

ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2023

COMMUNITY MAG



ISSUE 27

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THIS TERM...

J O H N S

GOSPEL



SOULIES

summer

CAMP

ADAM SCOTT

Just before the school holidays came to an end, the Soulies crew travelled down the South Coast to Waterslea for our annual Summercamp - it was excellent!

The theme for our week away this year was 'authentic'. Ads took us through 1 John in the morning sessions, while Jake took us through Romans 8 in the evenings. We were challenged to ask ourselves the same big question throughout the week: "Am I Authentic?", as we looked at Jesus (who is the truly authentic one) and thought about what it looks like for us to trust and follow him authentically.

It's a pretty confronting question to ponder: am I authentic? Especially when you know that you constantly make mistakes. However, we were reminded that our authenticity isn't something that we earn (even authentic





This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 JOHN 4:9-10

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."



Christians sin!), but it's something that Jesus lovingly gives us, and because of that we're called to live it out.

Alongside our time in the Bible and our Community Group sessions, we had a ton of fun: epic whirlpools + classic catch sessions in the pool, donuting behind the boat, cross-stitch!?, a dance party, wide-games, garbage bin mario-kart, late nights, early mornings and great food to nourish us as we tried to keep up with the action! We even gave Al Maddar a questionable haircut! You can check out some great shots from Summercamp here: soulies.co/sc23 or watch the camp video here: soulies.co/sc23vid



Please be praying for the Soulies crew - that they might relish the gospel authenticity that Jesus has gifted them (and called them to live out), and give thanks for another excellent week away together!



BELONG

NEIL SOUTER

BELONG
BELONG
BELONG

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."

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



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

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

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 19th Feb- You should come!

Scan the Connection Point to Register:





THE WEBB'S IN BROOME

Many of you will have heard of the recent flooding in the Kimberley. The Fitzroy River rose to record-breaking heights, affecting many towns and communities along its path. This recent ABC article and video will give you a good idea of the ongoing impact of the flood.

Many people are now stranded across the Kimberley, either due to being evacuated from their homes, or being away from home when the flooding occurred and now cannot travel back. The main highway between Broome and Derby is closed, with 10kms of road badly damaged. The bridge across the Fitzroy River was also badly damaged. The detour is about 5000kms! In Broome, we had about a week of solid rain, but since we are not near a river it was just normal wet-season weather.

In the coming months towns like Broome and Derby will be under more pressure with extra displaced people needing accommodation and resources.

We have been impressed by the government response to the floods, with the DFES and the army being involved in the evacuation and recovery, and now taking people back to their homes. It's pretty cool seeing the planes and helicopters - including a Chinook! - leaving from Broome airport to take supplies out to isolated communities.

Most of our ministry goes on unaffected in Broome. However plans for Kimberley Leaders Training weekends and conventions will probably be impacted by the damaged road network.

THINGS TO BE PRAYING FOR THE KIMBERLY REGION

Ask God to draw more people to himself as they face the fragility of life in this world.

Please ask God to give government agencies and NGOs great wisdom in providing for the extra people in the major Kimberley towns.

Pray that essential roads will be able to be repaired quickly to allow the movement of people and supplies.

Pray for peace between people in Broome and Derby as overcrowded housing and uncertainty create relational tension.

Ask God to provide for teachers who need to get back into Fitzroy valley communities for the start of school. In particular most of the accommodation for Looma school teachers and community nurses has been damaged by the flooding. This makes life complicated for them!

Thank God that we can continue to encourage Christians in remote communities over the phone.



MARCUS DRUITT

I have personally experienced, as have many others, the truth of Jesus' words "it is more blessed to give than to receive".

With the year beginning to get into a groove for many people, now is a great time to be considering where we can best serve in the life of the church for our own growth, the growth of others, and the growth of the Kingdom, before we fill our diaries with too many things.

While we can definitely serve others in spontaneous and unstructured ways, there's something about working regularly in a team that is particularly beneficial for us, and for others.

First - **it's a great way to deepen relationships with others.** There's something special about doing things together. I can see the laughs and the conversations when a bunch of guys are on the BBQ, or people are in the kitchen washing up together, or pulling out weeds together.

