

CHURCH NEWS

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2019



ImpaKCt 2019 Tribe Wars

JOHN GRAY

Senior
Minister

This is a brilliant year to be at St Paul's. We will work alongside 11 other local Anglican churches, give ourselves to growing in the Faith, and focus on four crucial ministry areas.

Mission 2020

Do you remember our launch prayer night in October? 10 churches were represented including their clergy! It was a 2018 highlight. We worshipped Christ, sang his praises, reminded ourselves of His mission and prayed. Sam Chan will be our key speaker for the Mission. We are planning 5 TEDx style talks. We intend to incorporate all the opportunities all our ministries already offer right across the board from Children's Ministry to Jesus Club, from Youth to Seniors, Cantata to Men's and Women's Ministries – every avenue we can explore will be explored.

This year, with now 11 churches joining us, we will prepare ourselves for **Mission 2020**. Planning and preparations will take place throughout the year. All the churches will gather four times. Our first gathering will be **7:30pm–9:30pm, Wednesday 11th February**, here at St Paul's. What a night it will be! God willing, we will gather with 600+ from all the churches gathered to worship Christ, pray and prepare. It will be a delight to have Dan Paterson (Ravi Zacharias International Ministry) come and train us that night.

The other three dates for our combined training nights are:
Wednesday 1st May, Wednesday 24th July, Thursday 17th October

Mark them in your diary. Come and join people from all the churches on these nights. I have no doubt we will all be encouraged, stimulated, envisioned and energised by each night.

Mission 2020: St Paul's Preps

Preparing for a mission cannot be done in just 4 nights. And so, all our preaching this year will help us further prepare. We begin with a series on **prayer**. It is no good talking to people *about* Jesus before we talk to Him about them. And yet, prayer is a topic that can abruptly change a dinner conversation. "*So, how's your prayer life?*" Silence tends to follow because most of us struggle with prayer. There are periods when I am a prayer warrior. There are eras when I struggle to utter one prayer. There are questions that we are not game to ask: what if God doesn't answer my prayer? How do I know he does? Can you change God's mind by praying? How do we address God? These and other questions will be answered in our series. At the end we hope all of us will be more confident and consistent in prayer.

Then we want to give ourselves to being God's people. What does it look like to be His people when so many currents cut across our paths? To get at this we'll, firstly, open a book I've not preached on before. Not in 40 odd years of preaching have I worked my way through **Judges**. And yet, this book is remarkably apt for our time frame. The lessons that lie within Judges are invaluable. We will see Jesus more clearly from Judges and we will learn how to follow him with a little more confidence and fidelity. We'll then give ourselves to **2 Corinthians**. What a book that is for God's people! The importance of God's people being God's people cannot be understated particularly when it comes to being about Christ's mission. The time given to Judges and 2 Corinthians will be invaluable to us as individuals and as a church. It will also be significant for the Hills area.

With prayer under our belt and our walk with Christ developed, we will continue our journey through the Book of **Acts**. There is nothing like seeing our Father's vision being played out as the Holy Spirit goes to work in this book. The encouragement flowing from these pages will help us catch the future Christ has in mind for all people.

In the final run to Mission 2020 we will open **Luke's** gospel up to see the dynamism and compassion of Christ, the irresistible attraction of Jesus and His message and the crucial role of His people in His mission.

Four Ministry Focus Areas

I am also particularly excited by four ministry areas we want to bed in this year. We'll take four Sundays and focus on four different and crucial mission areas that will not only strengthen St Paul's but enable us to play our role in worldwide mission.

Over the last decade we have hosted **Compassion Sundays**. These have helped us develop our partnership with Compassion and move towards our first target: sponsoring 1000 children in Kenya. We'll continue Compassion Sundays as we move towards our second target: 1000 in Masbate, The Philippines. As we do we will see more children rise from poverty in Jesus' name and come to Christ!

We ran our very first Disability Sunday on December 2, 2018 and I am looking forward to seeing our second **Disability Sunday** take place in December 2019! What a gift our Jesus Club members and leaders are to the Kingdom, and St Paul's! I am very proud to be part of a church that can, and joyfully does, provide Jesus Club. I hope we are able to lock Disability Sunday into our calendar from here on in.

This year we want to launch two new focus areas: **Missions Sunday** and **Freedom Sunday**.

On **Missions Sunday** we focus on our missionaries: the men, women and their children representing us in Australia, Kenya, Asia and Europe. Their ministries are to diverse peoples and include refugees fleeing conflict. I am very keen to launch Missions Sunday this year. I think it will help us better engage with representative mission, I also hope we will, together, increase our missions giving on that day.

