

# St Mary's Grapevine



BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, SUNBURY  
MARCH 2018

## Gavin's Grab

Greetings everyone,

This highpoint of the Christian Calender is upon us again.....the time we remember the great sacrifice made on our behalf by God, in Jesus and the great victory over death in His resurrection.

I trust and pray that you have appreciated the sermon series on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays examining God's work through the Cross, in all its dimensions. If you have missed any of the sermons they are available through our website. I have received very positive feedback about the Study Guides that have accompanied the series.

On Sunday evenings we have been looking at the letters to the churches in Revelation, which has direct application to us as we live our lives in the 21st Century.

A few things to update you on.

### Building Programme

The advertising on the boards concluded on 21 February with no objections being received. The Council Planner will now finalise his report and present it before Council. This may take a few months and during this period objections can still be received.

### Kim Beales' Induction

Sharon and I, together with Cath Fisher, Narelle Riley, Hilary and Michael Williams and Marj and Phil Stacy represented St Mary's at Kim's induction. It was great to catch up with Kim, Kate and the children in their rented property beforehand and then to attend their induction service. They have settled in well and the church they have joined, St Mark's Bellerive, is a very friendly and lively church.

I was particularly impressed with the sermon by Bishop Richard Condie from Colossians 3:12-17, reminding Kim (and all of us) of some important priorities in serving Jesus and living for Him.

I was also very impressed with the words of welcome from the local Mayor and the Primary School Principal, who spoke of a great relationship with St Mark's and their desire to continue to work closely with the church for the benefit of the community.

Kim was very warm in his response to the welcome and I think he will fit in well as he serves God with that community for the years to come. He has already been to a couple of cricket matches at the nearby Bellerive Oval. He calls it a pastoral visit. We continue to uphold him and the family in our prayers.

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# Gavin's Grab *Continued from Page 1*

## Sunbury Chaplains Annual Support Dinner

I had the great privilege of attending the Annual Support Dinner for the Sunbury Chaplains on 20 March at Goonawarra Gold Club. I was joined by many members of the churches in Sunbury, including a number from St Mary's.

Over dinner, each of the 5 chaplains spoke and were then prayed for by a member of the Sunbury Christian Community.

I was inspired by the quality and godliness of the chaplains as they spoke about their passion for Jesus and their love for the children and school communities, amongst whom they serve. They told us stories from their ministries which, in some cases, brought us to tears. We are greatly blessed as a community of Sunbury to have 5 wonderful chaplains (Lynn Armstrong, Ben Smith, Tracey Hodge, Michael Wanyama and Rob Nansen). I encourage you to come along to the next Annual Dinner and be similarly inspired as you support these fine chaplains.

## Upcoming Programmes

In term 2 we will be advertising two courses, which will be open to anyone in the community. These two courses have been trialled in St Mary's and we trust will be a blessing to all who partake in them.

The first is the Marriage Enrichment Course which consists of 6 sessions for couples to enrich their marriages. Each session covers a different aspect of married life and contains some DVD input followed by private couple conversations to reflect on the DVD material with various exercises. The beauty of this programme is that there is no group sharing. Couples talk privately and nothing of what they say is made public to anyone.

The second is the Parenting Course for Parents of 0-10year olds. This course can be offered over 5 or 10 weeks (depending on the length of each session) and similarly involves some DVD input and then couple discussions in private.

Dates and times will be advertised shortly and when they are, please consider how these courses may be a helpful blessing to you or your friends as married couples and/or parents.

## Esther

During May and into early June, I will be taking us all (Sunday mornings, evenings and Wednesdays) through the book of Esther over 5 weeks.

This is a wonderful book, in which God's name is never mentioned, but which has some significant application for us today. I look forward to you joining with me as we apply this book to our lives.

## Joshua Fisher on Leave

During May and June, Joshua Fisher is taking his parents (Cath and Keil) away on holidays but will have them back to continue serving with us on Monday 9 July. We trust and pray they will have an enjoyable, refreshing and blessed time away as a family.

