

CONNECTIONS

Stories of the SWAC-scattered community



John Calvin & the Holy Spirit

SCOTT GOODE

I am currently researching the Reformation and am taking the opportunity to share some reflections with you. Over the last weeks I outlined Martin Luther's claim that all Christians could read and understand the Bible, and that its essential message was one of grace - undeserved kindness from God. John Calvin was one generation later and developed Luther's theology by emphasising the role of the Holy Spirit. Whereas medieval Roman Catholic theology emphasised that the church validated the Bible, Calvin claimed that the Holy Spirit self-authenticated Scripture and then testifies to its authority in our 'inner' person. Moreover we can only fully understand the Bible when the Holy Spirit illumines our minds. For both Luther and Calvin, religious belief was deeply personal - it involves an awareness of our corrupt natures, and the work of God in our lives to bring us to a personal trust in God's promises set before us. The Reformation sparked a spiritual movement from the 'ground up' that emphasised a genuine spiritual experience of God as the normal Christian life.



OFFICE HOURS:

Our office is closed
Food donations and
pastoral care by
appointment

The answering machine will
be checked daily
Ph: 6925 1707

Staff will be working from
home where possible.

scottg@swac.church
office@swac.church
kyliep@swac.church
mattb@swac.church
amandab@swac.church
craigr@swac.church
nataliem@swac.church

Warden Contact

St Paul's: Peter Hilton
St Alban's: Robyn Clarke

Our churches remain
closed
www.swac.church



Weeders & rakers summoned for worship & work

PETER KEITH

Want to be part of a great isolation diversion and get some exercise outside? Over the next 6-8 weeks we need rakers to help with the falling Autumn leaves at St Paul's. And we need some helpers to tackle the weeds which have benefited from the recent rain. Many helpers make light work! A skeleton team from the Chain Gang are on site Wednesday mornings if you want to join them, or Saturday 16th May from 9am may suit you too? Please contact Peter Keith and bring your rake and mattock if possible.

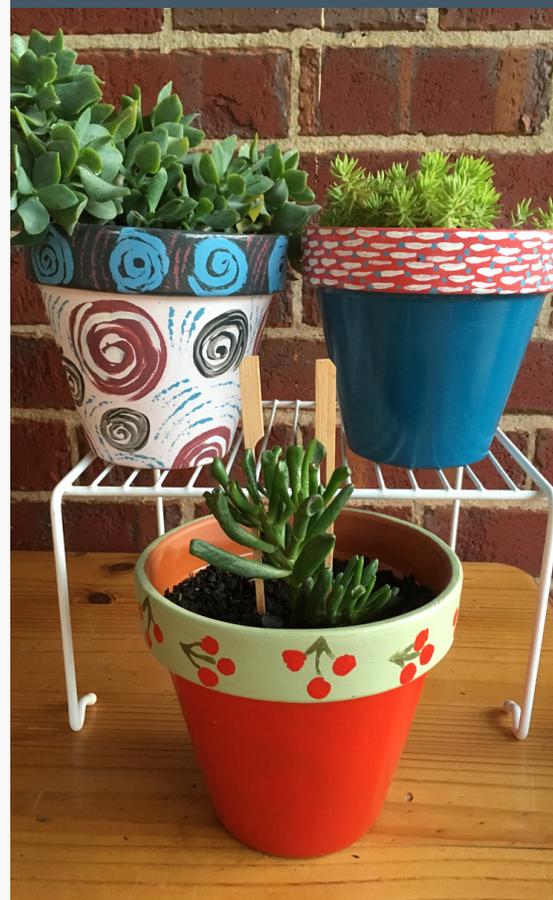


Heartfelt prayer for others in hard places

NARELLE COSIER

Jesus, suddenly the world and its issues seem so overwhelming. No one person or country however generous can stop the sufferings in so many individuals, families and countries. At this moment, I feel thankful that You have the whole world in Your hands. You know the Christians who are deprived of basic needs, and need specifically decent medical tests and treatment. Just as You have provided for the Israelites in the desert, for Elijah when he was out there by himself, let them see the God of the universe drop manna for them. God hear our prayers. The body may be neglected but fill their souls with Your words of comfort, words of healing and words of love. All is bearable when we know Your love deeply. Fill them Lord with Your love and presence. It is a special time in human history and we need You so much. Hear our prayers from all over the world. Strengthen our brothers and sisters in hard places. Amen.

Looking for a gift?
Potted succulents in
pretty pots - hand
painted 17cm
terracotta pots.
\$10 each
All proceeds to
SWAC.
Contact Laurel
0429190848





Ladies Link-Up...Update

JAN FITZSIMMONS

I hope all our friends from Ladies Link are keeping well and handling the isolation as well as possible. This letter is to let you know what is going on until we can meet again.

1. We need gifts to fill our Christmas Child gift boxes to send overseas. If you are able to start collecting items to fill the boxes it would be very much appreciated.
2. Last year we put together 18 Dignity Handbags which was absolutely wonderful. We would like you to start buying products to fill handbags again. Many of you, I'm sure, have cleaned out cupboards and drawers in our time of isolation and have unwanted handbags we could use for the toiletry items.
3. Many of you may be unaware that Adam Mannion is on deployment overseas and Jess is managing on her own with 3 children. I ask you to please keep them in your prayers and also Laurel Willis who will be facing surgery on May 21st.
4. Narelle Cosier is running a phone Bible Study group and I have heard that it is very enjoyable. If you would like to participate, you study in pairs which would be a lot of fun. Try something different and give it a go - just ring Narelle on 0414 509 632 or 6926 2892.

