



# St Mary's Grapevine

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, SUNBURY  
APRIL 2017

## Gavin's Grab

Greetings everyone,

We often hear the saying "Actions speak louder than words" but how often do we see it demonstrated. It seems to me that many people today have a lot to say – politicians, community leaders, the media etc – but don't seem to follow up their words with actions. Often we can be guilty too of promising something but not delivering .....However ..... that's not the case with God.

God has made promises and he has kept them. He is a faithful God whose actions speak as loud as his words. We see this in the Old Testament as he backs Moses and the Hebrews are freed from slavery in Egypt. He also allowed the rebellious Israelites to be captured by the Babylonians but was true to his promise of bringing them back to the promised land after 70 years in Babylon.

God promised to send a Messiah, from David's line, who would save the world. He made this promise to King David and through the many prophets who ministered in Israel. God was true to His promise as Jesus came, fulfilling all the prophets' words.

Jesus promised that he would return again one day. As we celebrate God's love poured out for us through Jesus' death and powerful resurrection, we also look forward with great anticipation to His return again one day.....and what a great day that will be!!!

In the meantime, God calls us to faithfully serve Him, with the power that we see in Jesus' resurrection from the dead, in the places he's called us- in our homes, workplaces and neighbourhoods.

May you each know the power of God, in your lives and in your service of Him.

### Dates for your Diary.....

- **Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>**  
*Friendship Lunch- 1230*
- **Monday May 1<sup>st</sup>**  
*Parish Council Meet- 1930*
- **Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
*Marriage Course begins*
- **Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
*Lions Hostel Service- 1430*
- **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May**  
*Games Night- 2000*
- **Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
*Service Leaders Meetings*  
*10:30 Team- 1230*  
*8:30 Team- 1400*
- **Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
*Vintage Games Day- 1600*
- **Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>**  
*Home Group Leaders- 1930*  
*Leadership Training- 1915*
- **Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
*Parish Prayer- 1930*
- **Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup>**  
*Sing & Soup- 1200*
- **Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
*Riddell Gardens- 1030*
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**  
*Friendship Lunch- 1230*
- **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June**  
*Lions Hostel Service- 1430*
- **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
*Games Night- 2000*

# Introducing Laura

*New 5pm Community  
Children's and Families  
staff member called to  
teach children through  
storytelling and music*

*By Nicola Templeton*



Recently at 5pm we've enjoyed biblical text through expressive storytelling. If you're not sure what this is, YouTube has good examples.

A narration with an expressive execution of a story flourished in medieval mystery plays from the 9-12<sup>th</sup> century, mostly because people loved being entertained and because many people couldn't read. Storytelling and plays became a viable way for actors to earn a living and draw down on biblical stories for enjoyment, entertainment and teaching.

Laura Paul arrived in January as the new St Mary's 5pm Community Children's and Families worker. Twice, maybe three times since Laura has performed a biblical text through expressive storytelling. For her, children instinctively understand this kind of narration and are readily engaged by it. The media therefore becomes an immediate means of teaching yet all within a story.

Born the second of four children in Geelong, Laura was raised by Christian parents who chose to home school their family.

'My parents shaped our curriculum to allow us to deeply love God's word, and gave me enough time in the week dedicated to memorizing scripture and hiding it in my heart.'

Was it remembering her childhood learning that influenced her decision to use this kind of teaching, this kind of storytelling?

'I love seeing children grow and develop. Whether it be relationally in their gifts, character, their love for God, or their understanding of his big story.' Laura says.

As a child, she learnt piano and together with singing, draws on this in her worship. She believes music too plays a big part in teaching and helping children listen to scripture and to embrace it.

'I was taught the value of song, beautiful music. When melded to Christ-exulting, scripture saturated words, (I believe this) is one of the best ways of shaping a child's heart, not only to know truth, but to feel it to the core of their being.'

What of her journey since childhood, her studies and her life as a young adult?

'I've just completed my bachelor of theology at theological college and am now working towards an honours year in church history. My focus is a mini research project on the early Bohemian reformer, Jan Huss, and his influence on Reformation figurehead Martin Luther.'

## Please pray.....

### *Kids United*

- For more children to come to *Kids United*, especially from the local community
- Wisdom, creativity and clarity in sharing Christ with those who attend
- Unity and flourishing of relationships within the *Kids United* team
- More volunteers to help with music and craft.

### *Laura*

- Wise use of time, and balancing the different commitments she is involved with
- Depth of relationships at St. Mary's, amongst both children and adults.

## Introducing Laura continued.....

So how did a Geelong born girl come to be in Sunbury, at St Mary's 5pm Community?

'Two reasons, our dear friends Matt and Erin Brown, and the theological college where I study.'

You say 'our friends' are you more than one?

'I've been married to my best friend for just over a year. He is full-time theological student and ordination candidate for the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.'

