways to engage students with the message of the gospel. Ask that God would sustain her during this lockdown period - looking after herself and her daughter as well. Give thanks for the NPSRE Board including Simon and Penny Hunter, and their oversight of this ministry.
SAT 21	Pray for BEN MOLYNEUX preaching across all services this weekend. Ask God to give Ben wisdom and clarity as he speaks and that those listening will have soft and open hearts to hear God's message through him.
SUN 22	MISSION - Dan and Olivia Webster - Namibia Evangelical and Theological Seminary -Give thanks that for Dan & Liv's faithfulness in sharing the good news of Jesus with others. Pray for CMS and their parents who have been riding the waves of travel uncertainty with the Websters and helping them find a way back to Australia. Pray that their return trip on home assignment will come about as they are excited by the prospect of being in Sydney for September. Please pray they would know how to say farewell to people in Namibia, but not expose themselves to the risk of catching Covid. Give thanks for Liv's visits to the women's prison and that she was able to share a story about the way Jesus loved and accepted a woman whom others did not. Pray God will sustain the faith of the Christian women in prison, providing fellowship and spiritual feeding for them.

MON 23	STU ROBINSON - In light of recurring circumstances restrictions, right now we are considering what ministry should look like over the next 12 months. Please pray as we meet to talk about what the best way forward is, and pray that God would lead us in the right direction, and that he would give us wisdom.
TUE 24	Pray that PERSECUTED BELIEVERS AROUND THE WORLD will feel the comfort and encouragement of the Lord and that their persecutors will come to know Christ. Pray that in the midst of persecution, God's church would be strengthened and continue to grow and that these believers will have access to God's Word. Give thanks for the work of Open Doors as they seek to serve persecuted Christians all over the world.
WED 25	GUMTREES PLAYTIME - pray for health and safety for families with young children who would normally attend this play group at St Faiths. Pray members can maintain supportive connections through out various stages of Covid restrictions.
THU 26	QUILTING AND NEEDLEWORK GROUP - Pray for the members who are missing the fellowship of this group which had only just picked up in numbers coming along on Thursdays following the lock down earlier this year. Pray especially for those from the community who are not directly linked in with church. Pray they will look to God for comfort during this time.
FRI 27	Give thanks for the SOULIES YOUTH LEADERS . Pray for endurance as they disciple youth through this season. Pray that they might be spurred on in faith themselves.
SAT 28	Pray for ADAM SCOTT preaching across all services this. Pray for clarity and insight into God's word and that it would challenge each one of us. Ask that God would continue to give people at St Faith's deep convictions that come from his word.
SUN 29	MISSION - Chris and Karen Webb - Broome Peoples Church - Give thanks for all God's people who pray for them and support them to serve in Broome as they assist in gospel growth among Aboriginal people in the Kimberley. Also thank God for good health and timely travel back to Broome before WA borders closed again. Please ask that God will help them re-establish good relationships with their Kimberley friends and be able to spur them on in their faith and for God to give them wisdom to know what areas of ministry to invest their time and effort into.
MON 30	Pray for the PARISH COUNCIL AND WARDENS as they meet tonight. Give thanks for the members of our Parish Council including Demi-Rose Reeves, Keely Ryan and Tim Tunbridge as they serve the parish in this leadership role. Continue to also give thanks for our hardworking wardens: Lyn Butcher, Tim Harpur and Stuart Neilson.
TUE 31	GUMNUT KINDY - please pray for our new director Clare Froggatt as she leads Gumnut into the future with new ideas and directions. Pray that God gives her strength, perseverance, wisdom and patience. Pray that the staff will be patient and loving with one another and develop a fantastic working team environment. Please also pray for new enrolments for now and into the new year.

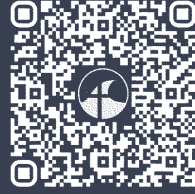
COMING UP



ALPHA



GLENN DAVIES



CONNECT WITH US

ALPHA

Given the lockdown, we're planning on running Alpha online this term, starting Tuesday 10th August. This provides us with a unique opportunity to invite people along, those who live near or far, to join in the next course. The online format is really non-threatening and easy to invite someone to. It starts with a warm welcome, a short video (produced by Alpha), then some time to ask questions and discuss - you can say or ask whatever you want.

GLENN DAVIES VISIT

Join us online for this great night together as a church as we hear from the former Arch bishop, Glenn Davies, consider the question - "If God is sovereign, why do my choices in life matter?" Wednesday 18th August, 7.30pm online at www.stfaiths.church

CONNECT WITH US // WWW.STFAITHS.CHURCH // 9971 1048 // OFFICE@STFAITHS.ORG.AU