Second - **it gives us a greater sense of achievement and purpose, knowing that we are contributing to God's Kingdom.** Whether it be fostering opportunities for conversations in church by providing morning tea; seeing visitors love coming to church because you've played a part in making them feel wanted and valued; encouraging others to engage their hearts in worship to God through music; seeing light bulbs go off in children's heads as they get to know Jesus through Scripture or Children's Ministry; or teaching and encouraging youth to love Jesus in an increasingly confusing world.

Third - **working with others causes us to learn from others and improve our own skills as iron sharpens iron.** Leading children in a team, you're able to see how others teach, lead, guide, discipline, listen and when you see someone who is genuinely gifted in an area, what a wonderful opportunity to learn from them! The more we work with others, the more we learn from others, and the more we grow and develop ourselves.

So, where could you best serve God and His people this year? We have plenty of opportunities and the greatest needs in:



If you would like to contribute to church life in any way, please contact **Marcus@stfaiths.org.au** or **Rosemary@stfaiths.org.au**

- **Welcoming at Morning Church and Night Church**
- **Children and youth leaders (of any age!) on Friday nights, Saturday church and Sunday morning**
- **Engaging with many local mums and bubs at Playtime**
- **Cooking, serving or chatting with guests at The Community Pantry**
- **Reading Bible stories to preschool children at Gumnut**
- **Band members who can play instruments**
- **People who are willing to cook or bake for various events**
- **sharing the good news of Jesus with many unchurched kids in local schools as Scripture teachers**
- **Coffee Ministry in the Morning Church**

SERVING

"Serving is a practical way to love God's people, meet more of them and deepen relationships."

- Linda Ryan, Morning Church

"Jesus came not to be served but to serve, an example I have tried to live by, as I am rewarded with great happiness and joy whilst helping people."

- Andrew King, Traditional Church

"I love working alongside my church family and getting to know them better."

- Christina Wood, Morning Church

"I love to serve in kids ministry because when children are young they are learning everything about life and it's important that they learn about God their creator and understand who they are living for and how much they are loved. It is also encouraging seeing how God grows the spiritual seeds you plant in each child as they grow older."

- Nicole Hutchinson, Night Church

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pray for those expecting-

Tilly Madder (night church), Bethany Meador (night church), Belinda Van Den Berg (morning church), Daina Cunningham (saturday church) and Verity Andrew (morning church).

Those unwell-

Janelle Connor

Nina Millard

Julie Mei

Rosemary Irwin

Larry Tolnay

Robyn Ohlsson

Sean Foley

Anne Robinson

Alison Pryde

Trish Clifton

Margaret Hext

GIVING

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

FEBRUARY PRAYER DIARY

WED 1	Please give thanks for the 12 guests who came along to 'DISCOVER 1 NIGHT ONLY' , and that a few took books to read further and expressed interest in coming to Discover in March. Pray that God's Spirit will convict hearts, and God's people will wisely and lovingly follow up guests.
THU 2	Pray for school teachers and students as they return to school for another year of learning. Pray the teachers have had a refreshing break and are well prepared and energised for the start of the new school year. Pray for those children who are starting school for the first time and for those who have moved on to high school, that they make new friends and settle in well. Pray for parents as they manage work and school routines.
FRI 3	Pray for SOULIES as term 1 commences . Pray that many youth will return after Summercamp and after the summer break, and that the leaders are refreshed and ready to teach for another year. Pray for Adam as he coordinates Soulies.
SAT 4	Give thanks for the GOSPEL OF JOHN . Pray for our term ahead as we dig deep into the second half of John's Gospel. Pray that as we study this part of God's word, the Holy Spirit may open our hearts and minds, so that we may believe with deep conviction that Jesus really is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in his name (Jn 20:31).
SUN 5	Pray for the "New-ish" lunch today as we welcome all the new people to St Faith's . Pray that it will be a good opportunity for people to get to know each other. Thank God for Neil and Lou Souter as they organise this lunch and open their homes to newcomers at church.
MON 6	Praise God for JESUS CLUB , the continued provision at St Faith's and the volunteers who give so generously. Bring to life Jesus' saving plan for all of us, including the adult members

