



Lavender Bay Preschool: our new neighbours



Lavender Bay Preschool Director Laura Rivera and Business Manager and husband Bernardo with Peter Smart & Chris Tompkins, Children and Youth Minister at the open day.

Christ Church has a new "neighbour", Lavender Bay Preschool, set in our grounds, which is opening in January. According to director **Laura Rivera**, "We believe that every child is a gift from God, uniquely made in his image."

"At our preschool, parents will experience nurturing care for their child, alongside high-level education and development support in preparation for a life full of learning."

"As a community we are passionate in our mission for sharing the good news of Jesus."

"My deep, heartfelt thanks to the Christ Church community who came to support our new preschool on the Open Day. We were warmly welcomed; it truly was the example of your mission - to Know God's Love, Grow God's Love and Show God's Love."

The announcement has been greeted with enthusiasm by the Christ Church community. Acting Rector, **Peter Smart** said: "We welcome our new preschool operators and look forward to a mutually happy and successful future. Our church hall is a valuable parish asset. It would be wonderful to see children of our own families becoming young pupils. May God bless this new venture."

If you have friends or family interested in joining Lavender Bay Preschool family as a teacher, or as parents, please email office@baypreschool.com.au

October Diary

Sun 2nd 10am Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 9th 10am Family Fun Service
5pm The Gathering

Sun 16th 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Wed 19th 7am Parish Council

Sun 23rd 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Sun 30th 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: (Contact James Flynn)

Wednesday nights: (contact Jurgen and Diane Joester)

Thursday mornings: (contact Di Nicolios)

Morning service shines for Philippa



The morning congregation. Philippa is seated next to Peter

Philippa Armfield, with husband, **John**, have been Christ Church members since 1988. Philippa is also a warden. She shared her thoughts on the morning service:

"I like the mix of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion that offers different approaches to worship and that we use the Prayer Book to guide our services and help us all participate. I like the thoughtful prayers, Bible readings and sermons to feed my faith and relate God's word to the world we live in. I love the wonderful hymns and songs we sing - golden oldies and newer ones, always with good words and singable tunes, accompanied by the choir and organ. Singing what you believe is truly uplifting."

"Most people stay for morning tea which is great for catching up with friends and meeting new people, although the home-made goodies do threaten my weight watching."

"34 years ago Christ Church opened its arms to me - it's still doing that."

Sermon series



In October our sermons will be topics chosen to complete our 'Life Together' series and end with one on LOVE. We will celebrate (on the day) the one hundredth anniversary 23/10/1922 of the passing of the Sydney Synod Ordinance approving licensed ordained and lay women to preach to congregations. On Defence Force Sunday 6th November we will welcome Navy chaplain the **Rev. Andrew Nixon**. November will see the preaching team responding to the sermon suggestions from the congregations. Fasten all seat belts!



Samir visits from Damascus

We were honoured by a visit from Pastor Samir from Damascus, Syria, in August (seen with Peter and Elizabeth). 25 members of the congregation gathered in the Rectory for morning tea to hear of the bad situation for folk in the country since the end of the war. Samir told us of his work to teach and encourage the congregation as well as develop outreach with food and medical supplies. We were captivated by his joy, in spite of the dire situation, in which he seeks to make Christ known.- Elizabeth



Ladies' fellowship at Billi's: From left: Beckie (mother of baby Myla), Penny C, Morgana, Liz, Ros, Virginia, Betsy, Caroline, Helen, Jen, Di, Penny M, Merryn, Myla and Jessie

Proverbs was on the menu

At a local ladies of Christ Church morning tea on 7th September, Proverbs 4:23 was on the menu along with muffins, tea and coffee.

Virginia Adam invited Ros Wilson to share the background to Ros's love of this famous Bible passage: "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Some 14 members from both morning and evening congregations and baby Myla enjoyed fellowship and nourishment at Billi's in McMahons Point. And as Ros said when it was over: "These get-togethers help to build unity within our church community, especially among the younger ladies."



