

ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2022

COMMUNITY MAG



ISSUE 17



CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM SENIOR PASTOR	4
INSPIRE	6
QUILTING & NEEDLECRAFT	7
BELONG	8
EXODUS RECAP	10
GUMTREES PLAYTIME	11
MEET A MEMER	12
PRAYER DIARY	14
COMING UP	18
COMMUNITY NEWS	19



1 CORINTHIANS

GOOD NEWS FOR A MESSY CHURCH

Welcome

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

BEN MOLYNEUX



What a joy it was to be able to go ahead with Chillout last month after two years of Covid shutdown! For anyone who was there (either helping, dropping off kids, or just passing by) the joy, enthusiasm, and excitement each day was palpable!

Each day we welcomed around 100 children from school years K-5 and had an awesome time sharing Jesus, the one with 'power to the max' to smash sin, stop storms, and crush death! Roughly speaking, there were around 50% of the children who were from St Faith's, 25% from other church communities, and a further 25% were from outside church - friends of our church families, SRE contacts (praise God!) and even one young Ukrainian boy from our ESL ministry! God was glorified as the gospel was proclaimed. One of the steps we worked hard on for Chillout was a follow up invitation to Chillout Church (the following Sunday morning) where we saw around 10 families from outside of St Faith's make their way to church when they wouldn't normally be here with us. Furthermore, the first week of Lighthouse (yrs 3-5, Friday afternoons) included six new children who all attended Chillout! How good is that?!

The Chillout team was a wonderful mix of people from all our St Faith's congregations and it was a joy to serve this way together as a team. One highlight was the way in which the team got to know one another on a deeper level, united by the common cause of the gospel, on mission to see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus.

I'd like to thank everyone who served across the week, big or small, it was a joy to see God's church working together as a body, united in Christ, to glorify his name and make him known to children and families on the Beaches! In particular, a big thank you to Lyndal Foote and her co-director, Jordy, for the wonderful oversight, hours of labour, lost sleep, and excellent organisation and leadership given to this Christ-centred outreach event!

As we're reminded in 1 Corinthians 3 – our human efforts involve planting gospel seeds, and we may even give them some water and encouragement along – but it's God who makes them grow. So, let's continue to commit the good work of our Chillout mission week, by coming before our great God with thankful hearts for the planting and watering, and ask Him to bring the growth that only He can do in the hearts and lives of the children and families we had contact with during this outreach event.

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,
Ben

INSPIRE 2022

Inspire is a women's event that has been held at St Faith's for many years (aside from when Covid halted activities).

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT:

"HOPE IN HARDSHIP" SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH

Our vision for Inspire 2022 is that it would be a day when the women of St Faith's gather together and would feel well loved and nourished spiritually, emotionally & physically so that they are then INSPIRED to go out and love and serve Jesus together.

We will be hearing some stories from women in our church who wish to share how Jesus has helped them through various challenges they have faced. We will spend some time singing together, hearing a message from the Bible and will have the opportunity to ask your questions to a panel of faithful sisters in Christ. We will also share morning tea and lunch together.

We can't wait for the women of St Faith's to come together for a day of enrichment and fellowship.

Please register by Sunday 28th August 2022, cost \$30.





QUILTING & NEEDLECRAFT NEWS

Due to Covid we haven't held our annual Quilt Show and Biggest Morning Tea for 3 years, so this year in May, the ladies decided to hold a small morning tea for the quilters and their friends. We were also given some donations from the 8.30 am congregation. We raised \$800 for the Cancer Council. Thank you to all who participated.

During the Covid lockdown some of our quilters were very productive but we had not been able to deliver the quilts until now. In July we had 46 quilts brought in! 16 went to the Children's Hospital at Westmead, and we delivered 20 to Bear Cottage at Manly. Every child who stays at Bear Cottage gets to choose and keep a quilt. Once a child turns 18 they can no longer stay at Bear Cottage but have to transfer to an adult hospital or nursing home. Thankfully now the Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice (AYAH) is being built on the site of the old Manly hospital and is due to open in November. We have saved 10 of our single bed quilts for them.

