



# St Mary's Grapevine

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH | DECEMBER 2016

## Gavin's Grab

Greetings everyone,  
While Sharon and I were away on holidays recently, we visited the small village of Crathie, near Balmoral Castle in the Scottish Highlands. In the village is Crathie Kirk, a small Church of Scotland Church which Queen Elizabeth attends every Sunday during her summer holidays at Balmoral. In fact just two days before we visited, Prince Charles and Camilla had attended the normal Sunday morning service. The Royal family enter the church through a side entrance and are seated in a side chapel, however when there is communion, they take communion up at the rail along with everyone else.

Queen Elizabeth is the head of the Church of England, and in her case, this has not just been nominal but as an active Christian, a woman of genuine faith in Christ. In her 2014 Christmas message she said: *"For me the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith and none."*

Let's take a lead from Queen Elizabeth, whether we be a royalist or republican, and let our lives (in words and actions) over this Christmas period be seen to be as genuine people of faith in Christ.

Some updates from around the Parish:-

### **Children's Outreach Worker**

We are pleased to announce that following a generous grant from the Girls Friendly Society (GFS) we have been able to engage Laura Paul as our new Children's Outreach Worker. Laura's role will be focussed around the 5pm congregation and on outreach to younger families with a mid-week children's programme (perhaps an after school programme).

### **Buildings Update**

The Diocesan Building Committee have approved our concept plans and given us permission to move to the next stage of applying for a Town Planning Permit from Hume Council. This process will take some time throughout 2017. In addition, Phill Stacy and I have visited each School in the District to ascertain their interest in using our new facility and we have received some positive responses. Our goal is, and always been, to build something that the community will be able to use.



# Gavin's Grab *continued*

## 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Plans

Annette Swaffield and I have put together a draft plan of how we might celebrate St Mary's 150<sup>th</sup> in November 2017. Thanks for your input and ideas. Look out for ways you can assist as we develop further plans.

## Long Service Leave

Thank you for your prayers for Sharon and I while we were away. This was effectively my first decent holiday for 5 years and for us our honeymoon and an opportunity for us to tick off various items from our respective bucket lists as we created our own memories in this early stage of our married life.

Many have asked us what we did and how the holiday went so I thought I'd write a brief report here with a couple of photos.

In this once in a lifetime holiday, we visited the west coast of Canada (including seeing Grizzly Bears feeding on salmon, a bus trip through the majestic Rocky Mountains and a 2 day trip on the Rocky Mountaineer). We then visited Alaska (travelling by ship up the coast and then by bus and hire car through the interior of Alaska) and marvelled at the magnificent fjords, glaciers, mountains and sea life.

We then travelled to the United Kingdom where we hired a car for 5 weeks and travelled around the countryside of England, Scotland and Wales, as the wind blew. We immersed ourselves in history and more beautiful scenery. We also caught up with various friends and relatives, including a traditional Scottish meal with Jamie Koo in Edinburgh and worshipping with Rob Haarhoff in Hadden. I also, for the first time, met my long time pen pal, Danielle from Belgium.

We finally travelled back to central Canada to spend about a week on "safari" watching Polar Bears in the tundra as they gathered to go out on the ice for their winter feeding season.

The highlights for Sharon were having High Tea on the Royal Yacht Britannia, the beauty of the Isle of Skye and the Rocky Mountaineer.

My highlights were seeing various animals in the wild including Grizzly, Black and Polar Bears, Moose, Sea Otters and Orcas, a tour of the Battleship HMS Belfast and the Dr Who Experience in Cardiff.

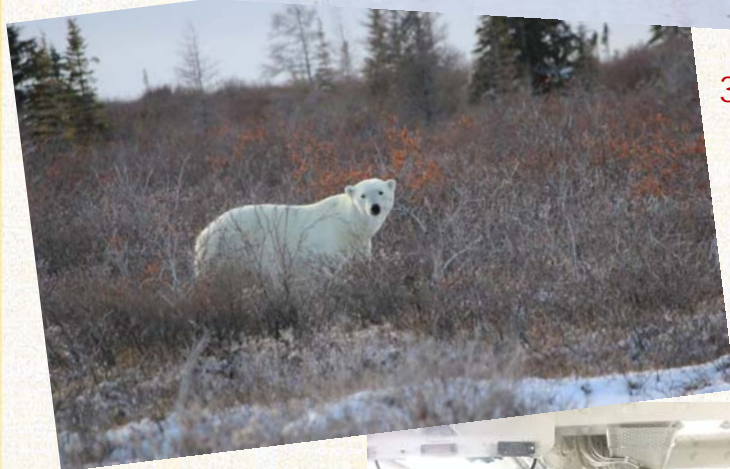


1.

