



St Peter's Anglican Church Wynnum

CORNERSTONE NEWS **December 2023—February 2024**

Welcome to the Cornerstone News, an issue full of photos, updates and fun.

We were tossing up whether to produce this issue at the beginning of December, so we could look back on October and November and look forward to December and 2024. Alternatively, we could wait until January so we could share photos and stories from all our December events.

In the end, practicality won out and we opted for the early edition so we could include a Christmas events flyer. It also means we don't have to run around on Boxing Day putting the next edition together so that it can be ready for the first week in January.

That said, it's another bumper edition as everyone at St Peter's has been busy doing all the things they do to make St Peter's such a thriving centre of goodness.

There's been a fashion parade, a trivia night, a referendum, a Christmas market and more. Not to mention all the "normal" things the St Peter's community do, like knitting beanies, making soup and stews for the pantry, washing and ironing clothing donations for Pandoras, cleaning the carpets, hosting the hub, dusting the church, choosing the hymns, arranging the flowers, doing the banking, the list goes on. I can't believe how much happened in the last two months.

In fact, your intrepid Parish Council had so much planned for this quarter that they realised they had bitten off more than they could chew—and postponed a few of the pencilled-in events. Hopefully by the time our next edition comes out, you'll be reading about hymn-a-thons and international dinners and all the other exciting things planned for 2024.

Thank you for being part of our St Peter's community. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Cornerstone News, and look forward to sharing more updates soon.

Your Cornerstone News team—*Cryssi, Wendy, Katie, Ross and Ruth*

Sam's Advent Message

Dearly beloved in the Christ, Advent greetings to you all!

As we enter into the season of the coming of the Lord, I would like to share with you a short reflection on the infancy narrative of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew (2.1-23). Gospel books to their major part talk about the life and work of our saviour Jesus in his adult years. A very small portion in the gospels is committed to the childhood of Jesus.

It will be challenging to ask ourselves, "How can children identify themselves with Jesus if we don't have a child Jesus?"

The infancy narratives in the gospels are a remarkably rare passage to perceive a 'child Christology'. As adults we can only think of our saviour to be an adult, and we also try to inform our children the same – a saviour adult. When children can see for themselves Christ who is a child like them, it will be easy for them to see their saviour. God is revealed in this child called Jesus. God represents in and through this child Jesus.

Baby Jesus here is a sought-after king. The noble Magis come all the way from the East to worship a child-king and child-Christ.

Recently we observed Christ the King Sunday. And the gospels tell us of a child-Christ and child-King. Then, this passage also talks about the horrific, bloodshed story related to baby Jesus - genocide of infants. Nobody would like to share this story to their children. It is the story of the child-Christ who was vulnerable, threatened for life, dependent upon his parents (adults), became an immigrant, and running for life. Of course, Jesus had experienced the cross even when he was a child.



This infant Jesus survived and became the saviour. This Christ Jesus identifies with many children today who are victims of war, violence, and abuse. He provides hope for them that they can survive too and find life. He calls us as individuals and as church to protect and honour children in our midst, and to enable life for them.



May this season of advent be a blessing to all of us in cherishing the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. May we all be filled with joy and be a blessing to many. May we prepare ourselves to welcoming this child, our saviour and God, Amen.



Youth Programs

The launch of 'Kidz Church' on the second Sunday of each month has been met with enthusiasm from children aged 6-8. Due to their eagerness, I have decided to conduct these sessions biweekly, occurring on the second and fourth Sundays between 3:30-4:30 pm. Your contributions and ideas have been invaluable, and I am grateful for the parishioners' commitment to making this initiative a success. I tailor materials and lessons to suit the age, growth development stages, cultural situation, abilities, and gifts of the participating children, ensuring a meaningful experience for them. The kids have proposed they enact the gospel reading during the Christmas Service. It promises to be a heartwarming addition to our festive celebrations.

Our Confirmation Preparation sessions are off to a promising start too, with four enthusiastic participants engaging in meaningful discussions about faith and religion. In an effort to expand this opportunity, I envision broadening the sessions to encompass all youth interested in exploring their spiritual journey. Introducing the 'Youth Alpha Course,' these sessions will serve as a platform for group discussions and self-contemplation. My role will be that of a facilitator, fostering an environment where our youth can collectively embark on their spiritual exploration. The group is meeting the first Sunday of the month between 4 and 5 pm in the Chapel.

