

Christ Church
Lavender Bay

Newsletter

June/July 2023

Know God's Love. Grow God's Love. Show God's Love

www.cclb.org.au

ANGELICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA



Monday night at the Masons



Rear: David Robinson, Audrey Evans, Richard Neal, Keith Mason, Jennifer Morgan-Nicholson, Frances Duke, Peter Moll (inset). Front: Ian Davidson, Caroline Thornton, John McIntosh, Libby Neal, Anne Mason

Bible Study Groups, Home Groups, whatever you like to call them, are an intrinsic part of the life of our Church family. One of our five thriving groups is held at the home of **Keith and Anne Mason**.

"Our usual pattern is to read aloud in segments (and then discuss) a selected Psalm", says Keith. "Then we do the same with segments of the other book of the Bible being studied. After several months we have just completed the Acts of the Apostles."

"Each of us has used Tom Wright's excellent commentary supplemented by some short notes."

"**Rev. John McIntosh's** deep historical and exegetical insights are greatly valued. The discussion is lively and mostly relevant to the readings at hand. Supper is served."

Join a Bible Study Group.

Like to know more? Email **Di Nicolios** at dnicolios@bigpond.com

Monday nights (fortnightly) (Keith & Anne Mason)

Monday nights: (Geoff Kells)

Tuesday nights: (James Flynn)

Wednesday nights: (Di Nicolios)

Thursday mornings: (Di Nicolios)

June Diary

Sun 4 10am Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 11 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Wed 14 7am Parish Council

Sun 18 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 25 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

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Will you make a

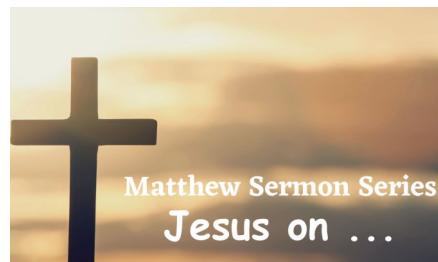
SACRIFICE

today, so people like Lee won't have to?



Please donate by 30 June and help Anglicare provide vital support to someone in need.

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Greg's Message

What would be your most embarrassing moment? I once heard of a robbery suspect in Los Angeles, who during a lineup, just couldn't control himself. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words: 'Give me all your money or I'll shoot,' the man shouted, 'That's not what I said!'

I deeply appreciate the honesty of the Bible writers. They even record their embarrassing moments. Take Peter, for example - this 'blustering', 'no-nonsense' fisherman, opening his mouth at the wrong time, making great promises. In the early hours one morning, when Peter and his companions are battling a storm in a flimsy boat on Lake Galilee. Struggling against the wind, Jesus comes to them walking on water.

They are absolutely petrified - they think it's a 'spook'.

Peter jumps out of the boat, trying to walk on water and almost drowns himself. Jesus catches Peter, but the question is telling - 'you of little faith, why did you doubt?'

Now it is both weird and wonderful that God has given us all different personalities. From steady to erratic, noisy to quiet, spontaneous to measured. Some are conservative - others live right on the edge. But it's not so much your character but the one you depend on. Peter wasn't perfect, but for all his inconsistencies he was sharp enough to know, follow and worship the Son of God.

There are so many voices to *hear* in our world. So many gurus, so many experts clamoring for our attention. Our teaching series has been called 'Jesus on ...' - a chance to hear from Jesus, the only Son of God. May you know, follow and worship too. **Rev Greg Webster, Senior Minister**

"A good play asks more questions than it answers."



Allison as the housekeeper. Now, she is turning her creative mind to producing and acting in a new play, "It's a Wonderful Life". Some of the rehearsals will be at the rear of our church

Alison Chambers (Whalley) is a friend and favourite to many at Christ Church. Blessed with many talents, she has just finished a show at Parramatta Riverside Theatre called 'Relativity', where a journalist comes to interview **Einstein** about his mysterious family history, only to uncover secret upon secret. Alison, who plays Einstein's vacuum wielding housekeeper, sees theatre as more than simply entertainment. "A good play asks more questions than it answers. I hope it causes good conversations on the way home."

So, why is she enjoying her role in this play so much? "Because it asks this really interesting question, 'what is a good man?'. Is it just their accomplishments or something more?"

Einstein, is notable for his memorable one-liners, like 'Two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I am not yet completely sure about the universe.'

But maybe the words of theologian **JC Ryle** are better, 'Even the best of men are men at their very best'.

Servant-hearted Di Nicolios



Di: humble, kind and servant hearted

Most of us know Reverend **Di Nicolios** as Minister for Seniors. But behind that simple work title lies several roles. Yes, she ministers to the elderly of our parish. And this often involves visiting at home as well as telephone contact. As well, Di leads morning services and from time to time delivers sermons. She is active at both morning and evening services checking in with folk as to their wellbeing. Di is the link person for Bible Study Groups as well as leading and participating. From one parishioner: "She is kind, a good listener and wonderful at following up on people, young and old who are going through big life challenges." The last word to Di: "I have always regarded it as an enormous privilege to serve God's people, and I can assure you that the blessings I have received in doing that far outweigh anything I have given."

July Diary

Sun 2 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

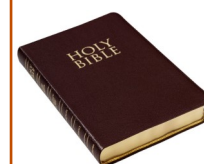
Sun 9 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Wed 12 7am Parish Council Meeting

Sun 16 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 23 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Sun 30 10am Family Service
5pm The Gathering



The Bible in my Life

Gill Melling
- morning congregation

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future

-Jeremiah, Chapter 29, verse 11

This is a verse very close to Gill Melling's heart. Of this passage, Gill says: "I leant on this verse at two very important times in my life, both involving living overseas. God had his plan for me and where I should be, both times."

Offertories update

By the end of April we had budgeted to receive \$70 000 and have actually received \$65 650. We are 6.2% below budget for offertories

Parish Council working groups

Parish council has been asked to consider a variety of matters concerning use of the church building. The factors that play into these are numerous and complex.

The guiding question is, 'How does the building best serve our needs for ministry at 10am, the Gathering, Pastoral services like weddings and funerals, livestreaming and reaching out to our communities?' If you would like to contribute, then please speak to **Greg Webster**.

Celebrating the Godly lives of two of Christ Church's much loved personalities



On Saturday 6th May, family, friends, and fellow-teachers gathered at Christ Church to give thanks for the life of **Barbara**, much-loved wife of our **Rev. Ross McDonald**, who gave the eulogy. "Barbara was so kind", said Ross. "She had a deep faith and wanted to share her faith with others. All her life, she engaged with people. At Abbotsleigh and Arden schools, Barbara was the kind of teacher you would remember with affection. And she loved the people in the Christ Church congregation. I rejoice that she is now with her Heavenly Father."



We farewelled **Dr John Yeo AM**, wife of **Joy Yeo**, at church Saturday 20th May. John and Joy have been members of Christchurch for over 23 years. John treated patients with spinal injuries for over 60 years and found this work to be profoundly meaningful, maintaining lifelong friendships with patients, staff and colleagues. John's faith was central to his life, along with love of family, friends and his beloved Christchurch community. Joy and John have been so blessed to continue those beautiful friendships while living at Dural in the past year.

Dr John Yeo and Barbara McDonald will be very much missed by the entire Christ Church family.