New members are always welcome to join us. If you need help with knitting, quilting, embroidery or chatting, there is always someone willing to help you.

We meet at the church every **Thursday 9-30am to 12md.**

Contact Judith Baker for more information 0412413590 or 99707154. ■

BELONG

BELONG

BELONG



BELONG

NEIL SOUTER

Joining a new church can be hard!

Often questions come up like: Am I wanted here? How do they do things?

What does this church believe? How do I get involved and play my part?

What we and many other churches have noticed is that even after people have been attending a church for a while, they do not have a sense of belonging or feel a part of the vision that the church is seeking to achieve under God.

As a staff team we recognised these challenges which is why we started "Belong".

Belong helps people have what we call a "Membership Moment" where people can say "yes, I understand what this church is all about, I'm excited about where we are heading and I know how I can play my part."



Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

There is a distinction between
“Attending” and “Belonging”.

As disciples of Christ, who have been saved and bought by Jesus death we must not see ourselves as people who simply “attend a church service”we have been saved by Jesus to so much more!

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

In fact, if we are saved by Christ we Belong to Jesus and His Church. The bible uses the wonderful image of the church being “the body of Christ” working together, seeking to build each other up in faith, being a family of believers and being on mission together in taking the Gospel out into the world.

So before we invite someone to join a Community Group or a Ministry Team, we would love people to come to Belong. It will help people have a “Membership Moment” and understand who we are, where we are heading and how we are seeking to get there together under God.

So if you are New-ish to St Faith’s and want to work out if St Faith’s is the church for you or if you have been attending for a while but desire to plugin more – Come to Belong! ■

The Next of the Belong sessions are starting at 4:30pm on Sunday 7th August- You should come!

Scan the Connection Point to Register:



WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM EXODUS?

Sue: God is faithful to his people and faithful to keep his promises. We don't need to ask 'when will you act?' as he is working already, to rescue and refine us, even when it doesn't look like it.

Michael: One thing I got from Exodus is how we can put our trust in God's promises and particularly how his plans will play out in his time not ours.

Samir: How wonderful, it is magnificent to find out that every written word is useful for teaching, the word is always pointing at our saviour and redeemer

Bec: For me, the almighty and powerful, yet redeeming nature of God is what has stayed with me after studying Exodus. He gave his chosen people the chance to return to Him, to protect their families from losing their first borns and He delivered them in a mind-blowing battle of the masses on foot VS an army with horses, chariots and weapons...because He wants to intimately redeem his people to Himself.

Jan: God guides and leads us in all circumstances.

Andrew: The verse that stood out to me was Exodus 3:14 ("God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'") as it reminds me that we don't have to face challenges on our own and that we can call on God for strength and wisdom in these uncertain times.

Jeanette: Chapter 3:2-4 It was only when Moses went over to 'see' what was happening (burning bush) that God then called out to him by name... "when the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush"- we so need to be ever vigilant, 'looking out' for what's going on around us..... God uses us when we least expect it! Moses certainly didn't expect to lead a nation out of slavery when he went over to check out a burning bush while watching sheep!

Bob and Sandra: In the worst of our circumstances and through the machinations of our enemies, with plans often beyond our comprehension, God works His purposes out in justice, righteousness, love and salvation. ■

GUMTREES PLAYTIME

It was really exciting to see Gumtrees Playtime kick-off again at the beginning of the term. For the uninitiated, Playtime is a Wednesday morning playgroup for parents, carers and children who aren't yet attending school. Over the morning we spend time in free play, singing songs, reading stories and doing craft – all with a Christian flavor.

The group provides connection and fun, as well as an opportunity to expose them to Bible truths. It also provides local parents and carers with a place to connect with one another, and particularly to connect believers and unbelievers so there might be an opportunity to share Jesus and introduce them to St Faith's.

It's an excellent opportunity, and we would love you to partner with us in it!

