

ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2022

COMMUNITY
MAG

a
thrill
of
hope



ISSUE 21



MAKING THE MOST OF CHRISTMAS

MARCUS DRUITT

If there's ever a God given golden opportunity to share our faith, Christmas must be it. So how do we make the most of it?

We could just wait for visitors to come to church at Christmas, and we know they do. Every year churches all over the country are packed with visitors who barely ever come to church.

We could be a bit more proactive, and leaflet, and promote our church services online. And while this does work, its effect is limited.

A far more effective way is with a personal invite from a friend. In fact 1 in 3 people said they would come to church if invited by a close family or family.

So how can we do this, without being awkward and weird?

Can we encourage you this year to try to do something social before or after a service. For example, we have two services on Christmas Eve: a big family service at 5pm, and a carols service at 8pm. Why not invite some other people to get together for drinks and nibbles before the service, and ask if they would also like to join you for church? If they say no, that's ok! You can still enjoy a good time together.



It's also a great opportunity to mix our different social worlds together. We often have our work/school/study friends, and then our church friends, and never the two shall meet. But if you're the only Christian they know (and 25% of Australia doesn't even have a close friend or family member to invite them to Church), then they may think you're fairly normal, but other Christians would be weird, or judgmental, or whatever negative presumptions they've got. So which of your church friends could you also invite that they may get along with? Now, hopefully they've had two positive experiences with Christians, and we're not the two headed weirdos they may have been expecting.

So which Christmas services were you planning on coming to?

What social thing could you do before or after?

Who are your 5 that you could invite to Christmas?

Who from church could you invite too, that your non-churched friends may get along with?

So prayerfully consider it, take action, and entrust the rest to God! And remember Jesus comforting words "Surely I am with you, to the very end of the age."



LYNDAL FOOTE

It was smiles all round at Square One Camp! 13 kids and four leaders headed down to the Port Hacking Campsites for a fantastic weekend with nearly 400 other kids and leaders from churches all over Sydney. The weekend was organised and run by Youthworks and was packed full of excellent Bible teaching, great singing and fun activities. The kids had a ball! So did we!

The Bible focus was on Jesus, The Cross and Me. The kids were challenged to really think deeply about why Jesus died and what this means for each of us through talks and group discussions.

The rest of the time was taken up with activities like slippery tug of war, water slides, colour run, photo scavenger hunt and campfire at night.

One great strength of the camp is that, because Youthworks organises and runs everything, leaders are freed up to focus on spending time building relationships, talking to and caring for the kids.

We are looking forward to taking even more kids down next year!







MEET A MEMBER

JOHN & LYNNE MCCORMICK

FAVOURITE MOVIE

Lynne-The Deep End of the Ocean

John-Hacksaw Ridge

FAVOURITE FOOD

John-Mixed grill

Lynne-Thai

BEST BEACH

We love Narrabeen Pool and the
Entrance to the Lagoon

IF I COULD GO ANYWAY IN THE WORLD

Australia-We loved travelling
around Australia with our caravan
and there are still many beautiful
places we haven't seen

Tell us how long you have been at st faiths and what service are you part of?

We have been at St Faiths about four
months and we attend the 10:30 service.

How and when did you start following jesus?

John - I was fortunate to be brought up
in a Christian home and attended church
from a young age. I was ten years old
and attended a Christian youth camp
where I accepted Jesus as my saviour.
Lynne - I had a girl friend who invited me
to Sunday School when I was ten years
old and I made a commitment around
that time.

Why is it important to be part of a church family?

We both feel we need to keep growing
in Christ and also to encourage others as
we meet together.

What have been the main things you have been challenged/encouraged By in the commitment series?

We have both been challenged to be
more bold, to speak out about our faith.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Congratulations! - The Doyles on the birth of their twins Oliver and Harrison, and also Suz and Mitch Everingham on the birth of Jamie. Rlichard Grainer and Rebecca Huckel are engaged!

Expecting mums - Tilly Madder (night church), Bethany Meador (night church), Belinda Van Den Berg (morning church).

