

# WELCOME TO YARRA VALLEY ANGLICAN CHURCH

St John's Healesville & St Paul's Yarra Glen



## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022

**9:30am St John's Healesville**  
*Followed by Morning Tea*

**11:00am St Paul's Yarra Glen**  
*2nd & 30th of January*

### **JANUARY SERMON SERIES - CREATED TO SOAR IN 2022**

*"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31*

## **WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS**

We are so glad to see you and we hope you are encouraged by our time together. Please join us after the service for morning tea. We would love to get to know you more. If you have any questions about our church, would like to become a member or simply need a name tag, please fill out one of our Blue Welcome Cards.

Followers of Jesus are welcome to come forward for Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper). We have gluten free wafers available on request and we provide both wine and grape juice in the small cups. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

## **TERM 1 ROSTERS**

Term 1 rosters are available. Please help yourself to the printed copies on the cabinets in the St John's Hall. Thank you to everyone who is serving so faithfully.

## **NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY**

This is a final call for our members to complete the anonymous 20-minute survey. Printed copies are available in the St John's hall and can be returned to Sandy or placed in the large envelope. Alternatively you can complete the survey online:

<http://attendersurvey.ncls.org.au>

Enter our unique Church Code:

ANM12601 For St John's HEALESVILLE

ANM12602 For St Paul's YARRA GLEN

## **MATT'S DAY OFF - SWITCHING TO WEDNESDAYS IN 2022**

## **NOTICES FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

If you would like to add something to the monthly newsletter, please forward to Matt or Sandy via email (preferred), text or phone, no later than the 3rd Monday of each month.

## **INTRODUCING LOCUM MINISTER REVEREND KEN HOLT**

While Pastor Matt is on leave 3rd-25th January, Rev Ken Holt will be our locum minister. For any pastoral emergencies, Ken's contact details are:

*Mobile: 0419 248 724*

*Email: holts@bigpond.com.*

For the three Sundays Matt is away, we will hold combined services at St John's Healesville (with no Sunday services at St Paul's Yarra Glen).

Ken is married to Maz (Marilyn) and has two adult children and four grandchildren. Ken and Maz grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney and after working in Social Work (Maz) and Accountancy & Primary Teaching (Ken), they trained at Ridley College and were ordained. They spent the next 17 years serving in NSW in Narrabri, Tamworth, Warialda and back to Tamworth. In 2002 they returned to Melbourne and ministered at St Paul's Boronia for 15 years. Now retired from full-time ministry, they live in Mt Evelyn and enjoy serving the Lord in locum ministry. Please make Ken feel welcome!

## **SUNDAY LIVESTREAM & ZOOM PRAYER MEETINGS**

For the month of January we will not be livestreaming our Sunday services or hosting our Wednesday online prayer meetings. Our online ministry will return in February.

## **AUSTRALIA DAY CHURCH BBQ LUNCH**

All are welcome 11am Wednesday 26th January for a BBQ lunch at St John's (sausages will be provided). Keep a look out for the sign-up sheet to register your attendance. Please bring a side dish and/or something sweet to share (finger food is preferable).

## WILL YOU JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY?

Yarra Valley Anglicans, I invite you on a journey into the loving heart of God. Dr Billy Graham writes: "The Bible is God's 'love letter' to us, telling us not only that He loves us, but showing us what He has done to demonstrate His love. It also tells us how we should live, because God knows what is best for us and He wants us to experience it. Never forget: The Bible is God's Word, given to us so we can know and follow Him. 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16)."

Friends, my hope and prayer for this church is that all her members may grow in the love of Jesus Christ (Eph 3:17-19). What better way to do this than to read God's 'love letter'. So in 2022 I am encouraging us to read through the New Testament of the Bible together. A Bible reading plan has been developed for our church with 5 chapters to read per week. You can pick up your copy from the front door and put it in your Bible as a bookmark (these plans will be available all year round in case you lose your copy or it starts falling apart).

If you jump-in to our Bible reading journey mid-year, or if you fall behind at any point, just skip ahead to the week we are up to so that we can be reading, learning from and discussing the same chapters of God's Word together. Please join us on this wonderful journey!

"Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years." – *Charles Spurgeon*

"The Bible is shallow enough for a child not to drown, yet deep enough for an elephant to swim." – *Saint Augustine*

"Our spiritual maturity will never exceed our knowledge of the Bible."  
– *Albert Mohler*

"The Bible is endlessly interesting because it is God's story, and God by nature is himself endlessly interesting. The Bible is an ever-flowing fountain. The more you read it, the more you find its truth and beauty to be inexhaustible." – *Mike Bullmore*

## THE TIME IT TAKES TO READ THE BIBLE

How much time per day would the average person need to read through the Bible? (source: <https://www.crossway.org/articles/infographic-you-can-read-more-of-the-bible-than-you-think/>)

