



A service of celebration



Rev. Greg Webster, Rev. Catherine Wynn-Jones, Belinda Edwards, Right Reverend Chris Edwards

It was full house at the service on the 7th March to celebrate the commencement of of the **Reverend Greg Webster** as Minister of Christ Church Lavender Bay.

Sharing the moment was Greg's wife, **Rev. Catherine Wynn-Jones**, family, friends & members of both congregations.

Officiating was **Right Reverend Chris Edwards**, Bishop of North Sydney and our much-loved locum, **Rev Peter Smart**.

We were honoured to have former Prime Minister **John Howard** with us as well as **Felicity Wilson**, State Member for North Shore, who spoke of Christ Church's strong investment in the local community.

We were treated to some beautiful singing from the morning choir and the band from the Gathering evening service.

Bishop Edwards' sermon spoke from the reading from 1 Timothy 5. He counselled Greg to set the example of love, faith, and perseverance and in preaching the Word.

He advised the congregation to "support Greg, to lift him up, support him, to receive him well, pray for him and not to grumble."

Deputy Head of Trinity Grammar School, **Bradley Barr** told us that "You have chosen a scholar, philosopher, and a wonderful preacher and pastor. His steadfast faith in the grace of God has been the bedrock of his life. Trinity's loss is Christ Church's very valuable gain."

The nominators presented Greg to the Bishop and then wardens, **Philippa Armfield**, **Ian Davidson** and **Rod Pearse** reminded Greg of his obligations as a parish minister. Nominator **Richard Neal** and parish councillor **Dr Penny Morris** warmly welcomed Greg and Catherine with a touch of gentle humour.



Bishop Chris Edwards and Greg Webster with Parish nominators: Richard Neal, Philippa Armfield, Ann Kells, Anita Barnett, Rod Pearse

On coming to Christ Church Lavender Bay, Greg said: "When the word of God is proclaimed, the voice of God is heard. That is my hope, that proclaiming the word of God is what my time here is about." Catherine added: "What a great privilege to be here, and especially to acknowledge two women who shaped my ministry: **Anita Barnett** and **Rev Di Nicolios**."

The service wound up with prayers from **Brian England**, **James Flynn**, **Ann Kells** and **Greg Webster**.

Our combined congregations Good Friday service (7th April) will be reflective, remembering Jesus' supreme acts of love for us all. Easter Sunday combined congregations service (9th April), will be celebratory as we marvel at Christ's victory over death. Encourage family and friends to come.

Easter Services

"And I will remember their sins no more..." - Jeremiah 31:34

"It's easy to forgive, harder to forget" - is a line from a song that was big in the dim dark recesses of my youth. It was by an Australian band called 'Mental as Anything', and the point is pretty clear. Forgiveness is one thing but forgetting is pretty much impossible. When someone does something that hurts you, it may be possible to forgive, but how on earth can you forget?

But if you've been **forgiven** by God, then know that he **forgets** as well. This is not weakness on God's part. It's just that in his grace and power he can do what we find impossible. He chooses to forget. This is extremely good news if your conscience is against you. God can wash the past clean. God's only Son climbs down out of heaven and then climbs up onto a cross to wash away sin with his own blood. Have the courage to believe it.

Rev Greg Webster, Minister, Christ Church, Lavender Bay

April Diary

Sun 2nd 10am Communion
5pm The Gathering

Fri 7th 10am Good Friday
Combined congregations service

Sun 9th 10am Easter Sunday
Holy Communion
Combined congregations service

Wed 15th 7am Parish Council

Sun 16th 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Sun 23rd 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 30th 10am Prayer and Proclamation
5pm The Gathering

Join a Bible Study Group. Contact Di Nicolios

Monday nights (fortnightly) (Contact Keith & Anne Mason)

Monday nights: (Contact Geoff Kells)

Tuesday nights: (Contact James Flynn)

Wednesday nights: (Contact Jurgen and Diane Joester)

Thursday mornings: (Contact Di Nicolios)

Buzz from the Bay



Another, better way of giving

If you have a Box with coins, please give it to Caroline Thornton. For many, the use of coins is almost a thing of the past. You can donate to BCA online or by credit card (<https://www.bushchurchaid.com.au/donate.php> or phone 9262 5017). Alternatively, you could set up a regular deposit. The BCA account details: BSB 032 008, Account 000706. Cheques can be forwarded to BCA, Box 5389, Sydney, NSW, 2001. Inquiries to Caroline (9955 7375).

