

PENSHURST ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Service live streamed
Sunday 9am

<https://www.penshurstanglican.org/live-streaming-church-service>



Spring has sprung



A Word from Rev. Phill

What is going on?

Last year N.S.W experienced one its worst bushfire seasons. Perhaps in the current global pandemic you have already forgotten about this.

Last year we saw the Black Lives Matter movement. An event quickly overshadowed by the storming of Capital Hill.

More recently, our media has related terrible stories of oppression as the Taliban take control of Afghanistan. Myanmar is also in a state of instability with a military-led coup.

One could ask, "Is the world coming to an end?" Maybe.

In such times, we need to listen to the words of Jesus:

⁷ When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. Mark 13:7-8

Our current events are alarming. Yet Jesus tells us that this is nothing new. So why do we experience such anxiety?

I think the difference lies in how we view these events.

If we believe that humanity can control our world, then the current circumstances are devastating and immobilising.

However, if we believe that God controls history and is directing all things to the day when Jesus will be revealed in glory, then we will be concerned but not alarmed. These events will pass and reoccur. Such a mindset is marked by prayerfulness, godliness and anticipation of the return of Jesus.

Remember the words of Paul:

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Parenting in Lockdown

Being a parent at the moment is not easy. Pastor Tiny talks about this in her update on page 6.

In normal times, parents would get a break during the day when the children go to day care or school. Those few hours of peace are missed greatly at the moment. Not only that, normally at school, children have their friends to ask questions about their work if they didn't understand the instructions. Now the only person to help is mum or dad or maybe Grandma and Grandpa. Parents feel like they are on duty 24/7.

Anglicare is offering a Parenting in Lockdown seminar over Zoom with Steve Dinning. He is a Family & Life Skills Educator. The seminar would run for 90mins. It will be a mixture of talking, videos and activities with opportunities for questions and answers.

If you are interested, let Rev. Phill or Pastor Tiny or Naomi know so that we can schedule the seminar. This is a practical way of helping ourselves. You never know, you might just get something out of it.

Mid Autumn Festival

On **21 September at 7:30pm** we are having a Zoom party to celebrate Mid Autumn Festival together. Traditionally, Mid Autumn Festival is a time for the gathering of families and friends and the giving of gifts. It is the second most important festival in Chinese culture. For those who are far away, greeting messages are sent to loved ones and friends. Traditionally, lanterns are made and lit to be hung around the house, in trees and on water. Lantern displays are really beautiful.



As we cannot gather in the Hall, we are going to have the next best thing, a Zoom party. The more people who join in, the more fun it will be. William will be bringing his skills as an MC to host the event. There will be live performances to watch. Also a time for sharing and catching up with each other.

What flavour mooncakes will you try? Will you bring a lantern? Have you got a secret talent you can share?

This will be a lovely time to gather together as a family at home and a family at PAC, to celebrate, so join us. Doris will send out the link closer to the date.

Stay in Touch

There are lots of opportunities to catch up with each other during the week. I know you may be feeling a bit weary of more screen time. To be honest, last week if you asked me to Zoom I would have hid under a blanket. Be that as it may, when we separate from the body, we can lose the motivation to care about others. Each of us has different things that we bring to the body. In *Rediscovering Church: Why the Body of Christ Is Essential* by Collin Hansen and Jonathan Leeman (Crossway, 2021) they say that “...Heaven touches down on planet earth through our gathered churches”. Isn’t that a wonderful summary of church. This is why it is important to remain part of the body. Through the church God pulls us out of our selfish isolation into a fellowship of love, with Him and with others. In church Jesus is present and real.

Church is more than a building and more than just watching a service at home. It is membership in a family. That’s why the times of informal connection remain important and even influential. We lean on each other, we pray for each other, we meet each other’s needs through meeting together. Come and be with us.

Sunday 10am Rev. Phill and Colette catch up with everyone from the English speaking congregation.

Sunday 11am Rev. David hosts the Mandarin congregation gathering on Sundays at 11am.

Thursday fortnightly 7:30pm on 2 Sept, 16 Sept and 30 Sept Young mother’s Zoom with Tiny.

Saturdays 3pm Story Time with Tiny A new Zoom for the children.

Each cell is also meeting together on Zoom as per their usual schedule. Contact the cell leaders for more details.

Have you liked us on Facebook or followed us on Instagram. You can find us at:

 <https://www.facebook.com/penshurstAnglican/>

 https://www.instagram.com/penshurst_anglican_church/

Parish Council

Parish council met on 9th August and focused on church planning for the future, the mission policy and the risk management plan for the church.

There is some business that has been held over due to the current lockdowns. We are continuing with policy development and hope to be implementing these when possible.

The church building project is moving forward within the current restrictions.

Thankyou. Gaye and the parish council



PERSPECTIVE

A lot of the time, our outlook or our mood can be influenced by the things around us. Sometimes, that outlook needs adjusting.

