

# CHURCH NEWS

FEB-MAR 2018



**ACTS 1-8**

**JESUS' WORD  
CONTINUES**

# Welcome

I'm on holidays. I have my board under my arm. I'm walking into the water. All is good til a MAMIN (Middle Aged Man in Neoprene - watery cousin of the MAMIL, Middle Aged Man in Lycra), comes up out of the -water, (no surf-board in hand). He says, "Wow! THAT board looks as old as you!"

I cannot tell you all the thoughts that log-jammed in my head at that moment - though time did stand still while I freed up my thinking processes. But by that point in time the right-of-reply moment had long passed. And then, while waiting for a wave, the ol' guy sitting on his board next to me says, "I guess these are waves just for us old guys". Now, I'm not age sensitive, but ... what possessed these men to say I was "old"?!

The more their comments rattled around my mind, however, the more grateful I became. Both comments remind me I am human: a man.



I am passing through, this is not my Home. Both comments inform my reality.

This is why I love being at St Paul's - not because I am called old here (though it has been known to happen). I love being at St Paul's because I am reminded of who I am - who I really am. Here I am told I am a son of God and, therefore, deeply loved by our Heavenly Father. I am a saint not a sinner because Christ has forgiven me my sin, my past. It matters not what my history is: whether life was spoken into me by my father or whether I was one of the worst of sinners. The death and resurrection of Christ and the resurrecting power of the Spirit of God have made me a new creation. Here at St Paul's I am reminded I am no longer excluded. Rather, I am now included as a member of the most significant people in history. I have been drawn into the very people of God who will, one day, see His face - the face of Him who so loved us he sacrificed His life that we each would enjoy all I've outlined here.

I hear all this, and more, when I hear you sing the words of our songs, hear the Bible being read and then explained. You hear it, too.

And I am looking forward to hearing more in 2018. We have a life-giving year of preaching and teaching lined up (I am particularly keen to get to June when we open up the Psalms. That ancient book is unbelievably rich, raw and honest. It will add definition to who we are.)

Stay tuned! There are great things in store for God's people - for everyone - as we gather.

**JOHN GRAY**  
Senior Minister



# STAFFING NEWS

## 2018 UPDATES

2018 sees several new staff members join us, and we wish to warmly welcome them to the SPCH team!

### **RACHAEL NICHOLSON**

#### **Ministry Administrator**

Rachael is a member of our 10am congregation and will be providing support to our ministry team and heading up a team of office volunteers.

### **EMMA CRAUFORD**

#### **PA to the Senior Minister**

Emma is one of our 10am members and will be supporting John Gray.

### **BEN RAZEY**

#### **Ministry Intern**

Ben is a member of 7pm and will be working in the care of Keith Baker.

### **KAREN STAINES**

#### **Care Minister to Assistant Minister at St James**

April brings an exciting change for Karen and the team at ARV - find out more on pg9

# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

## HILLS JUSTICE FAIR TRADE MARKET

Thank you to everyone who supported the St Paul's Christmas Market in December 2017.

As a result of the day we raised:

**\$960**

For the  
Kibera Cards  
ministry



**Jesus Club**

Because everyone matters to God

**\$450**

To help start new Jesus  
Clubs around Australia



**OVER  
\$500**

For Interwoven  
Jewelry in Laos

Interwoven exists to provide  
dignified economic opportuni-  
ties to women in Southeast Asia

**OVER  
\$600**

To help free a  
Christian Family  
from the brick  
kilns in Pakistan  
through the  
Barnabas Fund



# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

IMPAKCT 2018



In January we were able to head to the Youthworks Conference centres in the Royal National Park with over 300 of our high school students.

Our camp theme this year was LOUDER - and kids were challenged all week through faithful teaching from Pat Jones, who helped us to understand how to let God's voice cut through the noise of the world.



We had a ridiculous amount of fun with Tribe Wars, powerboating, dance parties, Guy/Girl night, sunrise beach trips and just hanging out as a community.



We would love to honour and thank those families from our congregations who provided generous donations to our subsidy fund, allowing kids to come who may otherwise not have been able to join us.

We had 61 students declare Jesus as their Lord and Saviour - 20 of these said "YES" to Jesus for the first time, and 41 students reaffirmed their belief.



Praise God for His goodness to us in allowing us to run this camp each year, and for the lives that are changed for eternity as a result!



## NORM & JANELLE GORRIE

SERVING WITH CMS IN KENYA

STRENGTHENING AND EMPOWERING  
DISCIPLE-MAKERS AND REACHING  
THE LOST

*Norm writes:*

It has been a bit of a tough couple of weeks for us as we work through some issues. We are making progress - but I need to keep working on things. Appreciate your prayers.

Today (14 January) in Marsabit a sheikh was arrested, Muslims rioted and went on a rampage in the Catholic compound doing a lot of damage to the church. We heard they were also coming to attack our church. Thankfully this has not happened yet.

