ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH MAY 2022 COMMUNITY MAG



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MESSAGE FROM OUR Senior Pastor

BEN MOLYNEUX



Welcome to the start of term 2!

What an encouraging Easter weekend we shared together at St Faith's in April. It was such a joy to see many visitors join with us in remembering Jesus' sacrificial death and celebrate his resurrection and the hope it brings for those who trust in Jesus. A big thank you to all who served in various ways across the Easter weekend.

This month we launch into our term 2 teaching series from the Old Testament book of Exodus. Adam has prepared our studies for this series as we zoom in on the first half of the book this term. Adam comments at the start of the study booklet, saying:

Exodus is a marvellous part of the Old Testament. It is full of richness about God, who he is, and what he is like. Ultimately, Exodus is about a God working sovereignly to save a special people for his own glory. He did back then, and he still does today. That is what he is doing in the church!

You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." (Exodus 19:4-6)

I'm really looking forward to digging deep into this part of God's word as we continue to track the journey of God's chosen people, picking up where we left off last year following our series in Genesis. Study material is available from the fover at church or on the website. If St Faith's is your church family and you're not a part of a midweek Community Group, I would love you to prayerfully consider joining a group. These groups are the 'engine room' of our church community where we dig deep into God's word, spend time praying for one another, caring for one another and doing life together as the people of God. If you're interested in finding our more, please speak with Adam or myself and we can help find a group that will be suitable for you.

This month our staff team will be attending the Reach Australia National Conference on the Central Coast. We will gather with other church teams from all over Australia to encourage one other as we seek to serve God and his people. Please pray for our staff and ask that this might be a renewing and refreshing time for our team as we're fed from God's word, learn from others in panels, workshops and other networking opportunities.

I look forward to seeing you at church on the weekend.

Heavenly Father, fill our lives with the fruit of your Spirit, so that we may walk in joyful obedience, share your love by word and deed, and see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus. Amen.

In Christ's service, Ben

SOULIES @ KYCK ADAM SCOTT

During the recent school holidays, some of our Soulies senior crew (from years 10-12) travelled up to Katoomba with their leaders for the KYCK youth conference. he weekend away is an annual event where youth have the opportunity to join with over a thousand of their peers + leaders to hear great Bible teaching, and to grow in their faith in Jesus.

It was an excellent weekend away together. This year's speakers: Alan Au (North-Ryde Presbyterian), Ben Staunton (ConnectNT Darwin), & Daniel Leach (Narrabeen Baptist) preached from the New Testament book of Philippians. Together, they did an excellent job of walking us through the apostle Paul's perspective on "joy" - it's certainly a counterintuitive one. The Apostle Paul suffered much, was persecuted, and imprisoned for telling people about Jesus, but he considered it pure joy, because of his union with Christ. It was a great reminder for our crew that, in spite of our circumstances, real joy is found in Jesus.

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." Philippians 4:4-7 It was good to be reminded of that joy as we live in a culture obsessed with pursuing a lesser kind of happiness. The kind of happiness we often pursue is transient and dependent on circumstance. When I'm playing with a new toy, eating something amazing, relishing good relationships, enjoying good health, or loving good results at school - happiness ensues. But when those things cease, happiness goes wanting. I reckon that's what differentiates that kind of happiness from the joy we were reminded about at KYCK. Joy in Christ persists in spite of circumstances. What I eat, what toys I have (or don't have), my relationships, or results at school don't impact it, because it isn't dependent on those things. Our joy in Christ is complete & untouchable - Who wouldn't want that?

Much of the fruit from a weekend away like this is cultivated through conversations in the mundane moments: car trips, walking up to site, waiting in line for a coffee, or relaxing together at night after the session. It's in these moments that youth and their leaders debrief about the bible teaching they've just heard, and spitball how it might play out in their lives. "What will it look like to recognise the joy they have in Christ in all circumstances? As Christians at Soulies? School? Home?" These kinds of conversations happened throughout the weekend - something to praise God for.

Please be praying for the Soulies crew - that they might look to Jesus as their joy, and give thanks for another excellent weekend away together.



ESL UPDATE JULIANNE CASTLE

1) Why is ESL an important part of our mission as a church?

ESL (English as a Second Language) started at St Faiths five years ago with encouragement from both Anglicare and Bishop Edwards. It was realised that there were many people in our local area who either could not speak English, or lacked the fluency needed to enable them to function well in the community. These people were marginalised and often isolated. Many also needed friendship and acceptance. Many too, had not heard of Jesus, or had no understanding of the gospel. Providing classes to these people therefore, was a way to reach into the community, to fulfil a very real need, and also a way to show Christ's love to them, providing opportunities for them to hear the gospel, and to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

2.) How has ESL been going over the last two years with the interruption of COVID?