Behind the masks, a welcoming smile and the offer of a cuppa from the mobile kitchen: Penny Morris and Leisa Davidson

"Use the gifts you have"

St Peter says in 1 Peter 4: 10-11: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." We have several ways in which members could use their gifts. These are the main ones: Welcomers at 10am and 5pm, morning tea helpers at 10am, tech desk operators a 10am and 5pm (after training), name badge dispenser at 10am or 5pm. If you would like to help, contact Rev. Peter Smart on 9923 2052. Or peter@cclb.org.au (Of course, we appreciate that not all are able or find it difficult to help, and that is perfectly understandable.)

Gathering News



"The Ministry of Food"

There is nothing as "excellent", to borrow one of St Paul's favourite words, as hospitality, food and fellowship in bringing God's people together. At Christ Church's Gathering service, the appetite for the Gospel and for food is well-catered for! On the first Sunday of the month after church, one household puts on a Community Dinner at church. On other Sundays, we pop around the corner to the Anchor Café. Whichever the venue, this ministry of food, as Lachlan used to call it, is not only a great form of fellowship, but also a good way of making newcomers welcome.

Some of the Gatherers, at the Anchor: Top: Chris, Mary, Cilla and Phil, Chrissy, Merryn, Rod, Beth. Bottom: Virginia, Elizabeth, Peter, James, Alex, Margie, Barbara. There, but not in the picture (probably ordering pizza!): Ross and Graeme



In other news ... In August, we celebrated the 90th birthdays of Don Flanagan, Trevor Adams and Marlene Duncan... Sunday 24th Sept, in a Wardens' update, Rod Pearse highlighted that we have committed \$300,000 to the Rejuvenation Fund and must continue to save for remaining projects... 10am Sunday 9th October, there will be a Family Fun Service... 6th Nov is Defence Sunday. Andrew Nixon, Senior Anglican Chaplain to the NSW Police Force & Chaplain in the Royal Australian Navy Reserve, will preach (10am & 5pm).

Peter's Message

The apartment that Elizabeth and I lived in while we were in Jordan overlooked a pile of stones that had been an Ammonite watch-tower from c1000BC. When you looked to the right you saw Reuters News office on the other side of the road! From the kitchen window a well built-out valley in which there were at least two mosques.

The call to prayer echoed up from the valley several times a day. It was a good reminder of the privilege of prayer given to us by a loving, caring heavenly father. The New Testament has a number of encouragements to pray and we also have Jesus' example and pattern of prayer which we all know and pray when we meet.

'Our Father' is perhaps the key to unlock the meaning of prayer which is an expression of relationship and a clue to the purpose of prayer; we are meant to be in a wonderful and personal fellowship with a heavenly father - God of the universe! A privilege not to be neglected. God bless us this month as we walk and talk with him.

Peter Smart—Acting Rector

November Diary

Sun 6 10am Defence Sunday
Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 13 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Wed 16 7am Parish Council

Sun 20 10am Holy Communion
5pm The Gathering

Sun 27 10am Morning Prayer
5pm The Gathering

Buzz from the Bay



BCA Christmas cards

BCA is offering its usual pack of six Christmas cards for \$5, a mixture of three attractive designs, all contain a Bible verse. Particularly suitable for OS friends, to remind them of Bush Church Aid. Traditional Christmas puddings and cakes are also available (500g pudding \$31; 1kg pudding \$48.50; 500g puddings for coeliacs & diabetics \$33; 700g large cake \$43). The puddings are wrapped in country-style calico cloth. Caroline can order these items for you. Thank you to those who've continued to support BCA in other ways this year. Nowadays many people find it easier to use online facilities or a Credit Card, but BCA boxes of coins are always welcome. Individual donations can be made online or by credit card or cheque (bushchurchaid.com.au/donate or phone 9262 5017). Inquiries to Caroline on tel.9955 7375 or email carthornton@bigpond.com



Imogen O'Leary's baptism

Imogen O'Leary was baptised at Christ Church in July by Rev Di Nicolios, seen here with parents and Christ Church members Ed and Dimity. Over time, may little Imogen grow in her faith and "shine like a star in the sky" - Philippians 2:15

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