ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH APRIL 2025

## C O M M **U N I T Y** M A G



# Nelcome

### MESSAGE FROM OUR Senior Pastor

BEN MOLYNEUX



#### Dear Church,

Thank you for those who were able to be with us at our AGM back in March – your input, questions and suggestions are all very helpful in the overall running of our church community. Those who were elected to the roles in the Parish include:

#### **Parish Councillors:**

- Molly Jones (6:30pm)
- Luke Larrea (10am)
- Alan Madder (10am)
- Anthony McCausland (4pm)
- Paul McDonald (10am)
- Bob Saville (8am)
- Max Williams (10am
- Christina Wood (10am)

#### Wardens:

- Tim Harpur (6:30pm)
- Sarah Jones (10am)
- Stuart Neilson (6:30pm)

#### Nominators:

- Peter Clouston (8am)
- Katherine Elkan (6.30pm)
- Catherine McAdam (10am)
- Antony Pritchett (4pm)
- Robert Pryor (10am)

Our Wardens and Parish Councillors meet every month, so if there's ever anything you'd like them to raise in our meetings, please don't hesitate to get in touch with them!

Here's some of what I reported to the Parish Council for our March meeting -

#### Anglicare Dinner -Domestic Family Violence

A couple of weeks ago, Yvette and I attended an Anglicare fundraising dinner with some other St Faith's members at St Matthew's Anglican Church in Manly. We heard about some of the good work that Anglicare is involved in with victims of domestic and family violence. On the night, \$82,000 was raised to help support this work at Anglicare. From this same event last year, our church purchased copies of "Renew" – a resource designed to help victims of domestic abuse navigate their next steps.

Copies of this continue to be available in the foyer for people who may be facing these difficult circumstances. Over the coming weeks you may also notice some new signage in the bathrooms which is designed to inform people and help support victims of domestic family violence – some of whom might be in our own community.

Rosemary, Lyndal and I also had the opportunity to visit the new "Narrabeen House" – run by the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter. St Faith's, through a generous benefactor, will be making a financial contribution to the work that NBWS in our wider community, and we felt that it was a good opportunity to make a connection with them. Their CEO and team of volunteers do an amazing work caring for vulnerable people in our community.

#### **Staff Update**

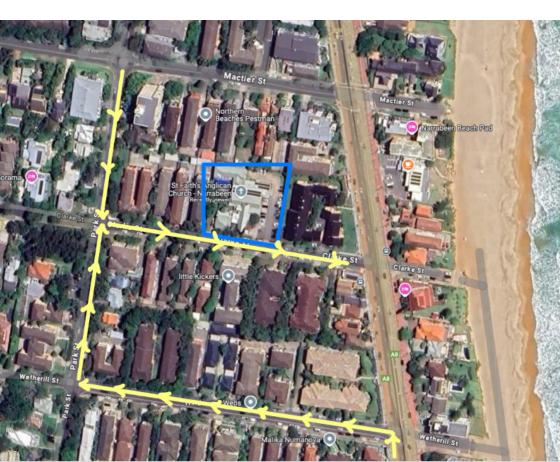
We have a number of positions that we are now looking to fill, with the recent retirement of both Tony Bradford and Colin Sheehan. After meeting with the RSL Lifecare Village, I am pleased to confirm that they would like to continue partnering with St Faith's, which is wonderful news. I have also had a couple of initial meetings with potential candidates for our vacant Associate Pastor position. I would appreciate your prayers in each of these, and for God's wisdom as we look at recruiting new staff for our team.

#### **Clarke Street Traffic Flow**

Peak times at church are a bit chaotic, to say the least, and our neighbours aren't particularly pleased at the moment! As a result, we want to trial a few changes to encourage better traffic flow for our church members, particularly during peak times...

First, we'd love you to treat Clarke Street as a 'one way street' with traffic flowing in an easterly direction. For those of you who are arriving from the south, we'd encourage you to turn left at Wetherill Street (before Clarke), then make your way into Clarke Street. Secondly, you may also notice that we've installed some 'left turn only' signs at the carpark exit. Even if you need to head south after church, head out onto Pittwater Road, take a left into Mactier and turn around on the roundabout back to the lights – it'll take an extra 60 seconds – but will make a big difference for the flow of things overall.