Those unwell -

Rosemary Irwin
Larry Tolnay
Robyn Ohlsson
Sean Foley
Anne Robinson
Jan Hall

Margaret Hext
Alison Pryde
Trish Clifton
Dennis Hensman
Shane Lau
Janelle Connor

DECEMBER PRAYER DIARY

THU 1	NPSRE CROMER CAMPUS – Pray for Rachel Purcell as she organises and runs some school seminars. Pray that students will be receptive and for continuing good rapport with staff. Pray the Christmas season would provide many opportunities for her to share the gospel and that she would finish things well for the year. Thank God for the Board members and for their faithfulness and willingness to oversee this ministry.
FRI 2	Thank God for the opportunity to share a CHRISTMAS LUNCH celebration here at church today. Pray for Dr Peter Jensen as he speaks. Give thanks for those who have helped organise this annual event.
SAT 3	Pray for Neil and Philip as they preach over the weekend on 2 Peter 3:8-14 in our Advent series. Ask God to give them the right words to say and that their message will be clear.
SUN 4	MISSION – Irwan and Catherine AFES at Uni of Wollongong – thank God for saving two members of Koolobong Bible Study: Jaxon (who we had asked for prayer for a while) and Blake (now a former Catholic) recently. Pray for Irwan as he follows them up – may the Lord establish them well in their trust in Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Give thanks to the Lord for more than 2000 students coming to the National Training Event on 3rd to 7th December on the topic of Identity. Pray for students as they are being equipped in how to handle His word faithfully, their own life will be transformed by His Word. Pray for the mission part of NTE where student groups are sent in partnering with local churches throughout Australia and putting in action what they have learned at NTE – may they all be mutually encouraged and that many in the community be drawn to hear His gospel preached. Pray for us as a family to have the opportunities to share the gospel to our neighbours – the Spanish family and an elderly couple in our complex. Pray for a restful break over boxing day to new year.

MON 5	<p>GUMNUT KINDERGARTEN - Pray for the Gumnut team leading up to Christmas and pray their Christmas activity is a success for all children and the community involved. Pray for our kindy leavers who will be leaving for big school in 2023 and pray they are successful and confident in their big adventure and transition. Pray for our Gumnut families and Gumnut team to have a blessed and peaceful Christmas, and prosperous new year ahead. Pray for Bev and Joana who are embarking on more study in 2023. Pray for the Christmas break, that all our Gumnut Kindy community stay safe, happy and all be in good spirits and health.</p>
TUE 6	<p>MISSION - Chris and Karen Webb - Broome Peoples Church - Give thanks for our recent three weeks of annual leave, a time of relaxation and enjoyment. Pray for the ladies' Bible study group on Friday as they work through Philippians. Thank God for the way the group is connecting with his word and with each other. Pray for Chris as he continues to be involved in the Kimberley Leaders' Training weekends. Give thanks for the Christians in these isolated communities who are always eager for opportunities to learn more from God's word. The next training weekend planned in Yiyili has been postponed. Pray it will still be able to go ahead early next year.</p>
WED 7	<p>SRE - Give thanks for the past year where there were no disruptions for the teaching of Scripture in schools. Give thanks for Jo Harpur as she co ordinates the Scripture program on our behalf here at St Faith's. Pray for more teachers to come onboard for this amazing outreach.</p>
THU 8	<p>MISSION - DAN AND LIV WEBSTER - NAMIBIA EVANGELICAL AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - Give thanks for a friend who is visiting from Australia. Miriam has been good company and has been helping with school also. Thank God for the progress of students this year, in knowledge, skills and character. As we reach the end of the semester, give thanks for the prospect of a slightly slower pace, after all the marking is finalised and that Dan would use the slower pace to give more time to the family. Pray Dan would be culturally thoughtful as he prepares teaching for 2023. Pray for the students who have finished at NETS. That the Lord would keep them and use them.</p>

