

7 MAY 2021

CONNECTIONS

Stories of the SWAC community



Third time "lucky"

SCOTT GOODE

The St Alban's roof replacement is complete after two failed attempts. High winds put off the first attempt and when a train derailed at Bomen the following weekend, the crane resources were simply unavailable. With winter coming the job had to get underway and the various contractors worked over two very long days to ensure not only that the roof came off safely, but the new one was largely in place. There was still more work to be done during the week but the church was watertight with rain due during the week. This is the culmination of many years of planning and fundraising. For some at St Alban's, this project has been anticipated for more than ten years! Congratulations to Charles Merrett and successive SWAC Parish Councils who have persevered in working towards this result. Thank you to our generous parishioners who donated and to our Grant Application team led by Peter Caspersonn. And thanks be to God for more than sixty years of St Alban's ministry.



Coming Events

FRIDAY 21st MAY

Ladies Link Up
St Paul's

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
29TH & 30TH MAY

Australia's Biggest Morning
Tea for Cancer Council

SATURDAY 29th MAY

4pm St Alban's roof "Opening"

SATURDAY 19TH JUNE
EQUIP21 Women's Conference
St Paul's

SUNDAY 20TH JUNE
Adjumani Sunday

THURSDAY 15TH JULY
St Martin's Student Dinner



Farewell to Craig and Sharon Rogers

SCOTT GOODE

We formally farewell Craig and Sharon Rogers as they join the St John's Parish and embark on ministry based at the Forrest Centre and from St John's itself as a hub for regional ministry. The Rogers have been part of St Alban's for almost two decades and have been profoundly shaped through it. Likewise, St Alban's has been richly blessed through their presence and ministry. As I reflect over the past five years of my incumbency, St Alban's has undergone significant change and renewal, due in large part to both Craig and Sharon's commitment to the congregation and invitational mindset. As a church family we want to wish them well in the next phase of their journey and no doubt we will continue in contact and fellowship and prayer for one another.



Celebrating John and Hilary Cohen's Ministry

SCOTT GOODE

John and Hilary are not going anywhere, but I did want to have a 'celebration' of their ministry as they face health challenges going forward. It was a lovely service. The Archdeacon spoke on behalf of the Bishop thanking them for their many decades of ministry, and a range of gifts from the parish were presented. John celebrated Communion and I preached and all three hymns were favourites of John. John and Hilary will continue to be part of St Alban's so far as they are able to attend and John is able to officiate, but we just wanted to say a big thank you and have an excuse to eat John's favourite morning tea - scones.

John was presented with a very personal gift painted by Cheryl Wheeler. It was an impression of the sanctuary area of St Alban's.





Music Workshop

Last weekend we welcomed the Rev. Luke Woodhouse to our parish to conduct a music workshop for our 10am music team. Luke is a musician, song writer, pastor and a friend of Scott's from their time at Bible College. He spent Friday evening and Saturday morning with available members of the team to help us work better as a 'band' using various instruments. This is part of a series of music team meetings that Scott has hosted to clarify our music vision for our 10am service. We have worked together to choose a common song list and move towards a consistent 'sound' so that each member of the team can play within whatever band is needed for any week. Why not encourage our musicians by thanking them for their hard work and many hours of practice?



Kicking off mainly music!

KYLIE POLKINGHORNE

Term 2 begins and we continue to run two mainly music sessions! Our team of volunteers welcome a variety of families from the community. Excitedly, we can sing and dance again! It is so good to be getting new families along each week, and to continue to be a warm and supportive environment for families. **We are in need of a couple more volunteers, particularly for the Wednesday session.**

Please contact Kylie if you would like to come along and help out. Some of the roles include greeting and signing people in, preparing and serving morning tea, playing with the children or having a cuppa with the grown ups.

Our St Alban's services will resume 5pm Saturday 8th May and 8am Sunday 9th May. We shall worship under our new roof!





Update from Nick and Kysha

CMS

The COVID situation in Peru is going badly. None of the numbers are good. The Brazilian variant is shredding through Peru's eastern provinces, with a friend in Pucallpa losing five friends in one day. Regional governments have struggled to cope. One of Kysha's students has COVID. Two students in my course have it. One of the young pastors at our church and his wife are just getting over it. One pastor of an interdenominational MOCLAM study group in the north of Lima noted in prayer time that 'the circle is getting smaller and smaller.' And they're getting smaller for many. The elderly brother of our main ministry partner has just been diagnosed with it. Unlike the first wave, there are folks in our apartment block's message group asking about ICU beds and oxygen for friends and family because in Peru it isn't the hospital's responsibility to find but rather each individual.