During the first three years, we were amazed at the variety of students that God sent to St Faiths, and we expanded to three class levels with numbers up to about 35 per week. However in the last two years, Covid has greatly impacted our students. In 2020 we ran face to face classes for three out of our four terms, with a number of teachers taking the initiative to run classes on Zoom for one term. Similarly, in 2021, we only had two face to face terms of class, and one on Zoom.

Over these past two years many of our students returned to their home countries, and our numbers greatly reduced, but as we had social distancing, the smaller numbers worked better in our classes and we were able to grow good relationships with a number of students. The Zoom classes also enabled us to reach students at home, who would usually be at work and unable to attend it expanded our outreach . and in fact we had students joining in from Brazil, Columbia, and Bali.

3.) How have you seen God at work through this ministry?

When we started ESL, we couldn't have envisaged the blessings of this ministry. There seemed to be so many obstacles! However we have constantly seen God's hand at work in the many students that have passed through the church door.

As well as the joy in seeing our students progress, we have been able to walk alongside them, as they have faced the challenges of sickness, of loss, of the deaths of loved ones at home with Covid, of searching for a job, or of trying to get a visa to stay in Australia. Each week we pray for them, we pray with them at morning tea, and we tell them that we love Jesus. We thank God when they ask about Jesus, when they stay back for Bible Study, and when they want to come to church.

Though we run group classes, this is actually a ministry of one to one relationship building, by showing Christ's love to each and every student, of welcoming them and caring for them, and introducing them to their Heavenly Father.

At the end of 2021, we had seen over 187 students in our classes from 32 different countries! Who would have thought there were that many nationalities on the Northern Beaches? Covid may have stopped the planes, but it didn't stop God from bringing people from "every tribe and nation" to the backyard of St Faiths!

4). What help do you need to help this great ministry even better, and how can we be praying for ESL?

As we get back into routine with classes in 2022, we need to rebuild our student numbers, and to make our classes known in the community.

We pray that people will be keen to tell others about the classes; that they will seek out people in their neighbourhood and invite them to ESL.

We also pray that more people will join our ESL Team. We have an amazing team of dedicated ESL teachers, for whom we thank God. However some are taking (well earned) holidays , and others are juggling other commitments.

We also seek prayer, that God will send the students that He has chosen for our classes, that He will empower us to be effective teachers, and that He will create opportunities for us to speak of Jesus and His love for them.



Alpha is coming up again this month! Starting Tuesday 10th May 7:30pm-9pm. It's been two terms since we've run Alpha in person as COVID and natural disasters have proved to be very inconsiderate in our plans, so please pray that nothing gets in the way and we can run Alpha as planned.

Alpha is the perfect place to invite your friends and family who are curious about the Christian faith, seeking answers, or if you're looking for a refresher on the basics. For the first time, Marcus will be giving talks live instead of the videos, condensing the 10 weeks of Alpha into 4 weeks and presenting it in a way that will adapt it to our Australian culture.

While the presentation will be different, the content is the same - the Gospel! And the format will also be the same. People will be arriving from 7:30pm to find a table, have a seat, and then grab some dinner. This is so key in making Alpha successful, because it's the honest and loving conversation that happens around the table that can make a bigger impact on an individual than the talks themselves. We want to provide an atmosphere where it's safe to share honest opinions, and our guests feel loved and listened to even when they disagree. If you're bringing a friend and missed the Alpha training (or need a refresher), let me remind you of a few tips on how to be a good host.

1. Give ample opportunities for guests to speak.

2. Listen well! Don't interrupt, but encourage them to 'tell you more'.

3. Don't get offended or defensive, be confident in God's Spirit and His powerful Word. If someone says something you disagree with, don't say 'that's wrong', just say 'tell me more why you think that?'

4. Don't have all the answers. People want to feel listened to, not preached at. Understanding their question is more important than giving the right answer. Before you give an answer, ask them first 'can i tell you what i think about that?'

