

THE COCK CROWS



**NEWS FROM ST PETER'S
CREMORNE
August - November 2020**

RECTOR'S CORNER

Watching and Waiting

Happy New Year!

The traditional Church Year begins with the Season of Advent, which begins four Sundays before Christmas Day – 29 November this year. It is a season of expectant waiting, of hopeful anticipation and of joyful preparation.

Perhaps for you much of 2020 has been a year of waiting and hopeful anticipation; hoping restrictions will lift, hoping borders will open, hoping a COVID vaccine will be developed.

But the hope of Advent is more certain and more substantive – that as God entered into our world as the infant Jesus to “save his people from their sins” through his life, death, and resurrection (Matthew 1:21 NIV), so we await the certain hope of his return in glory to “judge the living and the dead” and make “everything new” (1 Peter 4:5; Revelation 21:5).

As Carol Westphal wrote:

“God's Christmas gift of Jesus is only the beginning of the story. To be sure, it's a glorious beginning, a beginning filled with angel choirs and brilliant stars heralding Jesus' birth. Still, it is only the beginning of the story that continues through the ages. The end of the story, the climax, is still to come. And waiting for the end makes waiting for the replay of the beginning so much richer!”

The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions – past, present, and future. In Advent we

hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for the second coming.

In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfilment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away.

Collect for the First Sunday of Advent:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Repeat the Sounding Joy – Nine Lessons and Carols Online

With the restriction on congregational singing likely remain in place through Christmas, one of the great joys of the season – singing Christmas Carols – will need to be reimagined. So, instead of gathering at church for our Nine Lessons and Carols service, we will be joining with SCECGS Redlands to record the service and make it available online. To share in this with a wider audience, why not gather some friends, family, and neighbours, perhaps share in a mince pie and celebratory drink, put on the service, and sing along to your heart's content.

Nine Lessons and Carols will be available online (see the church website or YouTube Channel) from 14th December.

Grace and peace

Tim



LOOKING FORWARD



Commitment Sunday 2020

2021 – A Year of Discernment for St Peter's

During his sermon on Sunday 22 November, the Feast of Christ the King, the Rector introduced the notion of the coming year being a “Year of Discernment” for St Peter's as we consider how, over the next 5-7 years, God might have us build on what he has been in and through the church.

Here is an extract of what the Rector said:

Today is the last Sunday of the church year, with a new year beginning next week with the season of Advent. As we recall the rule of Christ the King and anticipate his eternal reign, it is fitting that we commit ourselves again to his service in and through his church for the coming year. Last week we considered how we might use our talents – the opportunities, resources, and responsibilities God has entrusted to us – as responsible servants of our master (Matthew 25:14-30).

Today is a good day to consider some concrete ways in which we can seek to do that in the year to come. Remember, we serve the one who first served us; the good shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep; the one who continues to exercise all his power for our good – for the sake of his church.

Later in the service we will do so as we have the opportunity to do that as we offer to serve Christ's church here with the resources and opportunities he has entrusted to each of us. Please, if you consider St Peter's your spiritual home do consider how you might serve in this way. Spare forms, place in offertory in coming weeks. We will also commit ourselves to God's service in a prayer of dedication.

Finally, I want to comment briefly on how we might consider serving Christ together, as his church here in Cremorne.

By God's grace, we have endured this challenging year in reasonably good shape:

- financially- through conservative spending, through additional government support, and through the continued support of our congregations;
- relationally – as we have sought to stay connected and care for one another despite not being able to meet for a period;
- and spiritually, as we have grown in our understanding of God and his goodness through his word
- as online services have sustained us and connected with new people
- as we have returned to services with a renewed joy of worshipping together
- as we have grown in prayer through our prayer emails and monthly prayer meeting
- as newcomers have joined our midweek and Sunday congregations.

This year has forced us to change what we have done and opened the door to new opportunities. It has given us an opportunity, I expect, to reflect more deeply not just on what we do, but who we are and why we do what we do, and what God would have us do – given who we are and where he has placed us.