Freedom Sunday is a project of IJM (International Justice Mission). It's aim is to so engage the worldwide church, that slavery is brought to an end in this current generation. 40+ million slaves on our planet cry out for justice. Just as Wilberforce, Pitt, Newton, Hanna More and others who constituted the Clapham Sect did in the 1800s, so the church must do today: end slavery in our generation. Freedom Sunday will begin to help us work out the role we can play.

Evangelism, mission, compassion, justice – all components of the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.

Each, and all, will draw us into the most significant enterprise history will ever know: the extension of the Kingdom of God on earth while we await the full expression of the Kingdom of God to come at Jesus' return.

It is a fantastic year ahead. Under God's good hand we will see and experience the ongoing movement of his Spirit.

Welcome to 2019 at St Paul's.
I look forward to partnering with you!

Yours in Christ's Service,
John.





MISSION 2020

COMBINED
CHURCHES

*training
night*

With our Guest Trainer: Dan Paterson
Ravi Zacharias International Ministries

WEDNESDAY 13TH FEB 7:30PM

LISTENING AFRESH TO THE KING

MEN'S CONFERENCE

SAT 2ND MARCH

9AM TO 3PM

Guest Speaker:
Dr Mark Stephens

\$50 (\$20 STUDENT RATE)

Food Truck back by
popular demand!

STPAULS.CHURCH/MENSCONFERENCE
To register or for more information



MATT KELLER

Children's
Minister

St Paul's Kids in 2019

As our new year gets underway St Paul's Kids has a few new initiatives starting!

The first is on **Saturday 6th April**. We are looking to run an event that you can BRING those who don't know Jesus to so they can meet him and his people. This event will run like Supaday (for those who remember it). Start praying, inviting or volunteering now!

Another new initiative is **Parents Day**. Each week in our Sunday morning programs we BUILD the children up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4). However this verse, and indeed the whole bible, speak of this as being the job of parents. As parents, one of the primary responsibilities the Lord has given us is to disciple our children. How are you going with this?

On April 7th we want to invite parents to join us in our Sunday morning programs as we finish off our Prayer series. This will be a great opportunity to hear what your children have learnt through the series and, more importantly, to put into practice what we've all learnt by praying together! What a great way to end our series... set aside the date now so you can remember to join us!





Highlights from ImpaKt 2019

ImpaKt 2019 - What a week it was! With over 260 highschoolers and 100+ leaders heading away for the week, we are so thankful for all the ways we saw God working.

God has consistently exceeded our expectations. Our sessions were amazing, with Pat preaching the Word powerfully and faithfully from the book of 1 Peter. So many practical and challenging messages with plenty to reflect on and apply to our daily lives. Our discussion groups were thought provoking and students were comfortable and open with their leaders.

Our program was a blast with plenty of activities and space for down-time as we enjoyed our beautiful surrounds in the Royal National Park.

On Friday night we saw 15 students begin a relationship with Jesus for the very first time, and 52 recommit to Him. Praise God for his goodness in calling his children home.

We are also so thankful to those of you who contributed financially so that some of our students who might not have been able to attend camp were able to join us for the week. Your generosity has seen more kids experience Christ!

Praise God for a safe and fruitful week. And we pray that the experience of this week will not be quickly forgotten, but will be a defining week for all in our youth ministry in 2019.



JO GIBBS

Care
Minister

Caring for Each Other

Since starting as the Care Minister at St Paul's 4 months ago, I've been asking the question –

"How can we care for each other well?"

As followers of Jesus, we're motivated to care for others by the extravagant, compassionate and generous love of God, shown most clearly in Jesus.

As God's family we are called to show God's love to the world. In ordinary everyday actions, that God uses in extraordinary ways – a phone call to a friend who is finding life hard, a meal for someone who is sick, or helping someone struggling to do their gardening. Everyday actions that point to a loving God – care that allows people to see Jesus. In caring for and loving people we get to be God's love with skin on.



This kind of love is real, raw, and it takes time and effort.

And it shows up the genuineness of our faith in tangible ways, speaking volumes in a busy, anxious, and often competitive world. Just as evangelism shows God's love in words, care shows God's love in action.

There are times when we all need a bit of extra help or are able to help others. More Care volunteers are always needed, why not get involved?

As a community we both give and receive love. Whatever your age (even kids and families!), background, gifts and interests, whether you have a lot of time or a little, you can be involved. I hope we'll be a caring community where everyone feels comfortable asking for help when they need it, and everyone generously cares for others in some way.

Here are some of the Care programs at St Paul's...

- **Practical Care** – a simple meal, a lift to church or an appointment, help in the garden, lawn-mowing, fixing things around the house
- **Prayer** – prayer requests, online prayer network, regular prayer meetings
- **Pastoral Care** – home visits, phone support

But don't just rely on a program. As a community, let's look around and pray for opportunities to care for others. Drop into a neighbour and ask how they're going, take a friend out to coffee and pray with them, phone someone you haven't seen at church in a while. God's love is much bigger than a program.

