

ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2024

# COMMUNITY MAG



# Welcome

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

BEN MOLYNEUX



Dear Church,

I trust that you've been enjoying our teaching series in 1 & 2 Timothy over the second half of this year. I've been reminded again and again of the importance of good and godly leadership in the church, the importance of holding unswervingly to the word of God, and the need to guard the gospel in our lives. I'm thankful for so many godly and gifted leaders (staff and volunteers) who help us as a church do these things! We ought not take this for granted! It's a gift from God that we must continue to protect and preserve.

What have you been learning from the Word of God? Have you taken time to stop and reflect and pray on what God is teaching you through our teaching series, or your own time in the Bible, or through the example of godly people? Can I encourage you to take some time to stop, be still, and reflect. The season ahead will be busy for everyone leading into Christmas

and it would be a shame to neglect those things that God has taught us through his word.

In the next six weeks, we have a few different things happening in church, along with a few visitors...

### **Compassion Sunday - 17th November**

Once again, we have set aside a Sunday in church to hear about the work of Compassion whose vision is to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Many of you already support the work of Compassion through child sponsorship and many of these children are from the Philippines. We will hear testimony of the excellent work that Compassion is involved in, take some time to pray for their work and our partnership, and we will be given further opportunity to build on that partnership after each service. Visit [www.compassion.com.au](http://www.compassion.com.au) to find out more about their ministry.

## **Open Doors Sunday - 24th November**

Many of you will remember Dave Miers from his time in ministry with us here at St Faith's Narrabeen about 12 years ago, or his visit to us last year! Along with planting "Christ our Refuge" Church in Brisbane, he works with one of our mission partner organisations, Open Doors - working with churches all over the world to stand with, pray for, and support persecuted Christians. Dave will be joining us again in church for the day as we focus time on hearing about the work of Open Doors and praying for persecuted brothers and sisters all over the world. Visit [www.opendoors.org.au](http://www.opendoors.org.au) to find out more about their ministry and get involved by praying!

## **Anglicare Sunday - 1st December**

We look forward to having Rev. Roger Green (former Assistant Minister here at St Faith's) join us at church on Sunday 1st December. Roger has been working with Anglicare and, along with opening God's word with us, will share some of the encouraging work that Anglicare is doing in our wider community. Visit [www.anglicare.org.au](http://www.anglicare.org.au) to get a better understanding of all that Anglicare is involved in!

## **Baptism & Confirmation Sunday - 8th December**

Finally, we can't wait for Baptism & Confirmation Sunday in December where we will be standing with, supporting, praying for, and celebrating those getting baptised and/or confirm, and what God has been doing in their lives. If you're interested in being baptised or confirmed, please jump online and register for this on our church website, [www.stfaiths.church/events](http://www.stfaiths.church/events)

And then there's Christmas, but we'll get to that next....!

God bless

Ben



## SERMON SUMMARY

# 1 Timothy

*By Sarah Jones.*

What an absolute privilege we have, being privy to the Apostle Paul's private letter to his young protege, Timothy, getting a fly-on-the-wall look at what was going on in this thriving ancient metropolis on the Aegean Sea.

I'm sure when Paul sat down to pen this now famous letter, he had no idea how God would use those very words, through the centuries, to encourage brothers and sisters in the faith all over the world. 960 years later (give or take a year or two) we still get to learn from it and Timothy's esteemed penpal becomes our penpal too.

The theme that stood out to me from this letter was the Truth (with a capital T) - the pillar and foundation underpinning the household of God. (3:14) The Gospel Truth had been entrusted to the Apostle Paul and he was now entrusting this truth to Timothy and via his letter, now entrusting it to us. This Gospel message is precious, the most precious and important words anyone could ever hear in fact. It's by these words we were saved (Ephesians 1:13) and it's by these words others will hear the good news - make that GREAT NEWS - that salvation is available, by grace, through Jesus' death and resurrection, and be saved. No wonder Paul was so insistent this truth should not be tampered with! We must 'keep hold of the truths of the faith' (3:9), not wandering from them (6:10) or shipwrecking our faith (1:19) while being ever watchful for anyone trying to distort or deny the truth of the Gospel.

