

# CHURCH NEWS

DECEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests"*

Luke 2:8-14



# JOHN GRAY

Senior  
Minister

## **The Space Gandalf had finished speaking.**

I stood in his paddock just north of Broome, going over everything he had taught us. Greg Quicke is a local, yet travels the world with Professor Brian Cox talking about the galaxy, it's movement and the earth's circuit.

Facing west, Venus had just "set". I could see Jupiter and the Scorpion constellation. The Milky Way was now overhead. Gandalf's words played in my head: the earth rotates west to east around its north south axis. At the same time we are "falling" around the sun at the breakneck speed of 110,000kph. The Earth's circuit is on the same ecliptic plane as all the planets in our solar system. As each planet races around the sun, the whole solar system, located on the edge of the Milky Way, is flying "north" on its circuit around the Milky Way. Our galaxy contains 200,000 million stars and potentially, therefore, 200,000 million solar systems. If the dating and math and are correct, it takes 210 million years to do a lap of the Galaxy. One and a half laps ago (350 million years ago) the Kimberley's Napier Range was an ocean-reef teeming with life.

As far as we know, we are the only living

sentient beings in not just our galaxy but all the galaxies that make up the vast canopy theologians call God's Cosmic Temple.

My mind raced. 'Why do I work so hard? What mark do I think I will leave on this great cosmos?' But then, my soul strangely settled. King David's words came into play:

***When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers .... What is humanity that you are mindful of them?***

***- Psalm 8:3 - 4***

Then Moses' words:

***To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it, yet the LORD set his affection on you***

***- Deuteronomy 10:14 - 15***

THAT is worth mediating on. We are not insignificant. We are the objects of the Creator's affection. We are, to quote Moses and David again, the apple of God's eye: the little man or woman we would see reflected in his eye, if we could look into his eye.



His affection grows more intense for us when we realise he so loved us he sent his Son, Jesus, to be the atoning sacrifice for our sin! At Christmas we recall how that began to play out: Jesus, Son of God, born to peasant 'unweds'.

The Creator, Redeemer, who set his affections on us, on this speck of dust in the vast canopy of his Cosmic Temple, calls us to be like him. To set our affections on each other, and on others: the poor, the widow, the orphan, the refugee (Dt 10:12 - 22) and those who do not know our Heavenly Father (Lu 14:15 - 24).

We get to introduce all our +1's to our Great and Good God. As they respond, they get to join us praising and enjoying Him - forever! And that will leave a mark on cosmos.

Yours in Christ's service,  
John.



# SAM HAYWOOD

Young Adults  
Minister



God is doing incredible things in and through our Young Adults community and as we look towards the exciting things that are ahead for the rest of the year and into 2020, it is always so encouraging to reflect on what He has done.

We praise God for the Big Weekend conference in October. It was an incredible time together as a Young Adults community, to seek God through worship in songs of praise and in the truth of His word. We enjoyed breakout sessions in two different areas – creative and leadership streams – where we were encouraged by leaders of our church community to step into what God is calling us to do, through the gifts that He has given us.

We were reminded through opening his word, that God wants to use us to change this generation. The Holy Spirit ministered a convicting word to us about the importance of pursuing intimacy with God. We learnt about what happened on holy ground that changed Moses' life dramatically. He found intimacy with God as he stepped into His presence. This conference really was a stake in the ground moment for us to reflect on the fact that we can so easily just pour ourselves out, without actually spending time in His presence. To counter this, we were convicted that our worship must match our work. We know that we cannot execute the plan of God without the power of God and it is the presence of. Holy God that allows the ground of our own lives to be holy.

---

Please be praying for our Young Adults, that we would be pursuing intimacy with God and contending with Him for His power to work

through the church and for His will and purposes, especially as we collectively look towards Mission 2020.

Our parties at the House after the 7pm service happen on the first Sunday of each month and are a fantastic opportunity to spend time in fellowship with one another, to invite friends along and to meet new people. Coming up in December is our House party on the 1st, where we will celebrate the Christmas season together!