I wish each of you God's richest blessings this Easter as together we remember God's love poured out for us through the Cross.

# Gavin



Kim & Kate Beales being officially welcomed by Bishop Richard Condie and the congregation at St Mark's Bellerive on February 22<sup>nd</sup>

# One-eyed 'Essendon' Grandmother bequeaths heart for Melbourne

By Nicola Templeton

Revd Matthew Browne's Melbourne life doesn't really start with his move here to study at Ridley College from Adelaide to Melbourne four years ago. His family's roots run much deeper with the city.

'My grandmother grew up in Ascot Vale before moving to Adelaide to get married.

'Yes I did grow up in Adelaide but have always had a soft spot for Melbourne, mainly because of the footy,' he explains.

Toing and froing between the two cities became something Matthew grew accustomed to.

'Dad was often working in Melbourne so we would come over with him sometimes so we could go to the footy and my sisters could do some shopping.'

**The footy wasn't just any game in particular but only one team – Essendon really counted. A dedication which survived in his grandmother's heart despite her move interstate and which 'trickled down' from her to Matthew's Dad and then to Matthew.**

'She (my Grandmother) was always a one-eyed Essendon supporter ...and now hopefully Bella and Timothy ... will grow up barracking for Essendon!' Matthew says.

Married to Erin in early 2015, the couple met as students at Ridley College in Parkville. Erin, like Matthew, had moved interstate to study there.

'Erin is originally from Brisbane and moved to Melbourne a year before I did. Now we have two children, Annabella, and Timothy.'

*Was it always in Matthew's mind that he would be in ministry?*

'I was studying a Bachelor of Science (Mineral Geoscience) at Adelaide University. I felt God's call to ministry pretty strongly and sought advice from others. I decided to end the BSc, move to Melbourne and begin study at Ridley.' *Continued Pg 6*



## Safe Ministry, Contact with Children & Volunteering at St Mary's- an update.

At St Mary's, we are committed to our church and programs being a safe place for all people.

At the November 2017 meeting, Parish Council accepted 3 policies developed by Wardens in response to the State Government's Child safe Standards, which incorporate changes implemented by the Melbourne Diocese's Archbishop in Council. The 3 policies are available for viewing on the noticeboard in the hall and on our website.

To summarise the policies, most volunteer positions at St Mary's will require you to complete an application form and provide two referees. You will also need to complete a Victorian police check application form (which the Parish will pay for), and apply online for a Working with Children Check. This includes volunteering in the Community Store, but is not required for the majority of the roles on our weekly service rosters. If the position you are volunteering for involves contact with children, it is a requirement that you have been a regular attendee at St Mary's for 12 months before you commence your role. Most roles also require attendance at a Professional Standards Seminar.

To date this year we have already welcomed 3 new Community store volunteers who have completed the application process and commenced their roles in the Community Store, and 2 new Music Playtime team members who have also completed the application process.

If you have any questions about the process please speak to a Warden or Narelle in the office.

*Was it a difficult decision for him?*

'Studying there was one of the best things I have ever done. It's given me a strong grounding in the Bible, Theology and Church History but the most important thing hasn't so much been the subjects but that I've learnt how to study.'

*What brought you to St Mary's, to Sunbury?*

'I had met Kim Beales a couple of times around Melbourne and then one day bumped into him at College. The day before I had been praying about student placement and so mentioned this to Kim.'

Not long afterwards Matthew met up with Kim, Gavin and Max. Matthew was then offered a placement.

The family began ministry with the 5pm congregation in early 2016 with Matthew working alongside Kim for two years. Then, with Kim's decision to take up a new ministry role in Hobart late 2017, Matthew was offered the Associate Minister role taking over leadership of 5pm.

Moving from visiting Sunbury weekly for Church and other outreach and community activities, the family relocated to make Sunbury home last December. Matthew says:

'It has been great getting to know a bit about Sunbury over the past two years, but much more now that we are immersed in the community. We love the feel of Sunbury, the friendly and laid back nature of people. Like any place though, there is a great need for people to know Jesus. There are challenges which face some of the demographics of our town and ultimately only Jesus can meet those needs.'