Spending time in 1 Timothy also gave me a new appreciation for our faithful leaders at St Faith's, who let's face it, stack up pretty well against the steep criteria Paul sets forward in chapter 3, preaching the truth and genuinely striving to live godly lives. I'm thankful to God for our leaders and was also reminded to keep them in prayer. It's a tough gig.

Speaking of tough, Ben, who could have shied away from the elephant in the letter, (chapter 2) chose to bravely take it on, providing us, not only with fuel for some robust conversations over our cups of tea, but also with some good principles for taking off our 'cultural goggles' and remembering men and women are equal in value, worth and purpose in God's eyes.

So after being encouraged by God, via Paul, via our leaders, let's strap on the armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) and fight the good fight (1:18), training ourselves to be godly (4:7), learning to be content (6:6), being distinct from the world we live in by not putting our hope in the fickleness of wealth (17) and by guarding and sharing that precious Truth that has been entrusted to our care (6:20).



# Meet a 'new' member

## DAVID & MEREDITH MACDONALD (10AM)

### Fast Five!

- **Favourite movie:**

*Meredith* - Amelie,  
*David* - Casablanca or most  
Tom Hanks movies

- **Favourite beach:**

Lennox Head in northern NSW

- **Favourite reading material:**

*Meredith* - Literary fiction  
(Elizabeth Strout, Geraldine Brooks),  
*David* - Biographical (Red Notice  
by Bill Browder..)

- **Favourite local restaurant:**

Still working that out but French  
basket at Dee Why is our go-to cafe.

- **Coffee or tea?:**

*Meredith* - Definitely coffee  
(good coffee),  
*David* - not so discerning, any  
coffee will do.

### How long have you been at St Faith's?

12 months today!

### How and when did you become a Christian?

We both grew up knowing and trusting  
God in Christian families. No dramatic  
conversion story but definitely came  
to understand the great blessing of  
growing up surrounded by faithful,  
prayerful people and being steeped  
in faith until we were each able to  
embrace it for ourselves.

### What has encouraged / challenged you in your bible reading recently?

Challenged by Paul's single-mindedness - even whilst in chains still praising God and thinking foremost about teaching and encouraging others. Also, from the 1 Timothy studies, the importance of sound doctrine that keeps us anchored in God's plan to save us through Jesus. The challenge is that it's not about just knowing more but loving God more and serving each other.

### What's the best thing about being a part of St Faiths?

Everyone we have met has been really welcoming so we felt a part of the place quite quickly. We're loving being part of a church community where the bible is taken seriously and taught faithfully and with people that love and follow Jesus.



# Synod

## 2024 REPORT

Synod for the Sydney Anglican Diocese was held over 6 days in September 2024 and attended by Ben Molyneux, Bob Pryor and Catherine Scott.

Synod is effectively the parliament of the Sydney Anglican Diocese and, like normal parliaments, affects change by passing policies and ordinances.

The main issue raised at Synod, relevant for us at St Faiths, was a report which measured attendance patterns and mission in Sydney. This report was confronting- between 2013 and 2023 total Sydney Anglican adult attendance declined 7%.

If population growth is factored in, the decline is higher, about 14%. Two thirds of Anglican churches saw a decline in numbers, with only one third seeing growth. The decline was greatest in the Northern Sydney area (of which we are part) and Wollongong.

Synod decided to respond to this by having a 5 year focus to respond to the attendance decline, and making prayer, evangelism, church health and leadership our top priorities. Part of this will be a special mission period in 2025- stay tuned for more details.



Other issues that were dealt with included:

1. adopting a Parish Governance policy, setting out Synod's expectations for wardens.
2. restricting the use of Non-disclosure Agreements, and reflecting on, and repenting of, inappropriate use of Non-disclosure Agreements in the past.
3. streamlining the organisation of the Diocese structures.
4. Issues related to the governance of organisations (including schools) in the Diocese. In particular a new Diocesan Governance policy was adopted, which sets out Synod's expectations for the governance of these organisations, including requirements that people holding key roles in organisations sign statements including commitments to Organisation Faithfulness to Christian beliefs and statements of personal faith.
5. The creation of a role of Director of Indigenous ministry, to better reach indigenous people.

Parishes, including St Faith's, have been urged to:

- consider whether our parish structures are fit for mission;
- to regularly complete the Church Life Survey;
- to ensure there is continued teaching on Christian sexual ethics,
- to prioritise ministry to youth and children.

