

# THE COCK CROWS



**NEWS FROM ST PETER'S  
CREMORNE  
March - July 2020**

## RECTOR'S CORNER

### Reopening of church services

Dear Friends,

In March I quoted this passage: "I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name." *3 John 1:14*

It has been a joy to begin meeting again for midweek services on Tuesdays with our 10am Eucharist service and to talk with some of you "face-to-face". As some will necessarily take a cautious approach, I pray that we will enjoy this more and more with Sunday services beginning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August.

It has been interesting to hear and read below in this newsletter how many of you have been faring through these "unprecedented" times. It has been particularly difficult for some, whilst others have found some refreshment in a slower pace of life. Notably, many of us felt the loss of being able to gather together for church services. We have been able to compensate somewhat with online services, zoom Bible studies, through telephone calls – particularly through the wonderful work of the Parish Connections Team, which in many cases have allowed much richer conversations and connections than the moments in and around our services allow. This has been a great blessing.

Another unplanned blessing has been the way that technology has allowed people to connect with St Peter's and our services in ways they have been unable to before: some who find it difficult to come to church as often as they would

like, friends and family who have had our services shared with them, and some near and far who have found us online. Paul, a Canadian living in Germany, describes his experience of finding us in a short piece of page 4 of this newsletter.

A recurring theme in people's experience of the last few months has been the longing for human connection. That is no surprise – God has made us for relationship with him and with others; "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone.'" *Genesis 2:18*. And as God has not made us simply spirits or minds, but physical embodied creatures, so our desire to physically be with others is natural. This is especially true in the church (or ought to be!).

God has not called us each as orphans, but has drawn us into his family with many sisters and brothers in Christ. He has given each of us in the local church different gifts that together we may use them for the common good (*1 Corinthians 12*). Throughout the New Testament, we are called to love one another, to encourage one another, serve one another, bear with one another, and forgive one another.

Of course we can and have been doing these things as we've been apart and will need to continue to do so as we look forward to being able to do that more and more as some are able to gather again. This should be our aim.

The New Testament word for 'church' is *ekklesia*, which can mean 'assembly', 'meeting', 'a gathering of citizens', or 'congregation' – the sense is that the essence of the local church is expressed in the gathering together of God's people, under the Word of God, in prayer and praise of him and encouragement of one another.

Whilst for a season or two, we make do with our constraints on being able to meet, and this season may be longer for some than others, let us not become too comfortable with a less than complete expression of church and our commitment to one another within our church family.

As we seek to make wise decisions personally, and as a church, about our return to services, "let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." *Hebrews 10:24-25*

Grace and Peace to you all,

Tim

# A MESSAGE FROM THE WARDENS

3 new Wardens in Isolation! An interesting start to our term, but like the rest of you we have acclimatised to our new conditions and share the load according to our experience.

We have Zoom meetings with the Rector the week before Parish Council, which is another Zoom. In between we rely on emails and mobiles.

We are so grateful to have Edwina Lambkin in the office to direct communications in the appropriate direction.

Tim Moon is assisting the Rector with technology issues, especially in relation to online services. Tim also has expertise in the garden.

Bruce Gordon knows more about St Peter's than almost anyone else and is incredibly efficient in dealing with urgent issues – like blocked drains.

Then there are the COVID-19 Issues we are all managing.

- 1. Finance** – We are in good shape. We are receiving JobKeeper for the Rector and Edwina Lambkin. We have some generous parishioners. Our expenditure has been reduced in most areas.
- 2. Safety** – We are responsible for ensuring compliance with all Government restrictions.
- 3. Our Church** – After the required total lockdown, we are now able to hold a mid-week service for limited numbers with strict observance of cleaning and spacing. On present information, it is unlikely that these constraints will be removed soon.
- 4. The Lower Hall** – We needed to close access to the Lower Hall for all our groups who meet there. We have suspended their rent again, for the September quarter but told them we shall hold their space. They are all being very co-operative but not wanting to return just yet.

