

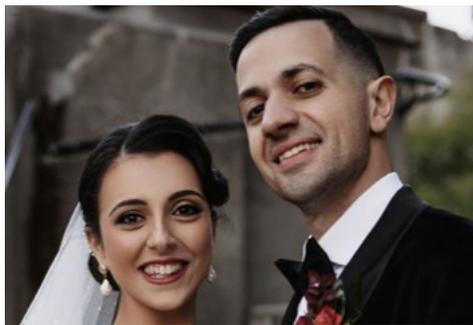


Four members, three questions

Four of our Christ Church households were asked by Lachlan three questions: What is your favourite Bible verse? What is your favourite hymn? How are you keeping refreshed during lockdown? Here's what they said. Try these questions on yourself.



Chrissie: Enjoying the sunrise and birds singing



The Mata's: home-made coffee and walks.



The Brownes: Psalm 23 and Colossians 3:12-17.



Conrad: Amazing Grace for it's beautiful words

Conrad Chang: 1. Favourite bible verse: Psalm 103:12: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." 2. Favourite hymn: Amazing Grace, for its beautiful words. It's also a very personal hymn for me because it brought my mum a lot of comfort during her last few days in hospital and was also the hymn she wanted played at her funeral and cremation. 3. Really nice to have personal time to go on daily walks on my own, reflecting, praying and meditating. In work and life, having personal and quiet time has been refreshing.

Michael and Isabelle Mata: 1. This is a tough one, we love both Psalm 23 and Colossians 3:12-17. Sorry couldn't choose 1! 2. That's an easy one.. We like an oldie but a goodie: How Great Thou Art! 3. Having recently got married at Christ Church, we are really enjoying getting out for walks in the area, and discovering what it has to offer. Also, investing in a coffee machine and a KitchenAid have been our little splurges, allowing us to enjoy delicious coffee and yummy baked treats.

Lachie and Katy Browne: There are so many bible verses and hymns we were discussing. BUT...1. Psalm 121 (verses 1-3) and also John 3:16, such a great verse. 2. Be Thou My Vision and How Deep The Father's Love For Us. 3. To keep refreshed in lockdown we pick a night each week to get dressed as we would if we were going out to dinner. We cook a meal together from a cuisine we were craving, set the table like a restaurant and spend some quality time together as if we were out to dinner.

Chrissie Fulcher: 1. Favourite bible verse: Psalm 103 - verses 11-12: "For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west." How high and wide is God's love and forgiveness. 2. Favourite song or hymn: Be Thou My Vision or Come Thou Fount. During lockdown "Prince of Peace". 3. Keeping refreshed during lockdown? Mainly going on daily walks and runs early in the morning (fewer people) and I can have the harbour to myself to enjoy the sunrise and the birds singing.

October Diary

Note: watch for email advice re online or live

Sun 3th 10am Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 10th 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Sun 17th 10am Communion
5pm The Gathering

Wed 20th 7am Parish Council

Sun 24th 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Sun 31st 10am Praise and Proclamation
5pm The Gathering

25th-31st Oct. Lachlan away

Bible Study Groups

Monday nights (fortnightly) Bible Study Group (Contact Keith & Anne Mason)
Monday nights: Bible Study Group (Contact Geoff Kells)
Tuesday nights: Bible Study (contact Lachlan)
Wednesday nights: Bible Study Group (contact Jurgen and Diane Joester)
Thursday mornings: Rectory Bible Study Group (contact Ann Kells)
Thursday nights: Bible Study Group (contact Graeme, Virginia or Conrad))
Sunday afternoons: Youth Bible Study. (contact Emily)

Buzz from the Bay



Engagement of Emily and Ben

In August, Emily Edwards and Ben Smith announced their engagement. Said Emily: "Ben and I are SO excited to be engaged! We are very keen to spend our lives serving Jesus together. We are so thankful for all the love we have received and the kind congratulations from our churches! Please pray that our marriage will point to Jesus. Praise God! " Wedding at Nareburn Anglican Church 8th January 2022 (by invitation only).

A challenging year, but on track

A wrap-up of report from the wardens and Parish Council as presented by Rod Pearse
Despite the lockdown, we have a lot to be thankful for. When we are worshipping in person, both morning and evening congregations remain safe (our Covid plan is working). When lock-down re-started our on-line services recommenced and have been well attended. Our Bible Study Groups have grown and are well attended. Our pastoral care services are focussed and supportive. And we have maintained our mission-related giving. This is very important at a time when many are hard pressed through the pandemic.