2.



3.



- 1. High Tea on the Royal Yacht Britannia
- 2- On the Canadian Tundra in our Winter Gear
- 3 - Polar Bear wanders near us
- 4 - What's that you see on the radar? on HMS Belfast



4.

We have many memories, and even more photos and we give thanks to God for enabling us to be able to spend this time together and enjoy the beauty of His creation.

Sharon and I wish you and your families God's richest blessings this Christmas and may you know his peace, love and joy into 2017.



# 2016-17 St Mary's Parish Council & Committees

## **Wardens**

Mark Armstrong  
Wendy Caramarco  
Noel Sprague

## **Parish Council**

### **Treasurer**

Alan Phillips

### **Secretary**

Max Langshaw

Benjamin Clements  
Don Cottell  
Samantha Dennett  
Phillip Stacy  
Peter Schou  
Annette Swaffield  
Michael Williams

## **Incumbency Committee**

Noel Sprague  
Don Cottell  
Alan Phillips

## **Building Committee**

Benjamin Clements  
Alan Phillips  
Noel Sprague  
Philip Stacy

## **Electoral Roll Committee**

Annette Swaffield

# 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

Thank You to everyone who submitted ideas on how we might celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> in November next 2017. Here are some of the ideas that have been received. Watch out for future editions of the Grapevine, the pew sheet, Facebook, emails and maybe even old fashioned town criers (who knows- anything is possible!) for announcements and updates! If these plans trigger any other great ideas for you please let Annette or Gavin know

- Permanent Display of Historical photos, registers etc in Parish House for the week
- Kim to write a song
- Careworks Collection all week
- Refugee visit- weekend 25/26 November
- Max to take a photo from Spencer's plane
- Merchandise:- Tea Towels, mugs, aprons, glasses
- Book Launch (History of St Mary's)
- Quiz Night – Family Feud type night
- Unveiling of 150th Quilt
- Evangelistic Activity/Prayer Walk at Street Life festival on November 19th
- 1662 Service/Evensong/how church might have been in 1867
- Old- time AGM
- Open Afternoon at Stitch and Sew Old craft day etc
- Women's Cocktail Evening/High Tea etc with a speaker
- Bush Dance: at Sunbury West Primary School
- Big Birthday Bash at Music Playtime Pampering of Mums/High Tea
- Friday Friendship Lunch –old Time singalong
- Men's Event/Speaker – 150th Focus
- Colonial Ball
- Sunday 26/11 – Special Service (s) – 8.30am and 10.30am followed by lunch
- "Dig the first sod"
- Children's games/cricket match, birthday cake



# 2017 Preaching Plan

Here's a guide to some of what you can look forward to in the coming year.

Please note that not all of the sermons have been listed! Keep an eye on the pew sheet and Facebook pages for more information.

## Morning Services

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • January 1 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>       | "My favorite Psalm is...."                           |
| • January 29 <sup>th</sup>                        | Annual Prayer Walk                                   |
| • February 5 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>      | Spiritual Health Check-up                            |
| • February 26 <sup>th</sup>                       | Meet our new CMS Missionaries- Chris and Grace Adams |
| • March 5 <sup>th</sup> -April 26 <sup>th</sup>   | Lenten Series - Passion Narrative from Luke          |
| • April 23 <sup>rd</sup> - May 29 <sup>th</sup>   | 1 Samuel series                                      |
| • June 18 <sup>th</sup> -July 9 <sup>th</sup>     | "Guard your heart"                                   |
| • July 16 <sup>th</sup> - August 20 <sup>th</sup> | Romans 4-6   |
| • September 3 <sup>rd</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>     | "A Christian approach to....."                       |
| • Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> - October 8 <sup>th</sup> | Jesus and the wrong crowd                            |
| • November 29 <sup>th</sup>                       | 500 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation     |
| • November 5 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>      | Identity in Christ                                   |
| • November 19 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>     | 150 <sup>th</sup> Celebrations                       |
| • December 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>     | The trinity in the Christmas Story                   |

## 5pm Services

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • January 15 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>        | John 15                                     |
| • January 29 <sup>th</sup> - Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>   | Isaiah                                      |
| • March 5 <sup>th</sup> -April 26 <sup>th</sup>     | Lenten Series - Passion Narrative from Luke |
| • April 23 <sup>rd</sup> - May 14 <sup>th</sup>     | The Holy Spirit                             |
| • May 21 <sup>st</sup> – June 11 <sup>th</sup>      | Apologetics                                 |
| • July 2 <sup>nd</sup> – July 16 <sup>th</sup>      | Old Testament Minor Prophet                 |
| • July 23 <sup>rd</sup> - September 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Exodus                                      |
| • September 10 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>     | Acts or Epistle (TBC)                       |
| • Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> -Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>        | Wisdom                                      |
| • November 19 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>       | 150 <sup>th</sup> Celebrations              |
| • December 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>       | The trinity in the Christmas Story          |



## Staff Retreat

On November 14 & 15 the staff team headed to Point Lonsdale for 2 days of planning, prayer and praising God- reflecting on the past few years, sharing with each other how God has been working in our lives this year, and looking ahead to the coming years. It was a very productive time as we put together some big picture plans as well as a preaching plan that goes right through to Easter Day 2018!! We squeezed in a game of mini golf and took the opportunity to observe the super moon as it attempted to break through the clouds over Port Phillip heads.