## The Memorial Hall Roof

After a century of keeping the rain out, the tiles on the roof need replacing. We have applied for a grant from the NSW Government to assist with this project but we do have the resources to complete the work if needed. The challenge has been arranging a time for the work which will not

cause any danger to the kindergarten. Bruce has been obtaining quotes; I have been liaising with the Diocesan management team in respect of the numerous compliance issues. We are making progress towards a mid-January completion. The Wardens have been most grateful to our Treasurer, David Frecker, for his expertise in managing our finances and steering us through this challenging period.

Susan Hooke  
Rector's Warden

# THE ST PETER'S CONNECTION TEAM

## Barbara Gordon writes

At the beginning of the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic, Father Tim and I discussed ways in which we might try to keep the St. Peter's community connected. As a result, 22 willing persons from among the Pastoral Care Group, the Welcomers and Sides-persons became the St Peter's Connection Team, undertaking to ring, each week, an allotted group of two or three parishioners, from the entire Parish, on a rostered system.

Before we began, the parishioners were all given a chance to opt out of receiving calls, -- some did so initially and a few others pulled out during the course of the 21 weeks in operation.

All this was just to keep in touch and hopefully to make sure that no-one was totally isolated. Members of all three congregations took part in the ringing and many made new connections and learned of people they had not seen before.

Most people have been grateful for the contact and are looking forward to services again and to have the chance to meet face to face and chat with others in person.

I am particularly grateful to all those who have taken part in this endeavour.

God bless you all!

Barbara Gordon

# AROUND THE PARISH

## A virtual Patronal Festival



Facebook page screen shot



Laura reading a lesson



Fr Tim officiating

## Returning to worship – Tuesday 10am Eucharist



St Peter's Singers



COVID signage



Bishop Forsyth was guest preacher



Tuesday congregants (about 14 intrepid souls)

## Grüße aus Deutschland!

As a Canadian living in Germany, I'd been trying to reconnect with my Anglican roots just as the global virus made all of us home bound. While searching cyberspace for an Ascension Day service, I first found my way to St. Peter's and the services that I've been blessed to welcome into my home every Sunday since.

Whether it's the mellifluous voice of Glenn Amer or Reverend Tim's welcoming and insightful words, I feel so warmly included in your faith community and will never cease to be impressed how the miracle of the Internet can allow me to seamlessly join in the worship 16,000 km away!

Paul Moriarty

## Parishioner experiences of COVID lockdown

**Camilla Peterson writes** on 11 July 2020

As I write today, the tough restrictions we faced back through March - May seem like a distant bad dream. But now with Victoria going back into lockdown, who knows where NSW, and the rest of Australia, will be by the time you read this article.

Rather than writing about my experience during the lockdown (there is very little to say about that!) I thought I would focus on the joy of getting back to some form of normality as restrictions ease. The highlights are definitely my 9 year old daughter going back to school - I don't know who was more excited, she or I?! Being able to visit my parents and friends was also important, I had really missed that connection to other adult humans! I've been going back to the office 2-3 days/week since June and it's been good reconnecting with my colleagues- I was surprised by how many of the guys had grown beards!

Of course it is a shame that we still cannot gather as a congregation, but my daughter and I have been enjoying the online (and on-demand as we like to say) service, especially the St Peter's Day festival, which I was able to watch during the afternoon with my parents. Families from the 11am congregation met at Primrose park a few weeks ago, so that was a nice treat to properly catch up with everyone.

Not much else to report for now, but I hope everyone stays safe and well and that we can all pray together again soon.

God bless, Camilla

## Lockdown at 87 and 85:- Martyn and Judy Chapman write

We cannot do many things that we used to do, but we do have television and get bored with that too, so we read and look on the internet and do jigsaw puzzles, the impossible 1000 pieces ones. Cards come into their own, particularly patience! We have particularly enjoyed telephone calls to and from our church friends and our family. Our youngest son (now 58) rings us from America everyday.

We also cook, you can take Judy into the kitchen, but you cannot take her out of the kitchen - What bliss, the slices and the date and ginger loaves as well as stewed fruit, baked custards and marmalade.

For many years we have shopped on-line and have had our milk, bread, eggs, meat, fish, fruit and veg delivered weekly. We have recently shared meals on wheels from Mosman, and very good too, complete with soup and desserts.