With these two suggestions in place, and a new 'Kiss & Drop' system for Soulies parents, we think this will help the traffic flow better overall. Below is a map that's been marked up to give an indication of the proposed flow of our new system.





#### **Safety Fencing**

You may also notice a slight change in the fencing on the northern balcony of our church building. We've added in some fencing for those cheeky little runners at our 10am and 4pm service to provide an added layer of safety from the carpark. Thanks Dave Lawson for installing them for us!

Our **Easter Services** are coming up on Good Friday (18th April) and Easter Sunday (20th April). **We will meet at our usual service times on both days**. Please be praying about who you can invite along to our services. According to research conducted by NCLS\* about 40% of people would accept an invitation to church if invited by a family member or close friend. People are more open to the things of God than we might give them credit for - so pray, then ask, then see what God does...

Grace and peace,

Ben

#### \*www.ncls.org.au/articles/ australians-openness-to-being-invited-to-church/

## Numbers? WHY NUMBERS?

#### A Journey towards the Promised Land

Those who have been around for a little while at St Faith's know that our team give deep thought and consideration to the parts of the Bible that we look at each year. We think it most useful to be fed spiritually from a 'balanced diet' of Old and New Testament. In our Old Testament studies over the last five years, we've looked at Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and back in 2019 we looked at Deuteronomy. The first five books of the Bible (known by some as the 'Pentateuch') are foundational in understanding the rest of the Bible! While they are five separate books there's a unified message throughout them which announces foundational doctrines for the rest of the Bible - sin. nature, humanity, suffering, promise, blessing, and hope. The book of Numbers is our final instalment (for now) in our teaching on the Pentateuch!

Now, you might ask why? Numbers might seem like a boring list of names and 'numbers' but let me assure you, it's far from boring – there's life or death survival, food falling from the sky, water bursting from a rock, fire pillars, spies, and giant enemies! It's anything but boring! So as we approach our series in May and June, I thought it'd be helpful to give a simple overview of what we're about to encounter in Numbers....

#### Context

First, we need to remember that Egypt had enslaved the nation of Israel for 430 years, but God provided a powerful exit from this oppression and now God's people are free (that was our Exodus series in 2022/2023).

However, God's people are exhausted and scared—they've only begun to live as free people and have heaps to learn! So, God's been camping with them at Mount Sinai for a year, teaching them to relate with him and to one another (that was our Leviticus series in 2024).

Now, he plans to lead them on a long journey toward the land he promised their ancestors (that was our Genesis series in 2021). Before they leave the mountain, God orders a headcount - a census to number all the people. All this counting of people gives the book its title - Numbers. But more than just counting people, the book of Numbers teaches us about Israel's tough journey from Mount Sinai to the edge of the promised land. Will the Israelites, whom God rescued, learn to trust him as he leads them through the wilderness and into the land? Or will they choose another way?

Our study booklets (which will be available on the website at Easter), will take us through some of the details – but for now, here's an overview of the book of Numbers to whet our appetite, and get us a little more oriented to the direction we're heading in term 2 together.....

#### Chapters 1-12 Preparing for the journey...

As the preparations to hit the road begin, God arranges their camp in a formation that places the Tabernacle, the site of his presence, right in the middle. God wants to live with the Israelites in the land he promised, and he also wants to live every day with them while they trudge through the wilderness. He wants them to trust him through their hardships, but they struggle to rely on God. Sound familiar? They complain, despise the good things he provides, and even wish they were living as slaves back in Egypt.

#### Chapters 13-25 Refusing to trust God...

Full of fear, complaints, and doubts, God's people continue their journey toward the promised land. When they finally reach the border and send out spies to scope the land, some of those spies return with reports of giant enemies – so they refuse to enter the occupied land. Two of those spies, Caleb and Joshua, try to convince the people to trust that God will provide for them in the land – but they fail and God's people conclude that they'd rather die in the wilderness than enter the land! So, God gives them what they want, assigning them 40 years of camping (can you imagine?!) in the wilderness until the whole generation dies. However, Caleb, Joshua, and the children of the Exodus generation will remain. The journey to the land holds out hope still....

#### Chapters 26-36 Preparing to enter.....again

The last section of Numbers begins with the next generation camped at the Jordan River, right at the edge of the land God promised to their ancestors. Again, we see that God calls for a census (Numbers). He gives his people instructions on land divisions and laws on how to live to ensure that the new land will not be oppressive like Egypt. If the people follow God's commands, they'll be able to enjoy the promised land and all of its goodness forever.