We were urged to write to our relevant government representatives regarding online gambling reform, NSW Poker machine reform, and significant challenges to religious freedom.

For anyone interested in reading more, the full summary report can be read at [www.sds.asn.au/sites/default/files/Parish%20Circular.Synod%202024%20Summary.4%20October%202024.pdf](http://www.sds.asn.au/sites/default/files/Parish%20Circular.Synod%202024%20Summary.4%20October%202024.pdf) or by scanning the QR code below.

Catherine Scott



January 19th–23rd

# HERE FOR NOW HOME FOR EVER

SOULIES SUMMERCAMP 2025



# newish lunch

Sunday 10th November, 12pm

[stfaiths.church/events](https://stfaiths.church/events)

# BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

## **Classes:**

5pm Fridays, beginning November 8th

## **Baptism Service:**

8th December @ 6:30pm Church



# November PRAYER DIARY

FRI 1	Pray for the 21 children and the four leaders attending the <b>SQUARE ONE CAMP</b> on 8th-10th November, at the Youthworks Conference Centre Port Hacking. Pray for safety, good sleep, fun and that the children will be struck by Jesus our rescuer from the book of Exodus. Give thanks for the provision of a bus. Pray for a fifth leader to join us!
SAT 2	Thank God for another opportunity to run <b>SOULIES SUMMERCAMP</b> in January next year. Pray for Jake and the Soulies leaders as they plan and coordinate the week away. Ask that God would embolden youth to invite friends and prepare the hearts of those who will come.
SUN 3	Thank God for the work of the <b>NPSRE ASSOCIATION</b> bringing SRE to students at Cromer Campus. Thank God for Phil Schouten and his work bringing the gospel to students and staff. Pray for the Board who meet today, which includes Simon and Penny Hunter, Sandy Walsh, Jean Brittle, Crystal Bruehl, David Curnow and Ben Molyneux. Pray for discernment and wisdom as they continue to oversee this ministry.
MON 4	Pray for the <b>JESUS CLUB</b> members Kathryn, Dylan, Ben, Brendan, that they continue to feel welcomed and cared for every time they come along. Give thanks that the members and the leaders had a fun social night of bowling during the October long weekend.
TUE 5	Pray for the <b>HSC STUDENTS</b> in their final week of exams. Ask that God would grant them peace and clarity to recall what they have learnt and studied. Pray for good decision making in what is the next stage for them after finishing school.
WED 6	Thank God for his continued provision for all our needs at <b>THE COMMUNITY PANTRY</b> . Thank God for growing this Community into a place where we share his love with our guests and where they have the opportunity to study his word. Pray that guests who know him deepen their faith, and those who don't yet know him have softened hearts. Pray for enough additional volunteers to form another team for our roster.

THU 7	Pray for Ben Molyneux, Jake Madder and others who are attending a Reach Australia dinner, thinking through the state of the Australian church and wrestling together about how to reach our country for Christ. Pray for our vision at St Faith's and the work of our church, as we seek to serve God in <b>SEEING A NORTHERN BEACHES THAT KNOWS JESUS</b> by making disciples who grow to maturity in Christ for God's glory. Pray that God uses churches all over the Beaches to see this area won for Christ.
FRI 8	<b>MISSION - IRWAN AND CATHERINE AFES AT UNI OF WOLLONGONG</b> - Pray for students who will be sitting for their exams 4th-14th November. Despite the pressures of study, pray they will keep trusting the Lord and put Him first in their life by loving their peers, family and church family. Pray for the FOCUS Christmas Carol at Uni on 14th November, that many international students will come and hear the gospel proclaimed and may the Lord be merciful to call them to Him in repentance and faith. Pray for the National Training Event planning and preparation, which will happen on 4th-12th December. Pray for us to farewell students well, those who are graduating and going home and going overseas.
SAT 9	<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY 11TH NOVEMBER</b> - Give thanks for the dedication of those who have served and continue to serve in our armed forces. Give thanks for their bravery and sacrifice in protecting our nation, ensuring our freedom and security. Ask God to bring healing for those wounded, comfort to those grieving and peace to the troubled.
SUN 10	Pray for the <b>NEWISH LUNCH</b> happening today at Ben and Yvette Molyneux's home. Thank God for the opportunity to welcome newcomers into our church community. Pray that we would continue to grow in this at St Faith's and that we would all see 'welcoming' as a ministry we're all a part of, not just those on the door. Pray that newcomers feel warmly welcomed as a part of our church family.
MON 11	Give thanks to God for the gift and privilege of <b>PRAYER</b> . Thank God that we can pray to Him, anywhere, anytime and that He longs to hear from us. Thank God that we have the freedom to be able to meet together at church to pray tonight at 7pm. As we meet to pray for God's work, both in our church and in our world, pray that it would be an encouraging time for those that come, that more might feel the desire to meet with their brothers and sisters to pray together in person and that others if they can't come out, might feel compelled to pray at home.