Our church has started a month-long series on suffering.



Letter from Sponsor Child: Rizka

Dear South Wagga Anglican Church,

Greetings, I was so happy to read a letter from you, Narelle. How are you and your friends? I am doing well now. It is rainy season here. It has been raining for almost 2 months. I didn't go anywhere last Christmas due to the pandemic as well as the rain. At Christmas time, we don't usually give presents, we just wish each other a Merry Christmas and have a meal with the family. When I grow up I would like to be a policewoman. I always hope that you and your friends are always blessed by the Lord. I would like to meet my sponsor one day because I want to hug them. I send my love to you.

"It is a privilege both to be safe here in our flat in our part of Lima without any concerns for our needs, and to be able to get online with students from around Latin America and study the Bible with them. We're very thankful to God for His provision through you and CMS."





Vision 2025

SCOTT GOODE

It has been said that if you aim for nothing, you will be sure to achieve it. To have a church vision is to have a future picture of ourselves, and it is time to revisit our SWAC vision for the next five years. Over the next six months we will be undertaking a visioning or MAP (Mission Action Plan) process, with the assistance of retired Bishop Trevor Edwards:

May - a series of meetings with parish groups to reflect on where our church is at, and to begin to pray.

June - an invitation to participate in a survey.

August - Parish leadership to undertake a MAP workshop with Trevor Edwards.

September & October - further prayer, reflection and communication with the parish.

November - Formulation of vision statement

February 2022 - Vision launch.

Book recommendations for singles & married

SCOTT GOODE & SUSAN BAZZANA

Last Sunday evening Sue Bazzana and Scott hosted a conversation at Evening Church on sex, consent, marriage and singleness. We recommend some books:

Washed and Waiting by Wesley Hill

The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller

Redeeming Singleness by Barry Danylak

A Celebration of Sex by Dr. Douglas E. Rosenau

The Plausibility Problem: the church and same-sex attraction by Ed Shaw

Teen sex by the book by Dr Patricia Weerakoon



Congratulations
to Jeremy
Polkinghorne for
recently graduating
with his Advanced
Diploma of
Theology. Pray for
his continuing work
as Chaplain of
Ladysmith Public
and Sacred Heart
schools.





If you would like
a new name
badge for \$8
please see Lisa
or find an order
form in the
Sunday Link



Beginners Ukulele Group

LEE CASPERSONN

Have you always wanted to play a musical instrument and never had the opportunity to learn? If so, this is your chance to learn, to meet new people and have fun at the same time.

A ukulele group for absolute beginners has begun. There are two or three ukuleles available for you to try, but if you have your own, or can beg or borrow one, that would be good.

Where: St Paul's

When: 11am on Friday mornings (except on Ladies Link-up days)

Contact: Lee Caspersonn (0488 952 000) or Scott Goode



Kids Ministry Opportunities

MATT BAILEY

Term two is off and running with the kids programs resuming again after a holiday break. Mainly music, kids club, kids church and creche programs all run weekly, and only operate because of a small team of volunteers! If you would like to know more about joining the kids ministry team, whether on a roster or a weekly basis, please have a chat to Matt about where you might fit. We are seeing incredible growth already this year, and to care for everyone we need the team to grow too!



OFFICE HOURS:

Our office is now open:
10am - 2:30pm
Mon to Fri

scottg@swac.church
office@swac.church
kyliep@swac.church
mattb@swac.church
amandab@swac.church
ianfors8@bigpond.net.au
nataliem@swac.church

Warden Contact

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



'MTS Pray in May' Update

Amanda has been getting things moving with our youth and young adults ministry areas, making connections and building our youth group. She also supports the children's ministry, and is the High School Scripture coordinator. Please pray for her ministry and as she finishes up her Associate Degree in Theology studies.



Kylie has been getting into mainly music again this year, along with kids club, SWAC & pastoral care, and different roles at Sunday Services. She is enjoying her Theology studies but wishes she had more time to engage with it. Please pray for finding a balance between all responsibilities.