## Catchup @ the cricket

The 5pm Community are organising the annual Catchup @ the Big Bash cricket for the whole of St Mary's to come along to!

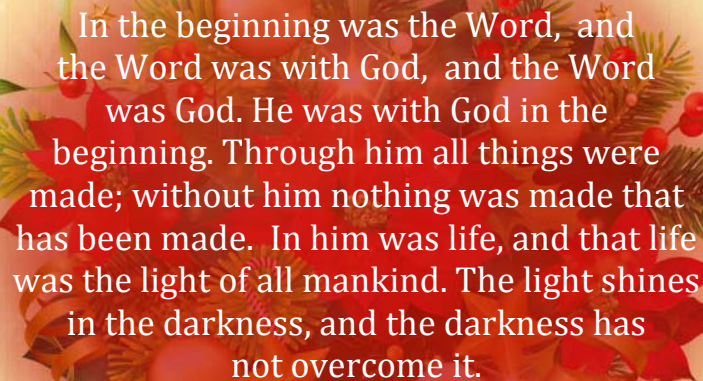
**When:** Thursday 12th January

**Meet:** at 7.15pm outside Gate 5 at Etihad Stadium (game commences at 7.40pm)

**The Plan:** We'll meet outside Gate 5 where you can purchase your General admission tickets for the Melbourne Renegades vs. Hobart Hurricanes game, then all go in and find seats together.

**Cost:** Adults approx \$20, Concession \$15.00 approx. Kids approx \$5 (see Ticketmaster website for ticket prices)

**RSVP:** Narelle- 0408 406 424  
admin@stmarysanglican.org.au



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

## God's Gang & Blast - 2017

I met with parents and others interested in the discipling of our young children for 2017. We have decided that God's Gang will continue for 2017 in conjunction with the 10.30am service (under the capable leadership of Klara and Vinci). For children of Blast age, they will combine with God's Gang for the early part of the gathering and then separate with a leader and use a sheet to discuss the Bible Passage being preached on that day. At times they will also listen to the sermon and then sit with the preacher to discuss what was said and apply it to their lives.

On the last Sunday of each month, Kim will involve the children in music and singing in the service. God's Gang and Blast will then operate as normal on those days.

Once a term - set for Sunday 26 March in term 1, all the children will be involved in all aspects of the service and there will be no God's Gang or Blast.

God's Gang and Blast will need people to assist in 2017. If you feel God's call to be serving Him amongst our children in 2017, please let myself or Klara Hahne know.

*Gavin Ward*



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

# Christmas at St Mary's

7-19 O'Shanassy St, Sunbury  
9744 1347

## Sunday 18th December

**5:00pm** Christmas Service and BBQ at St Andrews

**7:00pm** Carols & Lessons service at Mt Carmel

## Saturday 24th December

**7:00pm** Christmas Eve Family Service

**11:00pm** Christmas Eve Communion Service

## Sunday 25th December

**9:30am** Christmas Day Communion Service

Sunday 1st January

**9:30am** Communion Service



## Christmas Hours

St Mary's Community Store Christmas Trading Hours  
9740 5547

Friday December 23rd- 9.30am—4.00pm

Saturday December 24th- Closed

Sunday December 25th- Closed

Monday December 26th- Closed

Tuesday December 27th- Closed

Wednesday December 28th- 9.30am- 4.00pm

Thursday December 29th- 9.30am- 4.00pm

Friday December 30th- 9.30am- 4.00pm

Saturday December 31st- Closed

Sunday January 1st 2017 - Closed

Monday January 2nd 2017- Closed

Tuesday January 3rd 2017 *Regular shop hours resume*

We wish all our wonderful customers a very Merry  
Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2017.



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

## Contact St Mary's

PO Box 2049 Sunbury VIC 3429

p: 03 9744 1347

[admin@stmarysanglican.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarysanglican.org.au)

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

[www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Anglican](https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Anglican)

[www.facebook.com/5pmcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/5pmcommunity)

St Mary's Community Store- 9740 5547