Pet Blessing Service



On October 8th, we experienced the joy of praying for and blessing our beloved pet animals. It was great to meet so many of the pets who bring joy to your lives.

A special thanks to Jess for the flyers and certificates she created for us!

Rev'd Sam Sunny Anand Sigamani

NOTICE BOARD

For Sale / Free to a Good Home

As we mention later, in the hall report, we're doing a bit of a chair shuffle. We're looking for new homes for the grey chairs that are currently in the chapel. We're replacing these with the blue chairs currently in the hall. These grey ones are a bit worn out—but they're sturdy and with a bit of love would be as good as new!

Thank you

A big thank you to all our parish family, who participated in our "Thanksgiving Sunday" drive last month, and reviewed their time and talents—hopefully this will lead to a few new faces in volunteering roles next year!



Christmas Services

Our traditional Christmas programs remain a highlight, with a couple of slight adjustments.

You might remember last year we held a Nine Lessons and Carols service in the church. It's a wonderful service telling the Christmas story through scripture, poetry and song. This year, the service will be an Ecumenical service, held here at St Peter's on Sunday 17th December at 6pm. We've invited our neighbouring churches to participate, and are hoping they'll each present a reading and a carol. It will be exciting to participate in and host such a diverse program.

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, so we'll be having three services on Sunday and of course one on Monday. We'll have our regular 8am Sunday Eucharist, followed by a Family service at 4pm. We've brought it forward a little, making it easier for those having a Christmas Eve dinner.

We'll also have Midnight Mass, starting with some carols at 11pm and the service starting at 11:30pm.

On Christmas day, we're blessed to have Bishop John Roundhill join us and preside over our 8am service. As Sam mentioned in his article about our new youth programs, the kids are preparing a treat for us during the service, so don't miss it!

It will be a full weekend of praise and thanksgiving and we look forward to sharing it with you.

Blue Christmas

This year, we'll be hosting our Blue service on Wednesday Evening, 20th December. This is a quiet, contemplative service, without carols or bells—but it does give us space to spend time with God when everything is getting a little bit too much, or when Christmas is too full of melancholy for you to brave the crowds.

Heavily Meditated

Breathe deeply be silent and then....



Say, "Be still and know that I am God" - then be silent for two minutes

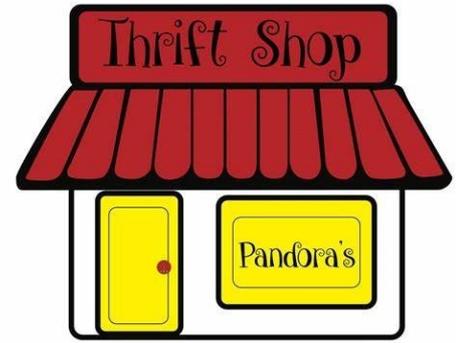
Say, "Be still and know that I am" - then be silent for two minutes

Say, "Be still and know." - then be silent for two minutes

Say, "Be." - then be silent for two minutes.

End the silence by saying "Amen"

☀️ Pandoras Update



What an incredible year it's been for our beloved Pandoras! Despite facing some health challenges among our dedicated volunteers, the Pandoras' team has rallied together, ensuring that our shop continues to shine at its very best.

👉 Community Spirit at its Finest

Our volunteers, the heartbeat of Pandoras, have gone above and beyond to cover opening hours during challenging times. However, we're on the lookout for a dynamic duo (or more!) to join our volunteer family in 2024. If you're passionate about making a difference, Pandoras is the place for you!

🌐 Connecting Beyond Our Doors

Pandoras is not just a shop; it's a hub of goodwill radiating beyond our local community. We've forged connections with remarkable organizations like Craft Kits for Kids and 4Voices, both champions in voluntary work for those facing homelessness and domestic violence. Your generous donations of recycled books, toys, and clothes are making a meaningful impact in the lives of those in dire need.

💰 Pandoras Paving the Way Financially

We're proud to announce that Pandoras continues to be a significant financial asset to St. Peters. Our store contributes roughly half of the fundraising income for the Parish—which is enormous and I'm so very proud of all our team. Your blood, sweat and tears have helped us not only survive but thrive!

👗 Fashion Frenzy

Thank you to all our models, cooks, coordinators and supporters who came along to our Pandoras' Fashion parade at the end of September. Despite clashing with the Spring Festival and a SAILS Bunnings BBQ we had a great turnout and a really enjoyable afternoon.



