

November 18<sup>th</sup> 2018

## WELCOME!

Our regular services are:

8 am at St. Paul's  
Classic Anglican service

10 am at St. Paul's  
All age service with children's  
programs

3 pm at St. Stephen's  
All age service with children's  
programs

## Ministry Contacts

Senior Minister  
Mark Smith 0430 393 414  
mark.smith@lpachurch.org.au  
*Not available Thursdays*

Children's & Youth Minister  
John Young 6352 4347  
john.young@lpachurch.org.au  
*Not available Wednesdays*

Community Pastor  
Terry Smith 0449233862  
terry.smith@lpachurch.org.au  
*On Leave unavailable*

Wardens  
Robert Hookham 0403506693  
John Stevens 6355 1337  
Eric Young  
0429664436

Office Administration  
Corinne Ogg 6351 3070  
office@lpachurch.org.au  
*Wednesday & Friday 9-2*

## for Children and youth



Youth Group  
for yrs 6- 12  
During School  
Term Fridays  
7:00 – 9 pm

.....  
K – yr 6

During School Term  
Fridays 5pm – 6:30 pm

## Growth groups

Small groups for adults to  
grow in Christ.  
*details on back of bulletin or  
phone office.*



Knowing Jesus • Serving Jesus • Proclaiming Jesus

Dear friends,

Welcome to church!

At our 10am & 3pm services today, we delight to see members of our church family publicly declare their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Moments like this aren't simply about those standing before the congregation making promises. It's an invitation for us all to do as Paul calls the Corinthians to do: *'Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves'* (2 Corinthians 13v5). When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, they were confused & conflicted as Christians. While he delighted to call them believers (1 Cor 1v2) & had grounded them in the faith – they were compromised with the world, embracing values that reflected Satan's deception (2 Cor 11v14) more than the truth of Jesus. Worse still, they assumed they were fine, & boldly disregarded his authority as Christ's apostle. They needed Paul's strong word to wake them from their self-deceit & 'examine themselves' to see if they truly are in the faith.

As some of our members declare their faith, this is our opportunity to do the neglected – but vital – work of self-inquiry. Self-inquiry is the exercise of looking over your life (eg. Content & character of your words, thoughts, actions, time spent, goals, spending & interactions with others) to see if it is consistent with your profession of faith in Jesus. For *'Sense of sin and deep hatred to it, faith in Christ and love to Him, delight in holiness and longing after more of it, love to God's people and distaste for the things of the world – these, are the signs and evidences which always accompany conversion... Hypocrites and sham Christians are indirect evidence that there is such a things as real grace among men'* (JC Ryle).

Done rightly, it is not an exercise in despair or self-indulgence. The key to such examination is looking deeper into the wonderful truths of the gospel. The gospel itself is remarkably simple, 3 words: God saves sinners. 3 words that JI Packer helpful elaborates:

**God saves sinners.** God—the Triune Jehovah, Father, Son, and Spirit; three Persons working together in sovereign wisdom, power and love to achieve the salvation of a chosen people, the Father electing, the Son fulfilling the Father's will by redeeming, the Spirit executing the purpose of the Father and Son by renewing. Saves—does everything, first to last, that is involved in bringing man from death in sin to life in glory: plans, achieves and communicates redemption, calls and keeps, justifies, sanctifies, glorifies. Sinners—men as God finds them, guilty, vile, helpless, powerless, unable to lift a finger to do God's will or better their spiritual lot. *God saves sinners.*

Self-examination done well applies the truths behind 'God saves sinners' to every part of life. Some of Jonathan Edwards' resolutions capture the sense well:

25. *Resolved, to examine carefully, and constantly, what that one thing in me is, which causes me in the least to doubt of the love of God; and to direct all my forces against it.*

26. *Resolved, to cast away such things, as I find do abate my assurance.*

Through self-inquiry, Edwards looked to see the areas of his life that blocked & diminished his receipt & enjoyment of Christ's love. The end result of his gospel-centred self-inquiry was to be more assured of salvation, not less.