Regards  
Martyn and Judy

## Edwina Lambkin writes...

Notwithstanding the concern of actually acquiring a COVID infection or worrying about the more vulnerable members of our community, I have generally felt quite calm about the COVID restrictions which have provided a circuit breaker to a busy family life that just kept on getting busier. My husband has worked from home since early March and for about 7 weeks I had two teenagers involved in on-line schooling to which they both quickly adapted and were self-sufficient. They were very well supported by their respective schools.



Edwina's French class on Zoom

I have continued to work in the St Peter's office but my French and German classes went on-line with ZOOM. That has worked

very well and has been an efficient use of my time. With all of that going on the house that is normally silent on a weekday suddenly felt very industrious. Fortunately, we all had completely separate work spaces so we didn't disturb each other in spite of some noisy conference calls and music lessons. I quite liked having everyone at home and my teenagers seemed to enjoy a sleep in each day instead of rushing for the bus!

My main concern has been making sure my mum is okay in relation to having enough company and food supply as she has closely followed advice to stay home where possible. She is playing bridge online with her bridge club, which is a welcome distraction and, along with the telephone, is helping her to stay in touch with friends. The big change for us has been a return to using the car more frequently to avoid public transport and having 95% of our groceries delivered, but I'm really not missing the supermarket at all. When everything returns to 'normal' it will be nice to catch up with friends and family we have not seen for a few months but I think I will also miss some of the quieter times we have enjoyed over the past few months.

Best wishes  
Edwina

#### **Esme Parker writes...**

Like most people of my vintage I have taken the Coronavirus seriously, although it has not made a great deal of difference to my day-to-day life. I had to get the coffee pot out of the cupboard and use it, but that was not a great hardship. The greatest two hardships were not attending church and not seeing my friends face-to face.

On the other hand, I have mastered WhatsApp and Zoom! The churches have been great, including St Peters, in what they have accomplished at short notice. The most impressive achievement has been the sheer volume and differences of the religious services and reflections on offer. My week has developed a religious rhythm, with certain times and locations on the internet.

The reflections of this chaplaincy have followed the Church Calendar on any Saints whose day has occurred, the Fruits of the Spirit following Pentecost and prayer.



*Perhaps one of my favourites is a Chaplaincy of the Diocese of the Church of England in Europe*

My mind is endlessly recalcitrant, so concentrating on these reflections has been a challenge, but I thank God that I have been able to conquer the technical challenges and that I am alive to experience this weird time.

Best wishes

Esme

#### **Daphne Dobbyn writes...**

Lock-down has been a very different but not an unpleasant experience. Phone calls and emails from young relatives, friends and church members has been exemplary and so interesting to share their lives in ways previously unimagined. I have had FaceTime calls for years but Zoom family gatherings, Church on U Tube and the Rector's Zoom Study Group were a new experience - one I would like to continue especially during the winter months.

Living independently in a delightful Retirement Village which shares a boundary with Kuringai National Park I felt out of the hustle and bustle of infectious realms. So much was made available to keep us mentally occupied. With social distancing we walked and chatted with friends within our spacious grounds.

Immediately before COVID-19 I had acquired a super new oven so sharing my baking was a pleasant occupation along with going through cupboards and discarding. On the long evenings I have been making a knee rug using Tunisian Crochet. I had been given beautiful yarn made from alpaca and merino fibre. It is almost finished and will be donated to the Craft Group to raffle. It has been good to change pace, reflect and contribute.

Cheers, Daphne

### **Geoff and Julia Williams write...**

COVID-19 "Restrictions" have certainly had a significant effect on most of our lives. A trip in our caravan to Lightning Ridge over Easter to support the new Vicar at the Bush Church Aid supported church was quickly put on hold. Life and ministry took on a new direction. We both decided early on that exercising was to be a high priority, lovely walks not only around our home in Northbridge but along the harbour foreshore wherever possible became a must do. Also we began Zoom "happy hours" with friends both nearby and far afield, we asked ourselves why have we not been doing this before.