	<i>Per Day</i>					
<i>Old Testament</i> 56 hrs, 44 mins	8 hrs, 6 mins	1 hr, 53 mins	38 mins	19 mins	9 mins	5 mins
<i>New Testament</i> 17 hrs, 44 mins	2 hrs, 32 mins	35 mins	12 mins	6 mins	3 mins	1 mins
<i>Whole Bible</i> 74 hrs, 28 mins	10 hrs, 38 mins	2 hrs, 29 mins	50 mins	25 mins	12 mins	6 mins
	1 Week	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Years

If it takes the average person less than 18 hours to read through the New Testament, this can be achieved with just 3 minutes of Bible reading per day. Friends, this is the goal for our church in 2022! We start off in the month of January reading the Gospel of Luke (which apparently takes 2h 24m for an average reader, or a bit longer for a reader like me!)

### HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE SMITH'S!

To our church family, thank you so much for supporting us through 2021 with your prayers, generosity, and encouragement. In January we celebrate our three year anniversary here and what a three years it has been: settling into a new home, new community, new job and new church; the birth of Tabitha; a pandemic, lockdowns and online church; the St John's renovation; new people joining us. May 2022 and the years ahead be less busy, but just as fruitful for God's glory.

## **2021 CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

Our 2021 Christmas Offerings will be gifted to our mission partners. 50% will be gifted to HICCI and 50% to ARDF (Anglican Relief and Development Fund). The ARDF offering is specifically for Afghan refugees, providing Starter Packs of clothing and food, organising medical attention and temporary accommodation. Nearly six million Afghans have been forcibly displaced from their homes. Many have fled, fearing for their lives. About 3.5 million are still in Afghanistan; the rest have crossed the border, mostly with nothing but their lives. It is freezing across Central Asia at present and recent famine is adding to food, medical and shelter needs, especially of refugees.

## **MISSION GIVING FOR 2020/2021**

In the last Parish year, \$476 each has been donated from the Parish to our Mission Partners: Bush Church Aid, Ridley College, Church Missionary Society and Anglican Relief and Development Fund. This represents 2% of our freewill offerings. There have also been additional personal donations to our mission partners. Thank you to everyone. 2% of your freewill offerings have contributed to taking the love of Jesus into rural Australia and around the world; to training men and women to take the Good News of the Gospel to the cities and towns of Australia and, again, across the world.

### **CHURCH PRAYER LIST**

Please remember in your prayers: Emma Barnes; Rose Brown; Alec Colombo; Naomi & Peter Hall; Margaret Kennedy; Stan & Iris Sewell; Suse Timmins; Barry & Trish Twist; Gracie Valcart; Lenny Barton for his baptism on 6th Feb.

*To be added/removed from the prayer list please contact Matt.*

# BLESSED TO PRAY

## ***Jan 2nd - Psalm 1 & John 6:60-69***

Almighty God, by whom the world has been filled with the light of your incarnate Word: grant, we pray, that as he kindles the flame of faith and love in our hearts so his light may shine forth in our lives; who now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## ***Jan 9th - Isaiah 40:25-31 & Colossians 3:1-4***

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you: mercifully accept our prayers, and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ***Jan 16th - 2 Kings 6:18-23 & Mark 1:35-39***

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service: strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ***Jan 23rd - Psalm 30:1-12 & 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22***

Bounteous God, we give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land, a land of despair and hope, a land of wealth and abundant harvests, a land of fire, drought and flood. We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and an end to all injustice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ***Jan 30th - Psalm 143 & Luke 18:9-30***

Father of all, who gave your only-begotten Son to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross: give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

0492 995 608 PO Box 191, Healesville, 3777  
St John's, 5-7 Symons Street, Healesville  
St Paul's, 43 Bell Street, Yarra Glen  
[www.stjohnshealesville.org.au](http://www.stjohnshealesville.org.au)

## **MINISTER: PASTOR MATT SMITH (Day Off - Wednesdays)**

[minister@stjohnshealesville.org.au](mailto:minister@stjohnshealesville.org.au)

## **ADMINISTRATOR: SANDY BERTHELSEN**

0419 506 784 [sandyphotos@bigpond.com](mailto:sandyphotos@bigpond.com)

## **CHURCH WARDENS**

Simon Green, Peggy Marriner, Berys Nixon,

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

Geoff Cuckson (Treasurer), David Green, Colin Lewis,  
James Noble, Wendy Warnock.

## **CHILD-SAFETY COMMITMENT**

St John's Healesville & St Paul's Yarra Glen Anglican Church is committed to the welcome, safety, and value of the children under our care and has zero tolerance for child or domestic abuse.

Our family-safety officer is Claire Bennett.

For further information please see the Anglican Church Child-Safe Policy available from the information board.

## **BLESSED TO GIVE**

Please give generously to the Mission and Ministry of our church:

*Account Name:* St John's Anglican Church

*BSB:* 063 689 *Account Number:* 1006 5060

*'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'*

*2 Corinthians 9:7*