CONT'D	Ben, Brendan, Kathryn and Dylan, who are loved and accepted regardless of any kind of disability. Please also pray for Ryan to be able to join us again this year and that his work roster will work out well for Monday night availability. Pray for more leaders to be raised up so that there are always enough hands to help facilitate the monthly gatherings and to rotate positions.
TUE 7	THE VILLAGE CHURCH (TVC) in Jindabyne, Trent McGrath – Thank God for gifting The Village Church with a demountable building for additional space and gospel ministry. Please ask God to now provide the finances and additional resources needed to relocate it from Tathra to Jindabyne and refurbish it for use by Easter.
WED 8	Give thanks for THE COMMUNITY PANTRY and the team (Kathy, Max, Brad, Chris and Neil) . Give thanks to God for always providing for our needs, and for the funds generously provided by some people in our Church family so food can be purchased. Give thanks for all our wonderful teams that cook food each week. We give thanks for our guests who come each week and pray others in need will come too. We ask for the Holy Spirit to change their hearts so they accept Jesus into their lives. Pray for healing for one of our guests John, who has had an operation. Pray for Neil as he leads two bible study groups each Wednesday. Pray that God would be at work bringing people to faith and growing people's faith as they look into God's Word together.
THU 0	MISSION - Irwan and Catherine AFES at Uni of Wollongong – Pray for us as we do walk up on campus that we will make new contacts with students and reconnect with students – local, international, and residential accommodation. Pray for our international student ministry as we will start on 9 Feb and for the Indonesian Bible Study (19 Feb). Pray for UniBibleGroup (our Christian group) vision day (20 Feb) where we share the vision with 2nd and upper year students and getting ready for the Orientation week (21-23 Feb) and for Unistarters' Day (24 Feb) where we welcome and share our vision and who we are to the new students.

FRI 10	<p>GUMNUT KINDERGARTEN - Give thanks for the beautiful start to the 2023 Gumnut year we had. Pray we will adjust to the new routines, settling in new children and welcoming back some old faces. Pray the new strategies will be implemented well, which will help all our Gumnut children grow to their full potential. Pray for our newest team member Annelise to Gumnut Kindy on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, that she has a comfortable transition into her new role. Pray for all our school leaver children as they prepare for their new schools and start Kindergarten in the upcoming weeks. Give thanks that these children opened their hearts to God while with us at Gumnut and that He will be with them while they step out into the world. Pray as a team, we will look forward to learning and growing with God's word at the forefront of our curriculum and pray that He gives us a stronger understanding of his word so we can pass this on to our Gumnut children.</p>
SAT 11	<p>Pray for our SRE TEACHERS for 2023, many of whom will gather today for the annual SRE Conference at St Faith's. Pray that today's conference would be an encouragement and inspiration for our teachers that may inspire them for the year ahead as they take the gospel into our local primary schools. Give thanks for the hard work of Jo Harpur as she oversees SRE in our church.</p>
SUN 12	<p>Pray for the NPSRE ASSOCIATION BOARD as they meet today. Give thanks for the members of the Board, including Penny & Simon Hunter, Sandy Walsh, Jean Brittle and David Curnow. Pray for wisdom and guidance as they seek to appoint a new teacher for SRE at Cromer Campus for 2023.</p>
MON 13	<p>ESL CLASSES returned the first week of February - give thanks to God for the holidays and the rest and restoration they have provided for our team. Pray for the team now that they will be keen and focussed, as they prepare lessons, pray and engage with new students and old. Pray too for our students: that last year's students will return with a sense of belonging and keenness to learn, and that new students will hear of our classes and will be keen to join in. Pray that our Lord will open their hearts to the gospel and give them a desire to know more of Christ.</p>