☀️ Summer Dreams and New Beginnings

As we approach the summer break, Pandoras is gearing up for a shop makeover. We'll be closing up on Friday 15th December, so we can spend a few weeks cleaning, restocking, and preparing for the new year – it's a brief pause, but an essential one. We can't wait to welcome 2024 with fresh energy and enthusiasm!



Thank you for being part of the Pandoras' journey. Together, we're creating ripples of positive change, one recycled item at a time. Merry Christmas from the team at Pandoras.

Livestreaming Chronicles



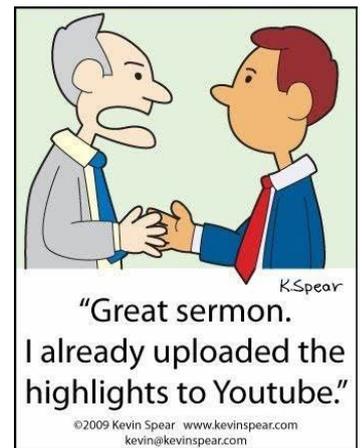
Greetings, fantastic parishioners!

It's a whirlwind of excitement in the AV desk, and we're thrilled to bring you the latest scoop. Our dynamic team has welcomed a new volunteer, bravely navigating the intricacies of audio control. A round of applause for his courage!

In the realm of livestreaming, we've been on a rollercoaster ride. Our Sunday worship services have garnered a steady following. Hello to all our dedicated "live" viewers and those who join us each week. Your virtual presence truly makes our ministry and outreach shine.

In response to popular demand, we've decided to up the ante! Buckle up because, from now on, our livestreams will capture the entire service, offering you the full experience. It's a bold move, and we're excited to see where this journey takes us.

However, every superhero has its kryptonite, and ours recently manifested as technical glitches with our trusty video mixer and pulpit-cam. Fear not! The pulpit-cam is on a time-out until it learns some manners, and our team is on a mission to find the perfect replacement for the video mixer. The tech world is vast, but we're determined to make livestreaming a breeze.



Despite a few hiccups, our commitment to delivering uplifting services remains steadfast. As we gear up for Advent and Christmas, things might get a bit topsy-turvy. Please bear with us as we navigate these exciting changes.

On that note, if you are planning to tune in for our Christmas services, we will only be streaming our Christmas Morning service. Unfortunately we won't be able to stream the Nine Lessons and Carols, Family Service or Midnight Mass. But tune in for regular Sunday 8am services, and Christmas Day 8am service and we'll be right there worshipping with you.

Thank you for your patience, support, and enthusiasm as we ride the waves of innovation. The best is yet to come, and we're delighted to share it all with you.

Wishing you joy, peace, and a bit of tech magic, from the AV team.



www.stpeterswynnum.org

HALL UPDATE: A FLOURISHING SPACE FOR COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

The Hall Committee has been buzzing with activity since our last update, and we're thrilled to share the latest highlights with you. Our mission to make the hall a vibrant hub for various events and gatherings is steadily taking shape.

Welcoming New Faces



We are delighted to announce the arrival of the Wynnum/Manly Bridge Club, which has found a temporary home in our hall with a lease extending for six months. We're also hoping the electoral commission will rent the hall for the upcoming March election—so keep your fingers crossed!

Planning for the Future

Anticipating a busy year ahead, we plan to roll out our advertising leaflet in the new year. This will be our way of showcasing the hall's versatility and inviting more members of our community to make use of this fantastic space.



Tidyness Takes Centre Stage



We're happy to report that hall hirers are now maintaining the space in a much tidier condition. Thank you for contributing to the positive upkeep of our shared space. Oh, and you may have noticed that we recently had the carpets cleaned, which has given our hall a refreshed look. You'll see a new vacuum cleaner in our 2024 budget—so that should make keeping the hall tidy even easier!

The recent addition of a new chair trolley is proving to be a game-changer, making the setup and rearrangement of chairs a breeze. By the end of this year we're planning to move all the blue chairs into the chapel—and purchase some new chairs next year. Some found the blue ones a bit heavy to move around and as such they are rarely used. We're looking for new homes for the black and grey chairs in the chapel—so if you have a need.....



Security Matters



We've done some work on the sliding doors—which should mean they'll slide and lock a little better. We are also looking into ways of modifying the lock system for the Bride Street door.

As we continue to enhance and evolve, we express our gratitude to each one of you for contributing to the vibrant spirit of our community hall. Together, we're building a space where shared moments and memorable gatherings thrive.

