

CONNECTIONS

Stories of the SWAC-scattered community



COVID restrictions and SWAC worship

SCOTT GOODE

This week the NSW government lifted the limits on religious gatherings to 300 people. While this is welcome news to churches with large facilities, it has no bearing upon us. Two other limits continue:

1. Venue capacity is 1 person per 4 sq/m and
2. Adults, not from the same household, must sit 1.5 m from one another.

This latter rule is the defining one for both our church buildings and limits our capacity at St Paul's to about 45 adults in the church and 25 in the hall, and at St Alban's, 20 in the church and 15 in the hall. Because children sit with their parents, their presence does not push us over any limits. In addition to the above, we must wash our hands, record attendance (contact tracing) and ensure we do not mingle after the service. Moreover, we are allowed up to five singers, as long as they are 1.5m from one another and 5m from the audience. No congregational singing is allowed. All this is complex and frustrating and yet, we have much to be thankful for. We have so far been spared from community transmission in Wagga and the joy of the Lord remains our strength.



Coming Up:

SATURDAY 24th OCT

5pm St Alban's HC Service

SUNDAY 25th OCT

8am St Alban's MP Service
10.00am St Paul's Family
11.30am St Paul's AGM
5pm St Paul's Evening

TUESDAY 27th OCT

10am St Paul's mainly music

WEDNESDAY 28th OCT

8:30am St Paul's Chain Gang
10am St Alban's HC Service
12noon St Paul's Purlers
Knitting Group

THURSDAY 29th OCT

10am St Paul's mainly music

FRIDAY 30th OCT

10am St Paul's Gentle Exercise
530pm St Paul's SWAC Youth



mainly music underway

KYLIE POLKINGHORNE

This week saw the return of our children's playgroup program - mainly music! We have split our families into three different groups, and are now operating on both a Tuesday and a Thursday morning to comply with COVID Safe gathering restrictions. We held two very positive sessions, with children and their grown ups very thankful to be back at mainly music and to see their friends again!

We are still needing a few volunteers particularly for Thursday morning, and to help provide slices or treats for morning tea. Please get in contact with Kylie if you are interested in helping out!

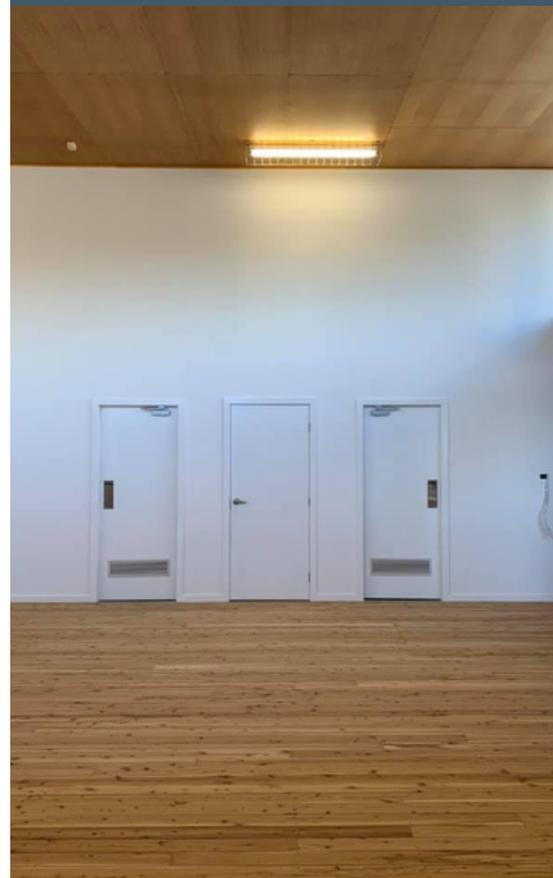


Official Opening: St Paul's Amenities and Hall Refurbishment

On Saturday 14th November at 3pm, we will be officially opening the St Paul's hall and amenities refurbishment. You may recall that we were the recipient of a \$122,000 NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund grant. Bishop Mark will be officiating and unveiling the new plaque and we have invited various community leaders and major contributors to the project.

Due to COVID venue capacity limits, attendance is limited. Every member of the parish is invited but you must register your attendance with Lisa in the office by 11th November - and once we reach capacity we will be placing you on a waiting list.

