



What's your story: Aaron Staines

I have lived in Lithgow since birth (38 years). I attended Coorwull school throughout infants and primary and then moved on to Lithgow high school. I have a wonderful wife Jaala and two beautiful daughters Indianna and Mila (11 and 8-year-old).

I am the eldest child of 4 boys to Tracy and Mick Staines, all of who still live locally. This has been a blessing for all the grandchildren to grow up together.

I currently work for a health insurance company called Westfund based in Lithgow. I have been employed by Westfund for 16 years now and continue to enjoy it. My role is to provide reporting, analytics, and financial modelling for the business (I do like to work with numbers).

I love spending time with my family and making memories, particularly over the weekend. We enjoy bush walking, playing sports, motorbike riding and visiting the beach. God's creation is amazing, and we always love exploring and experiencing it. Another hobby of mine is playing music, I will quite often get the guitar out and play/learn new songs. I believe Jaala should feel lucky with all the free concerts but I'm sure she will tell you otherwise. Being part of the church band has really boosted my commitment to music but more importantly it has been a great way to serve and use the gifts God has given me to bring joy and praise him. I was fortunate enough to grow up with a Christian mother (Tracy). She always encouraged me and my brothers to attend church, youth groups and Sunday school while we were younger. This was something I enjoyed for the best part of my childhood.

I always believed there was a God, and that Jesus was sent by God to pay the price for our sins. Unfortunately, as I moved through my teenage years into young adulthood it was something I struggled to commit to. My heart hardened. My focus was not so much on things above but on earthly things. I was happy to live my life the way I wanted to and keep God as an afterthought. Oddly enough, although I kept Jesus at a distance during this period in my life, I would often feel guilt and regret over many of my decisions. I was aware of how I was supposed to live a life for Jesus, I just didn't.

It wasn't until I was around 20 (18 years ago) that I was introduced to the newly appointed youth minister of St Pauls through mountain bike riding. This was an opportunity for the youth minister to get to know me outside of church in a comfortable environment. After a month or so of riding I was asked if I was interested in doing the 'Simply Christianity' course. To be honest, I wasn't jumping out of my skin but thought I would give it a try. This turned out to be a significant step toward knowing and understanding who Jesus really is. I was able to see Jesus and my relationship with him in a whole different light!

Since then, I have had a very different perspective on life. I no longer view this world as the 'be all/end all'. This life is only temporary, and we have the certainty of eternity in heaven through Jesus which is much more fulfilling.

Every day, God through his word and spirit helps me to grow as a husband, a father and a witness to others by showing the same love Jesus shows us. This isn't always easy and comes with many challenges, but I know he is always with me and will guide me each step of the way.

Prayer Points

- That I will continue to be the husband and Father God wants me to be
- That as a family, Jaala, Indy, Mila and I will continue to open Gods word and pray together.
- Prayer for my wider family that God will open their hearts:

Prayer Points

Sunday, Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Monday, for all those who have a vocation to missionary work; with thanks for their commitment to serving others and for strength and courage when faced with difficult and distressing circumstances, and for joy in their work

Tuesday, for the work of the Church Missionary Society in its many projects across the world and, at this time, their efforts in the Middle East; for their staff, volunteers and fundraisers

Wednesday, for the missionary work in our own country that is sometimes overlooked; for those working with refugees and asylum seekers, for those supporting Ukrainian families and people settling here from other countries, as they help them with language skills and building communities

Thursday, For those missionaries whose lives are given to helping relieve poverty and hunger in our own country; for the work of Anglicare meeting the needs of those who struggle especially at Christmas.

Friday, for those missionaries whose work is with the vulnerable, homeless, addicted and those in trouble on our streets; for Street Angels, Salvation Army, and church volunteers who give up their nights to bring soup and relief.

Saturday, for ourselves that we may recognise those missionary opportunities that present themselves to us, however small they may seem.

Keeping in Contact

Senior Minister

Mark Groombridge 0437 975 556
markgroombridge@lpachurch.org.au

Children's & Youth Minister

John Young 0418 610 655
john.young@lpachurch.org.au

Community Pastor (Part-time)

James Barnes 0424 825 369
james.barnes@lpachurch.org.au

Notices

Christmas Services
Friday Dec 22nd
Carols 5pm at Lithgow
Family Friendly followed by
Dessert.

Sunday Dec 24th
9am at Lithgow
Followed by Bacon & egg rolls
5pm at Portland
BBQ Church with carols

Monday Dec 25th
9am at Lithgow

January Services
9am at Lithgow
Followed by Bacon & Egg Rolls
5pm at Portland
BBQ Church

Catering for Carols Service
If you would like to assist in
catering, please bring a plate to
share. Miriam & Ryan will be co-
ordinating the kitchen & food.

Connection Card



How to support our gospel
ministries financially:

Account Name: ANGLICAN
PARISH OF LITHGOW
DIRECT GIVING

BSB: 062591

Account No.: 10085204

Or please use the offertory
box at the back of the
church.

Notices for Newsletter

Please send to office@lpachurch.org.au
by 4pm Thursday



