

ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2023

# COMMUNITY MAG

*Summer*

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ISSUE 22



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# MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

BEN MOLYNEUX



# Welcome

Dear Church,

Welcome along to St Faith's if you're visiting us for the summer, looking for a new church home, or you're here every week as part of our church family. Happy New Year to you all! A new year for most people comes with new goals, new targets, and maybe even a few new year's resolutions, but our vision and goal here at St Faith's, under God, remains the same....

We want to see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus by making disciples who grow to maturity in Christ for God's glory.

To that end, knowing that God matures us through his word and by his Spirit, we've got an awesome year of bible teaching planned along with other events that we pray will help us grow to maturity in Christ together. I thought it'd be helpful to give you a bit of a snapshot of where we're heading for the year with regards to our teaching plan:

## Teaching Series 2023

### **Term 1 (February to April) | John's Gospel - chapters 13-21**

In 2021 we studied the first part (John 1-5) of the first half of John's Gospel, which is often referred to as 'The Book

of Signs' (John 1-12). We began to see the public ministry of Jesus as he performed many signs that pointed to his true identity as God's promised Messiah, yet people still failed to recognise him. In 2022, we continued that journey through John's Gospel as Jesus wrapped up his public ministry, meeting those along the way who came to believe in Jesus and we saw the increasing agitation of the Jewish leaders plotting to kill him. In 2023 we will finish our journey in John's Gospel, turning our attention to 'The Book of Glory' (John 13-21) where Jesus prepares his disciples for what is to come - his trial, his death, his resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

### **Term 2 (May to July) | The Book of Exodus - Part II**

In 2021 our Old Testament focus was on the book of Genesis which finished with Joseph, his brothers, and the rest of the Israelite's bunkering down in Egypt, escaping the famine, yet living with the hope of the land and blessing that God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In 2022, we continued to follow the journey of the God's people through the book of Exodus which demonstrated God's deliverance of his people from

slavery in Egypt. This year, we'll pick up Exodus where we left off, with God's people wandering in the desert and finally being led to the edge of the Promised Land. The book of Exodus will again remind us that God is a personal God who speaks, who lives among his people, who controls all of history, who is holy, who remembers his promises, and who acts in judgment to bring salvation to his chosen people.

### **July Mini-Series | PRAYER**

Prayer is so central to the Christian faith and a spiritual discipline which can grow our intimacy and dependence on God and yet most of us struggle to consistently pray. In this short series, we'll consider what the Bible teaches about prayer, what it looks like to make prayer a part of our daily lives with God, and help us to be a people who are prayerfully dependent on God.

### **Term 3 (July to September) | 1 Corinthians**

In 2022, we looked at the first 10 chapters of 1 Corinthians as Paul sought to address divisions within the church so that God's people would be strengthened and their witness to the world around them effective. As we look at the second half of this letter in 2023, we'll see how relevant it is for our context today as Paul seeks to address the relationship between Christians and their surrounding pagan culture, divisions within the church itself, good order in church and the use of spiritual gifts, along with matters of personal morality such as sex, marriage, and celibacy.

### **October Mini-Series | THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

We declare it together in song and liturgy, but what biblical truths are we declaring when we say the Apostle's Creed together? This three-week mini-series will help us to unpack some of the theological significance of this creed, which has been passed down through generations for us today.

### **Term 4 (October to December) | Commitment Series + Advent**

Finally in term four, as has become our usual practice, we will spend a month in our Commitment Series (what it is we're committed to and why) and a month of Advent leading up to our Christmas services and celebrations, along with a visit from Compassion.

I'm really excited for what God, through his word and by his Spirit, will be teaching us in the year ahead and I pray that it is both enriching, challenging, corrective, equipping and comforting (2 Tim 3:16) for us all as we continue to strive to please God in living lives that are obedient to his word.

To that end, I invite you in 2023 to be praying with me this prayer for our community in the year ahead....

Heavenly Father – fill our lives with the fruit of your Spirit, enable us to walk in joyful obedience to your commands, and sharing your love by word and deed we pray that you might be glorified in us to see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus. Amen.