TUE 12	Pray for <b>MORE LEADERS</b> who will be struck by the huge privilege it is to lead in children's ministry and to make a difference in a child's life. Give thanks for the commitment of our current leaders who faithfully serve our church by teaching our children.
WED 13	<b>THE VILLAGE CHURCH (TVC) in Jindabyne</b> - Give thanks for the visiting speakers who helped Trent and TVC preach the Bible faithfully this winter - Mark Glenn, Lloyd Bennet, Tim Purser and Glen Balmer. May God increase them in faith, wisdom and knowledge of Christ.
THU 14	Give thanks for <b>MOLLY JONES</b> who has served in Kids Ministry for the past year. Give thanks that she has used her gifts of teaching and discipleship to walk alongside children as they grow in their faith.
FRI 15	<b>NPSRE CROMER CAMPUS</b> - Pray God's hand will be on the planning, timetables and classes for Term 4. Pray for Year 9 to be included in Scripture classes in 2025. Pray for many Year 7 students in 2025 to 'opt in' to Scripture in the online enrolments.
SAT 16	Ask that God would protect and refresh <b>YEAR 12 STUDENTS</b> who are heading away on Schoolies and other end-of-school trips.
SUN 17	Today is <b>COMPASSION SUNDAY AT ST FAITH'S</b> , where we set aside some time to hear about, pray for and support the work of Compassion. Please stop and give thanks for the ongoing work of Compassion as they seek to release children from poverty in Jesus' name, working on the ground with local church communities. Pray that their work, and the partnership of thousands of people in Australia and across the world, would have a significant gospel impact in places like Indonesia, the Philippines, and Haiti amongst many others. Thank God for the partnership St Faith's has with Compassion, sponsoring around 200 children mainly in the City of Iriga area in the Philippines.
MON 18	<b>ESL</b> - Give thanks with us for the return to English lessons for term 4 and for the returning students and one new student. Pray for ESL as we now move through into term 4, with just a few more classes in front of us. Pray that the students have settled well into routine, that our lessons will meet the needs of each student and that we can show Christ's love to them all.

MON 1 (cont...)	Pray particularly for the weekly Bible lesson, that students will read the Bible passages and open their hearts and minds to God's word. As we move into the Christmas season and teach what Christmas is all about, pray that the students will gain more understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done for each of us.
TUE 19	<b>CHRIST OUR REFUGE - CHURCH PLANT IN BRISBANE</b> - Give thanks for one year of God's grace to our new church. Praise God for people who have recently turned to Christ: Ben, Elise and Josh. Pray for the follow-up of 10 unbelievers attending our 'Taste & See' Christianity course. Pray they will believe the good news of Jesus and find life in Him. Ask God to give our church council wisdom in considering different venues for church services next year.
WED 20	Give thanks for the ministry of <b>GUMTREES PLAYTIME</b> . May all those who attend feel welcomed in an environment that gives love and support to parents and carers, and a fun morning of play for the children. Pray for the continued building of good relationships with parents and children from the local community. Pray for opportunities to invite parents and carers to upcoming church events and Christmas church services. Give thanks for Tilly Cantrill and other volunteers who help run and coordinate playtime each week. Pray for energy and strength to help them continue to serve in this way.
THU 21	<b>MISSION - CHRIS AND KAREN WEBB - BROOME PEOPLES CHURCH</b> - Pray for the Bible course running in Broome through the First Nations Ministry Training (FNMT) for people from across the Kimberley on 21-25 October, which explores the foundations of living the Christian life. Pray for Dennis Taylor (Principal of FNMT) and Chris, as they prepare content and work on logistics for the week of training. Pray people will respond to the invitations that have been sent out and that there will be no barriers for people travelling to Broome. Pray for Chris, Karen, and their children Ezra, Daniel and Emily, as they prepare to pack up their home in Broome, to move back to NSW at the beginning of December for six months on Home Assignment. Pray for them as they sadly say goodbye to the place they've called home for the last ten years. Pray for Ezra, Daniel and Emily as they are finding the move difficult and joining a new school overwhelming. Pray they will trust in God's care for them. Give thanks that CMS is providing them with accommodation in Sydney during this time, while they reconnect with their supporting churches.

