



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

FROM THE RECTOR - Rev Dr MICHAEL JENSEN

Jesus famously said that he 'came not to be served, but to serve'. Ever since then, Christians have been actively serving one another as an expression of God's love for us in Christ.

The trouble is that we live in a very much professionalised culture these days, where people even get their dogs walked by someone else! We are so busy that we wonder where we will find the time to be active in Christian service - and why not pay if we can? Isn't that what we have ministers for?

In fact, the word 'minister' means 'servant'. And every Christian is called to be a minister, not just a few.

A quick look at the history of St Mark's shows that our church has been built not primarily by the clergy and other paid ministers, but by the active service of people giving of their time, their treasure, and their talents. Sometimes this has been a matter of a small thing done often. Sometimes it has been a big thing done well.

And we are seeing that servant spirit at St Mark's today. There are people who make meals for others. There are people who give of their own free time to teach children and young people. There are people who visit the sick or the elderly or drive them to church. There are those that serve in making our gardens look outstanding, or who keep our buildings in shape. There are those who serve in

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administration, technology, finance and maintenance. There are people putting their hands up to help publicise St Mark's through leaflet drops. There are those who serve by leading us in prayer or reading the Bible well, or in playing music for us. There are those who serve food after our services. This is just a sample.

With your help, we've been able to appoint a new Children's Minister, Stephanie Leung. Stephanie's role will be to lead and support the many other people who do Children's Ministry at St Mark's - the inspiring and very talented team that works so hard on Sunday mornings.

But we could do so much more! The old cliché about many hands making light work is certainly true. The more of us who put our hands up to serve, the more the burden - and the joy - of serving is spread around. Even a small contribution to serving each other, as you are able, is a blessing to the body of Christ and an expression of God's transforming grace. How can you serve at Mark's?

Michael





CONNECT GROUPS

Connect Groups are one of the key ministries at St Mark's for helping us grow as disciples and as a community. Through them we connect with God through reading and wrestling with his word the Bible and through prayer, and we connect with each other by doing these things together, by eating together and sharing our lives.

People repeatedly report how joining a Connect Group has helped them to grow in their faith, to connect with the St Mark's community, and to understand the Bible better. We have groups for everyone. Most groups meet in the evening on a weeknight, but others meet on weekdays or weekends. We have mixed groups as well as groups for men and groups for women.

While most groups meet in local homes, Jenny's group meets in the city before work. They have a short, sharp time in the Bible and share ways that they can be praying for each other. It's a potent way to refocus their lives as disciples in their work environment.

Blake's group meets on Tuesday evenings, and has been enjoying reading through Revelation together - a wild part of the Bible, but one that powerfully urges Christians to stay faithful and courageous despite the powerful and fearsome forces swirling around them.

Naomi's group has just begun after MusicTime on Monday mornings. They have been challenged by the powerful presence of Jesus in the gospel of Mark. His power and presence as the king of God's kingdom illuminates what really matters in life, and stirs our hope in the kingdom that he is bringing. They have also enjoyed slowing down and praying for each other in the

challenges and busyness of life with small children.

Why not join a Connect Group to fertilise your growth in Christ and your grafting in the church community? For more information, please contact Tim Escott at connectgroups@stmarksdp.org or visit stmarksdp.org for specific group details.

NEWCOMERS' WELCOME SUPPER

At St Mark's we see new faces almost every week. People reconnecting after a long time away, dropping in after walking or driving by, or being invited by their friends. We are an open, welcoming church, and we have the pleasure of welcoming so many new people.



One of the ways we welcome newcomers is through newcomers' suppers and lunches. On Thursday 30 January we had a newcomers' supper for around 20 people who consider themselves newcomers to St Mark's. It was a great time together as we shared some delicious food, shared each other's company, and took the next step in deepening friendships at St Mark's. Michael Jensen also spoke about who we are as a church at St Mark's, and how newcomers can continue to grow as members of the church family.

One of the benefits of a newcomers' welcome event is that most people are newcomers and so they are looking for new connections at St Mark's. If you're looking to connect in a deeper way, why not come along to our next newcomers' gathering and meet like-minded people? The next Newcomers' Lunch will be held on Sunday 10 May 2020 at 12:30pm. Please put it in your diary, and contact us via office@stmarksdp.org to let us know that you're interested in joining us.