FRI 9	Give thanks for the work of THE COTTAGE COUNSELLING CENTRE and pray for a good time of fellowship at the Christmas dinner at the Souter house tonight. Pray that Neil would encourage the counsellors in some reflections from the past year as he shares from the Bible.
SAT 10	Ask God to sustain Ben as he preaches across all services at St Faith's this weekend . Thank God for making himself known to us and showing us the way of salvation through Jesus. Ask God to teach and equip up through his word this weekend, challenging and equipping us to know him more and serve him faithfully in the week ahead.
SUN 11	STUDENT MINISTER - Renee Miles - Praise God for Renee's four years here at St Faith's, and the privilege we've had to serve alongside Renee in ministry together. Thank God for her faithful example among us and as she finishes her Student Minister role here at St Faith's, pray that she would settle quickly into her new church at St George North Anglican. Please also pray that God would provide for her as she continues her study at Moore Theological College full-time next year.
MON 12	ESL - thank God for His amazing blessings on ESL this year. Thank God for the enthusiastic group of students that come regularly to class, for their sense of community, and for those that have been keen to come to the Bible Study and want to learn about Jesus. Give thanks that, as a team, we have worked through the challenges of teachers being away and sick, and of making last minute changes to classes.... and have also delighted in our students, their questions and perceptions, and the relationships that we have seen fostered in the classes. Please pray as we focus on the Christmas message in our classes that the student's hearts will be open to the gospel, that the teachers will present it clearly and at the appropriate level for each student, and that God will continue to work in the students hearts through the holiday period. Please pray too for the team, that they will have energy and good health, and that they will continue to grow in their relationships with the students, and with our heavenly Father.

TUE 13	Praise God for the 13 guests who attended DISCOVER this term, eight of whom have indicated they want to continue exploring Jesus in ' Digging Deeper '. Give thanks for the three new Digging Deeper groups that have started this year flowing out of Discover. Pray that those who don't know Christ will discover new life and forgiveness in Him.
WED 14	WAR VETS – thank God for a wonderful year of ministry, care and gospel proclamation at the War Vets. Pray for Rev. Tony Bradford and his ongoing treatment. Pray for healing and energy as he continues to serve this village. Thank God for the volunteers and helpers who served during the year and ask that God would encourage and strengthen their faith through their service of him.
THU 15	WORLD (UKRAINE) – Pray for the millions of Ukrainians who have been left without power and water as Russian air strikes target vital infrastructure, particularly as winter is approaching. Pray food and medical supplies will reach those that need care. Give thanks for the willingness of aid workers who work in dangerous conditions to meet the needs of the Ukrainians in the current crisis. Pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.
FRI 16	Give thanks for the SOULIES SUMMERCAMP taking place next month 22nd-26th January, at the Youthworks Shoalhaven Conference Centres at Waterslea. Pray many youths will want to attend and that they register early. Ask God to sustain the leaders as they prepare for this and for Adam who is overseeing the organisation of the camp, looking at 1 John in the Bible and thinking about what it says about being 'authentic'.
SAT 17	Pray for good fellowship at the FAMILY CHRISTMAS MEALS that are taking place at Saturday Church, Morning Church, and Night Church this week. Pray that this will be a good opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the year in serving Jesus together.
SUN 18	Praise God for the LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE to be held at Traditional Church today. Thank God for the work of the Choir and organist in preparing for this service. Pray many from the community will come along and the significance of Jesus coming to be clearly explained to all who attend.

MON 19 **JESUS CLUB** - Pray for the Jesus Club as this ministry wraps up for the year. Thank God for the wonderful members and for the faithfulness of each leader who has served this year.

TUE 20 **THE COMMUNITY PANTRY** - Give thanks to God for his constant provision of food and volunteers each week. Praise God that he is at work in our guests and for Neil's leadership as he runs a Bible study each week. Pray that people attending understand and receive the gospel and are filled with God's Spirit. Pray others will join the group and find salvation in Jesus. Please also pray for our guests who suffer with mental health issues. Please may they seek and find help and be healed, along with continued healing for Jackson. Pray for our Christmas dinner tomorrow night. Pray as God's Word is opened and as we share the message of Christmas that many would be strengthened in faith and many will place their trust in Jesus.