In Christ,

Ben

STFAITHS.CHURCH



# discover

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE

**A faith discovery group for  
seekers, sceptics & beginners**

**THURSDAY JANUARY 12TH, 7:30 - 9.00PM. SUPPER PROVIDED.  
REGISTER INTEREST AT [STFAITHS.CHURCH/DISCOVER](http://STFAITHS.CHURCH/DISCOVER)**

## DISCOVER ONE NIGHT ONLY

MARCUS DRUITT

God has been  
reminding me  
recently that His  
timing is not my  
timing.

While I have been privileged to see a number of people this year give their lives to Christ, the sowing of the seed and the harvest can be years, if not decades apart. The age we live in is increasingly un-Christian, and the foundations that we once had (like belief in a God) no longer exist. So it now takes even longer to move people just to the point of belief in a God.

This is why, although Christmas is always such an encouraging time to see church not only full, but full of visitors, coming to church at Christmas is just one step in a mountain of steps that people must walk before leading to salvation in Christ.



For this reason, we are encouraging people to take another step to discover the God who made them and the God who died for them, in 'Discover - One Night Only'.

For those who have attended Discover in the past, Discover 1 Night only will be the same format. Three mini-talks with some videos, discussion and a light supper (not dinner this time).

It will be new content ideal for sceptics, seekers and sceptics, assuming that many people who come won't even be sure if there is a God.

It's a great opportunity to discuss big ideas in a small and safe environment.

“Ask and it  
will be given  
to you; seek  
and you will  
find; knock  
and the  
door will be  
opened to  
you.”

MATTHEW 7:7

If you would like to come for yourself, to help, or to bring a friend, please register ASAP at

**[stfaiths.church/discover](http://stfaiths.church/discover)**

**It's being held at the church, on Thursday 12th Jan from 7:30-9pm. We do need help running it, so if you're available and keen, please let Marcus know via the registration page.**



# REVIEW OF MY TIME AT ST FAITH'S

RENEE MILES

In 2018 on my first arrival at St Faith's night church, I felt warmly welcomed!

It took me some time to settle into the beach culture and parts of church that were different to my previous one. But it became easier when I began to be intentional in forming relationships with people and started serving.



I thank my God every time I think of you!

I always pray with joy, whenever I pray for you all, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Some highlights of being involved in ministry at St Faith's include; leading kids ministry, chatting with members at Community Pantry, teaching scripture at the local schools, meeting 1-2-1 with women, welcoming newcomers, and being involved in some outreach courses.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5



I'm super thankful for Ben, Rose, Lyndal, Adam, Neil, Marcus and Philip, who have been godly role models of living their life for Jesus and encouraging others to do so too. Rose, Lyndal and Adam have been loving mentors and trainers from whom I have learnt much from over the years through my internship, apprenticeship and student ministry at St Faith's.



Students of Moore Theological College are encouraged to experience what parish ministry is like in different contexts, across our years of studying. Therefore in 2023 I will be moving to St George North Anglican Church in Carlton. This is exciting, but also a bit daunting to start afresh.



I am going to miss you, my St Faith's church family!

Please email me or follow the QR code below to fill in your details, if you would like to receive updates from me, or support me financially. Thank you.



## FAST FOUR

### FAV MOVIE

Katie - Romeo and Juliet (Baz Luhrmann)

Geoff - The Princess Bride

### FAV RESTAURANT

Jimmy Wah's at Burleigh Heads

### FAV BEACH

Katie - Crescent Head

Geoff - Queen's Head  
(not far from Crescent Head)

### FAV SONG AT THE MONENT

Follow the Sun by Xavier Rudd (for both of us) and Altar by SEU worship



## KATIE & GEOFF LANCASTER

### Tell us how long you have been at St Faith's and what service you are a part of?

We've been going to St Faith's for over 2 years at the Sunday 6pm service. We also are part of a small group with the Everingham's, Elkan's, Foote's and Jacobs'.

### How and when did you both start following Jesus?

**Katie** - I have had a faith my whole life but when I was 14 I decided that it was really important to me. I guess I knew that I had to make a decision on my own and not just follow what my family believed.