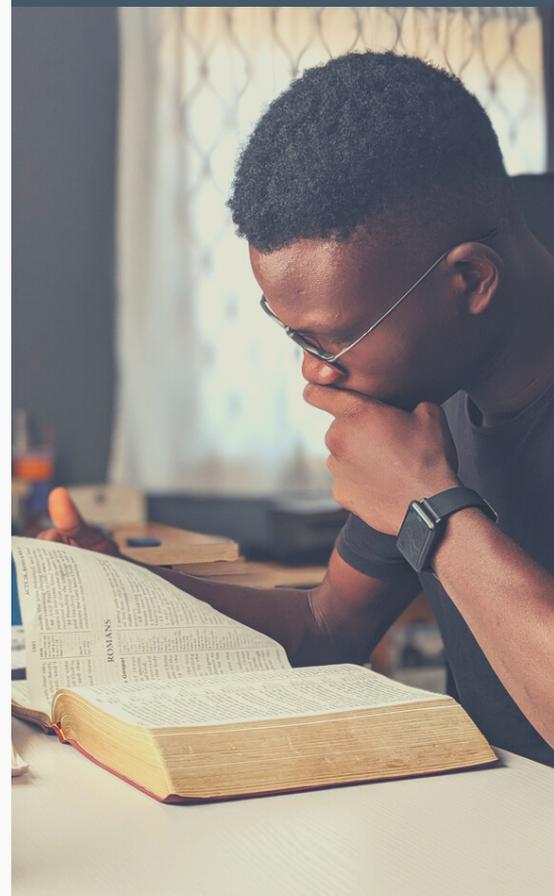


5. If you are a knitter and would like to fill in your day we are after twiddle muffs. If you would like to knit/crochet some for residents of our nursing homes in Wagga Wagga please phone me Jan Fitzsimmons on 0447 191 970.

I would like to finish this letter with this prayer "In times of difficulties" by Richard Harries:

O God, you know we are often filled with fear and foreboding. Give us courage and deepen our trust. You are a rock which nothing can shatter. On you we can place the whole weight of our lives. Amen.

If you would like to get started on a Round Bible Study, please contact Narelle to get a helping hand. Ph: 6926 2892





For inclusion in the parish prayers for those in need please email

scottg@swac.church

Regular updates of people will ensure latest information.



Prayer for those in need

BARBARA SLADE as she has treatment for breast cancer. Thanksgiving for early diagnosis.

GWEN WOODHAM (mainly music team member) as she undergoes chemotherapy for leukemia.

SUSAN LEATHAM recovering from surgery.

LAURIE BELL having spinal fusion 2nd June.

KAYLOCK family as they grieve the passing of Richard (Dick).



PAM DENTON (Dorothy Munro's friend) who suffers from Motor Neurone Disease.

RIZKA our Compassion child.

BERYL PERKINS as she recovers at home from her second hip replacement (different hip to previous one).

BOB and BETTE MENZIES with frail health.

LAUREL WILLIS having thyroid removal on 21st May.

BOYDELL family as they grieve the sudden death of Fay's son.

TRUST IN HIM AT ALL TIMES, O PEOPLE; POUR OUT YOUR HEART BEFORE HIM; GOD IS A REFUGE FOR US.

PSALM 62:8



**Colin Buchanan
has a
livestreamed
Kids Concert
weekly on
Wednesday at
5pm via his
Facebook page.**

SWAC Kids' Corner

Zoom Kids Church starts this Sunday 11am-11.45am. An email will be sent to our SWAC-kids online mailing group at 10.55am. A permission note will need to be filled out prior to joining the video conference. If you have any questions please email mattb@swac.church



Journey through Mark's Gospel

BIBLE READING GUIDE

SATURDAY	Mark 3: 13-21	Psalms 63:9-11
MONDAY	Mark 3: 22-30	Psalms 64:7-10
TUESDAY	Mark 3:31-35	Psalms 65:1-4
WEDNESDAY	Mark 4:1-9	Psalms 65:5-8
THURSDAY	Mark 4:10-20	Psalms 65:9-13
FRIDAY	Mark 4:21-25	Psalms 66:1-5

If you would like to listen to a daily devotion from J.C. Ryle's devotional commentary on Mark please go to:

<https://sites.google.com/swac.church/swac-ryle/home>





Send your pics and messages via email, text (or snail-mail) to scottg@swac.church and be a blessing to our scattered church community.



SCATTERED MESSAGES

PETER AND ELISABETH HOLLAND

Thank you to Scott, Matt, Amanda, and all the guests who read, pray or undergo the hot seat interview each week for our SWAC-online services. We have relished our Sunday mornings with you all. We feel a real continuity with our experience of church prior to the 'shutdown'. It has been so good.



Prayer Chain

SCOTT GOODE

Anne Flood, Bill Anscombe and I are reorganising the prayer chain. If you would like to be someone on the chain to pray for the needs of the Kingdom and specific parishioner needs please let one of us know. If you would like to provide a prayer request please contact one of us and we will send it down the chain.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened for you.

Matthew 7:7