Our wardens and Parish Council are working well. Our Parish Council "Away Day" in June was focussed and forward-looking. We discussed and developed an action framework around our mission statement, ("Know God's love. Grow God's love. Show God's love."). Lachlan's recent sermon series provided a biblical foundation for our Mission. We are also working with the Diocese to initiate an optioneering study of our grounds at Christ Church. For example best use of the Church Hall and car park sites.

Financially, we are on track through July and August. Operating Receipts are above expectations, thanks to an unbudgeted "Boosting Cash Flow" windfall of \$20,000 as well as \$5000 of unbudgeted donations. However, offertories are down by \$10,000, that is by 7%. There are quite a number of individual EFT "gaps". (We need to remember to renew direct debit authorities from time to time). Cash donations to "the box" have stopped, but envelopes and cheques are very acceptable. Offertory income is the solid ground on which everything stands.

Our expenses have been well-controlled. Operating payments are \$35,000 under budget, or 15% down overall. Overall, we are \$63,000 in the black, \$64,000 better than budget. This is pleasing but not sustainable. Going forward we need to maintain our focus on our offertories and on continued cost control.

Sadly, the Rejuvenation Anniversary Lunch was deferred because of Covid but we remain committed to our Rejuvenation Fund-raising Initiative. We are broadly on target to raise \$500,000 over five years but too few are carrying that load. Please consider giving to our Christ Church Rejuvenation Fund. (BSB: 633000 Account: 168439784). We have applied for a \$20,000 grant to remediate our stonework. The north gables slate roof replacement work has been delayed by Covid restrictions.

Finally, thank you to Lachlan for his leadership in challenging times. And thank you to God for loving and caring for His flock at Christ Church.

November Diary

Sun 7th 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 14th 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Wed 17th 7am Parish Council

Sun 21st 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 28th 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Buzz from the Bay

The library

One of the initiatives that came out of the Parish Council Planning Retreat was the establishment of a Christ Church library of Christian books. Thanks to council member Peter Moll, a wide range of books have now been assembled as kindly donated by our congregation. The helpful Leisa Davidson is in the process of covering them. The way in which books can be borrowed will be discussed by parish council to coincide with when we can meet in church once more. What a wonderful resource of Christian literature!



Jeremiah, the weeping prophet

Through this 10 week sermon series, we are looking into the book of **Jeremiah**, one of the major prophets in the Bible. Many have called him the weeping prophet. But he is also looking forward to the New Covenant, the arrival of the promise that God has given throughout the Old Testament. Why not read ahead and really get to know Jeremiah? In addition, **Jo Kadlecck** has created some notes which you can find on our website.



Building God's Kingdom in Australia with BCA

A big thank you to those who've continued supporting BCA this year. Handling BCA boxes filled with coins is problematic just now. So, if you have one, it will be received gratefully next year. Donations can be made online or by credit card or cheque (bushchurchaid.com.au/donate or phone 9262 5017). BCA is offering its usual pack of 6 **Christmas cards** for \$5. Traditional Christmas puddings are selling fast (puddings \$30, logs \$32, cakes \$40). Inquiries to Caroline on tel.9955 7375, email carthornton@bigpond.com, or to Emma at BCA (details above).



News from THE GATHERING



Emmanuel: Bible reading on live-stream

* The Youth Bible Study on Sunday afternoons, led by **Emily Edwards**, continued through lockdown by going live-stream.

*And Gathering members have stepped up to the plate, recording or going live with Bible readings or prayers. Thank you to **Jed, Alex, Chrissy, Chris, Virginia, Beth, Ian, Conrad, Jo, Bec, Emmanuel, Jennifer** and **James**.

*Gathering member **Chrissie**, has not let lockdown get in the way of an active life. In a few days in late August, she walked/ran 30 kms (all within her LGA, of course!)

Lachlan's Message

It is with much excitement and a little anxiety that we approach the end of some of the restrictions we have endured for the last three months. Just as in 2020 I think that it will be harder coming out of lockdown than it was going into it.

Once again, our "normal" has changed and we will need to adjust. Some will be eager to resume their normal lives as soon as possible, but in so doing may put others at risk. While others will take some time before venturing out and may feel judged or even excluded by others.

We will be taking a prayerful and careful approach to reopening our church doors as an act of love, honouring one another above ourselves and being patient in affliction (Romans 12:10-13). Love. Honour. Patience.

Lachlan Edwards
Senior Minister

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