TUE 14	Pray for LYNDAL FOOTE as she takes a well-earned break from work over the next couple of weeks. Pray that she feels rested and refreshed during this time away. Thank God for the wonderful way that he has gifted Lyndal as she oversees this important ministry among our church family. Pray that God would continue to raise up more leaders who are passionate about teaching the gospel to the next generation.
WED 15	MISSION – DAN AND LIV WEBSTER – NAMIBIA EVANGELICAL AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Thank God that we have so much more to live for than worldly pleasures, of our sure hope we are able to not have it all now. We are grateful for a long break, for rest, lovely places and wonderful friends. We pray that we would set a better pace this year and that many new students would join us at NETS and that we would form a good, godly culture.
THU 16	Pray for Marcus and Rose as they oversee the 'MINISTRY' AREA at St Faith's – helping people to discover, develop and deploy their gifts for their own growth, the growth of the church body and the growth of the Kingdom. Please pray especially for more people willing to serve in Kids Ministry, particularly Lighthouse on Friday afternoons, Saturday 5pm church and Sunday morning 10:30 church.
FRI 17	NPSRE CROMER CAMPUS – Pray for wisdom for the Board as they consider all applicants for Rachel's position as SRE teacher. Pray for continuity of Scripture at Cromer High School and for hearts and minds of students to be opened to the gospel, especially year 7's and staff at the school.
SAT 18	Pray for “BELONG” which starts today and runs over three weeks. Pray that “Belong” will be a good opportunity for those seeking to make St Faith's their church family to feel they understand how they can play their part in seeing a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus. Pray for Neil as he oversees “Belong” and for the staff as they each speak at it.
SUN 19	Pray, in advance, for our UPCOMING AGM (12 March). Ask that God would raise up suitable candidates to fulfil the roles required to keep our church community flourishing including Parish Councillors and Synod Reps.

MON 20 Pray and give thanks for the **SENIOR MEMBERS** of our church community, many of whom face daily health challenges and afflictions. Thank God for sustaining our brothers and sisters in Christ and ask that he would strengthen their faith in Christ during difficult times. Pray that God would be honoured in their lives, through their witness to Christ.

TUE 21 **SCRIPTURE** – Pray for **scripture teachers as they prepare for infants and primary classes this year.** Pray many parents will have opted for their children to attend scripture classes and that there will be sufficient teachers to cover all the classes in our area. Pray for Jo Harpur as she coordinates, teachers and liaises with school staff.

WED 22 **WAR VETS** – Pray for our Bible Study groups that have started back up this month. Pray people will be renewed and enlightened from the studies and new members join up over 2023. Pray for our **Men’s Day Out** occurring once a month, our first trip today on the Nepean Bell Paddle Wheeler. We have a monthly activity. Pray these will be great opportunities to grow closer to many men and that the Christians can have opportunities to share their faith. Pray all will go well for Tony’s medical preparations for radiation treatment for prostate cancer. Prayer for all the pastoral team, volunteers, Chaplain Bob and Tony, to be diligent and effect in serving the Lord in the outreach at the War Vets.

THU 23 Give thanks for our **COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS** as they kick off the year in their groups. Pray for God’s protection upon them during the year, that the enemy would not get a foothold in their lives, and that they would be faithful and enthusiastic in leading us in studying God’s word together. Pray that they would grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus as they lead in this way.

FRI 24 **WARRIEWOOD ANGLICAN CHURCH (WAC)** – Pray for residents with increasing care needs, that they would make wise decisions about when to move out of independent living into a higher care facility. Pray for elderly spouses who are carers, that they would look to God for refreshment and His sustaining love.

CONT'D	Pray for those who are considering moving into Warriewood Brook . Pray that they will have wisdom and clarity around this major life change and will be guided by your spirit.
SAT 25	Pray for Ben as he speaks from John 15:1-17 this weekend. Pray that God will speak to us through John's Gospel. Pray that God's Word by the power of the Holy Spirit will equip us to grow in faith and love of Christ.
SUN 26	Praise God for the MUSICIANS who lead our various congregations in singing God's praises each week. Thank God for the gifts he's given these musicians and for the way in which they serve God and his people in this way. Pray that God would continue to strengthen and equip them as they serve.
MON 27	Pray for the "Welcome Teams" at St Faith's services. Give thanks for those who lead the teams- Neil S, Lachlan C, Bec S, Anne H and Michael H. Pray that those who come to our services for the first time will be welcomed like Christ welcomes us and get a taste of being in fellowship with the people of St Faith's.
TUE 28	Pray for our PARISH COUNCIL as they meet tonight. Pray for God's Spirit to give the members of the Council wisdom and discernment as they discuss matters that impact our Parish together. Give thanks for their efforts over the last 12 months serving in this team together.

COMING UP

BELONG

Sunday 19th Feb 4:30pm for
3 weeks.

Register via the Connection
Point in church or email
neil@stfaiths.org.au



CONNECTION
POINT

AGM

Sunday 12th
March 3.00pm

DISCOVER

Tuesday 7th March 7.30pm for
4 weeks.

Register via the Connection
Point in church or email
marcus@stfaiths.org.au

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