

CHURCH NEWS

JUNE & JULY 2017



*The joy of the
Lord is my strength*

- NEHEMIAH 8:10 -



ST PAUL'S
CASTLE HILL

Welcome

Mentors and coaches are apparently indispensable now. Enough time and money would mean I could be coached in singing, fashion, math, elocution, time management, weight training, guitar, AND flipping houses. I can even be coached in making my fingernails look more attractive!

Tapping into greater wisdom is worth the effort. Having a confident voice speaking courage into you is invaluable. And here I keep thinking about Jesus. Not because I think he's a coach. But because he is the Good and Great Shepherd. This is arresting.

Jesus is not some dead man or an idea someone conjured up. He's the risen LORD Jesus Christ. What he offers is not simply the forgiveness of sin and a place in heaven. He also offers an experience of life that much more immediate.

The Shepherd leads, guides, provides for and walks with his people. He offers wisdom to the questioning; guidance to lost; and comfort to the widow, fatherless, vulnerable and poor. He offers shelter to the one hammered by life; an anchor point to those adrift; and a listening ear to the alone. He challenges the comfortable and comforts the challenged.

Life still brings its joys like when a man becomes a granddad or a woman a mother. Sorrows still come when a loved one passes. But Jesus walks with his people in

all of life. What Jesus offers is the experience of redemption, now.

We see evidence of this when God's people gather – really gather – take on board what the Bible teaches to then love one another, bear one another's burdens, and forgive one another. We see evidence of it when Jesus speaks to us through his word in daily devotions and when we know he has heard our prayers. Right there we discover joy. Not that determined by circumstance but joy that flows from by a deepening knowledge of, and relationship with, the Good and Great Shepherd. And there we experience his joy in us! To know someone greater and stronger takes joy in you ...that is the source of strength.

Seeing people come to Jesus so they experience redemption – can you imagine?

This stirs me. Might it stir us all.



John Gray
Senior Minister



COMPASSION SUNDAY

30TH JULY


GUEST SPEAKER: TIM HANNA

CEO COMPASSION AUSTRALIA

Tim Hanna will be speaking on the 30th of July at all Sunday Services, you will also hear an update on the 2017 St Paul's Kenya Trip.

Children will also be available for sponsorship on the day, so please think and pray how you can sponsor a child for the first time or sponsor another child!




Releasing children from poverty
Compassion[®]
in Jesus' name

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SUNDAY



EASTER MUSICAL & SILVIE PALADINO CONCERT

This year's Easter Musical was called 'What Love is this' held on the 8th of April. David Sansoni conducted a 53 voice choir, and 8 soloists performed beautifully, with a very powerful message. Thank you to all those who made this a very special event where many guests attended.

On the 6th of May St Paul's held two Silvie Paladino concerts, where around 800 people attended. Silvie Paladino performed in concert with the Melbourne Salvation Army Staff Band. There was also a very special surprise when our own Garry Druery sang a duet with Silvie. Thank you to the organisers, as people who attended the concert also came back the following Sunday to hear Silvie perform another song, as well as hearing an incredible sermon preached by Archbishop Glenn Davies.

ARCHBISHOP GLENN DAVIES & SILVIE PALADINO



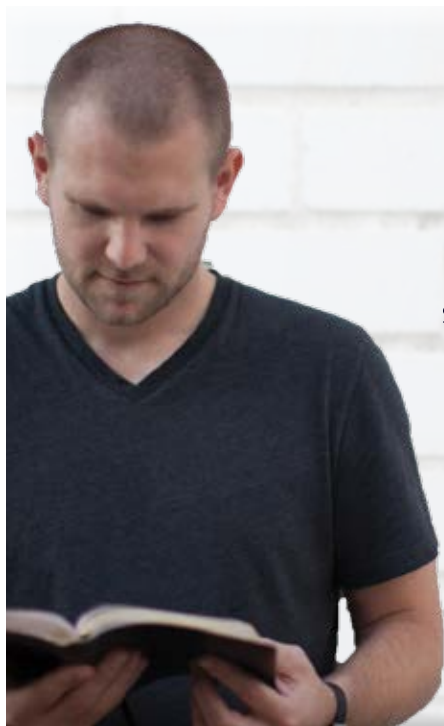
CHURCH WIDE

Prayer NIGHT

14th June, 7.30 - 9.30pm

In the church

"Looking forward to gathering together to do business with God. See you at our prayer night 7.30pm June 14 to praise Him, seek his mind & call on him to save people." John Gray



Sunday, 23rd July

Small
Groups
DAY

Small Groups are a great way to study the bible and build relationships with others. St Paul's offers different types of Small Groups for all ages that run throughout the week. Come to Small Groups Day and sign up to get started.

