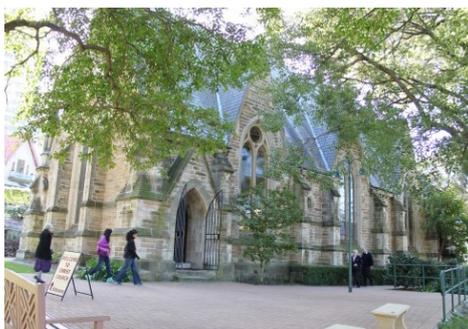




We have much to build on and many opportunities



Christ Church has many strengths we can thank God for, including:

- Our firm evangelical, biblical, gospel centred theology
- A loving and welcoming church culture
- A good pool of talented ordained and lay preachers
- Strong, well-attended bible study groups
- Vibrant 10am and 5pm music ministries
- A good staff team
- A talented and effective Parish Council and Wardens' team.
- A wonderful, historic Church building
- Effective live-streaming capabilities
- Good financial reserves
- Incredible geographic location
- An amazing historic church building
- A large land area.

Opportunities into the future

There are key areas of opportunity: For the last three years, the Parish Council has been engaging with the Anglican Growth Corporation (AGC) which is a ministry of the Diocese of Sydney that seeks to rejuvenate churches and facilities. In June, the Sustainable Development Group (SDG), who are ministry property development partners with AGC, presented some optioneering concept property plans which would

enable CCLB to utilise our property differently to better serve the ministry. SDG's feeling is that we have a good site which would be attractive to ministry-minded potential development partners which in turn would help Christ Church to fund its own ministry initiatives going forward.

Parish Council is interested in taking the next step which is to meet with SDG consultants to collaboratively develop a Ministry Plan for the future. This all would need to be discussed with the Congregation as we go along.

Our feeling, however, is that this work should be put on pause whilst our Nominators look for a new Minister who can lead this work going forward and/or suggest alternative directions.

The immediate and near future

At the AGM five people were elected as Parish Nominators: **Richard Neal, Anita Barnett, Ann Kells, Philippa Armfield and Rod Pearse.**

Please be praying for this team as they, along with **Bishop Chris Edwards**, seek suitable candidates as the next Rector to replace Lachlan.

Prayer will be a vital component of finding the next Rector. Let's continue to do this often, including for our Acting Rector, **Peter Smart** and **Elizabeth.**

10am Service: This service is well served by a myriad of people, and will continue from strength to strength. There is a core team planning for each service

5pm Gathering Service: Christ Church is committed to this service, well served by a dedicated group of core members with lots of ideas (see Gathering News).

All **Bible Study Groups** are active and will continue to thrive.

August Diary

Sun 7 10am Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 14 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Wed 17 7am Parish Council

Sun 21st 10am Family Fun Service
Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 28th 10am Morning Prayer
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: (James Flynn)
Wednesday nights: (contact Jurgen and Diane Joester)
Thursday mornings: (contact Di Nicolios)
Sunday afternoons: Youth Bible Study. (contact Chris Tompkins)

Vale Brian Richardson

We remember and honour **Archdeacon Brian Richardson**, who passed away in June. Brian became Curate of Christ Church in 1986. Brian made a determined effort to revive the parish. With a gift for outreach and hospitality, he expanded the congregation. He retired in 1996, having set Christ Church firmly on the road to recovery, with Peter Smart taking over in 1997. Brian was well remembered, especially because of the clarity of his preaching.

Lachlan

By the time you read this, Bec and I will have left Christ Church and Sydney, eventually arriving in Geraldton, WA to take on my position as Dean of the Cathedral in the Diocese of North West Australia. What words could possibly contain all the things we have experienced with you in the last five and a half years? Two words come to mind: THANK YOU! Thank you for walking with us, crying with us, laughing with us and learning with us. This season in our lives has been incredibly rich for us as we have sought to serve the Lord in Lavender Bay. We will take with us many fond memories of people and place. May God continue to work among you and in you as you seek to know His love, grow His love among one another, and show His love to a world in need of hope!

Lachlan

Peter

Early in August, Elizabeth and I will arrive AGAIN to start a period of serving this special church family. This development has been such a surprise that, like you, we are still recovering! Nevertheless we have to admit to looking forward to returning to a church we have never stopped loving. Under Lachlan's hand, God has raised up a strong leadership team in Christ Church and I am completely confident that together we will continue to see the parish flourish while we continue to prepare for our new Senior Minister. So, take heart, your new rector family is already preparing (although they may not yet know!) to step up for an exciting and fulfilling life in the Lavender Bay fast lane, for the glory of God and the blessing of his church.

Peter

A tribute to Lachlan

by Rod Pearse
Rector's Warden



A special thank you to Bec

We thank God for Bec's humility and servant heart, valuing others above herself with her many acts of kindness: as cherished singer in the Gathering band, helping in the early stages of the Rejuvenation project, preparer of delicious food for many rectory events, the brains behind the kitchen van, and steadfast supporter and encourager of Lachlan in his ministry. All this while being a loving wife, mother and library professional. May God continue to bless Bec in this next season of her life.

