

FEBRUARY NEWS



Alpha 2019 begins

Photo by Benjamin Ashton on Unsplash

FROM THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER - RUTH

A warm welcome to St Tom's if you've joined us recently, or been traveling over summer!

Are you feeling refreshed and ready for 2019?

Refreshment may 'find us' in the oddest places. I was back at my desk after enjoying two weeks away, but was quite 'un-relaxed'. Attending Summer Under the Son, the Church Missionary Society conference, wasn't quieting my 'unrest'.



I was just feeling 'un', unprepared, unraveled, unworkable, unworthy - like a handful of scruffy fleece, shorn off a sheep's back, fearing the hand that was coaxing the spinning wheel into action. Was I looking to 2019 with confidence in God?

On the last day of the conference a missionary couple was thanked for a decade of overseas mission. As they received a lengthy applause, their four kids were pictured on the screen. Suddenly I was fighting back tears. A painful question ripped through my mind: Why weren't the kids being thanked? I was never thanked as a child of missionary parents either! Of course missionaries must be honoured when they return home! So what was happening within me?

For kids of missionaries, returning to Australia is scary-sad. They must leave all they've known - home, school, friends - for their parents' home. They grow up in one life, then one day they travel across the globe, and there's a different life for them. Are they culturally Australian or the other?

As I struggled to compose myself, words floated into my consciousness - 'I carry in my body... the marks of mission'. My developing identity was torn in two. I remembered rejection by both cultures. I remembered rejecting my double self, so I 'forgot' one culture, while I learned the other. Andrew is also the child of missionary parents. We both struggle with trust at times. Now I felt even more like scruffy wool.

As we drove away, I found myself listening to words forming in the background of my mind - 'Jesus' identity is two-fold: fully God and fully human. He was rejected by his own people and abandoned by God. He was torn. Jesus bears in his body 'the marks of mission'. Relief coursed through me.

More slowly, I heard these words - 'Jesus' scars are God's means of healing the world.' Comfort, solace poured into me. Then came the question, 'What might He do with your scars?' And just like that, I was reconstituted, restored, refreshed, revitalized, reoriented. I was 're', not 'un'.

All our identities lie in being created in God's image regardless of what happens in life. And becoming a Christian creates in us a new identity - Christ's - scars and all.

So I'm trusting God to pick up the scruffy wool of our lives, tease lumpy knots, smooth fibres, release a burr or grass seed, and working with the whisper of the whirring wheel, tug skillfully, until smooth yarn twirls into being, released beneath his fingers.

Whether you're new or have called St Tom's home for a while, consider yourself part of the fabric God's working with in 2019.

SERMON SERIES, PREACHING ROSTER AND READINGS

Did you know that each gospel is represented by an animal or person? Typically: Matthew - a winged man, Mark - a winged lion, Luke - a winged ox and John - an eagle. This is called the *tetramorph*, meaning four shape. This tradition goes back to the 2nd century, originally to Irenaeus. The four creatures, representing the gospels, are borrowed from the book of Ezekiel and also Revelation.



For additional readings please see elvanto or request a copy of the *2019 Planner and Sermon Series* by emailing Steph at admin@sttoms.org

Series	Date	Title	Bible Reading	Preacher 8:30 / 10:30	Preacher Chinese 10:30 / 2pm
The Gospel of Mark	3 Feb	Accused by family and teachers	Mark 3:20-35	Ruth Newmarch	Joey Chan
	10 Feb	Parables of Word	Mark 4:1-34	John Carrick	Kian Gee Lim
	17 Feb	Parables of Deed	Mark 4:35-5:43	John Carrick	Joey Chan
	24 Feb	Without honour yet more than a prophet	Mark 6	Joshua Millard	Kian Gee Lim
Messy Church at 10:00	3 Mar	That which defiles	Mark 3:20-35	Denise Clarke (8:30) Messy Church	Joey Chan

PARISH COUNCIL

**Ruth Kernebone - Warden**

I love the fact that St Tom's helps and encourages me each week to try to follow Jesus better. I am married to Peter and we have two children, Elspeth and Philip. I have belonged to St Tom's and earlier to St Theo's for about 15 years.

**Joe Pang - Warden**

I am one of the friendly ones, with only one goal in mind to keep smiling :) and to bring smiles to you. :D
That's all about me because I am a very simple person.