On Small Groups Day, during all Sunday services, we will:
Commission our Small Group Leaders for the year ahead. **Pray** for all those in Small Groups and for a great year. **Invite** all those who aren't in Small Groups to sign up to join a group.

KIDS MINISTRY NEWS

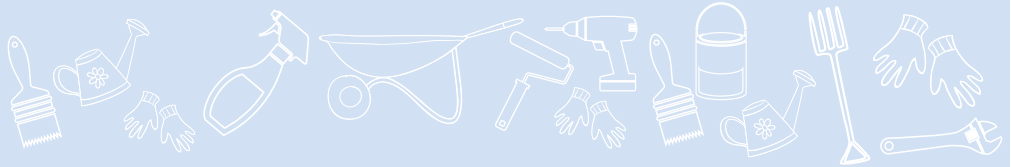
ONE FOR ONE

A few years ago Karen Staines remarked to me that our Supaday attendance ratio was perfect. At that time fifty percent of children who attended this program didn't attend any local church and the other fifty percent were from St Paul's... we had a One for One ministry! Since then this ratio has decreased so that I long to see the day when our Vital Sign Found *People Find People* is again so easy to see.

Supaweek is a chance for us all to see this again. I'd love it if every person who attended from our church was matched by one other person who needs to know our Lord Jesus, and you may be able to help make this a reality. As Supaweek approaches (July 3-7) please thoughtfully consider which neighbours, school friends and other community children you can encourage to attend.

Please also join me in praying that the good news of Jesus will produce fruit in the lives of everyone who attends!

Matt Keller
Children's Minister



HELP AT HOME

Serving people in our community

Help at Home provides labour-intensive care to individual people and families in our community. This includes house maintenance, gardening, and generally supporting those who are in need.

Our next "Help at Home" Day is the 24th of June at 7.30am (9am onsite)

Meet at St Paul's in Room 2 for breakfast and find out which home you will be serving. If you or your family (**children welcome**) want to serve email: bluearmy@spch.org.au

LIMITED
SPACES
AVAILABLE

CRU SUPA WEEK

CRU DAY CAMP
ST PAUL'S
CASTLE HILL

MONDAY 3RD -
FRIDAY 7TH JULY
FOR KIDS KINDY - YR6

LOADS OF ACTIVITIES

Nerf Tag, Mobile Basketball, Scooter Ball,
craft, cooking, dancing and a special concert

DISCOVERY SESSIONS

Learn about God, ask questions and
discuss topics in small groups

EXCURSION DAY

Off-site kids fun day



REGISTER NOW
crudaycamps.com.au/cru-supaweek

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

SENIORS FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Seniors Friendship Group meets once a month, but don't think you have to be a certain "senior age" to join! Come along and check the group out so you don't miss what they can offer you.

The Seniors Friendship Group have been meeting for over 30 years. It exists to provide a regular opportunity for seniors to meet for fellowship over lunch, which is brought along by the members. Although, twice a year in June and December a hot lunch is provided. The programme consists of lunch, a speaker, some hymn singing, a birthday call and a welfare report on unwell members. Recent speakers have included two of our staff, a representative from The Fathering Project and a representative from Mission Motors. The group also supports two children through Compassion and receives regular updates on them.

Upcoming Speakers:

Marge Mills (Mary Andrews College lecturer) on the Reformation

David Crowe "My Journey"

Dr Max Collison "Euthanasia"

Archdeacon Peter Smart "Mess of the Middle East"

(Peter was the Acting Rector of the Anglican Church in Damascus a few years ago).

The benefits of joining...

Through this group people meet other members of the church and get to know and care for them as new friendships develop. By having staff speak from time to time, members are kept up-to-date on events and other ministries at St Paul's.

How do you join?

Simply come along to a meeting and register with the secretary. The group meets from 12 - 2pm in the CEC on the first Tuesday of every month (except January).

Any questions?

Call the church office or speak to Ken Allen for more information.



Prime Time

You Are Invited To A Special Event For Mature Women...