If you are at home with small children during the week, we'd love you to come along and connect with other carers in the community. If you're free on a Wednesday morning but don't have small children, you might consider coming along to help with logistics, and also to hold babies and chat with parents/carers.

If this might be you, feel free to get in contact so we can chat.

We would also love you to partner with us in prayer. In God's kindness he uses our prayers to bring about his purposes.

Please join us in praying for Gumtrees Playtime! To that end, please:

- Ask God to give the team good health so we can continue to launch well;
- Pray for people to join us: both St Faith's members, and those from our local community who aren't yet members of St Faith's;
- Pray for relational connections to form between believers and unbelievers; and
- Pray that the Christian songs and Bible stories we engage with would be thought provoking, conversation starting, and ultimately, life changing. ■



**NATALIA
DOWSE**



MEET A MEMBER

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

I grew up on the Northern Beaches in quite an unconventional, relaxed, Bohemian family. We had a lot of freedom, very few rules and my parents were open to New Age spiritual ideas such as reincarnation, psychics and life after death, but not interested in formal religion or Christianity. I think their view of Christianity would have been that it was mythology, old-fashioned, oppressive, and not a lot of fun!

When I was about 13, I met a girl who lived on my street and we became close friends. Her family were Christians and attended church twice on Sundays, which I found very annoying because she couldn't hang out with me! It followed that the only way I could spend more time with her was to go along to church.

I recall thinking that church was very strange. I'd never seen adults singing together and couldn't work out how everyone knew the melodies and words to so many songs. I'd never heard the Bible read or explained before, but I was listening. I started to connect with general themes in the teaching, such as there being a deeper meaning and purpose to life, a 'spirit world', the existence of good and evil, God as the loving Creator of all things (including us) and Jesus claiming to be His son.

Yet at this stage, believing in the God of the Bible was like saying I thought fairies were real. Although I was open, and even willing, that step of faith just seemed impossible to me. For about 3 years my friend patiently endured all my arguments, scepticism, and eye rolling. She would answer my questions and continue to invite me along to Christian events. She didn't take offense when I didn't believe, and I couldn't talk her out of her faith!

At around 15 years old, I was invited to Camp Kedron by my friend. By then, I had learned more about Jesus in particular – his character, his teachings, and his claim to be the son of God. There was one talk towards the end of the camp that impacted me very deeply. Someone got up and explained, in detail, the humiliation and torment Jesus endured on the last day of his journey to the cross. I understood for the first time that he had willingly died in my place and for my sin. The depth and reality of God's sacrifice and grace reached my emotions for the first time and actually caused my heart to ache. I had gone beyond hearing about God's love to really feeling it.

Some months later, I went on a bush walk alone. I had continued to wrestle with unbelief – wanting to believe but being completely unable to. It was robbing me of peace. I needed to decide one way or the other. I stood looking out over a beautiful landscape and felt gratitude for the natural world that God very well may have created. A Bible verse clearly came into my mind, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." At that moment I decided to stop struggling and just ask God to give

me faith. I figured, if God wasn't real then nothing would happen and that would be the end of it! I prayed something like, "I want to believe in you God, but I don't know how to. If you are real, then please show me who you are and give me faith."

Over the coming months and years God did indeed answer my prayer. He revealed Himself to me through His word, sermons, Christian friends, music and reading Christian books. Reading the Bible felt completely different – it had been brought to life. I still had moments of doubt but had many more moments where I clearly felt God was 'speaking' to my heart, guiding me, comforting me, and providing for me in very personal and often tangible ways. I began to live my life with more joy, different priorities, and a clear sense of purpose. God impacted all my choices, big and small.

