

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Coming events

JANUARY CONTINUES as the “quiet month” in the church calendar, but this doesn’t mean that nothing happens! In particular it is a good opportunity for us all to take stock of our ministries for the months ahead.

There will actually be no first Sunday lunch in either January or February, as we will be at our Church Houseparty on the first weekend in February. They resume in March.

Regular services on 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 January will be at 10:30 am, with the Lord’s Supper celebrated on 1 and 15 Jan.

Midweek Prayer and Bible Study recommences at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 25 January.

Don’t forget the working bee on 14 January! We are getting on top of the cleaning up, though there is still a way to go.

The Drop In Centre will run in the hall from 10 am until 1 pm from Thursday 2 February. Jan, John and Peter are the main workers, but other church members and friends are welcome to come and drop in, With Drop In, the more the merrier!



SOCIAL

On 17 December, we had our pre-Christmas Church dinner. On the fourth attempt we managed to get everyone together for a good photo.

There is usually a Church social event toward the end of each month except January, when some like to attend local Australia Day celebrations, and December, when Christmas/New Year events take place.

Special dates '17

- F 06 Jan** — Epiphany/ Armenian Christmas
- S 07 Jan** — Russian/Serbian Christmas
- W 25 Jan** — Midweek Prayer recommences
- Th 26 Jan** — Australia Day holiday
- Th 02 Feb** — Drop In recommences
- F 03 Feb** — Church Houseparty Beth Shan
- 3–12 Mar** — **Seniors Week**
- T 21 Mar** — Harmony Day
- 14–16 Apr** — **Easter (Western & Greek)**
- S 23 April** — Prayer for our district
- T 25 Apr** — ANZAC Day (also Rogation Day)
- M 12 Jun** — Queen’s Birthday
- S 30 Jul** — Church 130th Anniversary
- 08–14 Oct** — **Mental Health Week**
- S 29 Oct** — Reformation Sunday
- T 31 Oct** — 500th Anniversary of Reformation
- S 03 Dec** — Beginning of Advent
- M 25 Dec** — Christmas Day

PEOPLE & ISSUES TO PRAY FOR:

THANKSGIVING

- All that has been achieved through 2015/6
- People who came to the End of Year functions around Christmas

- Plans underway for the Houseparty

PRAYER

- Vicki Katsifis in RPA with pancreatitis and a collapsed lung
- Bob Hardy, getting resettled after a time in RPA
- Coming Church Houseparty at Wye
- Wisdom for The Other City congregation as they decide on their future directions
- Our plans for outreach and ministry through 2017
- George Reeves in Sister Dorothea Village

Happy New Year!



MISSION NEWS

January 2017



WE ENTER the new year “simul ante retroque prospiciens” — looking forwards and backwards simultaneously, as was the motto of a university college. Here are some highlights of last year



IN JANUARY last year, we had a special event at the end of the month

— Danny’s 40th birthday lunch. It was soon followed (Thursday 4 February) with the commencement of our Drop In Centre after a break of about 7 years.

Early in March, we got together in Paramatta Park for the baby

shower for Mouy and Jay — an exciting time!

Peter Green came closest to guessing the correct birthdate for the Bump subsequently



known as Hendrix, but, showing there was no cheating, he did get

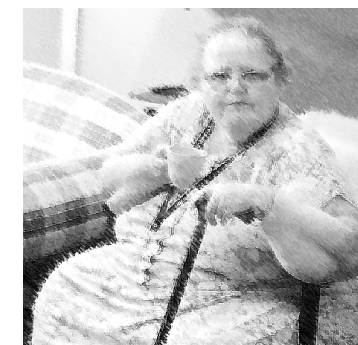
the sex wrong.

In late June, we went to Beth Shan at Wye for



our annual Church Houseparty. We were also pleased to have a small group from The Other City join us for a while on the Saturday.

Causing concern from May was the unexpected death of Irene Reeves, who had attended the church on and off since the 1980s. She had no close relatives to arrange the funeral, but eventually a niece organised her burial.



Meanwhile a memorial was held in July at the hostel, mainly for the benefit of her brother, George.

Silver Street (Baptist) Mission

PO Box 414, MARRICKVILLE 1475
 mob 0413 146065 ::pastor@atsilverstreet.com.
 www.atsilverstreet.com
<https://www.facebook.com/silverstreetbaptist/>
 SUNDAY SERVICE: 10:30 am



THE PASTOR'S WORD

A very special year

2017 MARKS the 500th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Reformation in Europe. On 31st October 1517, Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 Theses to the Wittenberg University Church door.