**Lawrence Gebert - Warden**

I enjoy attending the 10:30am Contemporary services where I occasionally assist with Welcoming and with operation of the sound desk. I also assist with facility maintenance issues at St Tom's. Away from St Tom's I work as an engineering manager and power engineering consultant.

**Kirsten Binns-Smith**

Great value of our diverse community lies with cross generational interaction. I love supporting the 8.30 congregation and the church as a whole through services and community building events.

**Alison Clarke**

I have been attending the 10.30am Contemporary English Service for 6 years, with my husband Jono. When I am not enjoying serving at St Toms, I work as a youth worker. I am excited to join the parish council team in pursuing our vision for the church community.

**Ivy Fung**

Most of my friendships are built up from fellowships, therefore I enjoy spending time with people, over a coffee or when we achieve goals in group gatherings. However at the same time I like being alone for my thought process on most things.

**Peter Crandle - Parish Secretary**

I am husband to Rhonda, father to three and grandfather to one. An engineer, I grew up in New Zealand in a large, caring and Christian family. Then spent time in England and Europe, before meeting Rhonda and moving to Glen Waverley.

We have taken part in the life of an inner-city church, a dwindling suburban parish, a church amalgamation and the establishment of a new large church. We are now starting a new chapter, becoming included in St Tom's, learning more about God's intentions for us, being guided by and enjoying your company on our journey.

**William Milton**

I am a fan of my God, my family, my gym, sports and my church.

**Steven Tong**

I've been attending St Thomas' for 2 years, joining after I returned to Melbourne from Darwin (having been there for 10 years). I am married with 3 kids, and I work as an infectious diseases doctor and researcher. I'm excited to serve on parish council and to help with understanding and communicating God's vision for St Thomas'.

**Sylvia Wu Law**

I came to Melbourne as an international student from Hong Kong in 2004, joined St Thomas (former St Michael) in 2005, and now work as an oncology nurse in Cabrini.

**William Lui**

Work hard, play hard mate!

**Bethany Sim**

I've been a part of the St Tom's community for about five years now, taking me from high-school, all through university and now into my first years in the workforce. Currently I work as a nurse while living in Heidelberg and I am truly excited to see where this year leads.

FINANCES

If you consider St Tom's your church then please prayerfully consider giving financially to its ministry. The running of St Tom's relies upon the generosity of its members. Below you can see the amounts which are required on a monthly basis for running our church. There are many ways to give financially, such as:

- Direct Debit (see account details below)
- Online with a Credit or Debit Card - go to sttoms.org/give
- Cash or Cheque, into the offering taken up during our services
- Through the Anglican Development Fund, form available outside the Admin office.

Most people find giving either by Direct Debit or Online the most convenient way and setting their giving to reoccur monthly or weekly.

We support a number of mission organisations and, in line with our values, we give 10% of our income towards missions both local and international.

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 NIV

Giving

If you are a visitor today, our service is a gift to you.

For those who are regular members we encourage giving electronically:

	Name	BSB	Account No.	Monthly Required
General Account	St Thomas Burwood	063-112	1039 7091	\$ 38,200
Building Fund	St. Thomas ADF Building Fund	703-122	0500 5091	\$ 6,145

ST TOMS IN 2019 - EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

ALPHA LAUNCH NIGHT

We will be launching our term 1 Alpha with dinner. Why not invite a friend to this wonderful evening!

When: 7PM Tuesday 19 Feb

Where: the Square @ St Tom's

Please contact Ruth Newmarch - ruthn@sttoms.org - for any queries or to RSVP.

ALPHA: EXPLORE LIFE, FAITH & MEANING

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes - you name it.

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith. To ask questions, and share their point of view in an open, friendly environment.



No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

St Tom's will be running 3 Alpha courses through 2019 - terms 1, 2 & 3.

Speak to, or contact Brenton if you are interested in attending.
brentonw@sttoms.org

ALPHA LEADERS TRAINING DAY

When: Saturday 9 February 10AM-2PM

Where: in the square at St. Tom's

Lunch will be provided!

ST TOMS IN 2019 - KIDS

CHILD SAFE TRAINING

At St Tom's we value ministry to children which is open, supervised and safe. All leaders and volunteers who work and minister directly with children are classed as *Category 1 Volunteers*. These volunteers must have:

- a current Working With Children Check,
- a National Police Check,
- have read and adhere to our Code of Conduct for Ministry among Children and in addition attend our Child Safe Training at least once in a two year period.