**Geoff** - I grew up going to Sunday School but my family wouldn't call themselves Christians. I think my parents thought it was a good thing to do and it also gave them a chance to sleep in on a Sunday. I made some friends through CEBS and then started going to a youth group at St Aidan's Longueville when I was in Year 7.

I struggled with the concept that I was making a choice that was different to my parents but felt convicted that I needed to make a commitment to follow Jesus. I was mentored by some great Christian youth leaders when I was in High School, which is probably part of the reason I became a High School teacher – knowing what a critical time it is for the development of faith.

### **Why is it important for you to be a part of a church family?**

Katie – Church family has so many benefits, we meet friends at church, we share our joys and struggles with each other and pray with and for each other. I love that as a group we spend time reflecting on our lives and trying to be more like Jesus. Sharing a love of God is a huge bonding point and it means that I can be myself and know that I am accepted even when I am new to the community. Having a church family has been super important for our three daughters who have grown up in church communities with incredible people who have encouraged them in their faith.

Church reminds us that we are part of an incredible story and that we aren't the centre of that story but we have a role to play wherever God has put us. If we don't meet together then we get distracted, more worldly and self absorbed. Being part of a Church makes us feel part of the community and it is a place to build relationships that support us in our faith and where we can support others as well. The teaching also keeps us on track and encourages us through all the seasons of life.

### **What have been the main things you have been challenged/encouraged by in the Advent teaching series?**

Katie – I really like the focus on Jesus coming the first time and the importance of being ready for the second coming. Preparing our hearts for Christmas also softens our hearts to God and makes us more receptive to the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Geoff – We've been challenged not to be complacent about Christmas. Even though Christmas looks different with grown up children and family members who can't be around on the day, we need to stay focused on the birth of Jesus and be grateful for all God has done in our lives. I've also been challenged to speak more openly with my parents and to continue to pray the Holy Spirit would help them to understand the gift of Jesus this Christmas.

# JANUARY PRAYER DIARY

SUN 1	Give thanks for all the <b>helpers running kids programs at our Saturday and Morning services</b> over the January period, giving our regular leaders a break. Thank God for our wonderful <b>Saturday Kids, Morning Kids and Lighthouse regular leaders</b> who have served so faithfully throughout 2022 during school terms. Give thanks for Lyndal who faithfully and tirelessly oversees the children's ministry.
MON 2	Pray for safety and refreshment for all those people and families who are holidaying and travelling this month.
TUE 3	Pray the Lord will raise up leaders for <b>ST FAITH'S KIDS AND LIGHTHOUSE</b> in 2023. Pray our Year 5s will connect in quickly at Soulies and Soul Revival and will continue trusting Jesus and living for him over the coming years.
WED 4	<b>STAFF LEAVE</b> – give thanks for Rosemary MacGregor and her work among us at St Faith's. Pray for Rosemary as she has some time off in January. Pray that it would renew her energy and refresh her soul ready to serve among us again in 2023.
THU 5	<b>MISSION - Chris and Karen Webb - Broome Peoples Church</b> – Give thanks for the Kimberley Leader's Training weekend in Yiyili community that still went ahead on the dates that had been originally planned, after it was initially postponed. Praise God that we could spend some solid hours over that weekend contemplating God's holiness with a group of men and women from Yiyili, Bayulu and Wangkatjungka. Pray God will help these men and women initiate regular gatherings with other Christians in their communities so they can spur each other on in their faith. Thank God for the Christmas carols service held last month with members from all three congregations of Broome Anglican/People's church and for the many visitors from the community, where the good news of Jesus' birth was shared through Bible readings and a kids talk. Ask God to bring more Broome people to Jesus.