Therefore, I intend for this next year to be for us as a church a year of discernment.

In many Christian traditions, a Period of Discernment is a time of prayerful reflection that a person may undergo to consider where God might be calling them to exercise their gifts as they participate in God's mission to the world in and through Jesus Christ.

This is especially the case in testing a call into ordained ministry. This seems to be something that may also apply to a church – considering how God might be working in and through us now and into the future. How God might have us build on what he has been doing among us over the next 5-7 years.

I envisage that a year of discernment will include engaging and consulting with our wider church family as well as sharpening our ideas in a smaller leadership group, resulting in a vision of our best understanding of God's best future for His church here in Cremorne, together with a strategy to work towards that vision.

I want to invite you to join me in praying for this, as without prayer as the foundation for such a process we will develop a human-powered, human-centred vision for the church, rather than a God-centred, God-guided vision.

A prayer for our Parish.

Prosper with your blessing, O Lord, the work to which you have called us in this parish and strengthen the hands of all who serve you. Make our worship more worthy, our witness more effective, our lives more holy; and inspire us all with fresh zeal in the furtherance of your kingdom; for the honour of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

A MESSAGE FROM THE WARDENS

Covid 19

Wardens are still responsible for Covid 19 compliance and keeping up with the changes introduced by the Government.

We are no longer receiving financial assistance through JobKeeper as the Kindergarten is now back to full operation and paying full rent. Users of the Lower Hall are still reluctant to return because of the limit on numbers.

Like many others we are slowly but cautiously emerging from Isolation. Our meetings are a mix of some on Zoom some in person. Some members of Parish Council attend in person, some on Zoom.

Attendance at live Services in Church is increasing, but online services are continuing. Covid 19 requirements are still followed. We are grateful for our faithful volunteers who clean the Church before and after every service and keep records of attendance.

Finances

Our giving has dropped a little but we hope that, following Commitment Sunday, contributions will increase. We had applied for a NSW Government grant to assist with the cost of re-roofing the Memorial Hall. We were not successful, but we have ample funds to complete the project.

Technology

As reported last letter, Timothy Moon has been assisting the Rector with technology issues, especially in relation to online services. This

week, thanks to Timothy, a new system is being installed in the Church to allow filming and online streaming of our Services.

Maintenance

Bruce Gordon continues to keep his eagle eye on areas needing repairs. He then finds the right person to complete the job.

The Memorial Hall Roof

Retiling will be done over the Christmas break. New fencing is being installed by the Kindergarten. There may be some preliminary work being reviewed in the next month. Please look carefully before walking around the Memorial Hall area.

The Wardens again express their gratitude to our Treasurer, David Frecker, for his expertise in managing our finances and to Edwina Lambkin for the calm and efficient support she provides to our Parish.

*Susan Hooke
Rector's Warden*

AROUND THE PARISH

Church services – almost back to normal

St Peter's has remained open (in Covid mode) since July, celebrating weekly communion and high holy days, such as All Saints and Christ the King...and attendance numbers have climbed steadily, to near 50 at Remembrance Sunday and All Saints 9am services.



Fr Tim officiating at All Saints

St Peter's has had two guest preachers in the last month:

The recently appointed **CEO of Anglican Aid, Rev Canon Tim Swan**



Appointed in April 2020 as CEO of Anglican Aid, the Rev Canon Tim Swan has served as a CMS missionary at the Centre for Pastoral Studies (CEP), in Santiago, Chile for 10 years, and has led a church plant on his return to Australia. He was the Senior Minister at Willoughby Park Anglican Church. He and his wife Sally have five children. Tim holds a Bachelor of Theology from Moore College, Sydney. and Sally Swan is one of the contributors to For the Joy: 21 Australian Missionary Mother Stories on Cross-Cultural Parenting and Life, compiled by Miriam Chan and Sophia Russell, and published by Anglican Aid.