So, by the end of Numbers, we're left to wonder – will this generation of God's people learn from their people's past mistakes? Will they trust God and his promises to bring them to a land of blessing? Will we, today, through Jesus, do the same?



## Jesus Club Sharing in Christ's Love For everyone

#### by Dan Harvey

Living in the beautiful Northern Beaches, it's easy to feel like everyone here has what they need. Since we rarely, if ever, see our fellow brothers and sisters going without food, clothing, or shelter, it might sometimes seem there's not much work to be done amongst our community.

You're probably familiar with how Jesus said that on "the last day", when the righteous ask God how it was that they "fed or gave something to drink" to the King of Heaven himself, he will answer:

"... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Looking around at St Faith's, the truth is that you can see many examples of people reaching out to others in need. In the people we contact in our everyday lives. Through regular programs such as **The Community Pantry**, **Play Group** and **ESL**. And in other church groups where we might encounter the so called "least of" our brothers and sisters; the definition of whom is just anyone who might be in need, at any given time.

But maybe you're not as familiar with **Jesus Club**, a group that meets at

Clarke Street on the first Monday of every month to share fellowship with adults living with intellectual or learning disability. Started in 2017 with the help of Jesus Club Ministries (see **jesusclub.org.au** for more information), God has been using this small group to bring The Gospel to those who might not otherwise be able to hear it at a regular church meeting.

...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

(Matthew 25:40)

Underpinning what we do is a biblical conviction that **Jesus' message of love is for everyone** – that to take the Great Commission seriously means striving to make it accessible to all. Just as neither financial means nor language nor nationality should exclude someone from hearing the Good News, neither should intellectual capacity. His love is for all of us, and that guides both the purpose of the ministry, and the way we go about it.

From my involvement in Jesus Club, I've experienced a profound way to love Jesus, by simply sharing Christcentred fellowship with others who are hungry to connect. As we talk about what Jesus has done for us and the way he shows us to live, we've built lasting friendships together. Through these wonderful relationships, Jesus has in turn taught me about himself – the deep and abiding qualities of his heart, his grace, his abundance, and his mercy.

At Jesus Club we start with a few games to break the ice - to have fun and laugh together. Then we sing a few of our favourite Jesus songs, after which we're well and truly ready to sit for the quieter part of the evening: sharing our personal highs and lows and praying, then listening to a short Jesus talk from one of the leaders, prepared from the easy-to-understand modules provided by the Jesus Club Ministries team. We finish with **"buddy groups"** where we use the provided worksheets to guide a more personal chat through our topic as we enjoy a **light supper** together.

Jesus Club is Gospel work, and it does take our time and energy. But it's hugely rewarding, and for me, has been life-transforming. So, if you share God's heart for people in need, know that we do need **new helpers**. One of the pastors would be happy to answer your questions or put you in touch with me - and in most cases we're happy to have you along as a visitor so you can experience what it's all about and see if this beautiful ministry might be for you.

In the meantime, we'd appreciate your prayers – for **growth** and new members, for resilience and stamina for our leaders, and that above all, that those who come along would know Jesus, accept him as King of their hearts, and learn what it means to be part of His Family.

## April PRAYER DIARY

TUE 1	<b>MISSION - CHRIS AND KAREN WEBB - BROOME PEOPLES CHURCH</b> - Give thanks for the time the Webbs spent so far with extended families and the many activities they are enjoying, such as go-karting, water slides and ferry rides, during their home assignment period in Sydney. Pray for Ezra, Daniel and Emily who have found it hard adjusting to new schools and they are missing the familiarity and friendships of Broome. Give thanks for the opportunity to visit their supporting churches and sharing the work they are doing in Broome. Give thanks that Chris and Karen can have time to reflect on life and ministry in Broome, and the helpful meetings with CMS staff and prepared talks for audiences at conferences and churches. Pray that during this time of reflection and connecting with supporters that this will help them serve joyfully and effectively when they return to Broome in June. Pray for the people at Broome Peoples Church and for Rev. Michael Baines and Rev. Matt Morrison as they keep things going while the Webbs are away.
WED 2	Give thanks for children, parents and carers who attend <b>GUMTREES</b> <b>PLAYTIME</b> each week and for the many volunteers who help run the group. Pray the children will have fun, learn, grow and develop new skills. Pray for the parents and caregivers who bring them along. Pray for patience, wisdom and energy as they care for their little ones. Ask God to help them to build meaningful relationships with one another and that they connect well with church families. Pray for the non- church families to have open hearts to receive the invitations for the Easter services, may they be willing to come along and discover the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

