

**PENSHURST
ANGLICAN
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**

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NOVEMBER
ISSUE**

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**BACK
TO
CHURCH**



A Word from Rev. Phill

On the 7th November our church doors will open again. We can see each other and worship God together. Some people are still concerned. This article tries to answer questions people may have.

1) Is it safe?

During last year the transmission in churches was extremely low (2.24% compared with 55.4% from overseas travellers and 33% from close contact in the community).

- We can keep the risk of infection to a minimum by:
- Insisting people stay at home if they have symptoms or are in close contact with someone who has the virus
- Maintaining social distancing
- Wearing of masks in enclosed areas
- Ensuring external airflow through open windows, doors and air filters.

2) Why put the vaccinated at risk?

The risk is for those who are unvaccinated.

People who are double vaccinated have 70-85% protection against the virus. More importantly, hospitalisation is extremely low.

Churches function in the same way as shopping centres, petrol stations, post offices and grocery stores (where unvaccinated can enter). So far the rates have remained low.

Following the public health orders (PHO) is key for the church as it is the shopping centre.

3) Should you get vaccinated?

There are good reasons to. It will both protect you and others.

The vaccine is not a live virus. It does not alter our DNA.

The mRNA vaccine uses our body's existing cellular machinery to trigger an immune response. After receiving a vaccination you may experience fatigue, fever or soreness. This does not mean you are sick. It means your body is producing the anti-bodies needed to protect you against the virus.

I hope that you will consider coming back to church. If you are still apprehensive, I urge you to tune in for our livestream on Sunday mornings.

Church clean-up day 6 Nov 9-11am

The renovations are finished and it's time to clean up. We need to put the kitchen back to rights. It's time to clear the dust, put everything back in the cupboards and load up the skip. Get the first look at the renovations.

We will even give you morning tea.

Come along even if it's just an hour. Rev. Phill will even let you chat to friends while you clean.

Let's get the church, hall and foyer looking her best for opening day, bright and shiny.



Baptism Picnic 5 December



Are you baptised? Would you like to be?

Do you know what baptism is?

Why would you be baptised?

Isn't it just a party for babies? How is baptism relevant to me?

Answers to these questions and more from Rev. Phill and Rev. David. You can be included in the upcoming outdoor baptism ceremony on 5 Dec 2021.

Baptism is an important symbol in our faith. God commanded John to go and baptise. He made many converts that way. Before He began his ministry, Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan River. God spoke from above "*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.*" Matt 3:17

Mark it in your diary to come to the picnic, celebrate the baptisms and just gather together to chat and relax. Location to be announced soon.

Toys'n'Tucker



This year, Anglicare's Toys'n'Tucker has gone online. How it will work is that you buy items on the Toys 'n' Tucker Shop page here:

<https://toysntucker.org.au/>

Anglicare will buy those items at wholesale prices. They then pack the hampers for you at their Villawood Warehouse.

Anglicare organises the delivery of hampers straight to the recipients.

There are hampers designed for kids, teens, parents, food hampers and Christmas celebration. They start at \$5.00.

How easy to bring joy to a family that otherwise would go without.



Godly Play



This month the children in Godly Play are getting ready for a very special gift. It's not the sort of gift you buy in a shopping centre. It doesn't come wrapped up like a present. It's a mysterious gift.

We will find the gift at the end of the journey to Bethlehem. Can you see Bethlehem in the picture?

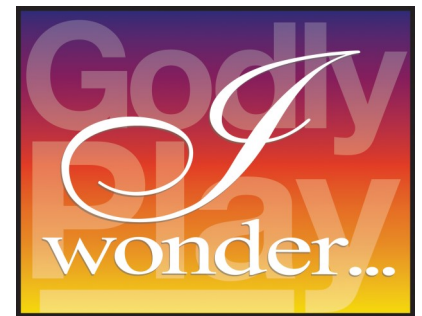
Yes, the children are beginning to prepare for the coming of Jesus as a babe. They will learn how the prophets pointed the way, the travels of Mary and Joseph, the role of the Shepherds and the Magi. They will also explore a special story about Mary. These stories build on each other

as they lead towards the Christmas period. A great opportunity to remind the children of the origin of Christmas, rather than what they hear and see on TV.