The St Paul's amenities and hall upgrade will be officially opened by Bishop Mark at 3.00pm on Saturday 14th November. RSVP essential.





AGM and Electoral Meeting

Our Annual General (and Electoral) Meeting will be held at St Paul's 11.30am on Sunday 25th October. Nominations are now closed for the electoral meeting. The Treasurer's Report will be emailed out to you prior to the meeting and made available in printed form at both church centres.

Due to COVID there are a few variations to consider. Anyone who wishes to attend in person should feel welcome and can take a seat in the church itself, or occupy the overflow area in the hall. We will also be sending an emailed link to access the meeting via Zoom. These electronic participants have full voting rights at the meeting and can ask questions via the chat feature of zoom. We will appoint sufficient returning officers to monitor the zoom participants and the hall overflow. Moreover, if any elections are required the entire parish can vote (by returning a ballot paper to the office) in the two weeks that follow the AGM.



Celebration of Ministry: John Cohen

SCOTT GOODE

On Wednesday the 18th November we will be having a celebration of ministry for John from 10am at St Alban's. Places are strictly limited for COVID reasons so you will need to register your attendance with Lisa in the office. All regular members of the 10am Wednesday congregation do NOT have to register though - we have already counted you in. We will be presenting John with a gift - if you would like to contribute to it you can place your money into a marked envelope in the offertory box.

Coming Events

25TH OCTOBER

AGM St Paul's

14th-15th NOVEMBER

5 year SWAC Anniversary
St Paul's Hall Opening
Confirmation Service

18th NOVEMBER

Celebration of Ministry:
John Cohen





Meals for St Martins

BILL ANSCOMBE

Carevan meals have once again gone across to St Martin's college. The pre-COVID SWAC dinners were wonderful. The opportunity to meet with members of the parish was so valuable and I hope that we will be able to do that again in 2021 when COVID restrictions (hopefully) ease. Students miss that opportunity. The provision of the dinners this week to students who are in the midst of examinations is yet a further example of the value of the SWAC community to St Martins. The meals were very well received and the on-campus students appreciated them greatly. The variety of meals was amazing – the lamb roast meals went quickly!!



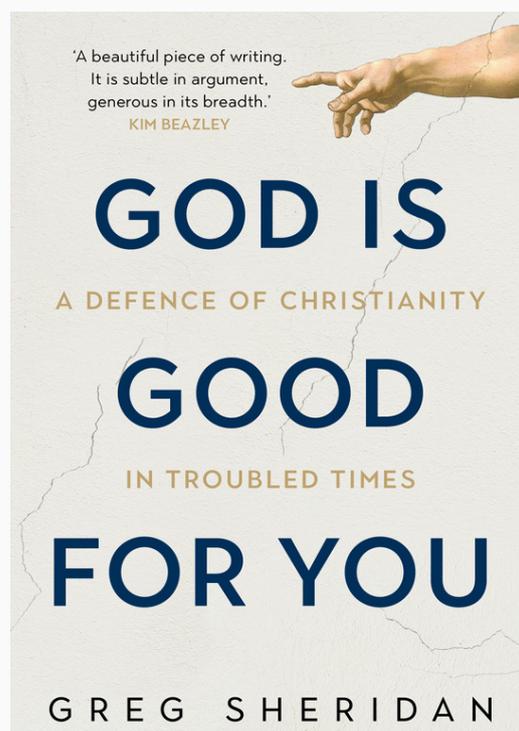
Tomato seedings for sale!
\$2.50 each.
Varieties include 'Oxheart', 'Roma Egg', 'Grosse Lisse', & "Rouge de Marmande".
All proceeds from the sale go to SWAC.
Contact Peter Hilton on 0409 313 599

Want to join Scott in an ONLINE reading group?

SCOTT GOODE

I have been thinking about reading Greg Sheridan's 2018 book for some time. Greg is an accomplished journalist and usually writes on national and regional political issues, but his latest book is a defence of Christianity which uniquely addresses the Australian social and political context. The late Bruce Leigh-Cooper recommended it to me every time I visited him, and so it is time for me to now read it.