Our next next Child Safe Training will be:

Sunday 10 February at noon

It will go for 45 mins and be held in Worship 2.

If you are a Category 1 Volunteer and didn't attend in 2018, please prioritise attending this session.

Note: Anyone may attend this training.



MESSY CHURCH

The 3rd of March will be our first Messy Church Service, a service

especially run for families. The theme is 'in the beginning'. Bring friends!

TOMS CREW

Tom's Crew is starting back up for 2019 soon! If you don't know what Tom's Crew is, it's a fun bible filled after school club for primary school aged children that runs on Thursdays here at St Tom's, starting from the 21st of February. We're also having a couple of special 'Prep Days' this term for kids new to prep to try out Tom's Crew. Those days are March 7th and 28th, so if you know any preps kids that would like to come, invite them! If you know any primary school aged children who would be keen, don't hesitate to invite them as well!



ST TOMS IN 2019 - YOUTH

CLAY YOUTH

In January Clay Youth attended the Summer Under The Son youth camp. Read on to find out how it went.

SOPHIE

WHAT HAPPENED AT SUTS?

SUTS involved lots of fun activities, great small group discussions and morning and evening worship sessions. We spent the afternoons in the pool, enjoying raft building and zipping down the giant flying fox.



WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE PART?

My favourite part was the small group discussions and the chance to make closer connections to other people in your year level. The time dedicated to small group discussion was a great way to grow in our understanding of the bible and thus, in our faith.

WHAT WAS SOMETHING YOU LEARNT?

I learnt about how God uses us all in his mission. Just as Jonah was scared to journey to Ninevah, we too are often afraid of going out into the world to spread God's great news. However, SUTS is always a great encouragement to do just that, to go and share the gospel whether it be to friends at school or people in isolated places globally.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND SUTS TO A FRIEND NEXT YEAR?

Yes! SUTS is a great way to help mature your faith and make lasting friendships.



WILL

WHAT HAPPENED AT SUTS?

SUTS was 5 days of great fun, awesome friends and hilarious studies on Jonah!

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE PART?

How there were so many Youth thinking about mission. This mission included Cross-cultural mission overseas or interstate, as well as mission to their friends and family at their schools, sports clubs and work places!!

WHAT WAS SOMETHING YOU LEARNT?

No matter who we are or what we have done, God in His infinite mercy calls us to repent. Jonah was SUPER challenging!

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND SUTS TO A FRIEND NEXT YEAR?

Definitely! Every year SUTS gets better and better! I can't wait to see how great next year will be, this year is hard to top!

SERVING AT ST TOMS IN 2019

WHERE MAY I SERVE?

Coming up on Sunday 17 February, each congregation will spend 5-10 minutes thinking about service. Everyone will be given a *Where May I Serve* form and asked to tick a box or boxes, indicating areas where they would be willing to serve in our church family. Please pray, asking God for his guidance.

WHERE MAY I SERVE?
 Tick boxes where you are willing to serve in 2019 going forward. Please note that the areas that are **bold** are in great need of more volunteer help

Category 1 Volunteers

<input type="checkbox"/> Song Leader	<input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Carer - visiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom's Crew Leader
<input type="checkbox"/> Communion Assistant	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographer	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer / Bookkeeper
<input type="checkbox"/> Crèche Leader	<input type="checkbox"/> Playgroup Volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Team Leader
<input type="checkbox"/> Handyman	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Leader (leading prayer in services)	<input type="checkbox"/> Women's Mentor Leader
<input type="checkbox"/> Kidult Speaker	<input type="checkbox"/> Lay preacher (pray with people post service)	<input type="checkbox"/> Women's Mentor
<input type="checkbox"/> Meals provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Ministry (pray with people post service)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Leader
<input type="checkbox"/> St Tom's Hope Mentor	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Leader (Leader / Assistant)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Club Helper
<input type="checkbox"/> MOPS Volunteer		<input type="checkbox"/> Swap Leader
<input type="checkbox"/> Morning/ Afternoon Tea team leader		

Category 2 Volunteers

<input type="checkbox"/> Band Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Money Counter	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcomer
<input type="checkbox"/> Communion Set Up / Pack Up	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer support Operator	<input type="checkbox"/> Women's mentoring Prayer and support
<input type="checkbox"/> English Teacher		