If you would like to support either of them financially, please head to the MTS website: <https://support.mts.com.au/pages/mts/mts-donation-form-south-wagga-anglican-church> or drop a donation in to Lisa at the office.

Drawing Classes

DAVID CROSWELLER

Come along for a fun and creative drawing class! Held on Thursdays 10am in the Gerhardy Room, run by David Crosweller. Please contact him on 0432 051 304 for more information.



**Bible Study groups
are up and running,
for all different
ages and stages.
Talk to Peter
Casperon or
Scott Goode to find
a group that suits
you.**



How 'your ABC' can feed your spiritual life

SUE SAVAGE

One of the great things about regularly travelling into Wagga from our home nearly 40kms away is listening to the wealth of programs on the ABC's 'Radio National' (RN) station. If you don't already access the many wonderful programs available I'd like to encourage you to look at the RN website and peruse the more than 60 different programs. Truly, there is something for all interests and plenty to extend knowledge and stimulate thought! The spiritual aspect of our lives is specifically acknowledged in some of the following titles but it is by no means limited to programs such as "The Religion & Ethics Report", "God Forbid" and "Soul Search". As we are currently being challenged in our SWAC "Controversial Christianity" Sunday evening church series, perhaps now is also a good time to turn on your radio and/or search your computer for episodes of these radio programs which also challenge our thinking, encourage reflection and help us clearly express our beliefs. I'd like to recommend two I found particularly enlightening, for very different reasons.

Firstly, an episode of "Soul Search", which "explores contemporary religion and spirituality from the inside out — what we believe, how we express it, and the difference it makes in our lives". This program series is first aired on Sundays at 6.05pm but is repeated on Wednesdays late and of course, is easily available by podcast (download for listening on car trips) or the simplest, just google this name on the computer and you'll be able to find a past program and press 'listen'! The first half of the Easter Sunday edition of this program is titled "Art at the edge of time: Makoto Fujimura" and the website description summarises it in this way: "On this Easter Sunday as Christians remember the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are joined by internationally renowned artist Makoto Fujimura as he reflects on suffering, humanity, time, and creativity." Although there is some reference to this artist's painting and the Japanese traditions he draws upon (even though he lives in America), and you may not think this immediately relevant to you, believe me there is gold awaiting as this Christian shares his faith and love of Jesus in a very deep and powerful way. My mention of gold relates also to Kintsugi, one Japanese artistic tradition mentioned in the program, and which coincidentally, will also feature in Wagga with a workshop being held at the Art Gallery on 1 May! Listening to this program is highly recommended as a rich post-Easter reflection.

My second recommendation is a very different one and it comes from "The Religion & Ethics Report", a program described as "your weekly window into the world of religious affairs and ethical issues in Australia and around the globe". It first airs on Wednesdays at 5.30pm and is repeated: Thursdays 5.30am, Fridays 11am. On the 2021 New Year's Day edition, I listened to an interview with the author of a new book called "Jesus and John Wayne" which investigates the rise of the white evangelical Christian movement in the USA. A challenging way to start the New Year and food for thought on a wider world canvas!



Join us on Sunday nights at St Paul's for 'Controversial Christianity' with community dinner afterwards for a \$5 donation.



Evening Church - Term 2 Controversial Christianity

During term two we are tackling some important topics at Evening Church and hearing from a number of guest speakers. Increasingly we need to be equipped not so much with a 'right answer', but right thinking - the ability to think issues through in a way that is both biblical and gospel - shaped. Life is complicated, but God is bringing a renewed mind and heart and right thinking to us, as we experience transformation through a relationship with our Triune God. With that in mind, check out the list of topics and speakers we have planned during term two:

9th May: What do zombies teach us about ourselves & Jesus by Matt Tan

16th May: Experience a meaning to life that suffering cannot take away by Amanda Bailey

23rd May: Why God's love requires justice & hell by Scott Goode

30th May: How Jesus achieves racial justice by Yangi Uchalla

6th June: What Jesus has achieved for woman by Kylie Polkinghorne & Scott Goode

13th June: Can I be a Christian and experience mental illness? by Adam Warren

20th June: Can we make sense of the value of human life without God by Graeme McLean