The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (Anglican Aid) was previously known as the 'Archbishop's Appeals Unit' until 2010. Anglican Aid has existed in various forms since 1934, when Archbishop Howard Mowll responded to the ravages of the Great Depression in Sydney with solid preaching, backed up with love in action. The Archbishop of Sydney's Winter Appeal was born. Over time, his work extended from this annual financial appeal to become the Archbishop's Community Care Fund.

In 1971, Archbishop Sir Marcus Loane took Sydney's eyes from the suffering in our suburbs to needs overseas. To those affected by war, poverty, disease, injustice and natural disaster. The Archbishop's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund (ORAF) was established. Through ORAF, Archbishop Harry Goodhew gave support for numerous appeals from overseas. In 2001 Archbishop Goodhew established an Archbishop's Overseas Ministry Fund, to help ministries in the developing world by providing financial support for Bible and leadership training. Today, the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid proudly reflects this history in three funds: Overseas Development (ORAF), Overseas Ministry, and Anglican Aid (which contains Sydney-based Community Care, and overseas projects).

And the (also) recently appointed **Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Force**, Bishop Grant Dibden, at Remembrance Sunday services.



Bishop Grant has had a long and active involvement with the Anglican Church. His formal Anglican involvement began with his baptism, and was followed by confirmation, lay reading, ordination as a deacon (Bathurst 2004) and ordination as a priest (Bathurst 2010), before his consecration as Bishop (2020). Prior to his ordination, he was actively involved in ministry at various Anglican churches as he was posted around the country with his Army career. A highlight was his involvement at the Anglican Chapel at Duntroon. Other highlights have been his involvement at Milperra Anglican for five years, a year at Point Lonsdale Anglican, a year at the UK Royal Military College of Science Anglican Chapel, St Matthias for three years and 15 years at St Albans, Rooty Hill since his ordination.

Military

Bishop Grant entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1979 graduating to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps. As a Major he was awarded a Land Commander's commendation. As a Lieutenant Colonel he commanded the 7th Combat Service Support Battalion and whilst in command the Unit deployed a Battalion Support Group to East Timor, where he briefly deployed. In December 2002 he was promoted to Colonel and posted as the Commander Force Support Group. In this role he was the lead logistic planner for Australia's deployment to the Solomon Islands, where he again briefly deployed to ensure the logistics plan was working.

Military Chaplaincy

He became an Army Reserve Chaplain reducing in rank to Captain in January 2007 to enable this. He has been the Chaplain to Sydney University Regiment, Headquarters Forces Command, the Coordinating Chaplain 8th Brigade, the Coordinating Chaplain 5th Brigade, Senior Chaplain 2nd Division and recently returned from the Middle East where he was deployed as the Coordinating Chaplain for the ADF in the Middle East Region.

Navigators

Bishop Grant has been involved with the Navigators throughout his military career and is the Australian Navigators National Director. He also had a range of roles for the Asia Pacific Navigators. Over the years he has been very pleased to see the synergy between the Navigators and the local church. The Navigators have been used by God to bring hundreds to faith who have gone to, and are still involved with, the Anglican Church.

Education

He has a Theological Diploma and a Bachelor of Theology from Sydney Missionary and Bible College having done the bulk of study for the Theological Diploma at Ridley College, Melbourne. He also holds a Bachelor of Science, Master of Management in Defence Studies, Graduate Diploma of Management, and has formal qualifications in Training Development, Project Management, Chaplaincy and as a Company Director.

Bishop Grant is married to Jeanette (who was present at the 9am service) and they have three sons, three daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren with another one on the way. They all are quite involved in various Anglican churches.

Bible study has resumed in person

Six of us have been attending bible study at the rectory each Thursday evening, while another nine join through zoom. The study has been of critical chapters of Isaiah. There has also been an afternoon group.