We can look at the world around us and see all the things that need correcting. All the things that are going wrong. That's pretty easy to do at the moment isn't it?

Alternatively, you can look for the good in the world. Take comfort in the small things. Seek the joy and give thanks.

These beautiful lupins were growing in the wild in the Snowy Mountains in December 2011. The first photo shows the intricacies of the blooms. Upright, each one a different size and shape. Together they made a gorgeous display.

I zoomed out. What a lovely perspective with a country cottage in the right background, although a little bit wild for most gardeners.

The third image shows the true nature. That is an abandoned cottage. There are weeds and wild grasses growing amongst the flower display. Some would call it a mess even.

Beauty, joy, contentment, often depends on your perspective. In Philippians 4, Paul advises us to rejoice always, to give thanks always, to bring our concerns to God in prayer. To focus our minds on things that are true, honourable, just, pure, lovely and commendable. We can then experience the peace of God in our hearts and minds, no matter the circumstance.

It's just a matter of perspective.

PAC Partners

Julie & Andrew

Pray that relationships on the team would mature be united so that they would have opportunities to share Jesus.

Ask God to bless the team with a sense of His presence and as He leads their ministry.

Jason & Maria

That doors will open so that they may begin their ministry.

Pray that God will maintain their desire to serve and find other ways to use them at this time.

Michael Duckett and Macarthur Indigenous Church

Give thanks that despite having a close contact in their family, all are well.

Pray that God will continue to bless Michael's ministry online as he continues to encourage his people.

Give thanks for the way that Michael uses nature to tell God's story.

David Lakos - St George Hospital

Pray for David's patients at St. George hospital through the chaplaincy program. Currently no volunteers are permitted so all the patient visits are conducted by David and Gary, Catholic chaplain.

Pray for David to have strength, wisdom, compassion and healing words to all those he visits.

Elizabeth McDougall - Penshurst Girls High school

Lockdowns continue to limit Elizabeth's ministry. Please pray that the work that she has done to date will be fruitful.

Pray for opportunities for Elizabeth's ministry despite home schooling preventing face to face opportunities.

Prayer

For ourselves

When I look at the blood
all I see is love, love, love.
When I stop at the cross
I can see the love of God.

But I can't see competition.
I can't see hierarchy.
I can't see pride or prejudice
or the abuse of authority.
I can't see lust for power.
I can't see manipulation.
I can't see rage or anger
or selfish ambition.

I can't see unforgiveness.
I can't see hate or envy.
I can't see stupid fighting
or bitterness, or jealousy.
I can't see empire building.
I can't see self-importance.
I can't see back-stabbing
or vanity or arrogance.

I see surrender, sacrifice, salvation,
humility, righteousness, faithfulness, grace, forgiveness,
love! Love ... love...

When I stop! ... at the cross
I can see the love of God.

Godfrey Birtill

† Ask God to show you the areas of your life that could be changed in order to live a life worthy of the gospel: Phil 1:27 that you might fulfill the plans that God has purposed for you: Jer 29:11

† Give thanks for the people assisting with bible reading and prayers.

For our community

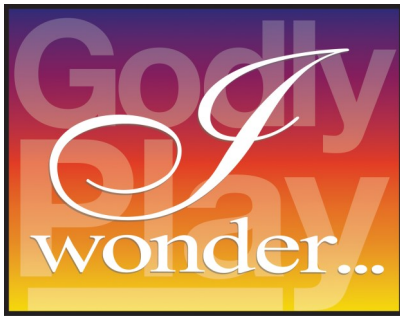
† Pray that misinformation about vaccination will be halted, particularly amongst Christian groups, so that all might be protected.

† Pray for those without work, that God will provide. Pray for medical staff, paramedics, nurses, doctors and all who are caring for the ill.

For our world

† Pray for peace in Afghanistan, that God will protect the women, children and those targeted by the Taliban. Pray for protection of the aid workers still in Afghanistan.

† Ask God to fulfill the needs of those caught in natural disasters around the world: Haiti and in the USA.



Godly Play at Home

This month in Godly Play we are continuing to look at stories from The Exodus. They will travel with Moses as he encounters God on Mt Sinai to receive the 10 Best Ways, meet with God in the Tent and learn about meeting God in the Temple.

There are lots of wondering questions in Godly Play. The questions are there to stimulate the child's curiosity and explore the story a little deeper. There are no right or wrong answers to wondering questions. When you ask a wondering question, you need to be prepared to sit quietly and wait. This is not like asking a child to answer a math's sum. Rather it is a time to let them think and make links in their own mind before they answer. Sometimes that answer can be really deep and beautiful. You have to be patient and wait for those answers. Don't rush it. I know that it is not easy and takes practice. If you would like to talk to someone about using Godly Play at home, feel free to contact Marilyn or Naomi or Tiny.

