



St Mary's Grapevine

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

Gavin's Grab

Greetings everyone,

It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, 'What are you charged with?' The prisoner replied, 'Doing my Christmas shopping too early.' 'That's no crime', said the magistrate. 'Just how early were you doing this shopping?'

'Before the shop opened', answered the prisoner.

I trust you've all done your Christmas shopping, "during shop opening hours".

Christmas is a time of the year when all sorts of jokes are told, including the ones we'll get in our Christmas Bon Bons over a meal.

While these jokes add to the enjoyment of our Christmas celebrations and gatherings (yes even the "Dad" jokes), Christmas itself is not a joke for many people.

Many find it a difficult time because of the emphasis placed on families and gatherings, when they might be alone and without a close family for any number of reasons.

Some may also find it difficult because they are grieving the loss of a loved one or close friend who won't be here this Christmas.

My thanks to the many at St Mary's who seek to make a difference to others by following Jesus and sharing God's love and care in practical and other ways to those who find life tough. Activities and ministries like all the food and goodies for the Careworks hampers, the Friday Friendship Lunch, Kids Hope, the Community Store, Church services in Aged Care facilities and Sing'n'Soup reach out to those in need. The Christmas Day lunch at the Baptist Church is a wonderful place for those who are lonely on Christmas Day.

The generosity of many people to raise over \$9,000 to help feed desperately hungry households in the Chibobo Community of Zambia was another testament to our love and service together of the baby in the manger who became the saviour on the Cross and the risen, victorious Lord.

As we head into 2019, we have many plans and dreams in front of us.

The Staff team have put together a preaching schedule (in this Edition) for the next 15 months (yes through to Easter 2020) which we pray will continue to open our eyes and hearts to the wonders of God's grace, mercy, love and holiness through His Word.

The Building Project will be moving to the next stages and I encourage you to continue to pray for the Building and Finance Committees as they get about God's work. You may like to join Alison Rae's prayer group at the church at 7am on Saturdays.

The Winter Night Shelter Project will also be taking shape as we join with the other churches and care for those who are homeless in this local community of Sunbury, see the separate article for an update on the plans for the Winter Night Shelter.

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Gavin's Grab *continued from page 1*

Of course we head into 2019 without Laura and Jeremiah Paul, who we farewell at the end of 2018. Laura (for 2 years) and Jeremiah (for this year) have been wonderful, generous and energetic servants of God amongst us and have blessed us in many areas of Parish life. We will miss them greatly and pray for God's grace and strength for them as they head to All Saints Clayton for the next few years.

Jeremiah will be Ordained at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 9 February, 2019.

As we give thanks to God for his provision for us in 2018 and as look ahead to 2019 with many plans and dreams, may we continue to do so in the power and strength of the one who entered our world as a baby in a manger and who gave his life for all, that we might have peace with God.

May God's peace and joy be upon your households and families this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Gavin

Variations to regular services

No Wednesday service on Boxing Day

Sunday 30th December - 9.30am Combined Service

Sunday 6th December - 8.30am & 10.30am Services
No 5pm Service

All services are back to regular times on Sunday 13th December

An update from Matt

2018 has been a huge year for the 5pm community but with God's guidance and continued faithfulness he has been doing what he does; bringing people to know him and growing those who already do.

Thanks to everyone who recently supported me at my ordination as priest. It was a great occasion and a confirmation of God's call.

5pm is taking a short break after Christmas, not meeting on the 30 Dec or 06 Jan, and resuming normal services on 13 Jan.

2019 is shaping up to be a great year. Several events are starting to take shape for the first part of the year. On 20 Jan we'll be taking our post service dinner out onto the Village Green with a byo picnic and some games. Remember to bring your picnic rugs, plenty of food and drink and to be praying for nice weather.

Almost 50 people have now booked to go on camp to Marysville from Fri 22 – Sun 24 February. There are still a couple of cabins and sites available but they have now been released to the general public so be quick to make sure you get a spot. I'm really looking forward to going away for the weekend, praising God, learning from his word and encouraging one another in our faith, all the whilst having loads of fun!

Thanks for everyone's generous and joyful service to God and his church in 2018 and for your continued readiness to follow him into 2019.



