



***Transformed by Grace to Love
One Another, to Serve the City,
and to Share Christ***

**FROM THE RECTOR -
Rev Dr MICHAEL JENSEN**



In such turbulent times, it would be easy for a church community to become anxious and distracted and to forget that our source of comfort and hope lies in our gracious God.

This year at St Mark's we're encouraging each other to go deeper with God by going deeper into his word. The more we are built up in the knowledge of God and his purposes for the world in Jesus Christ, the more we will be secure against whatever may come. This kind of knowledge is not simply information, but leads to transformation: as we know God more richly so we become more like Christ.

The 'Going Deeper' programme includes a series of 'Going Deeper' evenings with experts; the 'Buy a Bible' month, where we've been encouraging each other to have our own Bible; and our first 'St Mark's Conference'.

With your help, we've relaunched the Alpha course under the fresh and capable leadership of Rev Michael Figueira, our new Assistant Minister. It's been very exciting to see the hunger that is there to know God. Your invaluable support also means that our Youth and Children's groups have been going very well - it's particularly encouraging to see people stepping up to lead in these programmes.

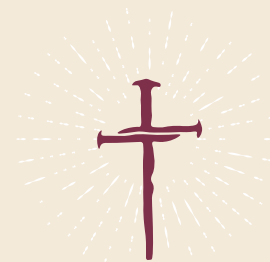
Quarterly Newsletter March 2022

Please continue to pray for our vital work with the young.

500 years ago, in the era of the Reformation in Europe, the printing and translation of the Bible into ordinary language prompted a spiritual revolution. Wouldn't it be great to see that in our times?

Michael

EASTER AT ST MARK'S



LOVE STARTS HERE

Easter at St Mark's | 15-18 April

GOOD FRIDAY 15 APRIL

8am - Morning Prayer with Choir

10am - All Ages Service

12pm - 3pm Jesus' Words from the Cross

EASTER DAY 17 APRIL

8am - Choral Communion

10am - Communion with sausage sizzle and Easter egg hunt

5.30pm - Communion with sausage sizzle

All services will also be live-streamed



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SPOTLIGHT ON MICHAEL FIGUEIRA - ASSISTANT MINISTER

What do you enjoy about being a Minister?



I love people and I find people fascinating. The best part of my job is being able to meet with others and to see God's work in their lives. I enjoy seeing lives renewed and transformed by God's grace in the power of the

gospel. As someone who became a Christian in my early 20's, I remember clearly that transformation in my own life. I love seeing people who were spiritually blind and dead in their sin encounter the light and life of the world – Jesus Christ. It is the most wonderful thing to see in the life of any individual, as they are brought back into a relationship with the one who created them, loves them, and saves them.

What are your plans for your ministry at St Mark's?

There are several responsibilities that I will be overseeing at St Mark's including the 5:30pm congregation, weddings and baptisms, integration of newcomers as well as outreach.

The Scriptures remind us that the gospel is the power of God for salvation (Rom 1:16). My plan is to have an intentional way that people can have a warm and welcoming space where they can explore the gospel deeply. In our secular age, many of the basic themes of the gospel message such as God, sin, grace, love and resurrection need unpacking so people can truly understand the gospel and encounter Christ.

This year I plan to get our evangelistic courses up and running alternating between Alpha and Simply Christianity. By alternating our courses, we seek to give people the continued opportunity to explore the gospel in a follow-on course. Under God, my prayer is that many people will be saved through these courses and that St Mark's continues to hold out the hope of Jesus to its community. Being involved in other outreach events such as Musictime, the St Mark's Lecture and Marriage Course, are other ways to connect with people in a way which is relevant to them.

What are some of the things you have found most encouraging about St. Mark's in the short time you have been here?

My family and I have been so warmly welcomed by the people of St Mark's. We are looking forward to settling in and getting to know more of our church family.

SIMPLY CHRISTIANITY: A COURSE FOR THE CURIOUS

Simply Christianity is a five-week course that delves into the historical eye-witness account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection in a relaxed and friendly environment. All welcome. Take the opportunity to explore the surprising and unique story of Jesus through Luke's Gospel.