THU 3	Please thank and praise God for answering our February and March prayers for <b>AUSLAN ALPHA</b> . Indeed, he has done far more abundantly than all we asked or thought according to His power at work in us – all glory to Him forever! Please pray as the invites for a <b>SECOND AUSLAN ALPH</b> A go out into the local Deaf Community. May God continue to go before us, preparing their hearts to say, "Yes, I'd love to come to Alpha!" (starting 22 May 2025).
FRI 4	<b>SOULIES 'BREAK IT DOWN</b> ' – Pray that as Community Groups spend time individually tonight that they would be encouraged and challenged by what God has taught them this term and that they enjoy time in fellowship together before the holidays.
SAT 5	Following the AGM held last month, give thanks for the newly elected and re-elected <b>WARDENS AND TREASURER</b> (Tim Harpur, Sarah Jones and Stuart Neilson), <b>PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS</b> (Christina Wood, Max Williams, Alan Madder, Paul McDonald, Luke Larrea, Bob Saville, Anthony McCausland, and Molly Jones) and <b>PARISH NOMINATORS</b> (Peter Clouston, Catherine McAdam, Robert Pryor, Anthony Pritchett and Katherine Elkan). Ask God to grant them wisdom, guidance and discernment as they serve our parish over the next 12 months.
SUN 6	<b>6:30PM CHURCH SOULIES TAKEOVER</b> – Pray that as our youth lead our 6:30pm service tonight that it would be a great encouragement to the whole congregation to see how God is at work in the lives of young people in our church. Ask that God would use this night to create opportunities for intergenerational ministry and encouragement.
MON 7	Give praise to God for Steve who gave the bible lesson last month at <b>JESUS CLUB</b> . Give thanks for all the leaders and volunteers who facilitate the games, singing, bible lessons, buddy worksheets and provide a beautiful supper every month. Pray for the faith of our members Ben, Brendan, Dylan, and Kathryn. Pray for more adults with disabilities to join us and for God to enlarge this group with more leaders.
TUE 8	Pray for the preparations for <b>EASTER</b> , that many people from the community will come along to our services. Pray visitors will be transformed by the message of Jesus' saving grace and be moved to seek a deeper understanding of Jesus' sacrifice and love. Pray for boldness for all of us inviting friends to the various services.

WED 9	<b>MISSION - IRWAN AND CATHERINE - AFES AT UNI OF WOLLONGONG</b> - Thank God for bringing many international students to our residential colleges' bible study groups. Pray for God's mercy in saving many of these students and for His children to grow in conviction and love for their residential fellows and peers at uni and being equipped in their faith. Pray for Muslims as they are seeking Allah's blessing in this month of Ramadhan that the Lord will lead some of them to find Jesus as He is the way the truth and the life. Pray for Irwan as he prepares training materials for the student groups at uni (training students in main doctrines such as sin, redemption, resurrection, trinity and church history for evangelism and ministry), and in training Lyndon and Ben in engaging with Muslims. Pray for the preparation for the upcoming Easter mission (14-17 April).
THU 10	<b>NPSRE CROMER CAMPUS</b> – Pray the Year 7 students will settle into high school and that SRE students will want to come along to Scripture lessons. Pray that more year 7 and year 8 students will want to join Scripture. Pray God will give Phil more opportunities for meaningful discussions about the Gospel with all students and teachers.
FRI 11	Praise God for all the year 3-5s that have been connecting with one another at <b>LIGHTHOUSE</b> and learning from the book of Acts, about knowing and letting others know the greatest news ever about Jesus. Pray for us as leaders in our support of one another and in preparation for Term 2. Give thanks for the leaders: Maisy, Hannah, Catherine, Zoe, Jasmine, Laurie, Lily, Molly, Jonah and Renee.
SAT 12	Thank the Lord for our faithful <b>ST FAITH'S KIDS LEADERS</b> . Pray that they will be strengthened and find joy in their service. Ask God to raise up a new adult leader for our growing 4pm Church Preschool class.
SUN 13	Pray for Ben Molyneux as he preaches at <b>COAST EVANGELICAL</b> <b>CHURCH</b> in Forster today. Ask God to use his preaching in James 5 to encourage and strengthen the church in Forster.
MON 14	April brings our <b>ESL CLASSES</b> to the close of first term. Give thanks to our almighty God with us, for the many blessings of these past weeks. Thank Him for the return of many past students who have been keen to reconnect with teachers and other students as well. Give thanks for a good number of new students who have joined our classes, and for their enthusiasm to learn and participate. Particularly give thanks for the number of students who stay back regularly to join the Bible based lesson after class. (continued)