Best wishes from your Hall Committee.

SAILS at Bayside



ANGLICAN SAILING ADVENTURES IN LIFE SKILLS

Since our last Cornerstone News update, the wind in our sails hasn't waned, and SAILS at Bayside activities have continued at their normal (almost) frenetic pace! Here's a glimpse of our recent adventures and triumphs:



Thanksgiving Reflections

At our Thanksgiving Service in October, we had an opportunity to 'slow down' and reflect on the many things for which we were truly thankful. 2023 saw our Catamaran / Safety Boat Shed successfully moved from its old site at Manly to Trinity Uniting Church at Wellington Point; our financial situation improved significantly; and a number of new volunteers joining SAILS to assist at Sailing / Kayaking activities and/or at fundraising activities such as Bunnings BBQs. Not to mention getting Rev'd Sam out on the water and the return of some old friends. Praise the Lord!

Building Bridges: Collaborative Events

In the past few months, we've been privileged to hold events for organisations including BABI Youth and Family Services, Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT) and Create Foundation. In mid-November, a number of SAILS volunteers attended BABI's 40th anniversary celebrations held in conjunction with their annual general meeting.

Trivia Triumph: SAILS Night to Remember

November brought success and laughter at the SAILS Trivia Night. It was a testament to our vibrant community and the high regard in which SAILS is held by our supporting organizations.

Sizzling Success

Our Bunnings BBQ teams have been drawn from regular SAILS members plus volunteers from parishes. In particular, SAILS conducted two Saturday BBQs over the past 2 months requiring 12 positions to be covered for each day.

Many regular team members were very very happy to see the reinstatement of BBQs at our regular events which were curtailed in 2020 as a result of COVID outbreak .

Charting the Course for 2024

As we set sail into 2024, challenges beckon—chiefly, the need to replace our aging kayak trailer and a continuous call for new volunteers. The community spirit that propels us forward remains unwavering.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming public sailing / kayaking days on January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, and May 11. The January, February and May events will be held under the auspices of the Brisbane City Council Active Parks program. Those three events take place at Breakwater Park, Wynnum – just down the road from St Peters and are a great opportunity for parishioners to attend, volunteer or just spend time with SAILS volunteers!(maybe consume a sausage sizzle or two)!!

The *SAILS at Bayside Committee* wish you all the best, *and* hope that as we navigate the waters ahead, we continue to sail together, united by the shared joy of making a difference



Tingalpa Chapel

The Tingalpa pioneer chapel (aka “Bush Cathedral“ and formerly Christ Church Tingalpa) celebrated its 155th anniversary on 7th October.



Sam had the opportunity to conduct a blessing service on the day and our own Beryl Wheeldon was honoured with a certificate for her long-term association with the chapel.



TREErific

No, it's not the Macquarie Dictionary's 2023 word of the year. In fact, you won't find TREErific any official dictionary. You will find it on St Peter's Christmas flyers for the last few years though.

TREErific is the brainchild of our own Wendy Ross. A few years ago, she had the idea to host a festival of Christmas trees. So, she wrote to many local community groups and asked them to create and/or decorate a tree that represented their group, for display at this community event.

The response was incredible—and TREErific is now a firm favourite with locals. Every year, community groups from Manly Lota Scouts to the Red Cross put up a tree to wish locals a merry Christmas, and perhaps spread the word about their group. In the last few years we've also had a display of Nativity Sets—so if you have one you want to show off—let Wendy know, and if you want to check some out—come along!!

This year, we're holding TREErific in the Church again—as we love looking at them during the week and love showing off our Church.

We have loads of repeat visitors—many who make it part of their Christmas Tradition. Consider making it part of yours too!

You'll find a couple of St Peter's folk on the door with a friendly smile and offering Christmas hospitality to one and all*.