In her work for 5pm Community, Laura is being supervised by Rev Kim Beales and works with a team of young adults, parents of small children and grandparents, some of whom are retired RE teachers on a start-up ministry Kids United.

The intergenerational ministry and team are encouraging Kids United to be a thriving place where mainly primary aged children from all backgrounds come together, have fun and get to know Jesus through stories, songs, games and craft.

Laura says the aim is to see kids fully welcomed and discipled as members of the body of Christ.

Her hope is for 'kids to know and see God at work in their lives, no matter how young they are, they are precious children of God, called to be disciples, fully welcomed into the church and given appropriate opportunities of serving there. I want them to know and feel the preciousness of God's word and the joy of worshipping him in song.'

Laura's working hours at St Mary's are: Tuesday mornings, Fridays and Sunday afternoons. To contact her please email: [laurapaul@stmarysanglican.org.au](mailto:laurapaul@stmarysanglican.org.au)



**Kids United**  
Kids United is a new after school faith-based kids club for primary aged children hosted by St Mary's together with churches in Sunbury

**Stories, Music, Fun and Games**  
**Fridays 3:45-5pm term-time**  
(starting Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February)  
**@ St Mary's Hall on O'Shanassy St, Sunbury**  
**All welcome. Gold Coin Donation (per family)**

For more information/expressions of interest contact:  
[laurapaul@stmarysanglican.org.au](mailto:laurapaul@stmarysanglican.org.au)  
or call St Mary's Anglican Church: 9744 1347

[www.stmarysanglican.org.au](http://www.stmarysanglican.org.au)

## Gavin's Grab.....

*continued from page 1*

Here's a brief update on what's happening around St Mary's:-

### Leadership Training and Mentoring

Kim Beales and I have commenced a Leadership Training Course for 8 participants - each with their own mentor. This means that 16 of our folk are involved in leadership training and discussions as we meet monthly over the next 7 months. Please pray for Callum, Kyle, Samantha, Kristine, Bob, Lachie, Sara and Ellie and their mentors Matt, Grant, Annette, Spencer, Noel, Keil, Wendy and Narelle as we meet.

### Marriage Enrichment Course

The pilot course will commence in early May for 4 couples with Gary and Elaine and Sharon and I hosting. The course will meet on Tuesday evenings for 7 sessions, concluding in late June. Once the pilot is completed, our plans will be to open up the course for everyone later in the year, including those who have been married at St Mary's over the past number of years.

### 150th Anniversary Update

Annette and I have progressed talks around the Bush Dance for Sunbury West Primary School, more details shortly, and also the Colonial Ball. We have also decided it would be better to have a Men's Dinner on Friday evening (24th November) as Saturday will be full of other activities.

The special 150th Quilt has also been designed and is being worked on.

If you would like to be involved in helping us out with any of these activities, contact Annette Swaffield or myself.

### New Building Programme Update

Our Architects are still working on detailed plans for the new building and we expect to receive them in the next couple of weeks.

### Post Easter Sermon Series in the Mornings

After Easter, on Sunday & Wednesday mornings we will be diving into the book of 1 Samuel for 6 weeks, with a couple of breaks for Mother's Day and a visit by Glenn Fairweather from Prison Fellowship. 1 Samuel is a great book which deals with people's motives and drive to do things their way instead of God's way and God's often surprising responses. You might like to read through 1 Samuel in preparation to this series.

### Anzac Day 2017

I will be involved in both Anzac Day services on Tuesday the 25th April. The first commences at 6am at the Memorial Hall for a Dawn service while the 2nd one begins with an Anzac Day March at 10am followed by a service at the Memorial Hall.

I look forward to seeing you there.

The National Servicemen will be attending our Service on Wednesday 26th April.

*Gavin*

Coming up in May the 5pm community is hosting two special events which would be great to invite people to. Here's the details.

### May 7th - Vintage Family Games Day

On Sunday May 7th at 4pm we are having a vintage family games event on the village green. It will include some good old-time games such as egg and spoon races, three-legged races, and an opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy some fun together. This will be followed by our service at 5pm with soup afterwards and concluding by 6:30pm. This will be a great afternoon for families and people of all ages.

### May 21st - The Banquet

At 5pm on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>, we are hosting a great community banquet. There will be live music, fun activities, and (literally) a feast. On the night there will be a dinner talk exploring one of life's big questions, and over the three weeks that follow we will unpack further questions in a relaxed and conversational environment. These will be fantastic opportunities for people who are interested in exploring faith.

## VINTAGE FAMILY GAMES DAY

**4pm Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> on the Sunbury Village Green**

Followed by 5pm All age Service at St Andrew's & Dinner at 6pm



## “Musicals”

**sing-a-long**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**Sing & Soup with a hot soup lunch included!**

**12 noon at St Mary's Hall**

**7 O'Shanassy St, Sunbury. 9744 1347**

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