"The Teamaker's Daughter"

Guest Speaker: Dr Patricia Weerakoon
Honorary Senior Lecturer at Sydney University

Tuesday 27th June 2017 at 1:30pm
St Paul's Castle Hill - 421 Old Northern Road Castle Hill

Guest musicians will delight us and a delicious High Tea will be served. Cost \$15 (donation) payable at the door.

RSVP by 20th June
Email: primetime@spch.org.au or phone 9634 1278



ST PAUL'S
CASTLE HILL





REFUGEE NIGHT

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS?

Archbishop Glenn Davies
and **Ian Moore** (*from Anglicare*)

will explain how churches can respond to
the refugee crisis in Sydney.

13th July, 7.30-9.30pm
at St Paul's Castle Hill
421 Old Northern Rd Castle Hill
Free entry. RSVP spch.org.au/refugeenight
Open to Sydney churches

GLOBAL OUTREACH

Our Link Missionaries

Josh and Naomi

Nestled in the mountains of northern Thailand lays a bustling little town on the banks of a flowing river. Each day the population swells with travelers, hippies and spiritual seekers coming to live amongst the thriving Thai-Buddhist and Muslim population. Here there are hundreds of temples, Vipassana Meditation centre, Shamans, spiritual Guru's, breath workers, Reiki masters and various healers. People are open, people are hungry and people are thirsty for spiritual truth.

Just to the side of the town centre is one place that is a little different. It's a grand experiment, a group of devotees of Jesus, whose passion is to live out their devotion to Jesus daily as a community and to invite people in to experience, explore, curiously watch on, participate in what it means to live a life devoted to Jesus.

We do everything in circles, ensuring that people feel safe to share, to question, to nut through the deep issues and to help see that we are all pilgrims on a Echart Tole journey towards Truth, no matter what their current path. As devotees of Christ, we believe Jesus and Jesus alone is that Truth and as such our weeks are full of times of guided meditation on the words of Christ, sharing circles, women's bible circles, Teachings, creation care through permaculture garden-

ing, movement meditations, and music to Jesus in languages and styles from around the world.

We are seeing beautiful things here, hearts opening to Jesus. Sometimes our life feels like we are planting seeds, other times we watch peoples hearts and eyes open to the truth and it is incredible and such an honour to witness. Please pray for Alice* a Jewish American who was an atheist and strong follower of the teachings of Eckhart Tolle. Over the past year we have seen her open her heart to Jesus. She is so close! As we write this we prepare to meet with her and ask her where she is at with Jesus, and if she would like to take the step of faith into his arms. Please also pray for Laura* who has a history of Catholicism, but is feeling the draw of Jesus stronger in her life. She is currently weighing up the call of Christ and what it would mean for her to say Yes!

In the coming weeks we will be hosting a "Jesus Bhajans" performance (devotional Songs to Jesus in Hindi) in a popular night spot in town. Please pray that as we sing joyfully of our Bhakti (devotion to Jesus) in front of so many seekers, that they will see the light of Christ in us, and be drawn to him.

**Names changed for security*

Our friend's baptism... our community, walking to the river to baptize her.



Artist interpretation of our community members. The bird is the holy spirit among us



ST JAMES' CHAPEL NEWS



ALPHA

From May 8 - July 24 we are running the Alpha course for residents of Anglicare. Alpha has been greatly used by God to bring people to faith all around the world. Do pray for people as they journey through this course that there will be those whose faith is affirmed and those who come into a relationship with Jesus for the first time.

People gather for the Introductory Session of Alpha in the ARV.



THE NEW CHAPEL

The current St James' Chapel is about to be knocked down and rebuilt. Our congregations will be meeting in the Menzies Room in the Fillingham centre whilst the demolition and construction takes place. Please pray for us in this time of transition.

Architects impression of the new chapel looking from Wills Cafe

THERE WILL BE 2 FINAL SERVICES IN THE CHAPEL

Friday June 2 at 10:00 am - This service is for Anglicare staff and residents. The Archbishop will be our guest preacher

Sunday June 4 at 10:00 am - This will be the final service for the congregations of St James'

OUR NEW LOGO

We have a new St Paul's Castle Hill Logo!

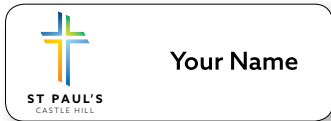


ST PAUL'S
CASTLE HILL

Around 400 people, from all four congregations, in all different age categories completed a survey to help us choose our new logo. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this process to help us decide on the best way forward.