Greg and Catherine grandparents

In March, Greg and Catherine were blessed by God to become grandparents for the first time, to baby Fergus. New dad is Sam, eldest son of the Websters and is married to Laura. They live in Canberra. Says Greg: "We hope his faith will be as strong as his father's biceps and as radiant as his mother's smile"



Rear: Clarrie Stevens, Rod Pearce, Michael Mata, Ian Davidson, Peter Moll, Richard Neal, Greg Webster
Front: Penny Morris, Anita Barnett, Christine Fulcher, Philippa Armfield, Helen Chuawiwat, Ann Kells

Mid 2022 saw the departure of **Lachlan** and **Bec Edwards** and the return of locum **Peter Smart** and **Elizabeth**. Later, we were able to restore some practices to pre-Covid days. Thanks to Lachlan, we now have an effective live-streaming and video capacity. On-site attendances are returning with so many helping out. 2022 marked the sesquicentenary of the first service with a

a memorable function at **Geoff and Ann Kells'** home.

Since early 2022, extensive Rectory repairs have been carried out, financed from the Rejuvenation Fund and generous donations from several families'.

The Church Wardens shoulder an ongoing and demanding responsibility. The Parish Council oversees, initiates and supports our life and future together.

With **Greg** and **Cath** joining us, Christ Church now begins a new chapter with a new leader and exciting possibilities for a future in God's purposes. Let us always be looking to Jesus, the 'perfecter' of faith.

For more, see right. To read the AGM reports, go to website and AGM tab.

Office-bearers 2023

Wardens: Rod Pearce (Rector's Warden)
Philippa Armfield, Ian Davidson

Parish Council (elected)

Michael Mata, Helen Chuawiwat, Christine Fulcher,
Penny Morris, Peter Moll

Nominators

Anita Barnett, Ann Kells, Rod Pearce, Philippa
Armfield, Richard Neal

Synod Representatives

Richard Neal, Clarrie Stevens



Warden Ian Davidson, Rev Ross McDonald and the Smarts at the 10am service. Rector's Warden Rod Pearce gave a matching tribute to Ian's at the 5pm service.

Adieu Peter & Elizabeth

Rod Pearce: "There were 110 of us on Sunday 12 March to say farewell to **Peter** and **Elizabeth**. Peter's final sermon drew from references in Acts to Barnabas, which means encouraging. Peter urged us to love and care for each other, to listen and pay attention to each other, to be positive in our words and actions and to pray for each other and for our Church. These key messages are also a fitting tribute to what Peter and Elizabeth have brought to Christ Church over the last seven months. They genuinely care for other people, for the ailing and unwell and the disconnected. In turn our congregation has responded and grown under their leadership. Thank you Peter & Elizabeth. You are greatly treasured by all."

Greg Webster: "I was in my mid-twenties and remember the day very clearly. I woke early, drove to Terrigal, climbed 'The Skillion', and read the whole of **Isaiah** from beginning to end. I'm not sure why, but it was something about the loftiness of the words that deserved such a majestic setting. Now, we are in a whole new century, but the word of God spoken through his servant Isaiah has lost none of its majesty. My prayer is that this sermon series on Isaiah gives us new energy."



"Share hope and love"

Reverend Andrew Osborn is a member of our church, an active participant in the Rectory Bible Study Group and married to academic **Jenefer**. Andrew is Anglicare Chaplain at Royal North Shore Hospital, ministering to patients, families and staff. "I listen, discuss, read the Bible, pray and provide spiritual support." Andrew has been involved in pastoral care in Australia, NZ, UK and USA for over 30 years. Andrew's prayer point: Pray for opportunities at RNS to share the hope and love of Jesus.

May Diary

Sun 5th 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 12th 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Wed 15th 7am Parish Council Meeting

Sun 19th 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 26th 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

More from the AGM

* Music enjoys special prominence at Christ Church at both services. The high standard reflects the dedication and devotion of organist Louie, choir and band.

*Praise for Helen Wheeler's 'Coffee with a Friend', Anita Barnett's, Ros Wilson's and Virginia Adam's occasional groups and Anne Cook's High Teas.

*About 70% of our regular church attenders also attend small groups for Bible study and sharing of experience.

*Thank you to Nominators Richard, Anita, Philippa, Ann and Rod for their hard work, and for their application.

*Lavender Bay Preschool opened on March 6, 2023 with the expectation of a closer relationship with our preschool community going forward.

*Congregation offertories were 16% below budget because of gaps in EFT giving which is of increasing concern. Please consider.

*Christ Church concluded 2022 with a modest surplus. Current income only just meets our expenses and restricts our ability to grow God's kingdom.

*Our Minister for Seniors and Pastoral Care, Di Nicolios continued her godly work with her thanks to the Smarts for their contribution. There is a growing need and Di is grateful for any support.

*Rejuvenation giving and grants increased by \$62k through 2022 to a cumulative \$324K. This compares to outgoings of \$147K in the same period.

*Student Minister Chris Tompkins has continued to make a lively, creative and much appreciated contribution to both services.

*The mission committee has reviewed our various forms of support and is considering possible new mission partners.

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