WED 21 Pray for **FINN CANTRILL AND TILLY MADDER** as they are married today in Katoomba. Pray that God would be the centre of their marriage and that they would grow in love and service of the Lord in their marriage together.

THU 22 **ANGLICARE VILLAGE WARRIEWOOD** - give thanks to God for the village community that allows the faith of staff and residents to be shared with others who value 'The Brook' environment of social intimacy at this time in their lives. We pray that God by His Spirit would continue to equip us as good neighbours to winsomely promote and proclaim the gospel in the everyday exchanges and engagements of life ... especially during the Christmas New Year period ahead.

FRI 23 Pray that God would embolden our hearts with deep conviction about people needing Jesus on the Northern Beaches. Pray that we would be bold to **invite family and friends** to our Christmas services where they might hear the gospel afresh, connect with Christians, and begin a journey of faith that sees them come to know and trust the Lord Jesus.

SAT 24	CHRISTMAS EVE – pray that many people attend our 5pm and 8pm services where they can hear about Jesus, celebrate his coming to earth together, and leave with the real meaning of Christmas ringing in their ears. Ask God, by his Spirit, to work in people’s hearts during these services.
SUN 25	CHRISTMAS DAY – Praise God for sending his son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour and our King . Pray for your own heart today and ask God to deepen your love, understanding and commitment of his purposes in your life as you remember the love that he’s demonstrated to you in sending his Son into this world. Pray also for those who find Christmas a sad, lonely or difficult time – pray that God’s peace and comfort would be upon them.
MON 26	Pray for REFRESHMENT AND SAFE TRAVEL for the many people and families heading off on holidays or taking time of rest. Give thanks for our many volunteers who help serve throughout the year as they play a significant role in helping to share the gospel.
TUE 27	Thank God for the ongoing partnership our church has with COMPASSION . Praise God that their recent visit to St Faith’s for our Compassion weekend resulted in a further 15 children being sponsored so that they can be a part of a local Compassion project in a local church. Pray that God would continue to work through these church partnerships so that the gospel may be proclaimed, and more children and families come to know and love Jesus.
WED 28	Pray for our STAFF TEAM today as they recover from a busy month of ministry leading up to Christmas. Stop and give thanks for them and their commitment to serving God and the people of St Faith’s. Pray that God would refresh their soul, renew their spirit, and give them quality time with their family in the coming days.
THU 29	THE VILLAGE CHURCH (TVC) in Jindabyne – Give thanks to God for the way he’s using our church to draw people back to Himself. Pray that we would implement good systems to see people integrated into the life of our church community, helping them to know Jesus and make Jesus known.

FRI 30

AFES - MEAGAN LLEWELLYN - With Meagan's apprenticeship almost wrapped up, please be praying for clarity on God's next steps for her next year, including personal health and wisdom on where to go to church. Please also pray for Meagan and John - that they would be able to invest in their relationship together as they seek to serve God in life and marriage.

SAT 31

THE NEW YEAR - pray that, by God continuing to work through his people at St Faith's and other churches, by his Spirit and Word deepening our gospel convictions and our resolve to live godly lives that make Jesus known in the world, we might head into the new year with a renewed passion to see **a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus**. Pray that God would continue to work through us as his body in the year ahead.

COMING UP...



soulies summercamp authentic:



**TO REGISTER, VISIT:
SOULIES.CO/SUMMERCAMP**

**JANUARY 22ND - 26TH
YEARS 7-12 (IN 2023)**

Cost per youth: \$360

We'd love everyone to be able to come!
If you need assistance in paying for camp,
please contact Adam to discuss

Contact

Adam Scott
adam@stfaiths.org.au
0403218786

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 16TH DECEMBER



CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS

lessons & carols

SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2022
8:30am - Traditional Service

**christmas
eve**

SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2022
5:00pm Family Service
8:00pm Carols Service

**christmas
day**

SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2022
8:00am - Traditional Service
9:30am - Family Service



Narrabeen
ST. PAUL'S Anglican Church

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