



Grapevine

December 2014

Newsletter of St Mary's Anglican Church

www.stmarysanglican.org.au

03 9744 1347



Christmas Service Times

Sunday 21st December

7:00pm Carols and Lessons Service

Wednesday 24th December

7:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service

11:00pm Christmas Eve Communion Service

Thursday 25th December

9:30am Christmas Day Communion Service

Sunday 28th December

9:30am Holy Communion Service

Gavin's Christmas Message

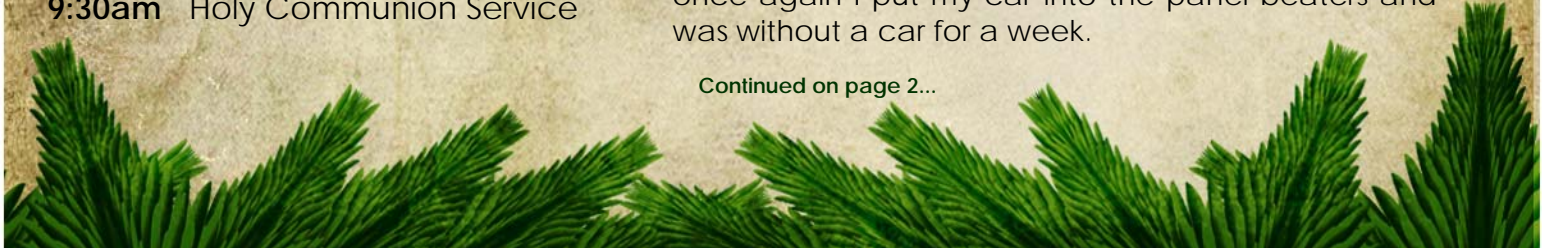
By Rev. Gavin Ward

I backed into the side of my garage, scraping a large section of two rear panels of my car. I had just returned from Africa and I was a little jet lagged and not concentrating properly. I was really annoyed at my mistake and took extra care after that in reversing into my garage.

I finally decided to have the car repaired (as it looked awful). I was without my car for a week as the panel beaters did their work. I finally received my car back and it looked great. I remained very careful backing into my garage.

Three weeks later I parked my car in O'Shanassy Street. As I was preparing to leave the lady beside me was reversing her car so I waited for her to do so. She turned sharply and backed into my car – hitting it in exactly the same spot. Once again I had a dent in the two rear panels of my car. I was annoyed and once again I put my car into the panel beaters and was without a car for a week.

Continued on page 2...



Approved Building Fund and Telford Bequest

In July 2014, St Mary's received a bequest from the estate of Jack Telford (which also includes Anne Telford) for the amount of \$830,000. We give much thanks to God for Jack and Anne Telford's generosity towards us. We have set this bequest aside for the purpose of our building plans. For full details regarding the bequest and how it has been invested please collect one of the yellow flyers titled "Approved Building Fund and Telford Bequest" from the church or hall.

St Mary's Parish has received approval from the Diocese (Archbishop-in-Council) to establish a Building Fund to raise up to \$3 million for a new St Mary's Building. The Telford Bequest forms the initial part of this Building Fund.

The Vicarage Loan has now been paid off and all contributions received since the loan was paid off have now been transferred to the new Building fund,

Just a reminder that if you have been giving towards the Vicarage Loan electronically through the ADF you will need to call the Anglican Development Fund on 9653 4220 and advise them the new account number for your contributions is now 05004905.

Gavin's Christmas message continued ...

This lead me to think about our relationship with God. Sometimes we do something that causes a dent in our relationship with God. Some sin that we are annoyed at and we confess our sin and take great care to try not to do it again. Maybe just as we are feeling ok about things again and knowing God's forgiveness, we do the same thing again – in the same spot and that annoyance returns. We can even feel we have let God down. We might even feel like giving up as we keep doing, saying, thinking that thing. We can feel defeated.

The message of Christmas is that God has done something on our behalf to release us from the pain of that sin. Ephesians 2 reminds us that, in spite of those things we keep on doing, saying and thinking, God, who is rich in mercy, has made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. It is by God's grace we have been saved.

The baby in the manger grew up to be our Saviour, taking the blame on himself for all those things we repeat doing, saying and thinking. His resurrection from the dead demonstrates that sin has been defeated and provides wonderful hope for everyone who trusts in Him.



I encourage you this Christmas to spend a moment giving thanks to God for his grace shown to you and seek his strength to defeat those things in your life that keep bringing you down.

I wish each of you God's peace and strength this Christmas and into the New Year and don't park your car near mine ☺

Gavin



Vision Update by Gavin Ward

Over the past few months there has been much activity in regards to our Vision. Here is a brief overview of what has been happening.