5. Be vulnerable and share well. People won't always feel like sharing, that's ok. You can set an example of what helpful sharing looks like - share some of the things you liked about the talk, or things you found hard, or questions you've had. This will help people to realise that you don't need all the answers.

l hope that's helpful. If you or your guest haven't RSVP'd, please register for catering purposes at stfaiths.church/alpha

PARISH Counsel Update

Our newly elected Parish Council has met once since our AGM in March. At this meeting we spent time reviewing and prioritising the various questions and suggestions which were raised by parishioners at the AGM for future meetings and consideration. We considered and discussed a draft social media policy for use at St Faith's following advice from the diocese. The Parish Council have also spent parts of the last two meetings thinking through the future vision and mission of St Faith's. As we seek to move forward in this, we ask for your prayers for God's wisdom and direction. Finally, a financial update was provided to the Parish Council noting that our income and expenses are on budget to the end of February, for which we give thanks to God!

Praise God for the installation of our Tesla solar panel battery that will store the power that is generated from our solar panels on the northern roof of our main building. A big thank you to Rod Bale for his work in overseeing this project which lasted for around two years, involved working with government officials and grant paperwork, Anglican Church head office, local providers, our administration team and much more! We are thankful for the provision of both a state and federal grant that largely covered the costs of this project.

Now all we need is that big yellow thing in the sky to reappear.....

Over our next few meetings, we will continue discussion on vision and mission, with a particular focus on generating 'mission heat' as a parish and the important task of equipping people for ministry and service. Various members of our staff team have been invited to attend – this month that will include Marcus Druitt and Rosemary MacGregor.

Parish Council Members 2022 -Ellie Jacobs (Night Church), Meredith Harvey (Saturday Church), Anthony McCausland (Saturday Church), Jeanette Madden (Morning Church), Christina Wood (Morning Church), Bob Saville (Traditional Church), Tim Tunbridge (Traditional Church), Michael Broadhurst (Warriewood).



EASTER Outreach Update

MARCUS DRUITT

On the week leading up to Easter, a group of us went out with freddo frogs handing out Easter fliers to strangers.

There was a mix of trepidation and excitement among the team and although there were many rejections, there were also many encouraging stories. In fact, we had a few people turn up to our Easter services because God worked through one of these people handing out the fliers! Here's a few of their stories.

Ross Jones had a guy come back to him after receiving the invitation and said "It's so nice to realise that people notice you."

Anne Horton was a machine with a big smile and a 'Happy Easter', she had many great convos.

Elizabeth Morrison bravely volunteered to give it a go, even though she'd never done it before, but went with a veteran Gideon, Simon Hunter.

And Guy Amon got to utilise a Sikh greeting he knew when he met a local Sikh. The greeting translates to roughly "one will be blessed eternally who says that God is the ultimate truth"- when Guy said this his face lit up and said "I will definitely be there!"

There were more stories to tell, but it was an encouraging time, especially our debrief afterwards. So great hearing so many good stories. We'll be doing it again for Christmas, so can I encourage you to get involved. It's easy and it only takes an hour, it's good for your growth, and for the Kingdom!



Thank you for your generosity and partnership in supporting the work of St Faith's. If you wish to start giving you can do this by using our secure online giving platform that allows you to give electronically using your debit or credit card (visit https://stfaiths.church/give for more details) or by bank transfer from your own bank's mobile app or online banking using the below account details:

St Faiths Narrabeen BSB: 032-192 ACC: 860318

MAY Prayer Diary

SUN 1	Pray for Neil and Ben preaching at St Faith's and Colin preaching at WAC this weekend, starting on our term 2 series in Exodus. Pray for clarity, that God's word would be faithfully taught and their words encourage and strengthen the faith of those who hear. Pray for New-ish today where people who are new to St Faith's connect with others and take the fIrst steps to being a member of our church. Pray that it will be a welcoming time as people get to know each other.
MON 2	ESL - Praise God that we are able to continue ESL classes this coming term, that covid restrictions are minimal, and that students are feeling more confident about coming into groups. Give thanks for our wonderful team of teachers, childminders, and friend makers, all of them showing Christ's love and care to our precious students. Pray for our return to class after the school holidays, that our teachers will be fresh and prepared, that new students will come, and that our class numbers will grow. Ask for God's blessing and empowering in every aspect of our classes and the relationships formed with students.
TUE 3	Pray for Marcus and Rose as they seek to encourage St Faith's members to discover, develop and use their gifts to build up the body, the kingdom and themselves. Pray that people will want to serve in a way that brings glory to Christ. Thank God for the faithful service of those who serve us each week.
WED 4	SCRIPTURE – Give thanks for the opportunity that we have in teaching scripture in our local schools. Pray as classes resume for term 2 that the children will be eager to learn more about Jesus and his love for them. Pray for more people to be willing to train as scripture teachers so that more classes can be covered. Give thanks for Jo Harpur who coordinates scripture every year.
THU 5	WAC - Give thanks for the attendance at Services over the Easter weekend. Give thanks for the wonderful turnout at the Anzac Day service and that a number of residents from Marcus Loane House were able to attend. Pray for residents experiencing health challenges and for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Pray God would open the hearts and minds of residents to receive His offer of forgiveness and mercy. Pray for a speedy resolution of several ongoing IT issues that are an unwelcome and annoying intrusion on what we do.