In the rectory are Peter, Geoff and Julia (missing from the pic are Sarah, Stefan (photographer) and Bronwyn (chaplain at Redlands))

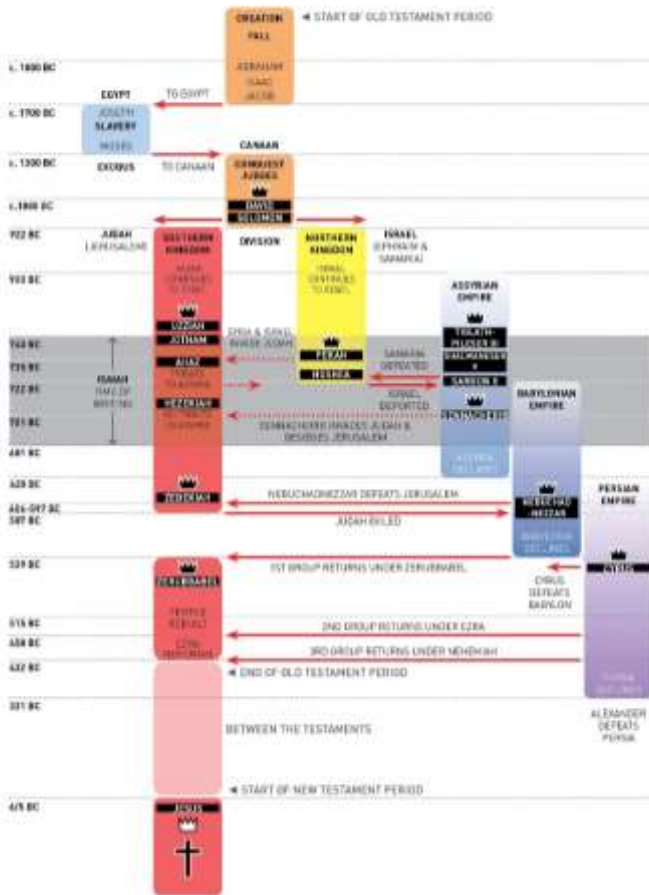


Attending on zoom are Daphne, Susan, Helen, the Austins, Margot, Esme and Annabel

Here's a study aid to help understand the historical Isaiah:

ISAIAH TIMELINE

By Louise Wicker & Mark Henry © 2017. Please do not republish without permission. It is best to use for personal use.



Blessing of Lord's Prayer crochet

When June Ashton retired from Angus and Robertson, she moved to Toronto NSW. She was our Sacristan for very many years and has recently donated a framed Crochet of *The Lord's Prayer* done by her grandmother, to the Parish. It is now hanging in the baptistry.

June was to join her old friends at a blessing of this gift on Tuesday 24th November, as part of our regular Tuesday communion; however, her health precluded the trip from Toronto. Instead, we have videoed the blessing and have sent it to her with thanks and best wishes from her many friends at St Peter's.

Barbara Gordon



Recent baptism



Baptism of Nia, with parents Naveen and Suma Noronha, and big sister Nikita. Nia was joined by a small group of family friends – all from their home church in Bangalore, and now living throughout Sydney – and grandparents in person and via facetime.

Prayer points for St Peter's

Geoff and Julia Williams have been leading a weekly prayer meeting, with the aim to foster the spiritual and physical growth of our church. For those who have not yet attended, here are recent prayer points:

Paul exhorts us to pray that the message of the Gospel goes out: 2 Thess. 3:1-5

As we were reminded in Tim's sermons recently in Romans 15 and 16, That Mission and Ministry is God's work, which he achieves through His people in answer to their prayers; so as those taking the good news of Jesus into the community will face resistance and we need to surround them in prayer and encourage each other in this vital ministry.