There has been gunfire throughout the afternoon and it is still continuing. I assume it is the security forces seeking to restore order. And it is still continuing.

We appreciate your prayer for the whole of Marsabit, for law and order to be restored and for safety. Also, we pray that this will not lead to a polarizing of the Muslim and Christians in Marsabit but that peace will be restored and we can



continue to have opportunities to share the good news about the Prince of Peace.

On a positive side, we are partnering with Hope Citadel Foundation (who will bring a team of approx. 100) to run a week-long mission in the 2nd week of April. It is a combined medical (with Doctors and Dentists) and evangelism mission - based in Marsabit and also reaching Maikona, Turbi and Bubissa (these 3 centres are all Gabra and where the work of the Gospel has not deeply penetrated and where we are losing ground to Islam), as well as Sagante and Karare.

Apart from open air meetings and children's and youth ministry they also plan to have a soccer tournament as a way to engage and reach youth.

ACK (Anglican Church of Kenya) are hosting and as Director of Mission I really value your prayers for me and the team as we mobilize our Christians and do a lot of preparation and also liaising with Government and community officials.

# KIDS MINISTRY NEWS

“ HOW  
BEAUTIFUL  
ARE THE FEET  
OF THOSE  
WHO BRING  
**GOOD  
NEWS** ”

ROMANS 10:15

We kicked off January at Kids Alive with our SEND series, a great opportunity for us to look at the work our friends are doing around the globe.

We heard from Brendan and Karina about their time in South East Asia, and then Josh and Naomi spoke to us about life sharing the love of Jesus with travelers and spiritual seekers in Thailand.

You may also remember Nanu who was a student minister here at St Paul's in 2015 when she visited from her home church, Nairobi Chapel in Kenya. Nanu felt challenged by God's command to go and make disciples of all nations, and is now back in Sydney as part of an exciting new multicultural church plant. We loved being able to see God working in Nanu's life!

For our final week of the series, we encouraged the kids to take up the challenge of being sent out into their communities and schools to live for and speak out about Jesus



**SRE**  
SCRIPTURE IN SCHOOLS

We are looking for new Teachers, Helpers, and Reserves to volunteer in our local schools. We currently have the privilege of reaching approx. 700 primary school students each week, and more schools are looking to fill classes. We'd love to send more people into this mission field in 2018

To sign up or get more information please contact:

**Matt Keller**  
**Children's Minister**

8858 1122

[matt.keller@spch.org.au](mailto:matt.keller@spch.org.au)



You are invited to a special event for Mature Women

## *Prime Time*

Tuesday 27th February  
at 1:30pm

Guest Speaker: Jenny Darvas  
**"LOVE IN ACTION"**

Guest musicians will delight us  
and a delicious High Tea will  
be served

Cost: \$20  
RSVP by 20th February

Email: [primetime@spch.org.au](mailto:primetime@spch.org.au)  
or phone 9634 1278

*Seniors'*  
FRIENDSHIP  
GROUP

*Hear God's message in a relaxed atmosphere*

## OUR NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 6TH MARCH

**Guest Speaker: Mr Justin Fitzgerald**

"How a small thing can make a big difference for a  
Compassion child"

### ENQUIRIES

Don Smart (President) 8850 3949  
Margaret Christoffel (Secretary) 9639 1510





**ST JAMES  
CHAPEL**

## **ANGLICAN PARISH PARTNERSHIP NEWS**



### **WELCOME KAREN STAINES!!**

Karen joins us as Assistant Minister and will be commencing her role in April.

We are so excited to have Karen on our team and know she will be a blessing to our community at St James. Karen has had a wonderful season of ministry in her previous roles as Women's Minister and Care Minister at St Paul's, and we look forward to seeing her good work continue at ARV!

God continues to bless us in wonderful ways at St James. Our first weeks in January have seen our largest congregations ever for our 9:30 service and this is creating great excitement amongst our people.

We farewelled Peter and Stephanie Tuck who have moved to work with Eric Cheung at St Phillip's Caringbah, and we look forward to welcoming Karen to replace Peter.

We're excited for our Lenten Bible Studies this year which run on Wednesday mornings during Lent at 10:00 am. We will be using the 'Jesus the Game Changer' DVD series produced by Karl Faase.

Authors, academics, and modern day game changers are interviewed about how the life and teaching of Jesus changed the world and why it matters. Topics such as Jesus, Equality, Women and Children, Care, Leadership and Forgiveness.