'As we grow as disciples we look not only at ourselves, to those around us, those we interact with everyday, especially those who don't yet know Christ. It excites me to think of the potentials for evangelism in Sunbury and the ways in which people from 5pm, and of course all of St Mary's, can get involved in sharing God's love in Jesus with our town.'

'I hope to encourage people to grow not only in knowledge, but also in their ability to learn. To see and hear of Christians maturing is something that brings me joy.'

**Matthew is available every day except Fridays. If there is anything you need or were wondering about, or if you'd like to catch up with him, please do get in touch. Mobile 0401 615 099, email [matthew.browne@hotmail.com.au](mailto:matthew.browne@hotmail.com.au)**

## 2 Men and a Baby

"Hello. My name is Jeremiah. I am currently a student minister at St. Mary's, and in my last year studying at Ridley collage. I am married to Laura. It is such a joy this year to be serving with my wife and alongside the Browne family at St. Mary's.

I have known Matthew for the past four years. We began at Ridley College together as shy, baby-faced first years (he only had a little beard back then, and I didn't have any!). I take credit for matching him up with Erin (though the accuracy of that claim is highly debated), got to be a groomsman at their wedding, and now it is our great privilege to be Godparents to Timothy. Matt's been a great encouragement, support, and mate, and I am so grateful to God that I get to serve alongside him in Gospel ministry this year."



# The Mystery man on the wall of our Church

*Article and research by Peter Watts*

Does my name, Hubert Ayres, ring a bell with you? As you have sat in St. Mary's church perhaps your mind has wandered during a sermon and your eye has lit upon my plaque, mounted as it is on the left-hand wall facing the front.

In Memoriam  
Hubert Ayres  
Born Dec. 24th 1848  
Died Mar. 27th 1909

In the midst of life we are in death.

Have you ever wondered, who I was? and why I have a plaque amongst the Clarke family? What was my relationship with St. Marys?

I am the son of the Thomas Ayres a Rector (Vicar) of the Church of England at Melbury Bubb which is a little village in the south of England in Dorset. My mother was Rebecca Mary Dowling. My mother's sister Eliza, married William J. T. Clarke in 1829 and they emigrated to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). My Uncle William started building his fortune by buying up land and breeding cattle and Leicester sheep. He came to the mainland and bought various land holdings in New South Wales, including Northern and Southern Victoria. He became a very wealthy and influential man.

William bought 31,000 acres of land in 1851 from the Government under a Special Survey which was here at Sunbury. He had the squatters already on this land removed as the law entitled him to at that time. Some he could not remove such as Mr. George Evans. Later he added another 20,000 acres adjoining the first survey which meant his land went over to the Old Sydney Road. The first survey boundaries were approximately, Sunbury to the Calder Highway (we knew it as the Mt. Alexander road) as far as the base of Mt. Macedon and across to Kerrie and Romsey, then back down the Lancefield Road to Sunbury. He also bought a considerable amount of land in Sunbury itself. He was a shrewd and hard-headed business man who made the most of his contacts and the opportunities that came his way.

I was born 1847 and I came out to Australia sometime before 1872. I married a lovely lady called Margaret Stewart in 1872. My wife's parents Robert and Christina had settled in Tullamarine after arriving in 1851. In 1878 my aunt Eliza died and William remarried sometime later. We lived in Sunbury and had all of our children here. I started work as the Red Rock Station Manager (a sheep station) for my uncle around 1884.

The sheep station was named after the hill called Red Rock which is at the end of Settlement Rd. West. That road was not there then, it came at a later time before that portion of the land around was sold off by my cousin Rupert from 1910 onwards. At that time, it was known as Red Rock Estate. If I remember correctly the homestead and out buildings were where the current Red Rock Farm is located on the right-hand side when going to Riddell's Creek, before what you know as Settlement Road. Margaret and I raised 11 children there, 6 girls and 5 boys, we did not have what you call television then so there was not a lot to do of an evening. Our lighting was by candles and kerosene lamp so even reading could be tiring. We tended to go to bed early and to rise early.