- *Prayer of thanks that we can come before the Father through our Saviour Jesus. We can pray confidently that He will hear our prayers and answer them according to His will.*

Growth of St Peter's Congregations

- *7am, 9am, 10.30am, Tues 10am and Bougainvillea*
- *Pray for our fellowship of believers to grow in our love for Jesus and a desire to feast on His Word more deeply. That we will be a fellowship of believers that radiates the love of Jesus to any that come to our fellowship.*
- *Pray in particular for the growth of the 10.30 Service that new families will come and that their children will be introduced to Jesus through SPC JAM, pray particularly for Sarah, Julia and Kate as they lead.*
- *Pray that those attending our services have a commitment to the fellowship and a vision for the growth of the Kingdom.*
- *Pray that the number of Bible Study groups will grow and suitable leaders will come forward.*

Leadership at St Peter's

- *Pray for Tim and Sarah as they lead our church family, for wisdom, strength and patience and most importantly protection from the evil one in his attempts to thwart ministry*
- *Pray for our Wardens and Parish Council that the Holy Spirit will guide them in having a vision for growth of the Kingdom both within and out to the people of Cremorne.*
- *Pray for Tim that he has the necessary time to prepare his weekly sermon as teaching from the Bible is an important part of our service each week.*

Outreach to Cremorne

- *Pray for the growth of His Kingdom in Cremorne, may the Holy Spirit flow down abundantly on those living in Cremorne that their hearts and minds may be open to hearing the saving love of Jesus.*

- *Guide Tim and the team as they seek the leading of the Holy Spirit to plan ways to reach out to our suburb. May St Peter's be God's light to those around us in these difficult times.*
- *With Covid restrictions in place may we have wisdom to plan appropriate community friendly Christmas celebrations.*

Other

- *Missions*
- *Prayer for Church family members in hospital.*

Web site

Have you noticed the stunning photo of our unique steeple gracing our web site front page?



Taken from Redlands roof by Fr Tim

Edwina Lambkin has enhanced our web site and keeps it current with all the You Tube videos of our services.

A recent comment from a visitor to our web site:

Someone phoned for some information on our parish and said they had been looking at our website. They said they found the St Peter's Anzac history booklet on the web site to be most interesting and helpful and they sent their compliments.

If you haven't looked recently, check it out:

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

You'll find that the Guide to the Art and Furnishings of St Peter's has been updated to reflect some recent changes.

A bit of history

Received recently at the parish office:

"I have just been going through a photo album dated 1928 that belonged to my grandfather, and am wondering if you may be able to confirm if the church in attached marriage photo is St Peter's Cremorne?"

We confirmed that the marriage was indeed at our church on 25 March 1922. The picture and the information provided have been added to our archives.



Groom: Frederick George Gurney b 1895, son of Thomas Frederick Gurney and Sarah Louise Elphick. Bride: Eva Goodlet Elliott b 1899, daughter of Henry Elliott and Grace Elizabeth Fraser.

After their marriage they lived in Young St, Neutral Bay.

Christmas services



COVID restrictions mean that Christmas will be a little different at St Peter's this year. With the ban on singing continuing at this time we have taken the decision to provide the Nine Lessons and Carols service online. Rev'd Tim, Glenn and St Peter's parishioners will be joined by students from SCECGS Redlands in the presentation of the lessons and carols. The service will be available online from Monday 14 December so gather together with friends and family at home and sing along to your favourite carols. A service sheet will be available to download.

Our other Christmas services – the 5.30pm Family Service and 11pm Solemn Eucharist on Christmas Eve, as well as the 9am Christmas service with Holy Communion on Christmas Day will be held in the church but **it will be necessary to register for a free ticket through the parish website or the parish office (ph 9953 1050)**. Attendance in church will be limited to 80 to comply with COVID restrictions. These services will also be livestreamed with a downloadable service sheet.



Our Christmas services

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Available online from Monday 14 December

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Family Service

11pm Solemn Eucharist

Christmas Day

9am Christmas Service with Holy Communion

We look forward to seeing you at St Peter's over the Christmas period.

If you have any queries about the services please do not hesitate to contact the Rector or the parish office.