FRI 6	<p><b>THE COMMUNITY PANTRY</b> – Praise God and give thanks for His continued provision for all our needs. Praise God too for all our guests. Pray for those who don't know Jesus, that 2023 will be the year the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to them. Praise God for our guests who attend the Bible Study each week. Pray 2023 will be a time that they will lean closer into God and they will be filled with His spirit. Give thanks for our amazing volunteers who serve and love our guests each week, and for our faithful musicians, Rob, Kate and Scott. Give thanks also for Sue, Mandy, Nina and Christine for all their help throughout the year. Praise God for his healing work in Jackson, who has seen his tumour reduce by 95%. Pray for his parents Jason and Dana, and his brother Tyler, and especially Jackson, that they feel God's peace and put their trust in Him. Pray for the year ahead, that Jesus will continually guide our decisions, and that we will be His light, showing His love for each member of our Community Pantry family.</p>
SAT 7	<p>Pray and give thanks for <b>PAUL WHITE</b> (from our Saturday Church congregation) as he opens God's word with us this weekend from Psalm 98. Pray that God's word would use these words to rebuke, correct and train us so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work that God has for us in the week ahead.</p>
SUN 8	<p>Give thanks for the <b>BERRY MARKET RESERVE STALLS</b> held last month and for the many people involved in serving. Please pray that God will continue to use the service of the saints to impact people for Christ.</p>
MON 9	<p><b>ESL</b> – Thank God for His blessing on our end of year classes and Christmas celebration. Give thanks for the unity of the students, for their sense of community and for the love they showed to our teachers and to one another. Pray for the students over the school holidays, that they will remember what they have seen and heard about God and His son Jesus, and that God's spirit will draw them to Him. Pray too for our ESL team members. Pray they will find rest in the break, that they will continue to seek God's will and strength in their lives, and that they will return next year with renewed enthusiasm and a strong desire to minister to our students for Christ.</p>
TUE 10	<p><b>THE VILLAGE CHURCH (TVC) in Jindabyne</b> – Thank God for bringing so many people to the Village Church over the last two years that it is clear the church needs to either move from or redevelop the existing space. Ask God for wisdom for us, the finances we need, and a way forward, that we might keep proclaiming Christ to a growing community.</p>
WED 11	<p>Give thanks for <b>THE COMMUNITY PANTRY</b> who have just had a two week break. Pray for Neil S, Brad D, Kathy N, Max G and Chris R as they serve the guests each week. Pray for Neil as he begins a new bible study book called "Just for Starters" with the guests from TCP. Give thanks for all the wonderful helpers who serve, cook and clean.</p>

THU 12	Pray for <b>'DISCOVER ONE NIGHT ONLY'</b> on Thursday 12th January. Pray for Marcus as he prepares the material, for God's people to be bold in inviting people, and for God's Spirit to be softening hearts and leading people to Christ for salvation, and please pray for a team that can help make it happen.
FRI 13	Give thanks for another year of <b>SOULIES</b> and pray that God might bless the youth of St Faith's. Pray that many might come to know the Lord Jesus this year. Give thanks for new Soulies leaders and pray that God might sustain them as they serve this year. Pray for this year's Year 13's - that they might transition well from Soulies into the young adult community. Pray that their Community Group this year is deeply encouraging to them.
SAT 14	Pray for <b>NEIL SOUTER</b> as he preaches from Psalm 46 this weekend. Pray that he would speak clearly and faithfully from God's Word and apply it well to our lives.
SUN 15	<b>WARRIEWOOD</b> - Give thanks to God for the year that is gone, for a variety of gospel opportunities with the Warriewood Brook wider community - for one-on-one pastoral engagements and special services that many residents attended, including those over Easter, on ANZAC Day, and during Christmas. Praise God for the ministry in song by an impromptu Choir of Christian residents who prepared and sang Carols at the end of year Christmas events in the village.
MON 16	<b>GUMNUT KINDERGARTEN</b> - Give thanks for the warm, nurturing and uplifting year Gumnut had in 2022. Praise God for the wonderful staff, families and most importantly the children. Pray for the children who will be embarking on their next journey to big school this year, that they will flourish, be brave and have an easy transition into the next step of their lives. Also pray for safe travels and a time of refreshment for staff and families on holidays over the break. Pray Gumnut will remain special, safe and the place that children love to come to in 2023.
TUE 17	<b>MISSION - Meagan Llewelyn- AFES Sydney Uni</b> - Pray for John and Meagan as they move churches next month and settle into a new church family a bit closer to home. Pray for wisdom and discernment in their decision of where to go and how to serve. Pray for Meagan's clarity regarding next steps in figuring out various health matters. Overall pray for peace in this time of uncertainty and change and as she prayerfully considers full time study at bible college or if I need to study part time instead in the years to come.
WED 18	<b>WAR VETS</b> - Pray to God to keep our residents safe from covid and that our nursing home and hostels can remain out of lock down. Ask God to open people's hearts and grant us opportunities to share the gospel with our residents and staff. Pray for refreshment of our volunteers during the break and pray they return with godly zeal to serve in the New Year.