The Children's Ministry team have been trying to be creative with the children's responses to the stories. This time can be viewed as Gift to God time. It is when the children react in their own way and own time to the story. Instead of colouring in and work sheets, we have included activities such as cooking matzah, building a tent or making a temple from wooden blocks or Lego.

Pastor Tiny will take over for the school holiday period and lead the children's worship time. Thanks for giving the team a break in the holidays Tiny. We look forward to what you have planned for us.

Pray for our families in the lockdown

Even at the best of times, mums can feel smothered by the constant attention and neediness of their children. The lockdown has placed mums in a much more challenging situation.

Pastor Tiny is running different zoom sessions on a fortnightly basis for our English and Mandarin speaking mothers. And these mums, no matter what cultural backgrounds they come from, all shared the feelings and emotions like: feeling difficult to relax, being easily upset and agitated, lacking interest in taking care of themselves, being more irritable, over reactive and impatient.

Some of them are facing a vicious cycle: **they give themselves a hard time for not being the parents they hoped to be, which makes them feel worse, and then they parent from that place of feeling terrible about themselves.**

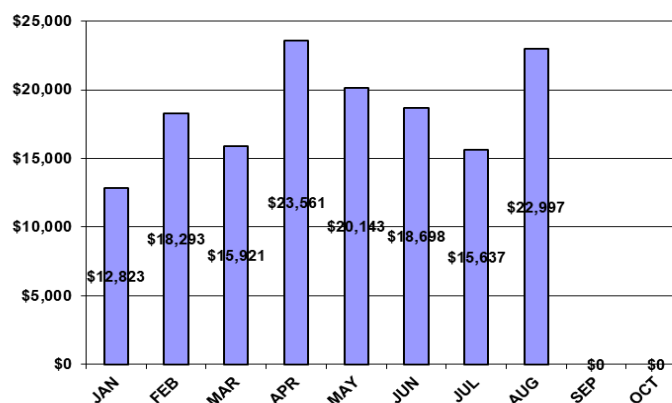
It is so true. Under the stay home order, working mums are forced to work from home and at the same time, home schooling their kids. For those who are essential workers, they get anxious every time they leave the house. For full time mums, they miss the routine of waking up early, chores organized and joys of weekends! And don't forget our children, online learning is not their priorities, especially primary school age kids, they miss the school routines and their friends too. (Tiny is running a weekly zoom session with the kids, so they can have some form of catching up).

Prolonged screen time, frequent arguments, lack of exercise, and stress of exams have all been contributing factors to our health and wellbeing. Please pray that, in these times of uncertainty, the PAC community would become encouragers: encouraging, supporting and helping each other in our lives.



Church Finances

PAC Offerings 2021



Income to date

	Budget \$	Actual \$
Offertory	135,400	148,073
Total Income	176,103	189,499

Expenses to date

Repairs and Maintenance	20,333	35,301
Total Expenses	202,041	222,016

Total	-25,938	-32,516
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We can give thanks for the faithful giving during August. However, we need to continue to pray for our finances. The implications of the lockdown on Hall rental and Church usage income will appear when the quarterly invoices are issued at the end of September, as there will be little usage to pay for.

Maintenance expenses were essential but well over budget.

Jeff Powys

Cell Groups at PAC

Our church calls itself a "cell church", built upon the Biblical idea that the primary way that God's people can truly live out the Gospel is through small, intentional communities (called "cells"). It is here where Jesus is given a far more intimate opportunity to do His work of transformation.

If you are interested in joining one of these cells, you can talk directly to one of the group leaders or to Rev Phill for more guidance on which cell will fit you best.

English-Speaking Cell Groups	Day/time/frequency
Tuesday Night Cell	Tuesday/ 7:30pm/ weekly
Jeff & Megan Powys	Thursday/ 7:00pm/ weekly
ReCharge! (University+ group)	Thursday/ 8:00pm/ weekly
PAC Youth Group	Friday/ 7:30pm - 9:30pm/ weekly
Young Father's Group	Friday/ 7:30pm/ fortnightly
Gaye Bishop / Joy Watkinson	2nd and 4th Saturday/ 1:30pm / monthly
Mothers' Group	Thursday/ 7:30pm/ fortnightly

Penshurst Anglican Church: 2 Carrington St, Penshurst

www.penshurstanglican.org/

PAC Online Banking

Please give your offertory by direct debit using the banking details below:

Westpac Bank, Mortdale

St Johns General Fund

BSB: 032167

Account No: 870821

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7

Our Pastors

Senior Pastor: Rev. Phill Read

9580 1217 or 0401 539 736

Email: phill@penshurstanglican.org

Assistant Pastor: Rev Canon David Wong

0410 247 200

Email: david@penshurstanglican.org

Family Pastor: Tiny Tse

0439 022 877

Email: tiny@penshurstanglican.org