Matthew

Winter Night Shelter- Christmas Update

by Rod Smyrk (St Mary's Representative on the Committee)

Committee and Churches involved

The inaugural meeting of the Committee to organise the Winter Night Shelter for 2019 was held on Monday Nov 26th 2018 at St Andrews Uniting Church.

Chris Morgan-Prosser is the Co-ordinator of the Project and the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist and Uniting Churches were represented at the meeting.

The Salvation Army will also participate in the Project thus providing five of the required seven Church participants.

Dialogue is being conducted with the Lutheran Church about their possible involvement whilst the Sunbury Community Church has indicated that they will provide resources to assist the project but because they meet in the Sunbury Memorial Hall they are unable to offer a building.

Overview of the Project

The Winter Night Shelter Project will operate for 13 weeks from June 1st – August 30th each year and will provide a bed, food and fellowship each night for those who for whatever reason find themselves homeless during this period.

Guests will gather at a centralised location each day and be assessed as to their suitability (e.g not affected by alcohol or drugs) for accommodation that evening. Each church will provide the accommodation on a specific night. It's likely that St Mary's will provide accommodation on Thursday nights in our hall.

Safety for both the guests and anyone who volunteers is paramount. All guests will be assessed before being admitted into the Project. The assessment will be undertaken by a trained team of assessors.

Up to a maximum of 10 guests will be admitted each night. It is expected that guests will be male but if female guests are also present then segregated facilities must be provided and both male and female voluntary supervisors will be required.

Although 10 guests may be seen as a somewhat low number, especially as on average there is approximately 28 - 30 homeless people in Sunbury on any given night, experience from Yarra Valley Ranges has seen 10 guests as the maximum number they have ever had on the one night.

There will be an age restriction on guests. They will need to be 20 or older. The reason for this is that there is already homeless resource provision via and through the Salvation Army for people younger than this.

There will be no limit on the number of times an individual guest may access Project facilities during this time.

Volunteers

Volunteers will staff the shelter over three shifts, viz, 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm,

10.00 pm – 7.00 am, 7.00 am – 9.00 am.

A minimum of three volunteers per shift would be ideal, with at least two being awake through the night.

Dinner will be provided during the 6.00 – 10.00 pm shift and breakfast during the 7.00 am – 9.00 am shift. Two volunteers could operate on each of these shifts and ideally will have food handling certification.

No volunteer should be alone with a guest and a leader will be identified for each shift.

An indication of interest form is to be collected from prospective volunteers in February 2019 with a proposed training course to be conducted on May 4th 2019.

Although volunteers will not be required to have a police check, a Working with Children Clearance will be required.

A personal reference for a volunteer will also be seen as a useful recommendation of the proposed volunteer.

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Winter Night Shelter update *continued from page 3*

Finances

The following budget has been compiled and presented by the Co-ordinator

Volunteer expenses	\$500.00
Church Expenses (subsidies for those needing assistance)	\$2000.00
Guest expenses	\$1000.00
Equipment (bedding etc.)	\$1000.00
Travel (fuel, minibus costs)	\$1000.00
Administration (incl. web hosting, printing, sundries, phone)	\$3000.00
Office set up and running costs (rent, furniture, equipment)	\$2500.00
Insurance for Winter Night Shelter (liability/volunteers)	\$2000.00
Salaries and possible trailer purchase	TBA
Total costs for project	\$13000.00

Equipment Needed

There will be some Equipment needed for the project.

A purpose built trailer will be required and will cost several thousands of dollars. Discussions are currently being held with the Bendigo Bank re the Bank's possible funding of the trailer.

A bus may also become available through the Bendigo Bank but not for the exclusive use of the Winter Night Project but as a community bus to which the Project will have access.

Other equipment such as stretchers and bedding will hopefully be donated to the Project.

Prayer

Prayer will be a critical part of this project.

Lois Gallus from the Baptist Church has been appointed Prayer Co-ordinator and Sue Allaz will be the St Mary's Prayer Co-ordinator.

The prayer for the Winter Night Shelter Project is from Ephesians 3:20

"Our God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or even imagine, according to His power that is at work within us."

Accordingly all that we pray, everything that is planned, said and done is all TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

Lois has prepared the following prayer points for all of our Churches to pray and I encourage you to join us in prayer:-

December Winter Night Shelter Prayer Points

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST; AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ..."