Cont'd inside

## readings

**ot** Lamentations 3:19 – 24 (Page 584)

**nt** 1 Peter 1:1 – 9 (page 857)

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Today, as some stand among us to declare their faith, take this chance to answer for yourselves & make sure you can answer honestly the words in bold:

Do you trust in Christ?      **I trust in Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?      **I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?      **I renounce evil.**

Will you, with God's help, strive to keep his holy will and commandments and serve him faithfully throughout your life?      **I will.**

*'Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves'*

In Him, Mark Smith

## Word of encouragement:

### What's your story?

**Name:** Billinda Jane Auld

**Born:** \*\*\*\*\* Lithgow District Hospital (the old one☺)

**Family:** Daughter of Bill and June Hooper (from Hooper's Nursery for those who remember. My Dad passed on 7 years ago). My name is spelt the way it is because I was the youngest of 5 girls (sisters Susan, Louanne, Margaret and Helen) and my Dad thought he had better pass on his name through me. My parents then went on to have my brother, who they named Bill! Happily married to George; proud mother of Alison, Jillian, Eliza and Stuart; proud grandmother of Jasper who lives with his parents Alison and Angus in Boston USA (but they are coming back to live in Australia next year).

**School:** Marrangaroo Public school, Lithgow High School, University of Sydney (Bachelor of Science in Agriculture), Sydney Teachers College (Diploma of Education).

**Work:** Teacher of Science/Agriculture for 28 years. Science Coordinator for 10 of those years and followed one cohort from year 8 to 12 as their Year Coordinator.

When I retired from teaching at age 50 I began work as an Instructional Designer at Message Train. What's that? Basically, I design interactive learning modules that are delivered online. We do this for several large companies, including Westpac Group. Sometimes my work takes me to one of the new Barangaroo offices – the view from level 28 is sensational ☺

**Things you love doing:** Cycling, boot camp, walking the dogs with George, gardening, reading (the Bible and Les Miserables are my all-time favourites), reading in church and my job as Treasurer (believe it or not☺)

**Fond memories:** Marrangaroo Public School had 9 students when I attended – I was captain 2 years running because I was the only one in the class! I loved teaching secondary students – when you take the time to understand teenager's needs and tap into their strengths, great things can happen and you can have lots of fun. Around 10 of my students now work in the Agriculture industry because they studied the subject at La Salle Academy, which I started in 1999.

I have many fond memories of times spent with great friends and my beautiful family – I am richly blessed.

I treasure the memories of my trips with George to Canada, USA, Japan, London and Paris.

**How did you come to know and believe in Christ?** George was drawn to Christ and I was dutifully attending church with him. When Alison was born, the Minister asked if we would baptise her and I replied with an emphatic 'No' because I didn't believe the promises made in the baptismal service. He picked up that my disbelief may have come from ignorance of God's truth and persuaded me to attend a Christianity explained course. The Minister turned out to be correct; my rejection of God was based on making a decision without really knowing God's side of the story and also on public perception that belief in him wasn't 'cool'!

I was convinced by what the bible said about God and asked Jesus to include my sins amongst those he died for – the rest is history, I've been living life ever since with Christ by my side.

**How has your faith in Christ changed you?** My heart has changed to be more compassionate and my life has purpose – to be Christ's eye's, heart, mouth, hands and feet in everything I do. In difficult times I know God has a plan and I'm thankful for his help and presence. I am more deliberate about where I use my time and what I value.

**How could we pray for you?** Pray that being a disciple of Christ would become increasingly my natural response in thoughts, words and deeds and that I would grow more comfortable sharing my faith with strangers.