Category 3 Volunteers

<input type="checkbox"/> Bible reader (in service)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaner (vacuuming)	<input type="checkbox"/> Morning Tea Team
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Helper (crèche)	<input type="checkbox"/> ProPresenter	<input type="checkbox"/> Women's Mentoring Prayer Partner
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Partner	

Jan 2019

ENGLISH LESSONS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

One of St Thomas' ministries is to local non native English speakers through English lessons. We would love your assistance with making morning tea for our group on Saturdays at 10.30AM. If you are interested please contact Steph at admin@sttoms.org

SUNDAY CLUB - VACANCIES

Our groups have grown so much and it is with excitement that we ask if there is anyone else out there who might want to help with Sunday Club. Only requirements are a willingness to help and engage the kids with learning about their wonderful Creator! Contact Wills Smith - wills@sttoms.org

KIDS HOPE - VACANCIES

Kid's Hope is also looking for some new volunteers. There will be a small information session about being a Kid's Hope mentor straight after church on February 3rd in the red room. Clare will be there for half an hour to answer any questions. Contact Clare - kids_hope@sttoms.org



WORKING BEE

The annual February Working Bee will be on Saturday afternoon 16th February from 12:00 noon until 5:00 pm. Key jobs will include:

- Cleaning kitchen and lounge
- Steam clean carpets in lounge, red room and crying rooms
- Cleaning hall floor
- Clearing roof gutters
- Clearing cobwebs, everywhere
- Removing old signage from front of church
- Odd jobs

All available help will be appreciated, even if you can only stay for a short time.



COMING UP AT ST TOMS

EUCALYPTS

Also Eucalypts is on Wednesday Feb 20 With Nils von Kalm from Anglican Overseas Aid speaking on the Middle East.

Eucalypts is for Over 50's at 12.30 pm. Lunch is provided. there is opportunity to give a donation to the work of our speaker. All welcome.

SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS KICKS OFF IN 2019 WITH

BAREFOOT BOWLS

THURSDAY 21ST FEBRUARY AT 7PM



Guys come for a casual night out with the blokes from SMB. Further details to come. See one of our SMB blokes: Seamus, John Carrick, Michael Dowling, Brenton Winter, Lawrence Gebert, Peter Kernebone or Geoff Pearson.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HANDYMAN HELP

Have a small job around the house that you need help with? We may be able to assist with all sorts of stuff except licensed plumbing or electrical work.

This is a no cost (supplied items excluded) service which St Toms' provides to help those that need it.

Call Neale on 0403 540 574, to assess your job.



Confirmation & Reception

A special service for those wanting to be Confirmed or Received into the Anglican Church will be held 7:30pm on Wednesday 13 February. Bishop Paul Barker will be visiting for this special service. Please speak to one of the ministry team if you would like to be confirmed or received at this service.