"UNLESS the Lord builds the house; they labour in vain who build it." PS 127:1.

"THE LORD thy God in the midst of thee, is MIGHTY" ZEPH 3:17.

THE PEOPLE:

PRAY that THOSE WITHOUT HOMES will know that the Lord is their Shepherd and that He will enable them to lie down safely; and that He is able to RESTORE them.

PRAISE GOD for the marvelous Sunbury Community; and for their generous donation at The Carols on the Green to WNS.

PRAISE GOD for the generous DONORS of money and bed linen.

PRAY that hearts will continue to be stirred to give.

PRAISE GOD for Chris Morgan-Prosser and the Steering Committee Team who lead this project.

PRAY that they each will remain strong in the Strength of the Lord and be led by Godly Wisdom.

PRAISE GOD for the VOLUNTEERS committed to being involved.

PRAY that more will come forward to comfortably run the 3 month program.

THE PLACE:

PRAISE GOD for the VENUES which have signed the Partnership Agreements; and for other supportive Sunbury organisations.

PRAY that other venues may participate with their congregations.

THE PLAN:

PRAISE GOD for the provision of this Project to Sunbury; and for "STABLE ONE" in the Yarra Ranges as a help and model.

PRAY that God's Plans and Purposes will be made clear to all; and that THE HOLY SPIRIT will be their Guide.

PRAISE GOD that the churches of Sunbury are working together to bring about THE KINGDOM OF GOD in this community.

PRAY for the UNITY of the Spirit to prevail.

2019 Preaching Plan

* Subject to alteration

January 6, 13 & 20	Favourite Bible Stories
January 27	Prayer Walk
February 3,10,17,& 24	"Getting our house in order"- Bible reading, serving, prayer life, relationships, generosity.
March 3,10,17,24 &31	Lent- John's Gospel
April 7,14 & 21	Lent & Easter John's Gospel
April 28	Jeremiah
May 5,12,19 & 26	Jeremiah
June 2	Ascension
June 9	Pentecost
June 16	Trinity
June 23	Guest Preacher
June 30	Question Sunday
July 7	What in the world is going on?
July 14,21 & 28	James
August 4,11 & 18	James
August 25	Romans- The story so far
September 1,8,15 & 22	Romans 9-11
October 6 & 13	Romans 9-11
October 20 & 27	Lamentations
November 3	Lamentations
November 10	Evangelism
November 17 & 24	Amazing Grace
December 1,8,15,22	He Shall be Called
December 29	Unlikely Heroes
January 5,12,19 2020	Unlikely Heroes



Congratulation to Pamela Allan who recently received her 50 year MU membership badge!



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Building Update

*Phil Stacy, Alan Phillips, Ben Clements,
Noel Sprague*

The architect is still preparing scope and finishes for the entire project and the Building Committee will closely examine all details in an effort to reduce costs prior to tender phase. Information provided at our Annual General Meeting reiterated that unless we have finance in place we will not be given permission to proceed by the Diocesan Building Committee.

The Fund Raising Committee has met and have brainstormed ways to raise funding. There will be further information on planned events in 2019 and we are seeking parishioner commitment through prayer and allocated giving to enable us to build our new worship centre.

Thank you to everyone who has upheld us in prayer during 2018 without your support we could not continue. We are greatly blessed by God in all we do.

2018-19 Wardens & Parish Council

Wardens

Mark Armstrong
Wendy Caramarco
Noel Sprague

Parish Council

Samantha Dennett- *Parish Secretary*
Alan Phillips- *Parish Treasurer*
Don Cottell
Marthie Grobler
Peter Schou
Michael Williams

Incumbency Committee

Don Cottell
Alison Rae
Noel Sprague

Electoral Roll Committee

Wendy Caramarco



CareWorks Christmas Collection

Thank You to everyone who contributed to our CareWorks Christmas Collection. We were able to hand over 5 trolley loads of Christmas foods to Michael Austin, Manager of CareWorks at our AGM on Monday 19th November.

There is a plastic tub near the pigeon holes in the hall foyer year round for donations of non-perishable food pantry items and toiletries, and monetary donations can be left at the office.