Luther was far from the first to protest against the thing he saw wrong in the church, and we hope he will not be the last.

Before him, people like John Wyclif in England, Waldo of Lyon in France and Italy, Francis of Assisi in Italy and Jan Hus in Moravia all struggled to get the church to change.

After him, people like Zwingli in Switzerland, Bucer in Strasbourg, Calvin (also in Switzerland) and radicals like Blaurock, Sattler, Simon and many others — and even reform-minded Catholics — continued the pressure to abandon unhelpful traditions and return to the Bible as the source and basis of genuine faith, so that Jesus might be truly glorified in his church.

One of the most important rediscoveries of the Reformers was that Christian people could be trusted to read the Bible for themselves and to make their own decisions about faith, and even about the kind of society they wanted to live in.

Christians no longer needed a priest to direct them, but could read the Bible, and follow the light they had on how God would have them live.

Our modern world would not be possible without what the Reformation achieved.

Love,

Peter

Keep them in prayer

A COUPLE of our “regulars” are out of circulation at the moment, and should be in our prayers.



Late last year, Bob Hardy (left) went into RPA with several issues including memory loss, the need to

balance his medication, and ongoing stomach ulcer problems.

His health is much improved, but his new situation means he will not be able to participate in the church's activities as often as he did, however he should soon be back at work.

We will miss his special abilities with chocolate milk and the game of Uno, but Jan says he is settling well. For further details, see Jan Short.

In the last week of December, Vicki Katsifis (below) also entered hospital with pancreatitis. Those who remember Joan Oates' bouts of this ailment know how painful it is.

The doctors say that she will be home in a few days, but will need monitoring as an outpatient. While the cause is not yet certain, it is hoped that her case will be managed by diet.

Finally don't forget to pray for George Reeves at Sister Dorothea Village in Anandale. He can no longer come out.



BAPTISTS

Why go to church?

SOMEONE ASKED me recently why a Christian should go to church. It is an important question, and some people really do struggle to find a church where they feel they belong. With some editing, this is my reply.

First, "going to church" might not be quite the word, but you need to be in fellowship. For some that's attending the cathedral, for some it is a home group. John Wesley said, "The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion." And in Hebrews 10 we are told not to neglect gathering with other believers.

A PLACE TO ENCOURAGE AND BE ENCOURAGED

You need to go because you encourage others in their faith. Sometimes on a cold, wet day, I preach to 8 or 9 people, and that's pretty discouraging not only for me, but also for the others who do come.

You need to go because others encourage you. Of course, if they never interact with you, you might do well to look for a place where they do; but in most churches, there will be someone who will take an interest and let you know you are valued.

A PLACE TO HEAR FROM THE BIBLE

You need to go because you will learn something of the Bible there. And one advantage that formal church has over home fellowship groups is that, in a formal setting, it is more likely that you will hear a good spread of the Bible together with explanations of what it is about. Of course, you can get that from TV or DVDs or books or reading on line sermons or whatever, but, at church, you will get to listen to the bits that bore you, and possibly to preachers you don't like. If you come prepared for Jesus to speak to you, you will be amazed at how often he does.

If your church has ministries beyond the formal services, and most do, you will learn at church what they are, and you can pray for them, or you might even become involved in them. If you aren't ministering somewhere, tell

your minister you would like to (if that's true!) and see if there is a place you could fit.

Or look at what is going on and see if there is something you think you could do. Ask the Lord to guide you on that one.

If you are never at church, all those things will pass you by!

A PLACE TO LEARN COMMUNITY

You don't go to church just to be at "school" — though, if you take notes, you can re-read them, of course. And don't forget that your minister's 30 minute sermon probably took 8 hours to prepare, and someone else spent 3 or 4 hours preparing the service itself. No one expects you to be there that long!

But what people often miss is that you learn something else, even more important, when you go to and become involved in a church.

Church mightn't be school, but it is where you learn about community, and that's a most vital bit of what church is about.

A PLACE TO ENCOURAGE THE PASTOR

Finally, few people realise this, but you do go to church to help and encourage your minister. When you smile because you understood a point, that encourages him to do better next week.

I came from a church where people responded to just about every word, particularly the young people. It was great to preach to groups like that!

But, when I first came here, people hardly ever even nodded. It was enormously hard for me to preach for a long time, but I stuck at it because I believed God had called me there.

Now I do get some responses, and that's good.

Go to church to minister, and God bless you as you do.