WELCOME TO OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTER, STEPHANIE LEUNG



We are thrilled to have Stephanie Leung join our team as Children's Minister, supported by her husband Brian. Stephanie will work Thursdays and Sundays. Her role will focus on coordinating and enabling ministry to children including Scripture at Double Bay Public School and Kids' Church on Sundays.

How did you become a Christian?

I grew up in church but didn't believe until I was 15, when a Christian friend showed me that God didn't just want my obedience, but loved me and wanted my whole heart. I could dutifully turn up to church, but her life was full of joy because she had given herself to Jesus, and she made me want that.

What did you do prior to joining St Mark's?

After training as a high school teacher, I spent some time working educating kids. Soon after, I completed The Howard Guinness Project ministry apprenticeship program through the Evangelical Union at Sydney University before studying alongside my husband Brian at Sydney Missionary and Bible College.

What led you to become a Children's Minister?

Kids (like adults) ask big questions, trying to work out what life is all about – and they are willing to listen! We are their family, and they are our future. We have a huge opportunity to reach out to them with wisdom and answers that could change their lives.

What do you enjoy about being a Children's Minister?

The kids! They make you laugh, and often surprise you with sophisticated insights into life. They remind us that life is a gift from God to be received with thankfulness, and lived to the full. Through kids, you get to impact whole families for Jesus. It's also a privilege to partner with the team of their hard-working teachers.

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

I'll be working alongside the kid's team to support them to help grow our church's ministry to children on Sundays, as well as Scripture teaching during the week. I'll also be taking time off during the year as we welcome our first child into the world.

Anything else you wish to add?

I love exercise as much as my husband Brian loves playing piano! We enjoy cooking and eating, and doing both with friends and family.

Please pray for my husband Brian and I as we go through a number of significant transitions this year: moving church families, moving house, beginning/continuing ministry jobs and welcoming our first child mid-year. It's a lot, and we need God's – and your - help to do it all. We look forward to becoming part of the St Mark's family!



HOPE?
EASTER AT ST MARK'S

FIND LASTING HOPE
GOOD FRIDAY 10 APRIL
8:00am – Morning Prayer with Choir
10:00am – All Ages Service
12:00pm – Jesus' Words from the Cross

EASTER DAY SUNDAY 12 APRIL
8:00am – Choral Communion
10:00am – All Ages Communion & Easter egg hunt
5:30pm – Easter Feast & Carols

ST MARK'S ANNUAL LECTURE - *Unfinished Business: Australia's Indigenous people and Christianity.*

Dr Laura Rademaker will be speaking on Thursday 14 May at 6:30pm.

The Christian church has plenty to say sorry for in its 200 years or so of engagement with Australia's Indigenous people. Christians were at the frontline when it came to denigrating and suppressing Aboriginal cultures. When children were removed from families, churches made it possible. It might be surprising, then, to learn that from the beginning of colonisation, churches consistently recognised that Aboriginal people have been victims of terrible injustice. So how did things go so wrong and what can Australians learn from this history? Given our past, what are Aboriginal Christian leaders saying to non-Indigenous Australia?

Dr Rademaker is a Senior Lecturer in the School of History at the Australian National University, researching Australia's Indigenous and religious history. She is also the author of two books. *Found in Translation: Many meanings on a North Australian Mission* (2018) was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Award.

JOIN WITH US TODAY BY CONTRIBUTING TO ST MARK'S

St Mark's relies on the generosity of our community to fund the ministries within our parish and beyond. We could do so much more with your support. Could you please help with all or part of any of these items for 2020?

- Choir - \$6,000
- Youth Ministry - \$10,000
- Alpha - \$200/night
- Refurbishment of Parish Hall - \$5,000

Please consider making a gift to St Mark's. Donations can either be directed towards non-tax-deductible projects (for equipment and materials for ministries such as the children's and youth ministry and choir) or tax-deductible projects (such as church maintenance).

To make a non-tax-deductible gift to St Mark's by direct debit:

Name of Westpac Bank account:
St Mark's Church

BSB: 032 054 Account # 250036

Ref: QG (followed by your name)

If donating by cheque:

Payable to St Mark's Church Darling Point

Post: 1 Greenoaks Avenue, Darling Point 2027