

St Mary's Grapevine

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, SUNBURY
MARCH 2019



Dates for your Diary

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| 5 Mar- | Riddell Gardens Service |
| 16 Mar- | Sunfest |
| 18 Mar- | Parish Prayer Meeting |
| 19 Mar- | Professional Standards Training |
| 20 Mar- | Mothers Union |
| 20 Mar- | BCA Prayer Meeting |
| 21 Mar- | Lions Hostel Service |
| 29 Mar- | Friday Friendship Lunch |
| 31 Mar- | 5pm Welcoming Training Session |
| 1 April- | "Introducing God" starts |
| 2 April- | Riddell Gardens Service |
| 6 April- | Games Night |
| 8 April- | Parish Prayer Meeting |
| 9 April- | Parish Council |
| 17 April- | Goonawarra Service |
| | Mothers Union |
| | BCA Prayer Meeting |

Gavin's Grab

Greetings everyone,

Well it has been a varied start to the year.

To begin with it has been very sad to experience the loss of Greg and Norma Nicholls in the tragedy of their accident and then to hear of the death of the Rev Bill Morriarty who, with his wife Wynn, were much loved members of our congregation back in the 1990's. We grieve together on these occasions.

In other areas of our Parish life the start has been great. Many people fed back to me how much they appreciated the "Favourite Stories of the Bible" series by the staff members and also "Getting our House in Order" series this past month. I trust and pray we take up the opportunities provided to study God's Word in Home Groups; to serve well together; to attend to our prayer life; to love one another as Christ has loved us and to treat each other as well as to be generous in all we have for God's work.

The Building and Finance Committees continue to work hard and we hope to have the next steps with you shortly.

It's been wonderful to see so many people sign up for the Winter Night Shelter Project. It's every encouraging to be in a Parish which cares so much for those who are vulnerable in our community.

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A few matters to bring you up to date with:-

Lenten Study Series

Matt Browne and myself have produced Bible Studies to accompany the sermons we'll be preaching during Lent. The series and studies are on what is known as Jesus' Farewell Discourse...his words to the disciples at the last supper before his arrest, trial and crucifixion. These words provide us with encouragement and a challenge as we seek to serve Jesus in our lives today. The studies, available today, will be used by Home Groups or you may wish to take a set and do them yourselves.

Lavinia Kay Clements

Our beautiful granddaughter was born on 19 February at Sunshine Hospital. Emily and Lavinia are doing well and settling quietly (with Benjamin and Germaine) into family life as a family of 4. We give thanks to God for his rich blessings.

10.30am Congregation Meeting

The 10.30am congregation met on Saturday 2nd February to review our service and congregation life. We discussed the impact of the 5pm service and gave thanks to God for the great things he is doing through 5pm and 10.30am in our Parish. We then set about thinking specifically about 10.30am and determined to add in different elements while retaining the basic and regular structure of worship we have. As a congregation we acknowledged we have wounded souls amongst us (most of us actually) and a key role we have is to gather and care for wounded ones, following Jesus' lead. It's been great to see different people now joining rosters, including music, and playing their part in the life of the Parish.



Medical Incidents

During this early part of the year, particularly in the heat, we've had a couple of medical incidents during services. The protocols established at Parish Council for such occasions have been followed and proven to be appropriate. We give thanks to God that the people involved are well.

Refresher Training for Welcomers, Bible Readers and Intercessors

For those who serve on rosters in the above areas, we have scheduled some refresher training on two occasions. It would be great if you could make one of the 2 dates. Saturday morning 27 April or Sunday afternoon 28 April. More details in the Pew Sheet.

I look forward to continue worshipping and serving God with you throughout this year.

Gavin

Staff contacts

Gavin Ward-
Matthew Browne-
Narelle Riley-
Ros Armstrong-
Tim Kelly-

Vicar
Curate
Parish Administrator
Discipleship & Ministry training coordinator
Ridley student

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0408 406 424
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Welcome Tim and Yasmin Kelly

Once again through the generosity of a St Mary's family we are able to fund a Ridley student. This year, we welcome Tim Kelly, together with his wife Yasmin. We commissioned Tim last Sunday and he will be serving God in our Sunday morning services initially but will also serve at 5pm in other ways later on.