MON 14 CONT	Pray that the Spirt will speak to their hearts and that they will seek to know Jesus more. Pray for our amazing team, that they might rest well over the holidays and return refreshed for ESL in term two.
TUE 15	Pray for safety for those who are <b>TRAVELLING</b> in the school holidays and over the Easter long weekend. Pray for relaxation and refreshment for all those taking a break from their usual routines. Pray they enjoy time with family and friends.
WED 16	Pray for our <b>ST FAITH'S KIDS PARENTS</b> . Pray for wisdom, patience and love as they raise their children to love and follow Jesus. Pray for strength to set a Godly example and patience to teach them.
THU 17	<b>THE VILLAGE CHURCH (TVC)</b> in Jindabyne – Our Easter planning and preparation have begun. Please join us in prayer for God to open hearts in this alpine region to receive the Good News of Jesus' cross and resurrection.
FRI 18	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> – Thank God as we remember the depth of His love shown by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the gift of forgiveness. Pray many from the community attend church and they come to know and believe in Jesus Christ. Pray we are welcoming and show Christ's love to those who visit. Pray for Ben as he preaches across all services at St Faith's and for Colin at WAC, to speak clearly and for the message to be encouraging.
SAT 19	Praise God for the wonderful growth he's brought to <b>SOULIES</b> this term, and for the many youth who have matured in their faith and been challenged and equipped to live more boldly for Jesus! Praise God for our incredible Leadership Team who give up their Friday evenings to disciple and journey with our young people and ask that God would give them rest and refreshment over the break so that they might return to ministry with zeal and passion!
SUN 20	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> – Give praise for Jesus, our Saviour, who brings us forgiveness, hope and victory over death through his resurrection. Ask God that many from the community will attend our services today, so that they will hear the gospel and experience the hope and joy of Easter. Pray for Nic preaching at St Faith's and Colin at WAC. Pray for wisdom and clarity as they speak and for those listening to be open and receptive to the message especially our visitors.

MON 21	<b>MISSION - DAN AND LIV WEBSTER - NAMIBIA EVANGELICAL AND</b> <b>THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</b> - Give thanks for growing relationships and for those who have become dear to us. Thank God for these deeper relationships and the deeper influence that this is enabling on their life. Give thanks for CMS who value long term mission so that these relationships can be formed. Also, for the support CMS gives. Ask God that we would be vulnerable with others, not just expecting them to be so with us. Ask too that our love for others would be sincere, genuine, and abiding. Give thanks for the rain, may its arrival cause many to give thanks to God. Pray for Liv's annual orchestral performance and the joy it is to make music with others for a week. Ask God that we will be focused and sustained in prayer times.
TUE 22	Pray for the <b>SENIOR SOULIES YOUTH</b> who are heading to the <b>KYCK</b> conference at Katoomba this weekend 25th-27th April. Pray for safety as leaders and youth travel to the mountains. Give thanks that they can gather together with other teenagers, listening to bible talks, worship in song with Christian artists and participate in fun organised activities. Pray that their time at the conference will encourage and equip them to live a life of faithful obedience and service.
WED 23	<b>COMMUNITY PANTRY</b> – Give thanks and praise to God for each one of our guests and volunteers and to God for always walking with us. Pray for our guests that are struggling with health issues. Pray for the
	Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of our guests and that God reveals himself to them. Give thanks for Dave who leads Bible study every week. Pray for more guests to come and look at God's Word together.
THU 24	Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of our guests and that God reveals himself to them. Give thanks for Dave who leads Bible study every week.