Community Christmas Tree Display

Sat 9th to Sat 16th December

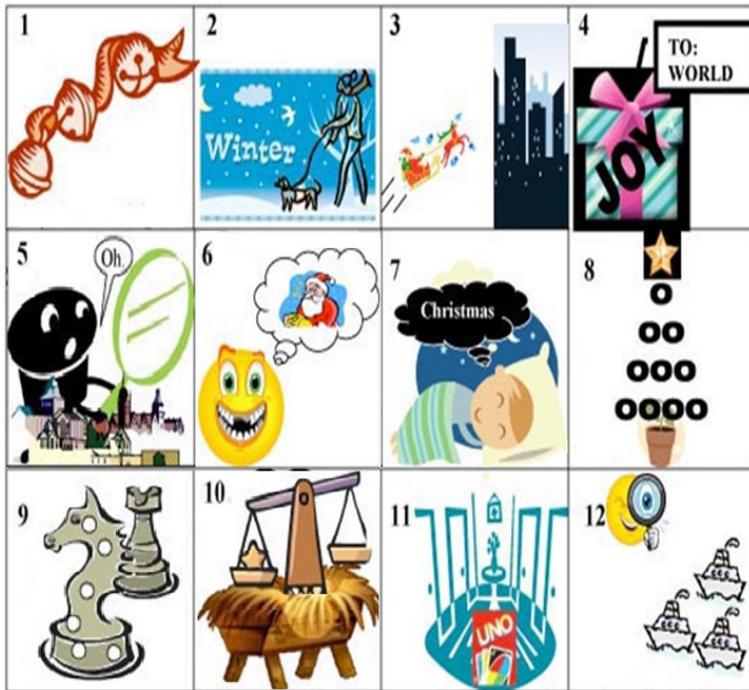
Open Daily

10am-2pm & 6pm-8pm

**Unless they are jigsaw nuts, in which case they may be too engrossed in our annual TREErific jigsaw puzzle to notice that we have visitors....*

NAME THAT *CHRISTMAS* TUNE

REBUS PUZZLE



WORD SCRAMBLE

- (3 words) aefhmnnoorsstwy
- (6 words) aaaceeeefhhiillmmorrrrsstttuvyy
- (3 words) bceegijklInor
- (3 words) eilnosttw
- (3 words) bdeeiIlmmorrttuy
- (4 words) ddddeeeeeeHhIlInnooprRRRrStu
- (2 words) aaabbnsty
- (6 words) aeeeeefghiiknnoorrsttw
- (2 words) deeiKlnotty
- (2 words) eghiInnst

COLOURING IN



Word Scramble: 1 Frosty The Snowman, 2 Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas, 3 Jingle Bell Rock, 4 Let It Snow, 5 Little Drummer Boy, 6 Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer, 7 Santa Baby, 8 We Three Kings Of Orient Are, 9 Little Donkey, 10 Silent Night

Rebus Answers: 1 Jingle Bells, 2 Walking in a Winter Wonderland, 3 Santa Claus is Coming to Town, 4 Joy to the World, 5 Oh Little Town of Bethlehem, 6 All I want for Christmas is my wo Front Teeth, 7 I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas, 8 O Christmas Tree, 9 O Holy Night, 10 Away in a Manger, 11 Deck the Halls, 12 I Saw Three Ships



St Peter's Twilight Christmas Market

Yes, it's happening. Christmas is here. We've sold a bazillion Christmas decorations at Pandoras—and we've held yet another super-successful Christmas Twilight Market and any minute now we'll be putting up the Christmas lights.

As I'm sure you're all aware, it's tough to pick a date that doesn't clash with other local events, that is a few weeks before Christmas so that it doesn't overshadow Advent and the Christmas Worship season, and not so early that it's "too early" to buy fruit mince pies and rumballs. I know what you're thinking—it's never too early for rum balls—but still scheduling is a struggle.

Our bakers and crafters have put in a stellar effort this year—between car boot sales, referendum day stalls, the fete and these markets, I think we've probably spent one person-year in the kitchen or at the sewing machine. For those of you not familiar with the musical RENT—that make 525,600 minutes....

We at the Cornerstone News would like to give a big round of applause to Sue Kemp. The twilight markets are her baby (ok, one of many—but still...) and she has managed to put together an amazing line up again this year. We had a full slate this year with music, food, ice-cream, cakes, craft, and stalls galore. And as always, the community spirit was over the top. How blessed we are to live in such a generous community.

We decided to go with the afternoon time slot again this year—but centre the action on the green. Having everyone in and around the green and the hall makes the whole atmosphere so much more connected, and now that we finally have appropriate lighting, there's nothing stopping us except the heat. We were a bit worried about the heat. Boy can it get hot on a late November afternoon.

But as it turns out, the heat wasn't so bad. The weather was a little overcast and we had a teensy bit of rain —just enough to take the edge off. All in all the evening was a great success. We saw some old friends and made some new ones—and got to sing along to a few Christmas Carols at the same time!



IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE....