Gavin recently caught up with Tim and asked him the hard questions:-



Where were you born?

I was born and raised in Sydney.

Where have you been living and working of recent times?

For the past eight years Yasmin and I lived in Narrandera, and there I've made my own business in cleaning. In the last six months of 2018, I lived in Mulwala, training as a student Minister after being ordained deacon. I was also an ambassador for Anglicare in that time.

How did you and Yasmin meet and how long have you been Married?

We met through mutual friends and we have been Married for 14 years.

How did you propose to her?

June 2004, Yasmin was at work, I organised our friends and family to come over to her family home, when Yasmin arrived home, I met her out the front and proposed to her, when she said yes! our friends and family came out of hiding to congratulate and celebrate with us.

Cats or dogs?

We had two little dogs at home Ziggy the chihuahua and Teddy the shitzu, so definitely dog lovers.

Which AFL team do you support?

Being brought up in New South Wales, we support NRL's St. George Illawarra Dragons.

What do you love to do to relax?

To relax, Yasmin and I loved living near the bush, where we love to go for walks to observe nature. Now living in Melbourne to relax we have bought a yearly pass to Melbourne Zoo and we've taken our walks amongst nature there.

What would be your dream holiday?

My dream holiday would be to travel around Australia and to go to the Holy land and walk where Jesus walked, would be an amazing experience.

What are you passionate about?

I'm passionate about sharing Gods message especially in pastoral care and Kids ministry, along with apologetics in defending the Faith and to help people understand that Christianity is reliable and trustworthy.

Where do you see God leading you?

I pray that if it is Gods will, that in the future, God will lead me towards priesthood.

We look forward to serving God with both Tim and Yasmin this year.

Building Committee Update

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

The Building Committee met with our architect prior to Christmas with a view to reduce overall project cost for our Worship centre. This was a direct result of feedback received from parishioners. We have been able to substantially reduce our build cost by removing "nice to have" features, changing finishes and removing items that can be added after the build has been completed. The new estimated cost is now \$3.319 million, please note this is only an estimate and we are still exploring additional areas of savings such as utilising parishioner labour where possible to further reduce this estimate. It must be emphasised that this is an estimate only and until we present to the Diocese and obtain permission to tender we will not be able to finalise our pricing.

The Fund Raising Committee has met on several occasions and is brainstorming areas of funding. The Parish Council is providing guidelines for acceptable areas that the committee can use for fund raising. The architect continues to work on detailed design for our facilities and the Building Committee will continue to review and modify where necessary. Once we have our established funding in place, we will present to the Diocesan Building Committee to obtain permission to tender our project. If you have any questions please speak to a member of the Building Committee.

Do you know someone who would like to know more about the Christian Faith? Do you want to know more yourself?

"INTRODUCING GOD" will be running on Monday nights, commencing April 1st and going through into mid May.

Mark your diaries now and watch the pew sheet and social media for more details!

5pm Camp 2019

I think I speak for almost everyone who went on camp when I say that a great time was had. Staying at Marysville Caravan Park we enjoyed the chance to get to know one another better as we spent time relaxing, having fun, eating and learning from God's word together. Through bible studies in Galatians 5 and 6 we were encouraged to cast off those things which come from our sinful nature and instead to live with the guidance and power of the Spirit.

Thanks to the wonderful team who helped, and especially to Marthie and PC Grobler who organised all the food for 60 people, and as usual to Narelle for the countless ways she helped to make the weekend possible.

by
Rev. Matthew Browne



How God Has Reached Out To A Man In Need

a story by Rod Smyrk

The shearer, slightly stooped and with a constantly aching back, walked slowly into the cottage located near the river in Koondrook. Another 110 merinos had been parted from their fleece on this day and the shearer, a wiry Murray Islander, was content with his day's work. The date was February 22, 1941 and the shearer, looking down at his wife who lay exhausted after giving birth to Thomas Anthony Michael Reaper, knew from that day on that every sheep he clipped of its wool would help him support his newborn child.