Over my life I have been through difficult times and suffered some very painful losses. Despite all of this, my testimony is that God has always met me in my grief. Through my pain he has only ever grown my faith, deepened my gratitude, and proved Himself to be my most trusted provider and comforter. I feel secure in Him no matter what life is yet to bring. I started out struggling with so much unbelief but, all these years later, I really couldn't imagine life without Him at the centre of it. ■

AUGUST PRAYER DIARY

MON 1	<p>ESL – Give thanks to our Heavenly Father for three weeks break in the school holidays, which enabled our team members to rest and recuperate following a busy Term 2. Give thanks for the blessings of Term 2, where student numbers slowly grew each week, and where a number of students were keen to stay back each week to read the Bible and talk about the person of Jesus. Please pray for classes as ESL returned for Term 3 on July 25th, that we will all be reliant on God to lead us, to empower us and to sustain us. Please pray for our team members that we will be prayerful, looking to Jesus to help us teach, and to guide us as we seek to reflect Jesus to the students in all we say and do.</p>
TUE 2	<p>Chillout – Give thanks for an incredible team. Thanks for their hard work and genuine love for children and families. Give thanks that Jesus was made known to the children who have never had the chance to hear. Pray that seeds sown during Chillout will bear fruit for the kingdom. Please be praying for families in an ongoing way.</p> <p>Give thanks for our Children’s minister Lyndal for her co- ordination and leadership of St Faith’s Kids and Lighthouse and for her preparation of many and varied interesting and fun materials and activities for our children that teaches and encourages them to learn more about and follow Jesus. Pray her leave for three weeks following the very busy Chillout time and preparing for Term 3 is a time of rest and refreshment for her.</p>
WED 3	<p>Give thanks for Pam Smith, Nicci Williams, Belinda Morgan, Rachel Mabley, Zoe Chap-man, Marcus Druitt and Ben Molyneux who serve on the Gumnut Management Committee. Pray for the committee as they meet this afternoon and make decisions regarding the future of the Kindy. Thank God for our Director, Stephanie Reeves, and for the way in which she has led the Kindy over the last few months. Pray that children and families would continue to be impacted by the wonderful ministry of Gumnut Kindy.</p>
THU 4	<p>MISSION – Meagan Llewelyn AFES at Sydney Uni – Praise God for second semester kick-ing off this month, pray for small groups as leaders start group forming, and as Meagan continues training small group leaders. Pray for 1st year students who are, this semester, joining in small groups, and training courses where they are seeking to have Jesus centred conversations with their non-Christian friends.</p>

FRI 5	WAC – Warriewood Anglican Church. Pray for our new 'preaching-community-group-series', in Corinthians – may we engage well with this word of God from the pen of Paul; may we hear and respond-aright to what the Gospel has to say about messiness in our own lives; may members not grow weary in wrestling with God's word to us (who are described by Paul, as those) who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for the recent spike in COVID cases within Warriewood Brook village arising, it seems, from people ven-turing out into the wider community; we pray that symptoms will be manageable and re-cove-ry complete. Pray for adjustments required of us for our Sunday services during the up-coming 4-6 week refurbishment of the auditorium.
SAT 6	Pray for Neil preaching at all Narrabeen services this weekend and Colin Sheehan preach-ing at WAC. Pray their teaching helps us to hold fast to the truth of the gospel, and may we all be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in our churches and in our fellowship to-gether.
SUN 7	St Faith's Kids – Give thanks for our leaders who faithfully prepare and lead our children each week. Pray God will continue to give them the strength to serve, enable them to teach his word and help to love the children with the love of Jesus.
MON 8	Pray for Ben Molyneux who is on a leadership intensive week with Reach Australia this week. Pray that this is a useful time of equipping Ben further to lead our church and our ministry team into the future. Thank God for the work of Reach Australia as they seek to equip and support growing, healthy churches across Australia.
TUE 9	SRE – Give thanks for being able to have undisturbed lesson time during the past two terms; pray Terms 3 and 4 can continue uninterrupted. Pray that all our scripture teachers can remain well and the children learn the hope of Jesus during their time with them.
WED 10	The Community Pantry – Praise God for his continued provision. We have been blessed with many volunteers providing soup to supplement the meals our regular volunteers pro-vide. We are thankful for all our volunteers in all their roles, but pray the vacancies on some of our teams are filled. Pray too for the Committee of Neil, Kathy, Max, Chris and Brad to seek God's will and wisdom as they oversee this Ministry. Pray we all show Christ's love to our guests as we serve them. We give thanks for the many guests who come early each week to be a part of Neil's Bible Study. We pray that hearts are softened as guests consid-er the offer Jesus makes to them, and we Praise God for the gentleman who recently gave his life to Christ. Pray he is well supported as he grows in his faith.
THU 11	MISSION – Irwan and Catherine – AFES at Wollongong Uni – Give thanks for the 160 students and AFES staff who attend the Mid Year conference. Pray that the talks and discussions have helped all grow in their trust in Jesus, and others come to faith in Him. Give thanks that all speakers remained well.