Yes, it's getting hot.

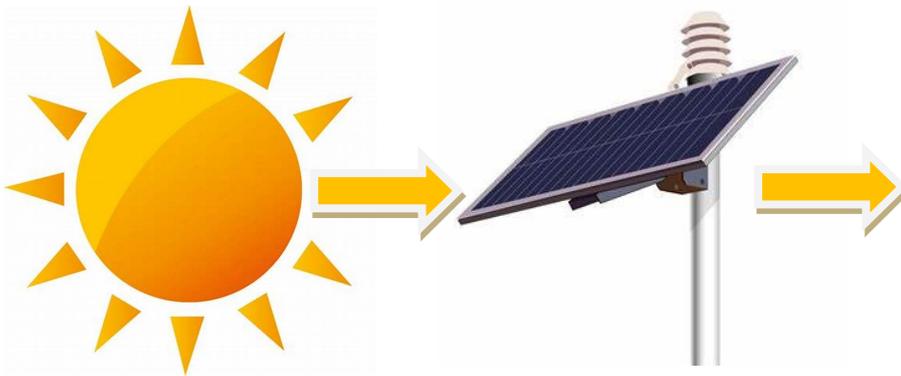
The good news is that our new solar panels are now fully functional and will be providing electricity to run the entire precinct by Christmas. It wasn't easy, and we had to carry out the work in a few stages—but we're there!

This is good news for three reasons. First—it means we're living our mission to look after this world God has blessed us with, by using the sun for energy and relying less on fossil fuels.

Secondly, it will help us become more financially stable in the years to come, as we won't have an enormous electricity bill to look forward to every year. For the last few years our annual bill has been above \$6,000 (and that was before this year's price hike) so reducing this is a huge deal for our struggling budget.

Finally—as it is VERY sunny in Wynnum and we're generating loads of electricity, it's more viable to use some stop-gap measures for cooling the church. We can't afford air conditioning just yet—but the solar panels will allow us to run all the fans without worrying so much.

On that note, if you sit up the back left of the church, near the AV desk, you may have noticed that we bought a new fan a few weeks ago. It's an industrial fan and runs at 120w—whereas our other fans are domestic and run at about 40w. On a hot day, this is fabulous – but on the milder days the new fan is too much and the old fan is too little. Unfortunately, the range of 80w fans is pretty slim—but we're searching for the perfect balance. If this is your area of expertise and you can help us find the right fan—sing out!!



Our gardeners are going strong, watering and weeding, mulching and composting. The fun never ends. They've had a couple of working bees since our last newsletter and love new helpers. Even if you have a black thumb— if you can sweep, wheelbarrow or make a cup of tea —come on down!!

They'll likely have a few impromptu working bees before Christmas and will definitely be putting their 2024 working bee schedule together soon—so keep an eye out!



the St Peter's Parish Precinct Committee

PANTRY CHRONICLES: GENEROSITY IN FULL BLOOM

Gosh, where to begin. So many awesome things have happened in the last few months, I'm hard pressed to get my thoughts in order.

Brekky Club Bonanza

September brought us a bustling Brekky Club with 117 smiling faces, and thanks to the generosity of Fire Break Farm Yarraman and Woolworths Wynnum, our pantry was stocked with 30kgs of goodness. Shoutout to the Brekky Club team for keeping our community well-fed!



Creative Generosity

A round of applause for one of our quiet-achiever parishioners. She often takes on part-time work within a group she is affiliated with. Rather than charge them—she asks them to consider making a donation to our pantry. We think this is ingenious—as we know that this parishioner is such a loving and generous soul—and loves helping others. Her approach is multiplying the impact of her generosity by giving those she assists an opportunity to provide support to others in need.

Spring Festival Extravaganza

The Spring Festival brought unexpected joy as Barry Myatt and Cr Sara Whitmee selected St. Pete's Pantry as the charitable beneficiary. Despite some challenges, our team rallied to spread the word, and the festival's rides contributed a whopping \$8,000 to our pantry. It was a great effort with little notice and conflicting St Peter's outreach events on the same weekend (SAILS had a Bunnings BBQ and Pandoras had a fashion parade). A massive thank you to all involved. Now the fun part—we can start thinking about how we can use this windfall for the greater good!