Introducing a new logo can be a difficult process so we ask for your patience as the new logo is slowly rolled out. The Communications Team will need to carefully take into consideration timing and cost of each communication piece that will be impacted by this change.

NAME BADGES



Many people now have name badges. Please note that if you have the old logo on your name badge we are not asking people to purchase a new one. However, if you would like a new name badge they can be ordered at the Kiosk after the service, or email Laurel at r.l.bram@bigpond.com

TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIVING AT ST PAUL'S THE ST PAUL'S FOUNDATION

The St Paul's Foundation Fund was set up to receive funds for tax deductible purposes. For example, the Fund can accept donations for the "St Paul's CEC Fund" to reduce debt or build new educational facilities. Funds can also be used for other projects such as international aid, we also expect to support other future activities including marriage counselling and school scripture.

How can I give?

EFT directly to the bank account BSB Number: 032173; Account Number: 328713. If you require a receipt for tax purposes please include your name in the reference section of the payment and confirm your gift by sending an e-mail to info@spch.org.au. The St Paul's Foundation Fund will issue receipts at the end of the financial year..

Donations to the St Paul's Foundation Fund can only be allocated to areas endorsed by the Australian Tax Office. General ministry work can only be supported by general giving and tithes which are not subject to tax deductibility.

CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE

6th

Seniors Friendship Group

12pm - 2pm in the CEC

Guest Speaker: Marge Mills, Lecturer, Mary Andrew College

14th

Church Wide Prayer Night

7.30pm - 9.30pm in the Church

"Looking forward to gathering together to do business with God. See you at our prayer night 7:30pm June 14 to praise Him, seek his mind & call on him to save people." *John Gray*

23rd

Castle Chillz

7pm - 9.30pm at St Paul's

Castle Chillz is an all inclusive event for the youth in the Hills District in years 6-12 (as part of Crossfire Youth). The plan for the night is to have fun, hang out with friends – and maybe meet some new ones! There'll be rides, games, a hang out spot for new people, video games, food and more! \$5pp pay on the night.

24th

Blue Army - Help at Home

7.30am (at St Paul's) 9am onsite

7:30 for breakfast and work allocation. Onsite by 9am. Volunteers required to help people in need at their home. Children to be accompanied by parent. To RSVP or for further information email bluearmy@spch.org.au

27th

Prime Time

1.30pm at St Paul's Castle Hill

Guest Speaker: Dr Patricia Weerakoon Honorary Senior Lecturer at Sydney University. Guest musicians will delight us and a delicious High Tea will be served. Cost \$15 (donation) payable at the door. RSVP by 20th June email: primetime@spch.org.au or phone 9634 1278

JULY

3rd -
7th

Cru Supaweek

8.30am - 5pm at St Paul's Castle Hill

Cru Camps and St Paul's have joined together to run a week long day camp for primary school kids. For full information or to register visit crudaycamps.com.au/cru-supaweek

4th

Seniors Friendship Group

12pm - 2pm in the CEC

Guest Speaker: Mr. David Crowe (from St Paul's)
"My Journey with Cancer"

13th

Refugee Night

7.30pm - 9.30pm in the Church

Guest Speakers: Archbishop Glenn Davies and Ian Moore (from Anglicare) will explain how churches can respond to the refugee crisis in Sydney. Free entry. RSVP is required as this event is open to all churches in Sydney:
spch.org.au/refugeenight

23rd

Small Groups Day

All Sunday Services

On Small Groups Day, during all Sunday services, we will: Commission our Small Group Leaders for the year ahead, pray for all those in Small Groups and for a great year, and invite all those who aren't in Small Groups to sign up to join a group.

30th

Compassion Sunday

All Sunday Services

Hear Tim Hanna (CEO Compassion Australia) speaking at all Sunday Services, as well as an update on the 2017 St Paul's Kenya Trip. Children will be ready for sponsorship on the day. Please think and pray about sponsoring a child for the first time or sponsor another child!

OUR MISSION

BRING

PEOPLE TO CHRIST

BUILD

PEOPLE IN CHRIST

SEND

PEOPLE OUT FOR CHRIST

OUR VITAL SIGNS



CONTACT US

Office: 419 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill

Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 5pm

P (02) 8858 1111 E info@spch.org.au

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