

Upcoming Services

2015 Christmas Services

Celebrate Christmas with us this year...

Christmas Eve: 24 Dec
5pm at St Matt's or St Bart's
11pm at St Matt's

Christmas Day: 25 Dec
8am & 9.30am at St Matt's
9am at St Bart's
9.30am at Trinity Gardens

Post Christmas Combined
10am on Dec 27 and Jan 3
at St Matt's



Trinity Gardens Bowling Club, Canterbury Rd
St Bart's- 77 Beulah Rd Norwood
St Matt's- 146 Kensington Rd Marryatville

Partner Churches

St Matthew's Marryatville

146 Kensington Rd, Marryatville

Grace Church Trinity Gardens

Trinity Gardens Bowling Club
Canterbury Ave Trinity Gardens

Grace Anglican Network Office

146 Kensington Rd Marryatville

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed & Thurs 9am – 12pm

Tuesday 1-3pm

Giving Electronically to St Bart's

BSB: 105 900

Account No: 139 578 040

If you require a reference we recommend using your surname.



St Matthew's
KENSINGTON

Christmas is amazing!

20 December 2015

I remember well, back in 2007, when I celebrated my first ever Christmas. It wasn't really my first Christmas, of course, but it was my very first Christmas as a Christian. I had come to know and believe in Jesus only months before and now as I headed into another Christmas it was just bursting with new meaning. As it turned out, all of my family were either overseas or interstate that year, so after attending church in the morning, I celebrated Christmas day by myself. Now you might think that I'd have been feeling pretty lonely, but that just wasn't the case. In a new and deeply comforting way, I knew that God was near. As I reflected on the birth of Jesus, I knew that my desperate need for God's grace and his rescue had been answered some two thousand years ago with the arrival of a baby boy - the true light that gives light to everyone had come into the world (Jn. 1:9). What I was mainly feeling that Christmas was relief and great joy, accompanied by a profound sense of thankfulness at having finally met my Saviour and my Lord.

At Christmas time we have an opportunity to be amazed again at God's mind-boggling plan to rescue the world from sin by becoming flesh and blood himself. Sometimes we've got to work hard to cut through the busyness and familiarity of the season to recapture the joy and relief, and thankfulness that it deserves - but when we do, it's always worth it. There's nothing sweeter than having our hearts awakened again (or for the first time!) to the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn. 1:14). Whatever does or doesn't happen for you this Christmas, I pray that you will be able to truly celebrate the birth of our Saviour, and do whatever you can to help others celebrate him too.

Shane Ellery (Associate Pastor)

Thanks

As many of our regular ministries and activities come to an end for the year, we want to say thank you for all who have given so generous of their times and skills in leadership and participation. The Joint Council thanks you for your faithfulness and prays that you will enjoy a good break over the holiday period and that you will be greatly refreshed as we celebrate God's immense love for us in his Son, Jesus, this Christmas.

Prayer Points

Special Needs: Roger Wheaton, Joy Blanch & Daniel, Judy & Ian Black

Praise God:

- Thank God for sending Jesus to dwell amongst us and ultimately to save us from our sins, so that we have the right to become children of God
- Praise God for the GAN Carols last Sunday. Both services were well attended, lively, and testified to the deep and lasting joy that can be found in Jesus
- Praise God for all the gospel ministry that happened across GAN in 2015

Pray

- Pray that Jesus will be at the very centre of all our Christmas celebrations and that this will be evident to those we share our time with
- Pray that many people will visit our Christmas services and hear about Jesus
- Pray for those who find Christmas to be a difficult time due to financial hardship, personal loss and grief, and other reasons

Community Notices

GAN Sunday services 27 December & 3 January

There will be a combined service on both Sundays 10am at St Matt's. Our regular Sunday services begin on Jan 10.

Wednesday morning gathering

The mid-week (Wed 10.30am) gathering will take a break after 23 Dec and recommence on 13 Jan.

2016: a year of new beginnings

Simon Jackson will begin as the pastor for Grace City Church (St Bart's) from 1 January. His first service at Norwood will be on 10 January.

Shane Ellery will begin as Youth and Young Adults pastor from 1 January.

Grace City 5 (formally SAS) will take up their new home and location at Norwood 5pm on Jan 10.

David Bassett continues as 8:30 pastor and begins as 10:30 pastor from 1 January.

Sam Bleby continues as pastor for Grace Trinity Gardens.

Ian Bruce continues as Wednesday 10.30 pastor.

Historic SAS (Sunday at 6) Service.

The final SAS service at St Matt's and at 6pm will be held tonight. You are invited to join us as we celebrate together. The evening service will be moving to 5pm at St Bart's on January 10.



St Matt's Christmas flowers

If anyone could help with donations of funds or flowers for Christmas please contact Pam Thompson on 8331 3815.

Rugs for refugees

Thank you to everyone who has donated squares and bed coverings over the past few weeks. They will be delivered in the next week or so ready to be distributed to the newly arrived refugees.

Magdalene Centre donations

We encourage people to regularly contribute nonperishable food items throughout the year. Donations can be left at the GAN office.

**A church on a mission
to make Jesus known**

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