### News to share or point for prayer?

If you would like the church family to hear of recent news, or request prayer for yourself, please contact the office by phone or email. *Due to privacy laws we can only publish names with permission of those people.*

## Prayer points

**18<sup>th</sup> Nov** God our Father, whose will is to bring all things to order and unity in our Lord Jesus Christ; grant that all the peoples of the world, now divided and torn apart by sin, may be brought together in his kingdom of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**19<sup>th</sup> Nov** Pray shaped by Paul's prayer for the Christians in Philippi. **With gratitude for fellow Christians. Philippians 1v3-8:** *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.*

**20<sup>th</sup> Nov** Pray for all Christians reflecting on the hymn-lyrics:

*Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:*

*Thou mine inheritance now and always;*

*thou and thou only, first in my heart;*

*High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

**21<sup>st</sup> Nov** Praise God for his power to cleanse sinners. Confess confidently that Christ came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1v15-16)

**22<sup>nd</sup> Nov** Pray shaped by Paul's prayer for the Christians in Philippi. **For the transformation of fellow Christians. Philippians 1v9-11:** *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

**23<sup>rd</sup> Nov** Give thanks to God for His great provision. Give thanks for all He's given you (consider your spiritual blessings & your physical ones; your friends, family & church family; your gifts & opportunities to use them etc)

**24<sup>th</sup> Nov** Pray shaped by Paul's prayer for the Christians in Philippi. **In the face of difficulty & anxiety. Philippians 4v4-7:** *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

**25<sup>th</sup> Nov** Stir up, Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that they may produce abundantly the fruit of good works, and receive your abundant reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Roster reminders for next week

25<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Removed for privacy

### bible readings

**ot** Isaiah 7

**nt** Matthew 1 : 18 – 25

*Thank you for serving.*

*If you are unable to fulfil your rostered duty please organise a swap and let the service leader and the office know*

### Growth Groups

Mon pm	Seniorteens	Lithgow
Tues am	mixed	Lithgow
	pm mixed	Lithgow
Wed pm	Women's	Lithgow
	pm Men's	Lithgow
	pm Mixed	Wallerawang
Thu am	Women's	Lithgow
	pm mixed	Lithgow
	pm mixed	Portland
Fri am	women's	Lithgow
	pm Mixed	Lithgow

## Notices

### Hampers for Farmers

In partnership with Anglicare, we have hampers of food & toiletry essentials ready to give to those affected by drought. Contact Terry Smith to get these hampers to those you know who are in need.

### Christmas Carols 2018: 6:30pm Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December

A service of classic carols and the timeless Christmas Story. Our annual Carols are a great celebration of Christ's coming, open to all the community.

This year we are holding them on a Friday night at St Paul's (rather than Sunday).

Followed by family fun with face-painting, balloons, a bouncy castle, activities & food.

### Christmas services 2018

6pm Christmas Eve BBQ Carols at Portland

8am Christmas Day at St Paul's

10am Christmas Day at St Paul's

### Christmas and Beyond

Christmas and Beyond has been providing lunch on Christmas Day for the past 15 years. This year will not be any different, with a lunch on Christmas day, gifts for all who attend, lucky door prizes and hampers for families. The vision for Christmas and Beyond has been to provide a space to experience the joy of Christmas. This is provided for free to participants, an example of caring community of Lithgow in action to those less fortunate or finding themselves without community or family with which to celebrate the gift of Christmas. Any financial assistance for the event can be paid to Christmas and Beyond. Account Details on the bottom of the page.

### Volunteering

Christmas and Beyond has an expectation that volunteers have a great time as well. The work is not hard, with volunteers helping with the setup of the hall on the 23rd Dec (3 p.m. to 7 p.m.), serving and cleaning up on Christmas Day (from 8:30 a.m. till about 4 p.m.) Christmas and Beyond expect volunteers to give of their time as they can, be that all day or 1 hour.

**A bus driver is needed for Christmas day. A standard C class licence is required, but the position will require a commitment to be available from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Should you know someone who would like to meet this commitment, please contact Craig on 0456 560 018 or email [craig@craigrayner.com](mailto:craig@craigrayner.com) for further information or to confirm your willingness to help with this event.**

### Direct Giving details

**Account Name - ANGLICAN PARISH OF  
LITHGOW DIRECT GIVING**

**BSB - 062591**

**Account No. - 10085204**

**Please return Bibles to the back of church at the end of the service. Thank you!**