How to get in touch...

Contact our Care Minister, Jo Gibbs – email care@spch.org.au or call 8858 1123 or chat to someone at the Welcome Desk on a Sunday.

Let's love each other deeply,
Jo Gibbs

SAVE THE DATES

MINISTRY EXPO

SUNDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

A chance to EXPLORE all of the different ministry areas we have here at SPCH, ask your questions to our ministry leaders, and start thinking and praying about how you might be involved in serving in 2019.

SIGN UP SUNDAY

SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

Our official opportunity to ENGAGE as a volunteer body. Sign up to serve on a team and our ministry leaders will contact you and get you locked in.

TEAM NIGHT

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

Our first team night for 2019 where we will EMPOWER everyone to kick off their year of ministry



SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER MEETINGS

2ND AND 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
(INCLUDING SCHOOL HOLIDAY UNLESS ANNOUNCED)

We will commence again for the year on Feb 9th.

Join us in the mother's room at church from 8-9:15am.

This meeting is open to people of all ages from all congregations. We pray for the weekly ministries of the church, church staff, parish council, special events, current affairs in Australia, our link missionaries, the worldwide persecuted church, for the lost in the Hills to come to Christ, and for God's will to be done in and through us

Upcoming dates:

Feb - 9th and 23rd

Mar - 9th and 23rd

Apr - 13th and 27th

May - 11th and 25th

2 Chronicles 7:14

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

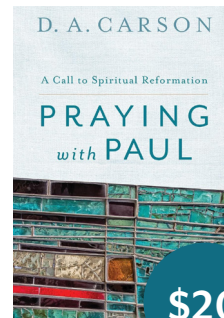
DIGGING DEEPER BOOK CLUB

TERM 1

PRAYING WITH PAUL

D.A. CARSON

A Call to Spiritual Reformation



"God doesn't demand hectic church programs and frenetic schedules, He only wants His people to know Him more intimately"

**Come and join us for the
Book Club Dinner/Supper on
Friday 10th May**

7pm Dinner

8pm Supper

\$20

RSVP wakey@bigpond.com

CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY
2ND

RECHARGE BREAKFAST - 7:30am in the CEC

For all small group leaders, join us for a light breakfast as we prepare for our upcoming series on Prayer - training on how to best use our small group time practically.

FRIDAY
8TH

CROSSFIRE TERM 1 STARTS

Crossfire 68 - 6-8pm, Crossfire X - 8-10:30pm

For more info email crossfire@spch.org.au or call 8858 1133

WEDNESDAY
13TH

MISSION 2020 COMBINED CHURCHES TRAINING NIGHT - 7:30pm in the church

Everyone is invited to join us for our first combined training night - Guest Speaker Dan Paterson will be joining us along with members from 11 other local churches.

SUNDAY
17TH

MINISTRY FAIR - All services across the day

This is your chance to find out anything you want to know about getting involved in serving at SPCH, with our Ministry leaders available to answer all of your questions.

SUNDAY
24TH

THE LAUNCH - All services across the day

Our 'official' launch into Ministry for 2019 - this day is your chance to sign up for teams and join our church volunteer family as we kick off the year.

TUESDAY
26TH

PRIME TIME - 1:30-3:30pm in the church

An event for mature women, join us for High Tea, beautiful music and our guest speaker Elizabeth Smart sharing on "A Woman's Life in the Middle East". RSVP essential please email primetime@spch.org.au or call 9634 1278

MARCH

SATURDAY
2ND

MEN'S CONFERENCE - 9am to 3pm in the church

"Listening Afresh to the King" with Guest Speaker Dr Mark Stephens. For more information or to register visit stpauls.church/mensconference

THURSDAY
7TH

TEAM NIGHT 1 - 7:30pm in the church

Join us for the very first Team Night of 2019 - our focus will be on welcoming new volunteers and kicking off a fresh year of Ministry!

TUESDAY
12TH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 7:30pm in the CEC

For all members of St Paul's. This is our chance to gather and hear about staffing, budgets, celebrate 2018 and vote in our Parish Council and Wardens.

TUESDAY
19TH

CAFE NIGHT - 7:30pm in the church

Our first Cafe Night for the year, women of all ages from all of our services are invited to join us as we gather. Enjoy supper and community.

SUNDAY
24TH

GLOBAL OUTREACH SUNDAY - All services across the day

A chance for us to celebrate all God is doing through our Missionary Partners. We will hear about the families we have serving across the globe, and this is also the day we will take our annual offertory to go towards Missions work in 2019.

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

Office: 419 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill

Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm

P (02) 8858 1111 E 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.