Just like last time when we returned from Covid restrictions, we will prepare individual crafting packs for each child. They will not need to share pencils or materials. The children will be well spaced around the circle and the room.

All Children's Ministry staff have been double vaccinated. If you have any particular questions, please do not hesitate to speak to Pastor Tiny, Marilyn, Selina and Naomi.

We are really looking forward to seeing the children again and presenting the stories in person.



DATES TO REMEMBER

6th November 9—11am	Church Clean Up/Working Bee
7th November	Services resume live in the church Godly Play starts again in person
5th December	Baptism Sunday & Picnic
24th December	Outdoor carols
25th December	Christmas Service

Parish Council

Dear parishioners,

Parish council met on 11th October via zoom again. We hope to meet in person in November.

The agenda included: progression of the building renovations and repairs, risk management assessment, policy reviews, planning for 2022 and reopening on November 7th with all Covid safe plans in place.

It's exciting and challenging to be reopening and there are many helpers needed to support our pastors, the parish council, Doris, Naomi, and all ministry leaders in welcoming everyone to the church again. We are looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact the parish council: Gaye Bishop, Yen Yen Chai, John Haynes, Hua Feng, Kathie Johnson, Geoff Scrimmes, and Rev. Phill.

Gaye and the Parish Council

Missions & PAC

Elizabeth McDougall (Penshurst High School SRE)

- Please pray that the door that God has opened for the Gospel in schools would remain open, even now.
- Please pray that these would be 'packages of grace' to teachers and SRE students would be well received.

David Lakos (St George Hospital Chaplain)

- Please pray that God will use encounters to give his comfort and hope.
- Please pray for opportunities for me to be an encourager to hospital staff.
- Pray that the Chaplains' day retreat (which has been postponed) would be a time of refreshment and fellowship

Michael Duckett

- Give thanks that the front fence of the property is secure from stray dogs and rabbits.
- Pray for the return from lockdown with Lunch on 30th October and church meetings at 10am on the 7th November.

Andrew and Julie

- Give thanks for those recently baptised
- Pray for decision s around staff
- Praise God for increasing ministry opportunities and for the dedicated team members.
- Bali to reopen before Christmas to allow for family reunions,

Jason and Maria

- Give thanks for full funding
- Pray for the visa process
- Pray for the right home-schooling curriculum.



Bishop Lin visiting Michael Duckett at Wedderburn

Prayer

For ourselves

- ◇ Give thanks that we are able to resume live services.
- ◇ Please ask God to protect and uplift Doris as she continues the live stream of services on Sundays. There is an incredible amount of work that goes on behind the scenes for Doris to do this for us.
- ◇ Please pray for the Ministry team as they move into their new office team and work together. There are many decisions behind the scenes being made at the moment. They will appreciate your prayers for God's guidance.

For our community

- ◇ Our community has really suffered during the isolation period. Being an area of concern has meant that so many were severely limited in work opportunities. Many relationships have suffered. Please pray for the services supporting our community and those in need. Please pray for God to supply all of the needs of those who are reaching out to those services.
- ◇ Pray for our local business owners, that they may resume trade peacefully and profitably.
- ◇ Pray for the protection of students in our local schools. One school was closed last week, it is likely more will follow unless we pray.

For our state and country

- ◇ In NSW alone, over 500 families have lost a loved one to Covid 19 this time around. Please pray for them:

For all those who woke this morning
to the loneliness of bereavement -
the empty bed or chair,
an unaccustomed quietness,
a life now incomplete -
may they know your presence
in the stillness of the day,
and through the love of friends
who offer their condolence.
And in the darker moments
may they reach out to hold your hand
and feel the warmth of the One
who has already passed from death to life
to welcome others into God's Kingdom.