THU 19	<b>MISSION – Irwan and Catherine AFES at Uni of Wollongong</b> – Pray for a restful break and for Nadia getting used to spending time with other children at CMS summer School. Pray for wisdom in planning and preparing for uni ministry, especially for residential accommodations bible studies. Ask God to raise students willing to lead in two other uni residential accommodations.
FRI 20	<b>NPSRE CROMER CAMPUS</b> – Give thanks for Rachel Purcell's faithful service as the SRE teacher at Cromer High School. Also give thanks for the 93 students enrolled for next year. Thank the Lord for her willingness to continue the role until her replacement is found. Ask the Lord for wisdom for the NPSRE Board as they oversee the recruitment of a new SRE teacher. Pray for Rachel to continue to be a godly witness to the staff and students at Cromer High School.
SAT 21	Pray and give thanks for <b>BEN MOLYNEUX</b> as he opens God's word for us in Psalm 49 this weekend. Pray that this word will encourage us with God's wisdom in the way we speak and live and that the meditations of our hearts may honour God.
SUN 22	<b>SOULIES SUMMERCAMP</b> – Pray for the youth of St Faith's as they head off to Summercamp (22–26th Jan). Ask God to sustain the leaders as they lead and disciple the youth and for Adam who is overseeing the camp, looking at 1 John in the Bible and thinking about what it says about being 'authentic'. Pray they enjoy fellowship together, growing in their love of Jesus and for those who may be responding to the gospel for the first time that the Holy Spirit would guide each of them.
MON 23	<b>MISSION – DAN AND LIV WEBSTER – NAMIBIA EVANGELICAL AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</b> – Give thanks to God for sustaining us through the year. Praise God for the good things he's done in the lives of others through us and for the good he's done in our lives through others. Ask God that we would rest well and invest in the family and for the NETS students who are busy with ministry.
TUE 24	<b>OFFICE STAFF</b> – pray and give thanks for our office staff for 2023. Pray for Nina Gilmore (general admin) and Mandy Nabb (bookkeeping) as they take on some changes this year. Thank God for their humility in serving and pray that they would continue to provide great support for our ministry team throughout the year.
WED 25	<b>GUMTREES PLAYTIME</b> – Praise God for the mums/grandparents who came along to playtime over the last 6 months. Thank God for the helpers who enabled playtime to happen. Pray for provision of helpers for 2023 so playgroup can continue. Give thanks for Edwina who coordinates Gumtrees each week during the school term.
THU 26	Pray for <b>STUDENTS AND TEACHERS</b> heading back to school for 2023. Pray the teachers are refreshed and the students settle in quickly, especially those who are starting school for the first time.