The next course commences on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 7:30pm – 9pm in the Howard Lea Hall. For more details, please visit <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>

or contact our

Assistant Minister, Michael Figueira

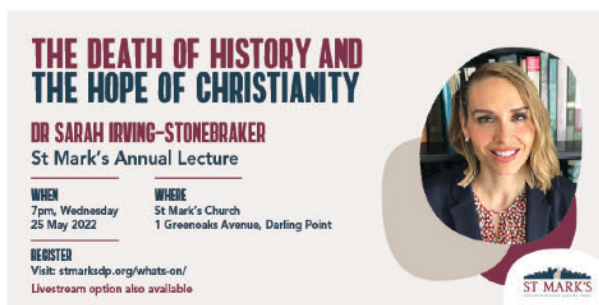
michael.figueira@stmarksdp.org

ST MARK'S YOUTH



Youth at St Mark's are loving being back together in 2022. Our Friday night group is small but thriving, and our two Sunday Bible study groups are delving deeply into prayer and God's word. At all the groups we are seeing more young people coming to hear the gospel and to grow as disciples, and we are having great fun together and building deep relationships. Please pray for Duncan and Charlotte as they lead the Sunday morning group together, and pray for Tim Escott as he leads and supports the youth ministry team. At the end of term the youth are heading to KYCK—Katoomba Youth Convention—where they will meet with hundreds of other youth to hear God's word and worship together. Please would you pray that many of the youth will come and that they would grow in their love for God and their faith and conviction to live as Jesus' disciples.

Rev Dr Tim Escott
Assistant Minister



MUSICTIME BRINGS FRESH OPPORTUNITIES



There is always a mixture of excitement and nervousness when starting something, whether it be new or refreshed. "Will it work?" we wonder. "Will people come back?"

The abundance of positive energy, and new and known faces upon restarting our much-loved Musictime program soon put any nerves to rest. Ten enthusiastic local parents and their kids turned up on our first Monday to sing songs, play musical instruments and get to know one another late into the morning. Led cheerfully and professionally by Claire Fern and Naomi Escott, it's been a joy to see gifted regular church members leading so well and using their talents to connect to the growing number of families in the area.

"Thank you for such a fun program!" said one cheerful parent after the first week on 14 March. It turns out that it takes just a little investment of time and energy, a few toys and some good signage to form connections that we pray, will lead to real friendships and real faith.

Stephanie Leung
Children's Minister

ORGAN RECITAL



St Mark's Organ Scholar, Stacey Yang, will present an Organ Recital for the Scholarship Fund on Sunday 22 May 2022 at 2pm. Don't miss this opportunity to hear this talented organist perform.

Why not invite your family and friends to join you at the recital? To register, please visit <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>

ST MARK'S ORGAN SCHOLAR AIMS TO INSPIRE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Stacey Yang took up her organ scholarship at St Mark's in November 2021. She shared: "The timing of the scholarship offer was amazing. After the Covid lockdowns and the interrupted performance opportunities, it has been wonderful to be able to play the organ publicly again and use my skill to benefit others."

Stacey is passionate about her music ministry: "Through playing beautiful music I hope to create not only positive feelings, but to enhance people's experience of church. I want to encourage people to have a better faith, strength and hope." To read more about Stacey, visit <https://stmarksdp.org/ministries/the-st-marks-choir/>

Stacey is enjoying playing for the St Mark's community and feels fortunate to be working with Director of Music Dr William Clark OAM



and also the St Mark's Choir. The Anglican church liturgy is another weekly highlight.

Come and enjoy listening to Stacey's organ playing during St Mark's weekly 8:00am Choral Communion service. Stacey will also play at a scholarship recital at St Mark's on 22 May 2022.

JOIN WITH US TODAY

St Mark's relies on the generosity of our community to fund the ministries within our parish and beyond. Please consider making a gift to St Mark's. We would be grateful if you could consider giving whatever you can contribute to help secure our ministries.

Could you please help with all or part of these items?

NON-TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION PROJECTS

- Bibles to give away - \$40 x 10 = \$400
- Resources for children's ministry (including Musictime) - \$100 x 10 = \$1,000
- Youth Ministry Resources - \$100x10 = \$1,000

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION PROJECTS

- Contribution to Organ scholarship - \$500
- Repairs to the stonework on the church - \$1,000

HOW TO DONATE

To find out more about our finances and about how you can share in the ministry of St Mark's through your financial giving, please visit <https://stmarksdp.org/giving/>