Being the son of a shearer Tom Reaper was destined to a nomadic life as his father moved from station to station virtually all over Australia shearing sheep to support his family. Much of his childhood was spent in Queensland but there were also extended periods living in NSW, WA, SA and Victoria. Tom's only schooling was at Preston State School which he hated because he was subjected to constant bullying and racial taunts once kids at the school learned of his indigenous heritage. Because of this Tom became a school avoider and although his mother made his lunch and sent him off to school each day he constantly wagged in order to avoid the taunts and the bullying. The net effect of this was that Tom eventually left school at a very early age and with little command of literacy and numeracy skills. His spirituality was something else. His mother, Annette, had been an orphan and was raised by nuns at an orphanage in Ballarat. As a result of her upbringing within the Roman Catholic Church Tom's mother was deeply religious and passed on her knowledge and love of God to her son. His father followed the indigenous belief in the dream time and he too educated his son in this faith, and thus Tom Reaper was raised in a spiritual household under two different cultures.

At the age of 12 Tom entered the workforce working in a foundry. This was the start of a long a varied working life

where he also learned the trade of a cobbler, worked in various factories, drove trucks including semis and road trains and even a

truck that gathered and delivered laundry to the Austin Hospital. A number of years were spent working in a saw mill where the work was hard but the pay was good but this job was brought to an end by an accident which resulted in severe back injuries that placed him in a wheel chair for a considerable time. Recovering from this trauma Tom moved to Trentham where he commenced and operated two businesses. The first of these was as a wood merchant where he cut and supplied fire wood to local residents stoking voracious home fires on freezing Trentham winter days. The second was as an apiarist. Tom learned the art of bee keeping from an old timer he had met in the country and at his peak had hundreds of hives which produced a lot of honey and a lot of money for him.

Tom left Trentham and moved to Macedon into a home which his wife Yvonne had inherited. Living in Macedon Tom gained work as a gardener. He developed a reputation as a diligent, knowledgeable and industrious gardener and was employed by two of Melbourne's foremost barristers in Ray Dunn and Cliff Pannam. Tom shared his working week between the properties of the two legal eagles and was employed by them for some 10 years.

Disaster then struck Tom's life with his wife of 21 years Yvonne contracting breast cancer from which she passed away. For various reasons this necessitated Tom having to sell their Macedon home which he duly did moving to Sunbury just over 10 years ago. Since his arrival in Sunbury Tom had leased a property at 73 Gap Road but at the expiration of his lease in late 2018 Tom was forced to vacate the property. By this time Tom had little money and his only income was and is the age pension. After years of struggling to pay rent and to also support himself on the pension Tom made the decision that he could not afford to rent again, realising that the only alternative was in effect homelessness with life to effectively be spent in his ute. This has become his life.

Despite his lot in life Tom's faith in God has remained steadfast. He has become and remains a regular worshipper primarily at our 8.30 am Eucharist but he also sometimes attends 5.00 pm and Wednesday morning services. Several congregants have



become aware of Tom's situation and have reached out to him supplying him with meals and company. The Ministry team and Parish Council are also aware of Tom's new lifestyle and have assisted him with ministry, conversation and admittance into the Hall of an evening where he has been provided with a portable bed and a place to sleep, the kitchen to prepare a meal and a cup of tea, toilet facilities and a place to wash and shave.

When learning of the Winter Night Shelter Project Tom was absolutely delighted and intends using it each night throughout the winter period. It is a great relief to him knowing that each night he will be able to receive a hot meal, sleep safely in a warm bed and receive a hearty breakfast the next morning.

Tom is extremely grateful to his Church family for the care that has been afforded to him, not the least of which is the pending ecumenical provision of the Winter Night Shelter.

He is currently awaiting a hip replacement operation which is scheduled for mid to late March. After his operation and a lengthy period of rehabilitation in a suitable facility followed by the Winter Night Shelter accommodation, it is Tom's plan to establish an independent form of accommodation. Until then he remains indebted to St Mary's and to God for the love and care that has been provided for him.

Please keep Tom and people in a similar situation to his before God in your prayers.

For more information about the Sunbury Winter Night Shelter, and to find out how you can be involved- speak to Rod Smyrk or add your name to the volunteer sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.