FRI 27	Give thanks for all the many blessings that come from living in a country such as ours. Ask God to bring us together as one, reconciled with Him and reconciled with each other. Pray for all those in government and positions of authority, to govern wisely and justly for the good of all people.
SAT 28	Pray and give thanks for <b>MATT ELKAN</b> (Night Church) and <b>PHILIP SELDEN</b> as they open God's word for us in Psalm 115 this weekend. Pray that this word from the Psalms will encourage and strengthen us in faith with the assurance we have in God and his promises to us.
SUN 29	Give thanks to God for all our <b>COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS</b> for 2023. Pray for them as they meet today. Ask that God might encourage, strengthen and inspire them as we kick off the year together today. Pray for God's discernment and wisdom as they lead us week by week in studying his word together.
MON 30	Pray for all the <b>COMMUNITY GROUPS</b> here at St Faith's as they resume for term one. Pray that our groups might be places of deep growth as we open God's word week by week. Pray for new groups as they are formed, and new members to existing groups – that new relationships will be formed quickly that might promote godly growth and life together as God's people.
TUE 31	<b>SCRIPTURE</b> – Pray for sufficient teachers to cover all classes in our local primary and high schools this year. Pray school staff are supportive of the Scripture teachers who come into their classrooms. Pray parents of new kindergarten students will opt in for scripture for their children and that all the children receive the message of the gospel with open hearts. Give thanks for Jo Harpur as she continues to coordinate scripture.

# CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2022



It was good to be back together again for a Christmas lunch after an enforced break. Nearly 100 people came on 2 December for this event (which I can't call a Seniors' Lunch, despite the fact that some of our members who are well and truly old enough to accept a government senior's card don't consider themselves seniors!) Included in the attendance were a number of members of a TAFE class who come from overseas and who have now been invited to ESL in 2023.

Our guest speaker was the former Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Peter Jensen. His topic was 'Why I am still a Christian.' He said that although he is a clergyman, if he found that Christianity was not true, how could he continue to believe it? But it is undoubtedly true. He encouraged us that Christianity is not so much a list of beliefs, but a person – the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, about whom he spoke clearly and movingly.

He had three headings: 'Persuasion, Sense and Sensibility, and Pride and Prejudice.'

The allusion was not lost on the (mainly) senior audience! His talk combined clear biblical teaching, personal examples and quite a bit of humour. So many found it challenging and helpful.

The lunch was delicious, thanks to the wonderful catering of Christina Wood and her merry band of helpers, for which we are very grateful. All in all, it was a terrific time of fellowship and encouragement together.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Pray for  
Penny and the  
Tumbridge family  
as they grieve the  
passing of Tim.**

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

**Congratulations** - Tilly and Finn on their wedding.

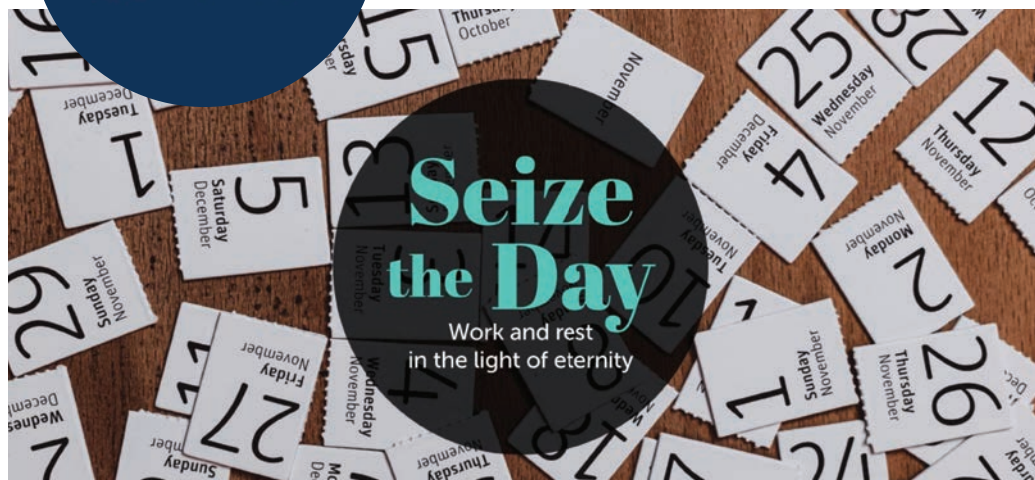
**Those unwell** -  
Rosemary Irwin  
Larry Tolnay  
Robyn Ohlsson  
Sean Foley  
Anne Robinson  
Jan Hall

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

# COMING UP...



**Friday 24th Feb 2023**  
**St Andrew's Cathedral and Livestream**  
**10am - 1.15pm**



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