FRI 22	Give thanks for <b>THE COTTAGE COUNSELLING CENTRE</b> who bring comfort and healing to their clients. Pray for God's comfort for those who are hurting and wisdom for the counsellors as they offer guidance and support, restoring hope and wholeness to the clients they see. Thank God for the Board and their commitment in seeing the Cottage grow to meet the needs of the community and for all the supporters who continue to provide financially through donations.
SAT 23	<b>GUMNUT KINDY</b> - Thank God for the committed teachers and for the Director Bec who oversees the running of the kindergarten. Pray for wisdom and guidance as they teach the children in their care and for continued good communication and strong relationships with all families who attend Gumnut.
SUN 24	Pray for <b>PHILIP, BEN AND COLIN PREACHING AT VARIOUS SERVICES TODAY</b> . Pray we hear the holy word with understanding and clarity, equipping us to serve our Lord faithfully and bring glory to Him. Pray our visitors will have a desire to deepen their understanding of God's love and truth.
MON 25	<b>SCRIPTURE</b> - Give thanks for the opportunity that we have in teaching scripture in our local schools. As Christmas nears, pray the children and their families joyfully respond to invitations to join St Faith's Christmas services, with open hearts in celebrating Jesus birth and his unconditional love for all people. Give thanks for Peggy King and Christine Lanceley who coordinate scripture.
TUE 26	Give thanks for all the members of the <b>CHURCH CHOIR</b> . Pray for them as they plan, prepare and practice for the Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December. Pray also for the <b>CHURCH BANDS</b> at 10am, 4pm and 6.30pm Church Services, giving thanks for their commitment in bringing songs of worship to us each week. Pray for God's presence to resonate through their singing and music.
WED 27	Pray for the plans and preparations for the <b>CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT CHURCH</b> including the St Faith's Christmas Lunch on 6th December. Pray that our outreach and advertisements will encourage many from the community to attend the various Christmas services and events and lead to a desire to know more about Jesus and that these events will bring glory to God.



THU 28

Thank God for those who serve on our **PARISH COUNCIL**, including Molly Jones, Tones McCausland, Christina Wood, Bob Saville, Jeanette Madden, Alan Madder, Luke Larrea and Max Williams. Pray for God's wisdom and discernment as the Parish Council meets tonight and ask that decisions are made that will strengthen our church and keeps mission on our agenda as we seek to see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus.

FRI 29

Pray for our **SOULIES** community as they finish their series in 1 Peter this week. Ask that God would impress on the hearts and minds of our youth the nature of their citizenship in heaven, the wonder of salvation in Jesus and the joy that brings amidst the trials that prove our faith.

SAT 30

Pray and give thanks for our **MINISTRY APPRENTICE, JADON HORSLEY**. Ask that God would continue to grow Jadon in his ministry among us this year. Pray that he continues to grow a deep trust in Jesus.



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# BELONG

*Wednesday 11 December*



ST FAITH'S  
NARRABEEN



He is  
before all  
things, and  
in him all  
things hold  
together.

COLOSSIANS  
1:17



**COMMUNITY NEWS**

*Pray for...*

**Those expecting -**

Ben & Liz Baxter  
(10am)

**Those unwell -**

Larry Tolnay  
Trish Clifton  
Barbara Temperley  
Anne Robinson  
Max and Imelda Krause  
Sandra Burgess

**Those unwell -**

Barbara Storey  
Tracy Scarf  
Ross King  
Graeme Edmonds  
Margaret Channon  
Debbie Peters  
Lyn Foley

# CONNECTION POINT.

FREE GUEST WIFI

NETWORK: STFAITH'SGUEST  
PASSWORD: Narrabeen



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