### **EVENTS COMING UP IN THE PARISH:**

**Ash Wednesday Service** Wednesday 14th February at 10am

**World Day of Prayer** Friday 2nd March at 10am

**Maundy Thursday Service** Thursday 28th March at 3:30pm

**MEN'S CONFERENCE 2018**

# **REW UP**

**WHAT'S GOD  
UP TO NOW?**

**Saturday 3rd March**

**9am to 3pm**

**@St Paul's Castle Hill**

**Guest Speaker: Rev Dr Richard Gibson**

**\$50 (Student and Seniors rate \$20)**

**REGISTER NOW AT**

**[STPAULS.CHURCH/CREWMENCONFERENCE](http://STPAULS.CHURCH/CREWMENCONFERENCE)**

SISTERHOOD

# cafe nights



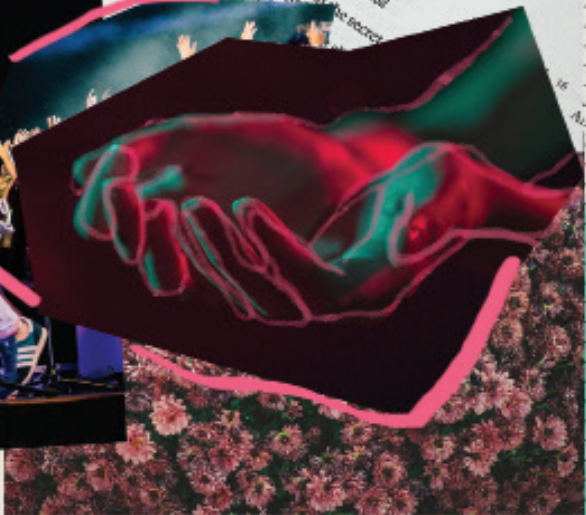
TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY  
7:30-9:30pm  
in the church

Guest Speaker: Mel Hughes

Join us for a delicious supper and  
barista made coffee



# Team Night



**7 PM.  
MAIN CHURCH AUDITORIUM  
FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS  
AT ST PAUL'S**

8th March



# *Easter at St Paul's*

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

FRIDAY 30TH MARCH

8AM / 10AM

## **THE BIG THING**

FRIDAY 30TH MARCH

7PM

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

SUNDAY 1ST APRIL

8AM / 10AM / 5PM / 7PM



# **LIFEGIVER**

## **A DRAMATIC MUSICAL**

**TUESDAY 10TH APRIL**

**WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL**

7:30pm in the church

A wonderful opportunity to bring your  
friends to hear the story of Christ



# CHURCH CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

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**SATURDAY**

**3<sup>RD</sup>**

**RECHARGE BREAKFAST**

**7:30-9:30am in the CEC**

Join us for a delicious breakfast as we kick off the Acts: Hearts on Fire series

**TUESDAY**

**6<sup>TH</sup>**

**SENIORS FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

**12-2pm in the CEC**

Guest speaker: Karen Staines

**MONDAY**

**12<sup>TH</sup>**

**PURE PRAISE**

**7-10pm in the CEC**

A night of worship and prayer for our Young Adults

**TUESDAY**

**20<sup>TH</sup>**

**SISTERHOOD CAFE**

**7:30-9:30pm in the church**

Guest speaker: Mel Hughes

Women of all ages are welcome!

**TUESDAY**

**27<sup>TH</sup>**

**PRIME TIME**

**1:30pm in the church**

Guest speaker: Jenny Darvas

"Love in Action"

For the mature women of our church. Musicians will perform and we will enjoy a delicious High Tea. RSVP by emailing [primetime@spch.org.au](mailto:primetime@spch.org.au) or call 9634 1278

For all upcoming events please visit  
**[stpauls.church/comingup](http://stpauls.church/comingup)**

## MARCH

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**SATURDAY**

**3<sup>RD</sup>**

**MEN'S CONFERENCE - REV UP**

**9am-3pm in the CEC**

Guest speaker: Rev Dr Richard Gibson

\$50 (\$20 students or seniors)

Register at [stpauls.church/crewmenconference](http://stpauls.church/crewmenconference)

**TUESDAY**

**6<sup>TH</sup>**

**SENIORS FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

**12-2pm in the CEC**

Guest speaker: Justin Fitzgerald

**THURSDAY**

**8<sup>TH</sup>**

**TEAM NIGHT**

**7pm in the church**

A night for all of our volunteer teams

**TUESDAY**

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

**AGM**

**7-8:30pm in the CEC**

All members of St Paul's are invited to our Annual General Meeting to discuss the life of our church

**WEDNESDAY**

**21<sup>ST</sup>**

**CHURCH WIDE PRAYER NIGHT**

**7:30-9pm in the church**

Gather with our church family to pray

**FRIDAY**

**30<sup>TH</sup>**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Services at 8am and 10am**

Bring your family to celebrate Easter

**7pm THE BIG THING** for Young Adults

# OUR MISSION

**BRING**  
PEOPLE TO CHRIST

**BUILD**  
PEOPLE IN CHRIST

**SEND**  
PEOPLE OUT FOR CHRIST

## OUR VITAL SIGNS



## CONTACT US

**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.



**ST PAUL'S**  
CASTLE HILL