My team of men and I worked hard, Red Rock station was very large and was all grass lands. The station occupied about one third or more of the Sunbury Special Survey grant. We had fires come through from time to time because of lightning strikes. We even had a fire lit by some young local blokes which caused a lot of damage and I had to take them to court. We were kept very busy in lambing season, which was at the end of winter. Our lambing percentage was 83% which we thought quite good, but over at Rockbank where my uncle had another large land holding, it was 93%. We hoped to do better.

I hated the winter, it was so cold and at many times miserable. As no doubt you know, the weather here on the plain of Red Rock can be very different to Sunbury which is sheltered from much of the wind as it is lower and in a basin. Going to church for us was a major undertaking as I think you could imagine. No nice warm automobile for us, just a horse ride or horse and phaeton depending on which members of the family were going and how many.

*Continued next page*

## Hubert Ayres *continued....*



William at times through the year had coursing days (rabbit hunting) and various areas had to be prepared for this, transport also had to be arranged for those coming up from Melbourne, food provided etc. It was always a big deal as these people were our landed gentry.

In January 1897 I think it was, we had a visit from Minor Canon Cross, Vicar of Williamstown who loves shooting, he almost cleaned the property out of vermin and game, he was that keen. (I guess that is what a Minor Canon is good for)

I got to know most people in the town because of my position as Station Manager. After all, in some ways it resembled the village I came from in England and everyone knew everyone else's business. I got to know the local newspaper editor quite well as he was always looking for news. You can find out more about the lives of Sunbury people from "The Sunbury News" by using that new-fangled web site "Trove". What is the web by the way?

My family and I worshipped as you do at St. Marys, and we took part in the life of our church. I guess I am a believer in "do unto others as you would have them do unto to you" so I got on quite well with people from the other denominations of our town and those who were not involved in church things. Our church has also always co-operated closely with St. Andrews Church across the other side of Stawell St. (sorry, the Village Green, what a good idea that was)

I want to encourage you to keep fighting the good fight for Jesus, stay united and active in St. Marys as all of us have done over many, many, years. Oh, as to the plaque perhaps my family or the Clarke family had it put there on the wall.

Well that is enough about my life, now I am no longer a mystery to you.

Part of the Memorial service held for Hubert Ayers on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1909 at St. Marys Church of England Sunbury

Hubert died on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. March 1909 at Red Rock Station from heart failure.

"Hubert Ayres was brought up under the shadow of the church. His father, Rev. Thomas Ayres was the rector of the Church of England at Melbury Bubb. His early training under a Godly father manifested itself throughout his life in deeds of kindness and Christian charity. He never as far as I know turned a deaf ear to any call to help the poor and afflicted. For nearly ten years I have been privileged to minister to him in holy things and it is a matter of regret that I was absent from this pulpit on Sunday last when Mr. Ayres was a worshipper in this church for the last time.

Of Hubert Ayres as a man and a churchman I can only speak in the highest of terms. As a man, he was of a most retiring and unassuming nature, but full of the milk of human kindness. He detested meanness, he abhorred show or ostentation of any kind. Occupying as he did, a position that might have gained him an enemy or two, Hubert Ayres by kindness and geniality, has left behind him a host of friends and not one single enemy.

As a church man his attendance at the house of God was a brilliant example to his fellow churchman here in Sunbury. Living five miles (8 kilometres) from the church and suffering intensely from the cold, I have often admired the way in which he showed his love for God by coming here to worship on the coldest winter days. While a loyal and devoted son of the English church he was ever ready to extend the hand of Christian fellowship to all those who did not see eye to eye with him in church government.

But not only by his presence did he support the church, he was a most liberal contributor to its funds. Whenever a call was made he responded to it most liberally. Such a man can ill be spared from any congregation and his loss to this church is irreparable." Rev C.E. Gayer

A daughter of Hubert and Margaret was in hospital with typhoid fever at the time of his death. Hubert was buried on the anniversary of his wedding day.