*Geoff and Julia at a fav beauty spot*

As the restrictions became more stringent and it was apparent that we as a family at St Peters would not meet in person for some time Tim asked us if we would undertake a Bible study and prayer letter ministry. During times such as this, spending time in God's word and reflecting on it is a great comfort and the privilege of coming before our Heavenly Father is also a source of comfort and joy. So, it was with this in mind, that we began what was to be a twice weekly prayer letter that Tim could forward to the congregation. What a great delight it was to prepare these letters and we trust that God has used them to bless and encourage you in your daily walk with Him.

What have we missed most? Firstly, the joy of meeting with our "family" at the 11am service and the excitement of the kids sharing their answers to Tim's questions and their requests for prayer. Secondly, we missed getting together on Thursday evening as Tim lead us in Bible Study.

Best wishes

Geoff and Julia

### **Jane Mills writes**

All's going well here.

On 19th March the Ruby Princess arrived and I met my friend for coffee at Balmoral. We sat on each end of an outside seat with our takeaway. Things were changing. Over the next days I settled into repairing clothes, sorting photos, reading, walking and watching Covid19 on TV.

On 19th April to my great surprise my two grandsons and their friend rolled up on their bikes. We sat outside and they heartily ate a good deal of my Harris Farm food box which was delivered that morning. The boys recounted their ride from Willoughby to Mosman. The streets were their own, even riding home along Military Road. Just like in the olden days.

Best wishes

Jane.

### **Graham and Lizzie St Quintin write...**

We were part way through a trip to Queensland to visit several friends when some of them declared "No Visitors" so we got back into NSW before the border was officially closed.

We are blessed that we have remained fit and well. We felt that our regular routine was not greatly affected. We were able to walk regularly and choose our times for shopping. We have the advantage of living close to the Rectory and being able to communicate with family in person in the garden.

We realised early that Jenny, having all her regular activities closed down, although working in an office with 2 or 3 others, but big enough to be socially distanced, she was not having close contact with anyone. So we started meeting her for dinner once a week – here or at her place. This made such a difference to her.

Our other family, John and Sarah, were working from home and while James, aged 6, was able to do some school work and to entertain himself, Ben, 20 months, was needing constant parental attention. We offered to mind both the boys two days a week until James went back to school and then just Ben. This gave John and Sarah a much-needed break.

Best wishes

Graham and Lizzie

## Susan Upton writes...

When the shut-down/lock-down started – all that time ago – I suddenly found myself with SO much “free” time, without my five exercise classes a week for my Parkinson’s. With great energy and enthusiasm, I launched into a MASSIVE project – sorting out 30 kilograms of photographs. Yes, a huge number of them, accumulated over many years and fortunately all dated on the back. I recycled 22 kilograms of them and assigned those remaining to close family mainly and some to friends. I never could have undertaken that job normally. As it was, it took several weeks spending many hours a day, with piles of photographs all around my work area – mainly on the carpet.

Then, with great vigour I went through all my files, letters written home when I was overseas for six months when I was 22 and many other letters written by me at various stages of my life. Between the photographs and the letters and postcards, I just wallowed in wonderful memories for weeks. I wrote to everyone to whom I owed a letter/email, I cleaned my silver and my little shoebox home was spotless and tidy. Having done all those things, there was nothing really that needed doing and I found that I had slowed down significantly also.

I tried to do as much exercising as possible for the sake of my Parkinson’s. Our wonderful Dance for Parkinson’s teachers have two classes each week on zoom, great for our bodies and great for that hour, to see our teachers and other friends from class.

Quite early on, some nights when I was going to bed, I realized that I’d spoken to no-one – on the telephone or in person – all day. That happened frequently, although it doesn’t particularly concern me. I love listening to classical music – on the radio or on my CDs and that feels like company. However, I particularly enjoyed and appreciated the telephone calls from Barbara Gordon and her kind band of callers. Whether they were from people I knew or not, it was so good finding out more about each other and having new things to think about. I have particularly enjoyed our online services that dear Tim has provided for us each Sunday, one of their highlights being hearing Glenn play and sing and different people reading Lessons. Thus, I have felt connected to my St Peter’s family and never felt isolated or lonely and I have adjusted to the slower pace and am enjoying it.

