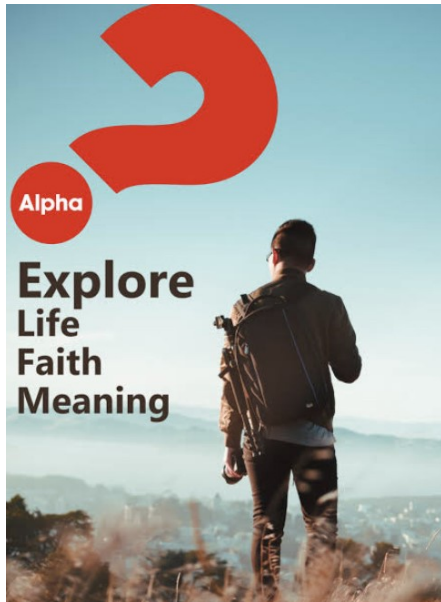




## Alpha: An Opportunity to Explore Faith Together



There's nothing you can't ask and everyone is welcome.

That's the approach we're taking as we offer the Alpha course, a series of interactive sessions that create a safe and honest space where people can explore life, faith and meaning.

Beginning Wednesday 8 May and continuing every Wednesday night for the next eight weeks, we will host the Alpha course for the first time for Christ Church members and friends.

Alpha provides a great opportunity to gather around a meal with friends, old and new, watch a video that addresses a meaningful topic and then engage in a welcoming and thoughtful discussion.

Each week we'll explore questions such as, is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus and why did he die? How does God guide us? How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

Alpha has been used around Australia and in other countries as a creative and engaging way to introduce topics of faith, meaning and living as God intends.

Our hope is to include as many Christ Church members in this first offering so that together we discover how God might want each of us to serve in other upcoming Alpha courses.

Whether in prayer, helping with meals, guiding discussions or simply offering friendship to those who come, there's a place for everyone!

For more information, talk with Geoff Kells (morning service), Jessie Cherian (The Gathering) or email [Jo@cclb.org.au](mailto:Jo@cclb.org.au).



### Di on Biblical Equality

Exploring the theme "Rediscovering the Voices of Women", Rev. Di Nicolios joined three other ministers on a panel discussion for *Christians for Biblical Equality's* annual conference, 9 March in Sydney.

Alongside Baptist ministers Dr. Megan Powell du Toit (Rouse Hill) and Graeme Anderson (Northside), and Anglican rector Christopher Waterhouse (St. James), Di and the panellists discussed the pains women in ministry often experience and the joys of collaborative ministry when women and men are treated equally.

### April Diary

Sun 7	10am Holy Communion 5pm The Gathering (Communion)
Sun 14	10am Morning Prayer 5pm The Gathering
Sun 21	10am Holy Communion 5pm The Gathering
Sun 28	10am Morning Prayer 5pm The Gathering

### Words from Greg

It goes without saying God is a welcoming God. In what might be the greatest story ever told (Luke 15:11-32), you'll recall the son behaved appallingly: 'Give me my inheritance now!' In that culture it was like wishing the father dead. Yet the son leaves and wastes the lot until he is destitute. And then he comes to his senses.

Notice, the extraordinary detail of what happens next: 'when he was still far off' - how did the father see him? He must have been waiting for him. Then the father runs to his son, throws his arms around him, kisses him. He throws off all his dignity to love his lost son.

In the story, the father is like God. This is the welcome God gives to the person who comes to their senses. God is rich in mercy, tender-hearted, full of compassion toward each of us.

When we warmly and lovingly welcome others, we demonstrate God's love. That's why my hope for Christ Church Lavender Bay is that everyone who comes will be warmed and challenged. They'll find preaching that engages believers and doubters alike. They'll be helped to engage with the world around us.

They'll find a church that is intelligible and helps them to see what Christianity looks like. They'll learn from the prayer book, not fumbling around pages but following it on slides and screens. They'll feel connected both online and in person. They'll hear music that captures the beauty of the language in our singing, words and melodies that are simple and rich.

They'll find people to welcome them on time or even early as they walk inside this building, friendly, relaxed and caring people.

In other words, we're building a culture of Grace, where we look after each other and newcomers, treating each other as God treats us and every lost child.

Greg





## 2024 Church Leaders Elected

**Wardens:** Glenn Crichton (Rector's Warden)  
 Philippa Armfield, Ian Davidson

**Treasurer:** Maggie Springett

**Parish Council**

Michael Mata, Helen Chuawiwat, Penny Morris,  
 Peter Moll, Jessie Cherian, Luke Williams,  
 Maggie Springett

**Nominators**

Anita Barnett, Ann Kells, Rod Pearse, Philippa  
 Armfield, Richard Neal, Glenn Crichton

**Synod Representatives**

Richard Neal, Clarrie Stevens

The AGM was held on Sunday 17 March, just over a year since Greg's first service. Greg presented an overview of the year in the AGM report and leaders were confirmed and elected. Christine Fulcher steps down from her position on parish council with our thanks for her ongoing contribution to the church and specifically, her leadership in the Gathering.

New members of the Parish council are: Jessie Cherian, Luke Williams and Maggie Springett (our new treasurer). Rod Pearse is retiring from the position of Rector's Warden after five years. Greg paid tribute to Rod, particularly for his efforts as coordinator of the Rejuvenation Program. Glenn Crichton will now serve as Rector's Warden.

Greg also expressed his gratitude for the many other servant-hearted members who have volunteered

He also commented on the substantial overall increase in numbers, as we continue to grow God's kingdom in Lavender Bay and beyond.



### Women's lunch Focuses on Mission

On the 13th March, 22 Christ Church women gathered in Greg's place for lunch and a special talk. Long time Christ Church mission partner Noriko Dethlefs discussed the work she and her husband Roger undertook in Afghanistan and Japan and how God led and guided them. A big thank you to all who helped with the lunch. It was a great time of fellowship and we hope to hold these lunches on a regular basis.

### May Diary

Sun 5 10am Holy Communion  
 5pm The Gathering (Communion)

Wed 8 Alpha begins!

Sun 12 10am Morning Prayer  
 5pm The Gathering

Sun 19 10am Holy Communion  
 5pm The Gathering

Sun 26 10am Family Service

### Contacts

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Jo Kadlecak - Interim Parish Administrator & Communication Consultant  
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 8065 8018  
 M/W/F 9am-1pm in the Vestry  
 T/Th 10am-1pm working from home

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### Mike's craftsmanship

The steps to the mobile kitchen needed replacing so thank you, Mike Morris, for your carpentry work. Hundreds of morning teas/meals and evening meals have been served via the kitchen.



### Ross's farewell

After more than two decades of fellowship at Christ Church Lavender Bay, we said goodbye to Rev Ross McDonald so he can attend church closer to his home. We also celebrated his 90th birthday! We're grateful for Ross's friendship, sermons and care for the congregation.

### Dinner for Eight

Thank you to Virginia and Graeme Adam, Merryn and Rod Pearse, Ann and Geoff Kells, Joc Ibels, Annette Hodgkinson, and Robyn and David Wood for hosting Dinners (or Lunches) for Eight in March.