Mission Action Teams

Two Mission Action Teams have been meeting and undertaking various pathways initiatives-making connections with people in our community who are not members of St Mary's. The results have been:-

- Three "Sing and Soup" gatherings on a Thursday at 12pm with an average attendance of over 30 (with over half of those attending not being members of St Mary's);
- An "Open Church" with 16 people attending who are not members of St Mary's;

Another Mission Action Team has been working towards the establishment of a new evening congregation. The decision has now been made to commence a regular 5pm service from 15 February, 2015. See Kim's article below.

Church Reconfiguration

As you will have noticed the church has been reconfigured to allow more to be comfortably seated. In addition, very comfortable chairs have now been provided for the Memorial Chapel and cushions are being sourced for all the pews in the main Chapel.

New Building

The Building and Finance Committees have been active engaging a surveyor to undertake a complete survey of our Land. In addition a letter has been sent to Hume Council reminding them of our ownership of part of the Village Green. Hume Council has also offered us (free of charge) results of a recent survey they completed of the Village Green. In addition an inspection has occurred of a recent local church development.

There are exciting things happening and I'll keep you posted with developments as they occur throughout 2015. Please keep praying for God's wisdom as we have a go and follow His vision for us.

Weekly 5pm Service in 2015 by Kim Beales

After much prayer and conversation it has been decided to go ahead with a 5pm service, followed by Youth United (6:15-8:15), and other hospitality gatherings afterwards. We had extensive conversations with Youth United, who encouraged us to choose a time that might help the service best flourish. The primary reason for the choice of a 5pm time is that we have made a considerable number of contacts with families, (who are either not attending church, or attending on an occasional basis). We decided that this time slot would be the best suitable for an all ages gathering, and we hope to grow, by having new people embrace the gospel and join our community.

Getting Involved

We are developing a core team that will be committed to attending weekly. There are also a number of people who would like to help, but will continue to worship in the morning. We are creating a team for each Sunday of the month, so as to share a range of roles, and to help these new plans to be sustainable for all. Please contact with Kim Beales if you would like to be involved.

Prayer and Planning Night – Sunday 18th January, 5pm at St Mary's

This will be an opportunity for the team to meet together, (with praying friends). There will be time for prayer, and also for some discussion and brainstorming. We will follow this with some food afterwards.

Kick-Off Camp, 6-8th February 2015

This is for all who are helping to start the new weekly service, and for our Youth United leadership team. We will be going to Ballarat to the "Welcome Stranger Holiday Park". The purpose will be to get to know one another more, to pray together, and to have some training and brainstorming sessions as we start off the year. There are a range of accommodation options, and people will be invite to register with Kim, and to book their own accommodation with the site. A brochure will be available in the hall, and at www.stmarysanglican.org.au

First 5pm Service – Sunday 15th February

We will commission the team at our morning services on Sunday 15th, and will then have our first service that afternoon.

Grace and peace, from Kim Beales



2015 Preaching Planner

January 4	Philippians	July 5	Question Sunday
January 11	Philippians	July 12	Thanksgiving Sunday
January 18	Philippians	July 19	Zephaniah
January 25	Prayer Walk	July 26	Zephaniah
February 1	Philippians	August 2	Zephaniah
February 8	Philippians	August 9	Joseph
February 15	Philippians	August 16	Joseph
February 22	Philippians	August 23	Joseph
<u>Lent</u>		August 30	Joseph
March 1	Jesus' Words on the Cross	September 6	Joseph
March 8	Jesus' Words on the Cross	September 13	Question Sunday
March 15	Jesus' Words on the Cross	September 20	Big Questions
March 22	Jesus' Words on the Cross	September 27	Big Questions
March 29	Jesus' Words on the Cross	October 4	Big Questions
April 5	Resurrection Appearances	October 11	2 Thessalonians
April 12	Resurrection Appearances	October 18	2 Thessalonians
April 19	Resurrection Appearances	October 25	2 Thessalonians
April 26	100 th Anniversary of Anzac Day	November 1	Proverbs
<u>Big words that end in "Shun"</u>		November 8	Proverbs
May 3	Justification	November 15	Prayer
May 10	Sanctification	November 22	Prayer
May 17	Glorification	<u>Advent</u>	
<u>"Being a Christian in the World"</u>		November 29	Isaiah- Servant Songs
May 24	In the Mundane	December 6	Isaiah- Servant Songs
May 31	In the Joys	December 13	Isaiah- Servant Songs
June 7	In the Complexities	December 20	Isaiah- Servant Songs
June 14	Mission on our Doorstep		
June 21	Mission on our Doorstep		
June 28	Mission on our Doorstep		