Sam Haywood  
Young Adults Minister







# KAREN STAINES

St James' Chapel

St James Chapel is the "village" church for five retirement villages at Castle Hill. In 1958, the Archbishop and Mrs Dorothy Mowll had a vision to provide a home for clergy, missionaries and church workers who had nowhere to live when they retired. The Sydney Diocese purchased the farm "Elwatan" in Castle Hill (adjacent to the current St Paul's site) and on 24th October 1959, The Mowll Memorial Village for Aged People was opened.

On 24th October, 60 years of continuous service to residents was celebrated and a on 27th October, a service of praise to God for his provision held in St James Chapel. The service was led by past Chaplain, Reverend Patsy Dahl and guest preacher, Reverend David Tyndall who was Senior Chaplain at the Anglican Retirement Village from 2009-2012. The St James Congregation were joined by other residents and visitors, with 150 people in total coming together to celebrate.

The service focused on praise to God and our response to his goodness. Reverend Tyndall preached from Psalm 116, reminding us that this psalm was chosen by Richard Johnson as the text for the first service conducted to the First Fleet in Sydney in 1788.

*What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?*

*- Psalm 116:12*

For many years, the Anglicare Retirement Villages were "across the ditch" from St Paul's. Today, there is now a strong connection between St James' and St Paul's with the Anglicare Parish Partnership agreement. We are grateful that our partnership further enhances the Mowlls' vision – to provide quality Christian care for all who call the Anglicare Retirement Villages, Castle Hill home.

Karen Staines  
St James Chapel, Assistant Minister



# KEN ALLEN

Senior's  
Minister



At St Paul's, we are fortunate to have a large number of active and dedicated seniors spread across all services, though most might think that they exist only at our 8am service!

There are numerous small groups for seniors that are led by parishioners. I have the privilege of leading two groups on Tuesdays, in which we follow the studies that accompany our sermon series. Our seniors continue to meet together and support one another and we have developed a team that assists in caring for unwell members.

In 2019, our dedicated Prime Time team held two meetings in June and October with outstanding speakers, fine musical items and, of course, delicious high tea. We are grateful to God for the opportunities that Prime Time provides older women in the Church to bring their friends along and hear the good news of our Saviour Jesus. We have been so encouraged with the number of women in attendance, that numbers have had to be capped in the interests of health and safety.

Our monthly Seniors Friendship continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 12pm in the CEC. This provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and hearing on various aspects of local and world-wide ministry. In recent months, we have heard from Hope 103.2 Media, met Roy Williams, the author of Mr Eternity and Mr Russell Lander of Gideons International.

Our Christmas Seniors Friendship, meeting on 3rd December, will feature the local acapella group Hills Harmony, leading us in singing carols and on 7th December at 7pm our choir will present the Christmas Cantata. All are invited, we'd love to see you there.

Ken Allen  
Minister to Seniors



# Christmas at SPCH

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Tuesday 24 December 2019

4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Wednesday 25 December 2019

7:30am, 9:30am

For more info on our 2019 Christmas services, visit [stpauls.church/Christmas](http://stpauls.church/Christmas)



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUMMER FOR KIDS?

## DECEMBER

Our current series in Acts will continue right up to Christmas (Sunday December 22). This will be the case for all Sunday morning programs, including Sunday 68.

## CHRISTMAS

Once again, this year St Paul's will run a Christmas Eve family service at 4pm. Family friendly services will run on Christmas Eve at 6pm and on Christmas morning at 9.30.

## NEW YEAR


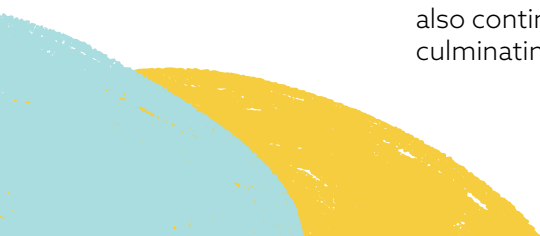
Our Kids Team will enjoy a much-needed break on December 29. This means children will join their parents in the 10am service on this Sunday.

## JANUARY

We will begin our Mission 2020 series on the gospel of Luke. During January we will also hear from our link missionaries in order to raise support for them.

## FEBRUARY

February 2 is when all children will roll over into their new school years. This means that kids will start this morning in their normal rooms but be picked up from their new 2020 Year group. Sunday 68 will also return after the holiday break. We will also continue in our Luke series up to and then through the Easter Holidays, culminating in Jesus' resurrection and ascension.