Voting Adventures

God works in mysterious ways. With the parish leasing the hall to the Electoral Commission for pre-polling and voting day for October's referendum, the Pantry had to find new spaces within the church and hall to operate. We sectioned off the "back" of the hall and operated out of the door facing Charlotte street. We could still access the pantry store room and stage which gave us just enough room to greet and serve our clients. The plus side was that heaps of people knocked on our door to vote and we could tell them about the pantry. Many of them came back afterwards to make donations!

Coffee, chat

Our new Friday coffee and chat sessions, have become a hit among several regular attendees. Kudos to the team for making it work!

Shining Star

We feel so proud and blessed to win the Bonner Shining Star Community Award— this recognition fuels our commitment to being Jesus' hands and feet in our community.



Christmas Plans in the Pipeline

As we gear up for Advent and Christmas, exciting plans are in the works. We are hosting a community lunch on Monday 4th December—which we really encourage all our supporters to attend. This is a lunch for *all* of the community. For a treat, this year we'll be visited by an ice-cream & gelato van!

We are also gearing up for Christmas Hampers—if you've been around for a while you'll know that this is a massive effort—where the hall is turned into a north-pole style assembly line. We line the hall with tables—and lay out the massive quantities of donated Christmas food.



This year our army of elves will pack over two hundred hampers full to overflowing with everything from ham to fruit mince pies. This has become such a successful community outreach that each year we have more and more people offering us food—or other goods like hygiene bags and school backpacks. If you'd like to assist, we are packing on Tuesday morning 19th December—give Marilyne a call for details.

This year we were over the moon to receive support from some of the youngest members of our community. The Joey Scouts (6-7 years old) chose to do a Halloween trick-or-treat with a difference. Instead of traipsing their neighbourhood for lollies, these awesome kids did a letterbox drop letting people know that they'd be collecting food for the pantry instead. The result was gob-smacking. Ingenious I tell you.



Cannon Hill Anglican College (CHAC) continue to be loyal and generous supporters of the Pantry. They arrived with a (literally) truck load of food for our hampers last week, and we've filled every available storage space with staples and treats for our hampers.

Your ongoing support warms our hearts, and we're excited for the adventures that lie ahead. Together, we're making a difference in our community!

.....from the team at St Pete's Pantry

Editor's Essay....

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas....

OK, so I may have already started playing my favourite Michael Bublé Christmas album. Don't judge me. Whether you are like the shops, and put your Christmas decorations up on the 1st November—or like me and aim for the first weekend in December and sometimes manage to get them up before the 23rd — Christmas fever can indeed take over your life.

It's such a complex time of year. It's a chaotic mix of joy, stress, hope and regret, faith and fear. The stores are full of carols, trees and trinkets, there are Christmas parties and end of year celebrations every weekend, school is out and there are people everywhere. If you're not a fan of Christmas, there is nowhere to hide.

Fortunately, I love Christmas. I really do. I love baking shortbread, I love an opportunity to give gifts to my friends and family, I love the generally joyful mood of the season. But it's also pretty chaotic. I have a massive whiteboard on the wall that becomes a Christmas Calendar at this time of year—with all the commitments I've made big and bold so I don't forget. I'm still working every day, still have all the "normal" things to do, and invariably I find I've accidentally committed to do too much. Before I know it, it's January and I wish I'd booked a week off work to recover.

It's one of the reasons I love Advent. Not the calendar—although I can definitely see the appeal of a chocolate treat each day—but the prayers and services that remind me that this is a time of reflection on the real gifts of Christmas. The ones Jesus gave us—hope, peace, joy and love. Jesus loves us how we are. He loves who we are. He doesn't wish we were more like our cousin, that we were better at math or more athletic. He doesn't expect us to be the life of the party, or bring our A-game to every event. He doesn't need us to outdo last year's ham or spend the electricity money on gifts. He just loves us, and all He asks is that we love Him, love our neighbours and here's the kicker—love ourselves as well.

One tradition you might like to try, is trading in store-bought bon-bons with handmade alternatives. Instead of a joke about snowmen, switch it up with asking your table-neighbour what they're most grateful for, or how they want to inspire hope in someone in the new year.



This year, consider doing a bit of re-gifting.

Pass on one of the gifts God has given to you—hope, peace, joy and love.

Merry Christmas from your friendly neighbourhood Cornerstone editor



St Peter's Anglican Church Wynnum

Men's Ministry



At the end of August we experienced the heat of Mexican cooking at Pepes Restaurant for dinner. Some relished the heat while others extinguished their diner with copious helpings of water and yoghurt. The evening of tasty food, good conversation, fun and frivolity was enjoyed by all.