A prayer for Lachlan and Bec

We give thanks to our God for Lachlan and Bec's service and commitment to Christ Church and for the substantial legacy that we have been blessed with. We pray for God's continuing grace on them as they continue to serve Him in their roles in Geraldton & North West WA.

By the end of 2017, Christ Church was in a sound place. But it was clear that more needed to be done to grow the size and diversity of our congregation and services. The nominators chose Lachlan Edwards to take up the opportunities left by Patrick Collins, our much loved Pastor who decided that it was time for retirement.

Lachlan was a good choice, a good fit with the challenges of the time. He had an eagerness to strengthen our Church with the energy and creativity to get things moving, and a strong sense of mission that he was carrying out Gods work.

Lachlan initiated a very democratic process of strategic review. From those initiatives, a strategic plan was launched: Know God's Love, Grow God's Love and Show God's Love were the structural cornerstones of the way ahead. These cornerstones were workshopped by Wardens and Parish Council at annual away days and became the action blueprint for the future.

What quickly became apparent was Lachlan's wish to encourage the active participation of all who were able and willing to contribute according to their gifts.

The Gathering, the Winter Teaching Series, Rejuvenation Fund, High Teas and Gathering Band were new initiatives aimed at increasing community participation, increasing the diversity of our services and increasing fundraising to restore and rejuvenate our Church.

Bible study groups have also been expanded and re-energised. Audio visual upgrades, overhead screens and state of the art lighting all improved the sound, look and feel of our services. A new visual identity, street signage, ramping up of social media, new members lunches and evening dinners brought people together.

Expanding our reach has been very much on Lachlan's heart. Hence his appointment of Emily as our first Youth and Children's Minister and then the appointment of Chris Tompkins.

Lachlan's online streaming initiative enabled us to switch to online services for remote viewing immediately after the Covid-induced cessation of live services. This initiative has kept Christ Church members together even when apart over 2 or 3 very demanding years.

Lachlan's special gift was in the ministry and preaching of God's Word. Sermons became periodic series, based on key Biblical themes, made especially listenable through Lachlan's lively and evocative style of delivery. Christianity Explored programs started up and dedicated prayer sessions became standard.

Peter and Elizabeth join us

Rev. Peter Smart will become Acting Rector from 14th August. Peter with his wife **Elizabeth** will be warmly welcomed being familiar and much loved from their three months earlier this year, also when Peter was Rector 1997-2006. Peter will be fully involved in the life of the church, bringing a lifetime of experience and wisdom to the task, albeit at a more mature pace! He hopes and prays that together we can continue to know, grow and show God's love in every way.

Two kinds of confirmation

Rector's warden **Rod Pearse**: "The Gathering is now almost four years old. It is an important part of Christ Church. The evening service brings opportunities for people to enjoy worship at a different time of day and importantly it brings diversity. The Gathering continues to be worthy of our support and retention."

On the 19th June, at the evening service, **Alex Richard** was confirmed as a Christian by **Bishop Paul Barnett** in the presence of mum and dad, **Helen Cox** and **Glen Richard**. The evening was a huge celebration of thanksgiving for Alex's faith in Jesus as his personal Lord and Saviour.

September Diary

Sun 4 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 11 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Sun 18 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Wed 21 7am Parish Council

Sun 25 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering



Lachlan cuts cake at morning farewell, gift of Lavender Bay scene painting behind as Bec is linked in from Rectory iso.



At the Gathering-hosted afternoon Toast and farewell service: Virginia, Conrad, Alex, Michael, Lachlan and Steve

"A Winter Toast" was the theme on 24th July for the whole church to join together in a toast to say a fond farewell to Lachlan and Bec. In the morning, Paul Barnett paid tribute, Philippa Armfield presented both congregation's gift. In the afternoon, guests from both services enjoyed delicious food, followed by words of appreciation to Lachlan from Rod Pearse and from Virginia Adam to Bec. Later, we all joined in to sing Lachlan and Bec's favourite hymns.



This new series on Philippians started early July and continues through August. It is incredible that amidst Paul's chains, the continuing refrain is "Rejoice!". Paul's heart is clearly for Jesus and the expectation of the Lord's coming day.

Gathering News



L to R: Parents, Glen and Helen, Alex, Paul, Adrian Cox, uncle and godfather to Alex, and family friend and godmother, Anne Brettingham-Moore.

Acting Rector: Rev Peter Smart
peter@cclb.org.au
9923 2052 Mob: 0411 747 952
Minister for Seniors: Di Nicolios,
0488161630, dnicolios@bigpond.com
Children and Youth Minister:
Chris Tompkins
chris@cclb.org.au
0409157682
Office - Alice Hung 9929 7723,
alice@cclb.org.au
Newsletter: Graeme Adam
graameadam1@bigpond.com