SAT 26	<b>KYCK 25-27th April</b> - Thank God for the opportunity to attend the Katoomba youth Convention again this year! Pray that as we work through the book of Galatians together, and consider the freedom we have in Christ, that our youth would be encouraged to live boldly for Him in all areas of life. Pray for those attending who are considering faith in Jesus - that He might reveal Himself more fully to them. Pray for safety in activities and for the return trip back home tomorrow.
SUN 27	Give thanks for all <b>OUR VOLUNTEERS</b> who selflessly give their time and energy to serve others. Pray they remain dedicated and committed to their work, and may their efforts be blessed and fruitful.
MON 28	Give thanks for <b>THE COTTAGE COUNSELLING CENTRE</b> and the work they do in helping those in our community. Pray for wise discernment around the possibility of opening one more location further west over the next year – possibly Penrith or even lower blue mountains. Pray that if this is where they are needed, that God will make the path smooth for this to happen. Pray for all the clients, as they journey towards a better version of life for themselves. Pray for God's grace and healing to touch each one of them.
TUE 29	Pray for <b>OUR CHILDREN</b> . Pray that their knowledge and love for Jesus will continue to grow. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be working in their hearts and minds so they will live their lives in joy, freedom and obedience with a full understanding of God's great love for them.
WED 30	<b>CHILLOUT</b> 16-18 July – Please be praying for many to be involved as leaders and helpers for our mid-year children and family's outreach. Pray God will bring many new children and families along to Chillout.





<sup>F.....</sup> Subscribe to our Prayer Diary via the PrayerMate app!

## FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP in the 60's = Soulies in 2025!

#### by Judith Baker

The story of Soulies Summer Camp in the February Community Mag reminded me of our House Party weekends in my youth.

My family moved to Collaroy from Cremorne in 1959 and I changed school (2nd year = year 8) to Narrabeen Girls High and moved church to St Faith's. Sunday School wasn't the same time as church – it was held between the two morning services. It went up to end of 2nd year Highschool. Parents rarely drove us, it was either walk or go by bus.





A school friend invited me to Friday Night Fellowship, a group from teens youth attended the Sunday Evening church where the choir sang. The group was co-ordinated by the Curate (the Assistant Minister) with help of older youth leaders. We had a great time singing choruses, Bible stories, games, activities, supper and time to get to know each other. Sometimes we had outings at the weekend, picnics, bush walks, scavenger hunts, and later car trials.



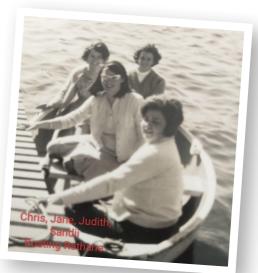




Every year there was a House Party a group weekend away together. My first one was in September 1961. We went to Lawson in the Blue Mountains leaving Friday night by train and returning Sunday afternoon. There were around 20 youths, house parents and the Curate. We walked from the station to our accommodation - a cottage converted for groups to stay. The lounge room was the meeting room where there was some seating otherwise you sat on the floor. The dining room was cramped with two long tables. There were bedrooms for the house parents or clergy and two slightly larger rooms, one for girls and one for boys with 3 or 4 triple bunks!!

The programs were much the same and included singing, prayers, activities, bible studies, skits and games. I also recall that the church ran an equivalent to Chillout. It was called the Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS) and was held over three days in the school holidays for primary kids. I assisted once on my nursing days off.

I hope you enjoy this flashback of St. Faith's youth activities.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO NIC TREVENA AND RENEE MILES

on their recent graduation from Moore Theological College!



## HANNAH & Blake Dwyer

(4pm church) on the arrival of their little baby girl!

Indigo Rose born 28/02/2025.

A little sister for Billie to love and care for!



**COMMUNITY NEWS** 

Pray for ...

#### Those expecting -

Libby & Charlie Osborne (4pm) Ebony & Dan Forsyth (4pm) Buffy & Nick Stanbrook (6:30pm) Nicole & Luke Hutchinson (6:30pm) Tilly & Finn Cantrill (10am)

#### Those unwell -

Trish Clifton Barbara Temperley Anne Robinson Max & Imelda Krause Sandra & Albert Burgess Barbara Storey Tracy Scarf Lyn Foley Ross King Bill Hall Bev Spinks



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