Every Wednesday 7.30 pm we meet in the hall for a good chat over a cuppa and nibbles followed by a great discussion about a piece of scripture. Scripture can speak to us differently and everyone's input is valued. Listening to others and sharing opinions is so precious.

During September we looked at James followed by Peter. Leading up to Christmas we will discuss scripture from a 95 point five Christian radio station Christmas Hope booklet. Late November we dined at Pera Palace Ottoman where we savoured traditional Turkish cuisine.

The end of November we visited our Fellow Brothers in Christ at Carina Uniting church to listen to a speaker.

Have a look at our Christmas tree during the TREErfic week. Painstakingly assembled with serious project and engineering skills, it reflects the meaning of Christmas in a humorous way that only a bunch of larrikins could pull off.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas we will discuss new events. All men are welcome to our meetings, a place amidst Fellow Mates in Christ.



God bless you and your families at this holy, festive, reflective and joyous time of the year.

Your Fellow Brother in Christ Charlie. charles.dunbar007@gmail.com / 0411 202 412



Celebrate Christmas at St Peter's Wynnum

Mon 4th 12 Noon Community Meal

**Sat 9th - Sat 16th TREErific
10am-2pm & 6pm-8pm**

Sun 17th 6pm 9 Lessons & Carols

Tue 19th 9am Hamper Packing

Wed 20th 9am Hamper Distribution

6pm Blue Service

Sat 23rd 8am Church Cleaning

Sun 24th 8am Sunday Morning Service

4pm Christmas Eve Family Service

11pm Christmas Eve Midnight Service

Mon 25th 8am Christmas Day Service

77 Charlotte Street Wynnum

GET IN TOUCH

St Peter's Anglican Church - Priest in Charge

The Rev'd Sam Sunny Sigamani



0435 023 184



Priest@StPetersWynnum.org

Parish Office



Ali Byrne



WorshipInWynnum



3893 2492



StPetersWynnum



Secretary@StPetersWynnum.org
Office@StPetersWynnum.org



WorshipInWynnum



www.stpeterswynnum.org



77 Charlotte Street, Wynnum 4178



Bank: Anglican Financial Services
Acct Name: Wynnum Anglican Parish



PO Box 1097, Wynnum Central, 4178

BSB: 704-901

Acct Number: 00000530

Reference: Weekly/Monthly Offering

Church Wardens

Warden

Nicholas Bron



0412 591 524

Warden

Robyn Elliott



0412 996 833 | Robyn@adefs.com.au

Warden

Wendy Ross



0431 419 401 | w.ross.1@hotmail.com

Group Directory

Prayer Chain

Marilyne Jacob
or Office



0407 964 617 (Marilyne) or 3893 2492 (office)

Health & Safety

Ross Hodson



0409 414 747

Ladies Fellowship

Wendy Ross



0431 419 401

Men's Ministry

Charlie Dunbar



0411 202 412 | charles.dunbar007@gmail.com

Pandoras Thrift Store

Chris Duffield



0457 525 277

St Pete's Pantry

Marilyne Jacob



0421 677 552 | Pantry@StPetersWynnum.org

Car Boot Sale

Sue Kemp



0493 145 893

WHAT'S ON AT ST PETER'S



Eucharist Services

Sundays 8am
Wednesdays 10am

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays 8:30AM

Regis, Manly

4th Monday, 10:30am

Nazareth House

1st Tuesday, 9:30am

St Pete's Pantry

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-11am

Brekky Club

Monday 8:30-10:00am

Pandoras Op Shop

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm

Men's Ministry,

every Wednesday
7.30pm in the Parish Centre
BYO cuppa and nibbles.

Ladies Fellowship

3rd Monday of every month
2pm in the Parish Centre

Quarterly Events Calendar

DECEMBER

Community Meal—Monday 4th 12 Noon
TREErific—Saturday 9th— Saturday 16th
Ecumenical 9 Lessons & Carols - Sunday 17th 6pm
Hamper Packing —Tuesday 19th 9am
Hamper Distribution—Wednesday 20th 9am
Blue Service—Wednesday 20th 6pm
Church Cleaning Working Bee—Saturday 23rd 8am
Christmas Eve Family Service—Sunday 24th 4pm
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass—Sunday 24th 11pm
Christmas Morning Service—Monday 25th 8am

FEBRUARY

Sunday 18th—Parish AGM