CONT'D...	Pray for ministry at Uni starting back including Koolobong Village residential Bible Study and for the Training course this month for students in understanding and answering common objections from Muslims.
FRI 12	Lighthouse – Give thanks for our team of young leaders and for their commitment to the Lighthouse children each week. Pray they will continue to build their ministry skills as they lead Lighthouse, which will be the beginning of a life of service for the Kingdom.
SAT 13	Pray for Adam preaching at all Narrabeen services this weekend and for Colin preaching at WAC . Give thanks for their faithful preaching and give thanks for the Scriptures, which contain so much important information on how to walk in spirit and truth and to live a life that honours God's name.
SUN 14	Chillout Church – Give thanks that a number of families came to church after Chillout. Give thanks for the message of Jesus' invitation and thanks that the congregation engaged with our visitors so well. Pray for families who came that God will be working in them to want to know God more.
MON 15	Pray for the GAFCON Australasia Conference that is happening this week in Canberra. GAFCON is the 'Global Anglican Future Conference' which seeks to retain and restore the Bible to the heart of the Anglican communion, by guarding the unchanging, transforming gospel of Jesus, proclaiming this to the world. Pray for Ben Molyneux, Neil Souter and Ad-am Scott as they attend this conference.
TUE 16	Pray for our Tuesday morning Women's Community Groups . Give thanks for those wom-en who come along regularly each week to gather around God's word together. Pray for the leaders, Bev, Sarah, Roz and Rosemary.
WED 17	Pray for the Discover Digging Deeper course running in a Community Group style format over four weeks starting today. Pray St Faith's members who attend will be bold in inviting friends and/or family to come along. Pray for those attending who haven't yet made a commitment to Christ will be led by God's Spirit to do so and for those who already have a relationship with Jesus will be built up in their faith.
THU 18	MISSION – DAN AND LIV WEBSTER – NAMIBIA EVANGELICAL AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Pray for Dan as the semester has begun again and the massive work load involved in teaching/training the students. Ask God for students who are struggling, to pay for their fees. Pray for Liv and the boys as they home-school for another term. Give thanks Liv is doing better at managing the overwhelming needs for her professional services. We've been grateful to God for the answers to prayer that we have been seeing around us and in us. Thank God for great local believers who encourage us to be thankful. Give thanks for the privilege of being engaged in good work for the sake of the Kingdom, and for those who enable us to do it.