RSVP 17/2/19
ph : 0398789154 / 0466575154



Join us as we celebrate our

50th

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Jan & John
SHATTOCK

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 23

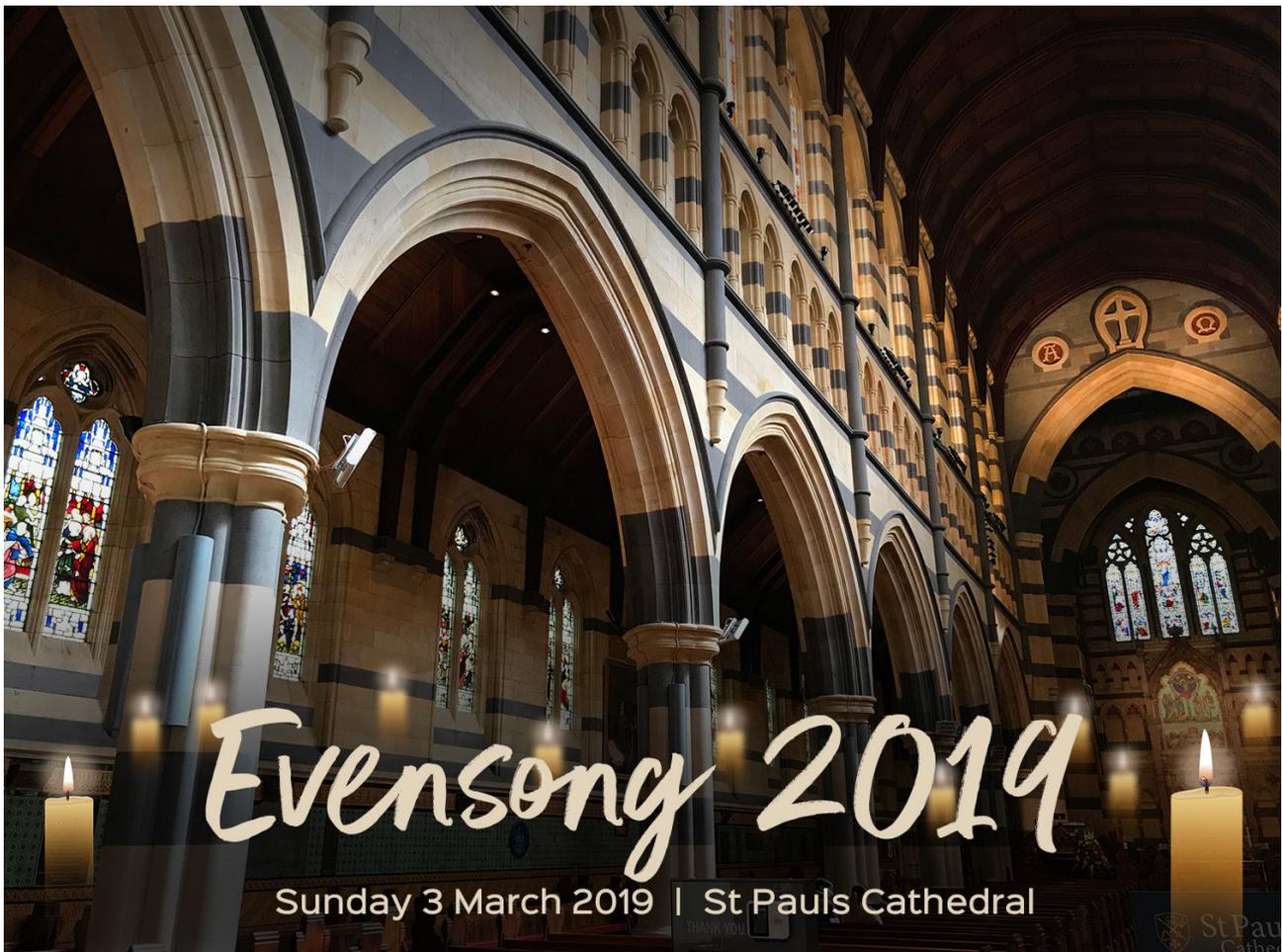
2:30-5 pm

ST THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH

(44 Station St Burwood)

NO GIFTS PLEASE

however you are welcome to give a gift to TEAR or a charity of your choice.



TRINITY COLLEGE
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY

TODAY'S MUSIC FOR TODAY'S CHURCH

SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2019 | 10AM-4.30PM

Trinity College, Old Warden's Lodge, 100 Royal Parade, Parkville

\$40 adult | \$30 concession

Hymns, songs, hymnbooks, screens, online music – learn how to navigate through the many forms of church music and identify options that will resonate with your community.

Anyone who sings, plays, plans or leads music in worshipping communities will benefit from this session led by Philip Nicholls, Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral, and Fay Magee, a musician, educator and ongoing theological student.

For more information and to register:

www.trybooking.com/340836

Alternatively, email

theologyevents@trinity.edu.au

or call 03 9348 7127.

CONTACT DETAILS

STAFF

John Carrick	Lead Minister	johnc@sttoms.org	0412 438 021
Ruth Newmarch	Associate Minister / Generations Pastor	ruthn@sttoms.org	0425 776 313
Kian Gee Lim	Associate Minister Chinese Congregations	kglim@sttoms.org	0433 096 798
Tzeh Yi (Joey) Chan	Lay Minister / Administration	joeyc@sttoms.org	0418 123 861
Will Smith	Youth Minister and Sunday Club Coordinator	wills@sttoms.org	0410 866 395
Denise Clarke	Small Groups Ministry Coordinator	denisec@sttoms.org	0438 595 527
Stephanie Armstrong	Administration	admin@sttoms.org	9808 3250
Russell Gray	Prayer Circle	prayer@sttoms.org	0405 110 123

ST TOM'S HOPE STAFF

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Clare Gogerly	Kids Hope Coordinator	kids_hope@sttoms.org

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