My best wishes

Susan

## Stefan and Kerry Trofimovs write...



*Stefan's choir rehearsal on Zoom*

How to keep Stefan’s choir together despite COVID! He practices weekly on Zoom (this is a screen shot of one such rehearsal). This is a singular experience (literally) as the choir sings alone in respective residences and only hears the music director. Over the three or so months, the choir has learned a large number of wonderful short pieces, some with a view to a coming-back concert, hopefully in November.

On the family side, we maintain our usual routine of walking the dog (mainly Stefan), exercise (mainly Kerry) and gardening. The greatest impact was not being able to hold our granddaughter (2 1/2) during the early months. Happily, we are reunited physically again and hope the threatened resurgence won’t occur to separate us again.

Look forward to seeing you all again soon,

Stefan and Kerry

## New service times

From Sunday 2 August we will be able to hold services in the church once more.

### Service times are as follows:

**7am** Eucharist

**9am** Eucharist (with music)

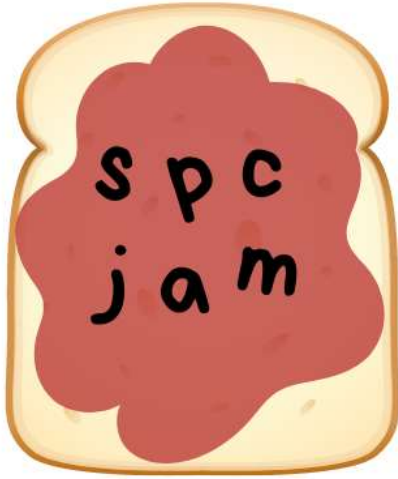
**10.30am** ‘Morning Prayer’ (with music) including a children’s program – SPC JAM. Holy Communion will be celebrated once per month within this service.

All precautions will be taken to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, as previously outlined in the recent letter from the rector.

## Introducing SPC JAM

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

*Matthew 19:14*



It is a great privilege to share God’s word with others, to encourage one another and to build one another up in their knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus. To this end, on Sunday mornings during the new 10:30am service, we will be running a group for children from 3 years old to school year 6, called SPC JAM (**St Peter’s Cremorne Jesus And Me**).

We will spend the first part of the service altogether as a church family, and then the children will move out to their group, which will meet in the lower hall. During this time we will be playing some games, engaging in craft activities and most importantly, learning from the Bible.

The group will be taught by a dedicated team of teachers who love Jesus and love children, and of course, are safe ministry trained and hold a current working with children check.

At the end of the service we will join with the 10:30am church family to enjoy morning tea (when we are able to introduce it).

Please pray with me that many families will join our new service designed for all ages and stages, and that the children who come will feel welcome at SPC JAM and will grow in their knowledge and love of our Lord.

Sarah St Quintin

## OTHER NEWS

### Anglicans worldwide celebrate a dispersed and digital Easter



*Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury celebrated Holy Communion on Easter Sunday from the kitchen of his flat at Lambeth Palace due to the coronavirus pandemic.*

The service, recorded on the Archbishop’s iPad, was part of the Church of England’s first national digital service for Easter Sunday.

“Even in the dark days of this Easter we can feed on hope,” Archbishop Welby said. “We can dream of what our country and our world will look like after the pandemic. “There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful.”

“It was Easter, but it didn’t look like it,” he said.

In Sydney, Archbishop Glenn Davies and Dean Kanishka Raffel led the Easter Sunday service from St Andrew’s Cathedral, which was telecast nationally on 9 GEM.

Dr Davies said: “Our God is not socially distant. He longs to hear our prayers and answer them ... He will not abandon us.”

Dean Raffel said the pandemic had caused a re-evaluation of life by many people. “In the Western world, we have slowly persuaded ourselves that only what can be seen, only what can be touched is real – but the coronavirus has brought to light again that this world is not a sufficient explanation of itself or of us.”

*The Melbourne Anglican – May 2020*

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB AND FACEBOOK PAGE OR CONTACT US** [info@stpeterscremorne.org.au](mailto:info@stpeterscremorne.org.au)  
Facebook = [St Peter’s Anglican Church, Cremorne](https://www.facebook.com/StPeterAnglicanChurchCremorne)  
[www.stpeterscremorne.org.au](http://www.stpeterscremorne.org.au)