FRI 19	Combined Night at Soulies. Pray our youth will be encouraged as we answer "How can I be sure I'm a Christian". Pray it will be a great opportunity for the youth to invite friends along to join in the fun and hear more about Jesus.
SAT 20	Pray for Ben preaching at Saturday, Morning and Night Church and Philip preaching at Traditional Church and WAC. Pray their teaching will encourage us to live in a way that is pleasing to God in all speech and activity so that His name is glorified in our lives.
SUN 21	Confirmation Classes start for the Soulies Youth. Pray that it will be a formative time.
MON 22	Trent McGrath and The Village Church (TVC) in Jindabyne – Give thanks that the McGrath family were able to take a break to visit friends and family in Sydney during the July school holidays. Give thanks for Tim Purser who stepped in to preach at The Village Church on 10th July.
TUE 23	COTTAGE COUNSELLING CENTRE – Give thanks for the Cottage Counselling Centre and the team of counsellors for the dedicated work they do in helping to bring comfort and healing to their clients. Pray for Godly insight and wisdom as they consider expansion of their ser-vice.
WED 24	Gumtrees Playtime – Give thanks for Edwina starting up the St Faith's playtime again where children can come together and play, while parents and carers from the community can meet families from church. Praise God for bringing people along to our first week. Pray that as they come along each week that they would feel at home and God would help fos-ter relationships. Pray they have the opportunity to witness God's love in action in their in-teractions with families from church and that Christian songs and stories would be thought provoking and start conversations. Pray Edwina gets support from others to coordinate this each week.
THU 25	INSPIRE 2022 – Give thanks for Meredith Harvey and Rosemary MacGregor and the team of volunteers who are planning for the women's event on 10th September. Pray the preparations will run smoothly and for Rosemary as she prepares bible talks on "Hope in Hardship", the theme for Inspire 2022.
FRI 26	Soulies Leaders – Give thanks for those young people at St Faith's who for many years give their time on Friday evenings to lead the youth. Pray for God to continue sustaining them to share the gospel and show the love of Jesus as they balance this role with the demands of their work or study and family relationships.
SAT 27	Pray for Ben preaching all Narrabeen services this weekend and Colin preaching at WAC. Pray their preaching will help us to remain faithful to our calling in Christ not allowing our spiritual walk to be wrongly influenced by circumstances or society but conduct ourselves in a way that is a true reflection of Jesus.

CONT'D...	CATCH UPS FOR 6 – Pray as women across all congregations meet today socially in groups at various locations. Pray for a great time of fellowship and getting to know women from other services.
SUN 28	Ask God to help us all have servant hearted attitudes as we 'do life' and love one another as the body of Christ.
MON 29	GUMNUT KINDY – Praying for Gumnut families and staff for good health and protection through the winter flu season. Give thanks for our newest amazing team members, Pompy and Bev, as they form beautiful relationships with both children and families. A true blessing to have Gumnut running so smoothly and educators working collaboratively as a team. Also giving thanks to our new children starting at Gumnut over the last month and pray they settle in nicely.
TUE 30	PARISH COUNCIL – Thank God for those who serve on our Parish Council, including Mere-dith Harvey, Ellie Jacobs, Anthony McCausland, Bob Saville and others. As they meet to-night pray for practical wisdom in discussing property and money matters.
WED 31	MISSION – Chris and Karen Webb – Broome peoples Church – Pray for Chris and Karen and church members to be always relying on God especially when life is challenging. Pray for more aboriginal people to put their trust in Jesus and follow his ways. Give thanks for the members of church who are keen to share their faith; pray they can be an encouragement to others.

COMING UP...

Inspire – Saturday 10th September 2022. \$30 for the day.



discover

Discover – "A place for seekers, sceptics and beginners to discover the God who made them. Over four weeks, starting on Wednesday August 17th at either 10am or 7:30pm. Please register at – stfaiths.church/discover

National GRANDPARENT CONFERENCE

Leaving a Living Legacy



WHEN
17th September 2022

WHERE
Figtree Anglican Church
4-10 Gibsons Road, Figtree NSW

REGISTER
In person and online
attendance options available.

Details and registrations online at
ngmlegacy.com.au
or call Figtree Anglican on 02 4272 1322

Early Bird Discount ends 12th August 2022
Registrations close 12th September 2022

HOSTED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



COMMUNITY NEWS

Those unwell:

Rosemary Irwin
Larry and Jacky Tolnay
Robyn Ohlsson
Sean Foley
Anne Robinson
Andrew Channon
Alison Pryde

Trish Clifton
Dennis Hensman
Kerry Nagel
Max and Imelda Krause
Amy Spinks
Isabelle Furness
Andrew Coster

I'M NEW HERE // ALPHA // NEW-ISH LUNCH // ONBOARD

CONNECTION POINT.



SERMON NOTES // UPDATE MY DETAILS

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