FRI 6	LIGHTHOUSE AND SOULIES – Pray many primary school children and high schoolers would return to Lighthouse and Soulies after the school holidays. Pray the youth will continue to invite their friends to come along. Give thanks for the leaders who come and serve each week during the school term.
SAT 7	Pray Marcus, Philip and Colin would have God's wisdom as they prepare to speak this weekend at church, continuing in the Exodus series. Pray we will be open to hear God's message to us through his Word and for those who may be visiting to want to know more about God.
SUN 8	MOTHER'S DAY – Give thanks for mothers and the role they play in nurturing children and families. Pray for mothers in our church to continue to look to God for guidance on how best to nurture relationships in their families and to walk closely with Jesus. Pray for comfort for those for whom Mother's Day is a time of sadness.
MON 9	Pray for the GENERAL SYNOD OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA meeting 8th to 13th May. Particularly pray for wise decision regarding resolutions on marriage.
TUE 10	Pray for the ALPHA - EXPLORE course as we start tonight. Pray it doesn't get postponed or cancelled like in term 1 (due to floods and covid). Pray for boldness to invite guests, soft hearts, and for God's Spirit to work powerfully through Marcus as he presents the Gospel.
WED 11	THE COMMUNITY PANTRY – Give thanks for our volunteers who show Jesus' love as they prepare food, serve meals, play music, wash up and connect with our guests. Give thanks too for the guests attending the Alpha Course. Pray more guests will attend, for good conversations and lives given to Jesus. Pray that we may find replacements for the Commercial Oven and Microwave for our kitchen. We rely on these appliances for this ministry. Pray replacements are found and installed quickly and that we have the finances to cover all costs.
THU 12	WAR VETS - Praise God that our Easter Services were well attended, we had some new visitors and that the gospel went forth. Pray for those who heard, that may be nominal in faith, that God brings his Word to life in them. Covid restrictions are continuing to ease and we have our first 'Men's Day Out' on May 25th . The first for over two years!!! Pray that this will be a great occasion to reconnect with the men and that gospel opportunities shall open up. Pray that aged care generally will not be neglected by the newly elected Federal Government but that recommendations will be followed up from the Royal Commission particularly on pay rates to carers and recreation staff so that it is affordable for them to continue in this career. Thank God, with Bob and I, for all our committed volunteers who do so much to further the Christian work here with our wonderful residents.
FRI 13	UKRAINE - Ask God to protect and comfort those suffering or afraid in the war between Ukraine and Russia. Pray for safety for the many civilians who are still trapped in the devastation and for hostilities to end soon. Pray for those with power over the war, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