## SUMMER SERIES EVENING SERVICES

We will be combining our 5pm and 7pm services throughout summer, meeting on 6pm instead from **29th December** to **26th January**.

On **3rd February** we will resume our normal service times.

## OFFICE CLOSURE

During the Christmas and New Year holiday period, the Church offices will be closed from **Thursday 26th December** to **Monday 13th January** when standard office hours will resume.

For urgent pastoral matters during this time, please contact us on **(02) 8858 1166**.



# HAPPY 5TH BIRTHDAY JESUS CLUB!



# IMPAKCT 2020

13-18 JANUARY



# WHAT ARE WE KNOWN FOR?

What is St Paul's, Castle Hill known for? One of the biggest churches in the Hills District? A church with an exciting kids and youth program? A church with an excellent Bible centred teaching ministry? Awesome! All fabulous things to give the Lord praise for.

There is, however, another desire on the Lord's heart for us as a church – that we be called *a house of prayer for all nations* (Isaiah 56:7). To this end:

## Finish 2019 well – Final prayer meeting of the year

**When:** 14th December 8am – 9:15am

**Where:** Mother's Room in the church

## Start 2020 strong – Church Ministry Prayer Walk

**When:** 8th February 9am – 11am

**Where:** On the grounds of St Paul's

**For more info or prayer requests, contact Cathy Gravitis at [prayer@spch.org.au](mailto:prayer@spch.org.au)**



# CHURCH CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

---

**SUNDAY**  
**1<sup>ST</sup>**

**DISABILITY SUNDAY – All services at church**

It's time to put up the Christmas tree! Join us on disability Sunday to celebrate Jesus Club and welcome the Christmas season.

**SATURDAY**  
**7<sup>TH</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA – 2pm**

Our seniors Christmas Cantata is a beautiful way to celebrate during the Christmas season.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**11<sup>TH</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS IN THE HILLS – Bella Vista Farm 4pm**

Head to Bella Vista Farm for food stalls, rides and entertainment with carols from 6:30pm and fireworks from 9pm. Buy tickets at [www.christmasinthehills.com.au](http://www.christmasinthehills.com.au)

**FRIDAY**  
**13<sup>TH</sup>**

**FINAL CROSSFIRE FOR THE YEAR**

**SUNDAY**  
**15<sup>TH</sup>**

**TOYS 'N' TUCKER – All services**

Bring toys, food and gifts to Church this Sunday for collection. For some great ideas of what you can buy, visit [www.toysntucker.org.au](http://www.toysntucker.org.au)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**18<sup>TH</sup>**

**THANKSGIVING AND REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – 6pm in the Church**

A time to remember loved ones.



**SUNDAY  
22<sup>ND</sup>**

**THE HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY – After 7pm service**

After 7pm Church, we'll be celebrating Christmas at the House. Bring your friends!

**TUESDAY  
24<sup>TH</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm**

**WEDNESDAY  
25<sup>TH</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE – 7:30am, 9:30am**

**SUNDAY  
29<sup>TH</sup>**

**6PM COMBINED SERVICES**

Our 5pm and 7pm services will return in February. Why not use the combined services to meet someone new and enjoy time together before or after evening Church?

## **JANUARY 2020**

---

**MONDAY-SUNDAY  
13<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**IMPAKCT 2020 – PARADISE**

Register online at <http://stpauls.church/events/impakct2020>  
Registrations close 2nd December or when spots are filled.

**FRIDAY  
31<sup>ST</sup>**

**CROSSFIRE TERM 1**

**[stpauls.church/comingup](http://stpauls.church/comingup) for more info on events**

# OUR MISSION

## BRING

PEOPLE TO CHRIST

## BUILD

PEOPLE IN CHRIST

## SEND

PEOPLE OUT FOR CHRIST



# CONTACT US

[www.stpauls.church](http://www.stpauls.church)

Office: 419 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill

Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5pm

P (02) 8858 1111 E [info@spch.org.au](mailto:info@spch.org.au)

LIVING LEGACY - Please remember St Paul's in your will. For more information, please phone the office on 8858 1111 in confidence.