© John Birch, 2016

- ◇ Would you please pray for our regional areas? They have not had access to vaccines as readily as we have in Sydney. They also do not have the hospital facilities that we have access to. As people begin to travel to the regions, infections will follow. Would you ask God to supply all their needs, protect the vulnerable and minister to those who are suffering?

Roster 9am Service

	7 Nov		14 Nov		21 Nov		28 Nov	
Topic	Celebration		Suffering		A Different Perspective		Humble Church Living	
Welcomer	Cliff Seeto Selina Kuok		Christine Blaser Ken Sensus		Meryllyn Mayhew Cliff Seeto		Caroline Mammatt Meryllyn Mayhew	
Bible Readers	Ken Sensus	Psalm 145	Peter Chappell	1 Peter 3:9-22	William Guo	1 Peter 4	Margaret Hayward	1 Peter 5
Prayers	Jeff Powys		Carolyn Moore		Meryllyn Mayhew		Gaye Bishop	
Counters	Cliff Seeto Selina Kuok		Christine Blaser Ken Sensus		Meryllyn Mayhew Cliff Seeto		Caroline Mammatt Meryllyn Mayhew	
Musicians								

Roster 11am Service

	7 Nov		14 Nov		21 Nov		28 Nov	
Topic	Celebration		Suffering		A Different Perspective		Humble Church Living	
Welcomer	Ronny Leung Marina Leung		Geoff Scrimmes Kathie Johnson		Ronny Leung Marina Leung		John Haynes Kathie Johnson	
Bible Readers	Amy Zhu	Psalm 145	Belinda Wang	1 Peter 3:9-22	Andrew Ung	1 Peter 4	Colette Read	1 Peter 5
Prayers	Geoff Scrimmes		Naomi Zrno		Marina Leung		Naomi Zrno	
Counters	Belinda Wang & Byron Chen		Jinbo Shi & Jing Huang		Geoff Scrimmes & Andrew Wang		Amy Zhu & Kathie Johnson	
Musicians	Joy, Phill, Andrew, Jennifer, Amy, Bel		Sophina, Phill, Lucy, Hua, Miranda		Joy, Phill, Jennifer, Amy,		Shirley, Phill, Leo, Eve, Gaye, Joy	
Godly Play	Tiny & Jing		Meryllyn & Selina		Gaye & Jian		Carolyn & Selina	



Remember to pre register online each week on our website to let us know that you are coming to church that week. Register the children too.

Services at 9am and 11am live and online.

Make plans to meet with someone after church in November at a café or the park.

Church Finances

In October the offertory was \$4,094 below our monthly target of \$16,917. However due to strong giving in earlier months we are still \$10,900 above budget for the year to date.

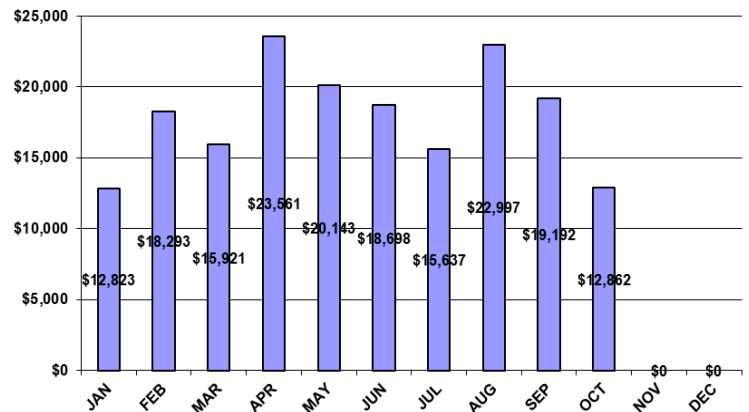
The kitchen and foyer works are underway. Their costs will be charged to the Church's investment account.

Maintenance costs for the two residences remain high as we catch up on backlogs. We would value your prayers in this regard.

Jeff Powys



PAC Offerings 2021



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 / fortnightly
Mothers' Group	Thursdays/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

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