Would you like to join me? Just email me scottg@swac.church and I will put you on an email group list and/or a private Facebook group for us to read it together and reflect in an online way (via email or Facebook group discussion).





Save the Date! Women's Christmas Wreath Masterclass: November 28th

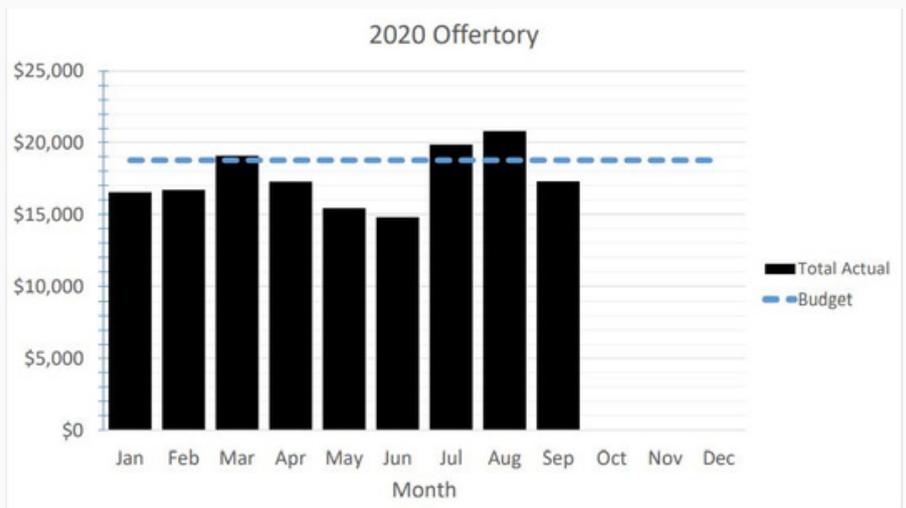


Your October Parish Council Update

PARISH COUNCIL

The October Parish Council meeting took place this last week and discussed the following pertinent issues:

- St Paul's hall roof replacement is imminent.
- We await the St Alban's roof replacement project.
- The St Paul's amenities and hall refurbishment has now been formally completed and within budget. The sanding and polishing of the floorboards was not originally part of the project but has been undertaken at an additional cost (over and above the grant) of approximately \$5000.
- The Fernleigh Cottage has been leased to a parishioner for a six month arrangement.
- Narelle Cosier has resigned from the Missions Committee in order to focus on her increasing responsibilities to care for family. We thank Narelle and await the newly elected Parish Council to appoint a new chairperson of this committee.
- An internal audit of our Safe Ministry compliance is being undertaken.
- Our playgroup ministries are now recommencing but for a variety of reasons mainly play will be suspended for term 4 at St Alban's and two smaller mainly music groups will (re)commence at St Paul's on Tues & Thurs.
- The parish budget and bank accounts remain in a very positive state as a result of the government tax boosts and Jobkeeper, and the suspension of parish contributions to the diocese. The Treasurer will explain our large surplus at our AGM. Thank you for your generosity.





OFFICE HOURS:

Our office is
now open:
10am - 2:00pm
Mon to Fri

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

Warden Contact

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



Journey through the Acts of the Apostles

BIBLE READING GUIDE

SATURDAY	Acts 3:11-26	Psalm 122
MONDAY	Acts 4:1-12	Psalm 1
TUESDAY	Acts 4:13-22	Psalm 128
WEDNESDAY	Acts 4:23-31	Psalm 145:10-13
THURSDAY	Acts 4:32-37	Psalm 144:1-8
FRIDAY	Acts 5:1-11	Psalm 111:1-6



Current Sermon Series

PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

During term four we are focusing on some of the great prayers of both the Old and New Testaments. The outline below provides a summary - the up and coming sermon is in **bold**.

4th OCT	Exodus 32	Moses: Mediation
18th OCT	1 Kings 8	Solomon: Dedication
25th OCT	Lamentations 5	Jeremiah: Restoration
1st NOV	Matthew 6:5-15	Jesus: Kingdom
8th NOV	John 17:1-26	Jesus: Unity
15th NOV	1 Thess 1:1-10	Paul: Thanksgiving
22nd NOV	Ephes 3:14-21	Paul: For You