SAT 14	T rent McGrath and THE VILLAGE CHURCH (TVC) IN JINDABYNE - In April we were joined by a few families and staff from Figtree Anglican Church to try and reach families in the Jindabyne area through a Holiday Kids Program. Praise God for team unity and chemistry, and that He would save people through this outreach.
SUN 15	Pray for Neil and Ben preaching across all services at St Faith's and WAC this weekend. Pray they impart well the message of all that God gives and what the appropriate response to God should be in a way that encourages us all.
MON 16	Pray for our staff team who are away this week on the REACH AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE on the Central Coast. Pray that this time away is useful for equipping our team, refreshing them in ministry, stirring their hearts with solid bible teaching and inspiring them with the witness of God at work in churches all over Australia.
TUE 17	MISSION - IRWAN AND CATHERINE - AFES at WOLLONGONG UNI – Pray for students who come to Engaging With Muslim training, will lovingly and boldly explain the hope they have in Christ. Pray for Jaxon (local) and A (from Saudi) to come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
WED 18	Pray for FIONA AND JAMES KIRSOP as they move house and settle into life in Melbourne. James will be working at City on a Hill Melbourne. Pray for good relationships to be built and for God's guidance as Fiona explores new opportunities to serve in university ministry with AFES.
THU 19	MISSION - MEAGAN LLEWELYN - AFES at SYDNEY UNI - We are into the back half of semester now with bibles studies in full swing. Please continue to be in prayer for the number new/non Christian's in attendance to bible studies and pray that they will be willing and able to come to our mid year conference in July. Please be praying for me as John is in Melbourne for the entirety of May, pray that I will be diligent in keeping in touch and that God will sustain us both in our relationship with him and with each other.
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MON 23	Pray for Rosemary and Jenni who are joining the Northern Beaches Family and Domestic Violence committee . Pray as they represent St Faith's on the committee that this would be a good opportunity for the wider community to see Christians helping those who are in this situation. Pray for wisdom in knowing how they can best contribute and learn about the services available in our local community.
TUE 24	MISSION - DAN AND LIV WEBSTER - NAMIBIA EVANGELICAL AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - Thank God that people are trusting us and inviting us to help. For Josephine, Liv's trainee - who is so skilled, so keen to learn and help, and is a believer. For the wonderful support we experience from you and CMS. Ask God for discipline in saying 'no' to opportunities and making time to rest. For the NETS mission trip this week; for unity and fruitfulness. Also pray that Dan would have sensitivity and clarity in certain relationships.
WED 25	Give thanks for the COMMUNITY PANTRY team: Kathy, Brad, Neil, Chris and Max. Give thanks for the many people who come and serve each week and pray that the recent Alpha course we have been running will lead to many guests turning to faith in Christ.
THU 26	Pray for marriages within our church family . Pray that husbands and wives would love each other sacrificially as Jesus loves his church.
FRI 27	Give thanks for the dedication and work of OUR CHAPLAINCY TEAMS at the Anglicare Village in Warriewood as well as the War Vets in Collaroy Plateau. Thank God for Colin Sheehan, Deborah Kellahan, Carol Stiles, Tony Bradford and Kath McLaren, along with those who volunteers their time. Pray that God would continue to use these teams to promote the gospel to the residents of those villages and that many would trust in Jesus.
SAT 28	Give thanks for the WELCOME TEAMS at St Faith's. Pray that they will welcome like Christ welcomes us. Pray that they will spur us all on to be a welcoming church.
SUN 29	Pray for Ben and Marcus as they preach this weekend , that their words encourage us to want to live God's way and that we continue to respond with open hearts to the message of God's gracious and faithful love. COTTAGE COUNSELLING CENTRE - Give thanks for the Cottage Counselling Centre and the work they do in helping to bring comfort and healing to their clients.
MON 30	Pray for the preparations for the St Faith's Chill Out Camp happening in July for children in kindy to year 5. Pray for the team of volunteers and organisers that they will seek God's will as they make decisions and organise the schedule. Pray many children from the community will attend.
TUE 31	Give thanks to God for our PARISH COUNCIL and WARDENS . Pray that as they meet tonight, God would give them wisdom, insight and godly judgement regarding decisions in the parish and use of finances. In particular thank God for the opportunity that the Parish Council has to hear from Rosemary MacGregor at this meeting.



CHILLOUT



CALLING



9am — 12pm WED 13th — FRI 15th JULY 2022 \$30 fbr 3 DAYS MORNING TEA PROVIDED

TO REGISTER VISIT BIT.LY/CHILLOUT2022 Or for more info contact Chillout@stfaiths.org.au

ALPHA

If you would like to come, or would like to bring a guest, please register at **stfaiths.church/alpha** for catering purposes.

Alpha starts on Tuesday 3rd May from 7:30pm until 9pm.



EQUIP 2022 Sat 18 June 9AM - 4PM

EQUIP Women exists to equip women to share Jesus in every context God places them - home, work, church and community in Australia and beyond.

In 2021 EQUIP began a new series in the Old Testament, starting with the enchanting story of Ruth and Naomi. In 2022, we move to the often forgotten book of "Lamentations". Written as 5 "laments" in raw, heart-wrenching poetry, we walk the streets of war-torn Jerusalem after the Exile. A deeply reflective book, it enables a deep understanding of ourselves, God and the future.

Join us at St Faith's Narrabeen on 18 June 2022 to hear God's Word to us in the book of Lamentations. Cost \$30. Register via the Connection Point

BELONG

'Belong' is an opportunity for anyone who is new (or even not so new) to St Faith's Narrabeen to become a member. It is a place to learn more about us and get connected into church life. You'll meet people like yourself, get to know key staff and find out what we believe and are seeking to achieve under God. 'Belong' is your way into a Community Group where you can grow in a close-knit community. There is Bible teaching about our great God and our place in His mission to the Northern Beaches.

'Belong' is held over 3 Sundays-22nd May, 29th May and the 5th June at 4pm St Faith's Narrabeen. Register via the Connection Point in church or email neil@stfaiths.org.au



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