OCCASIONAL GUEST ARTICLE

What a difference this year has made.....

As we come to the end of our liturgical year and begin our celebration of Advent it seems an appropriate time to reflect on all this year has held and its impact going forward.

This time last year we were struggling with the ongoing reality of one of the most severe and enduring droughts Australia has experienced, and the bushfires were beginning to burn. The acceleration of those fires over the course of December and into January and February caused deep pain, loss and grief for too many Australians. As we began to come out of that experience, we talked about what had got us through the ordeal – the importance of our connection to each other, the importance of our community. Then the pandemic struck.

We had no understanding of what had hit us. It was unprecedented, unexpected, far reaching and with no known pathway out. It created very real anxiety and fear. We had no prior experience to help us through such a cataclysmic virus. Most significantly, the way in which we were called upon to fight it – by isolating from each other – was an absolute contradiction of what had got us through the fires. Instead of building our communities and our connectedness we were told to socially distance from each other, for our safety. Those working in mental health sensed an oncoming onslaught of impact and need. One of our first actions was to come together (virtually) and collaborate on how we could use our resources to have a coordinated response.

#Inthisogether was our collective public campaign to highlight the need to stay connected with each other. Our counter message to social distancing was ‘physical distancing with social connection’. Following the severe restrictions of the first few months, we felt we were coming out of the worst by June. Then the resurgences began and we have all watched on with sympathy as Melbourne and other parts of the country have grappled with second waves. Our levels of anxiety and fear have been exacerbated by the ongoing uncertainty of this virus and the consequences of the restrictions.

The mental health impacts have been real and have touched all – youth, families, those living on their own, the elderly. There has been a significant increase in mental health issues: higher rates of complex psychological distress, loneliness (an elevated risk for depression), anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation. There has been an increase in mental illness presentations to hospital. Many of our young people have suffered a loss of hope in the future and self-harm rates are frightening.

All governments have responded to the need. Digital and online services have been ramped up to ensure 24/7 availability. Telehealth sessions for mental health services have meant people can access these without leaving home. Whole of government approaches have been elevated, to address consequences such as employment and economic uncertainty. All jurisdictions signed up the National Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan to respond together to ‘surge’ needs.

While many have heeded the call to reach out for help and have used these services, we have learned that we also need to actively reach out. Not everyone finds it easy to ask for help. Even with the prospect of a vaccine (or three) beckoning in 2021 we have a long way to go. The mental health impacts of 2020 will not end with the vaccine – they will continue for months and, for some people, for years.

Two positives have emerged.

The **first** is a reduction in the stigma associated with mental health. Most of us have realised that our mental health is as much a part of us as our physical health. Just as we go to a GP when we are physically unwell, we can and should access professional help for when we are mentally unwell.

The **second** is a strong reinforcement of how much we need each other and how important it is to stay connected. Notwithstanding physical distancing, masks and other measures, we have been able to retain and build on our social connectedness. This has proven to be a protective factor for our mental health, our relationships and our sense of community. It cannot and will not take the place of spending time with our

friends and loved ones in person – but it is now a valuable and additional ‘tool in our toolkit’ of building our social connections.

A final reflection on 2020 – it has been a time of stress, a time of upheaval, a time when our sense of self agency has been challenged. However, despite these hurdles, through it has shone the best of people – their willingness to reach out and help others, the importance of checking up on each other, and the wonderful random acts of kindness.

God has created each of us in His image. He has given us the complexity of our physical, mental and emotional components. He has placed us in relationships and community. The challenges of 2020 have shone a light on the importance of compassion, and of love for each other expressed in both words and actions. This reminds us of God’s gift of love to us in the birth of Jesus.

Wishing you joy and hope this Christmas.

Christine Morgan



CHECK OUT OUR WEB AND FACEBOOK PAGE OR CONTACT US info@stpeterscremorne.org.au

Facebook = [St Peter's Anglican Church, Cremorne](#)
www.stpeterscremorne.org.au