

Weekly News

Synod Week 2

Good morning and welcome to Church. It's great to have you here especially if you're new or visiting. We'd love to meet you after church over a cup of tea.

This week was the final week of the Synod of our Diocese. There were quite a number of significant things discussed and decided, I'll fill you in on just one this week.

I have already mentioned the report that was produced which showed in some detail the data regarding declining church attendance across our Diocese over the past 10 years. This week we discussed that report. There was universal agreement that we would love to see that statistic reversed. People were not completely agreed on what has caused the decline and on what our response to that decline should be.

Firstly, has the decline been caused by our churches and ministers not having done well enough at reaching the lost? This was certainly the opinion of some. We all must agree that there are certainly many ways in which we have fallen short, and many moments we could have done more. I'm not convinced that the statistics prove that this is the cause of the decline. Had we grown by 20% we would still need to acknowledge our weakness. That said, it is worth reflecting on how we might do better and considering to what extent the decline is our responsibility.

I strongly suspect that there are other factors also at play. Church attendance has been in decline in almost all of the western world for some time. (This not the case in the rest of the world, overall Christianity and the church are growing significantly). Our society has changed rapidly in the last few decades. This doesn't mean people won't become Christians, but it does mean we might need to think carefully about how to reach them with the good news of the gospel.

One thing will not change. In the end, people are saved by the power of the gospel. We need to bring God's word to people and pray that God himself would be at work in them. It should be a great comfort to us that God has promised that He will indeed build His church. We know which way we would like to see the numbers go on a local level, but we must be in no doubt that God's plans will be brought about.

Yours in Christ, Tim.

Blackheath Parish Men's Coffee Morning will be on Friday 4th October starting at 10am at Hartley Fresh on the Great Western Highway in Hartley. Men from across the Parish are welcome, no agenda just a cuppa and a chat.

Blackheath Parish Men's Bruncheon—will be at St Aidan's in Blackheath for any men from across the Parish including friends starting at 10am until 12 noon on Saturday 26th October with a cost of \$7. RSVP to Graham Macken—good food and good company guaranteed.

Christianity Explored—an 8 week course suitable for a convinced atheist or committed Christians (or anyone in between), on Sunday afternoon in St Aidan's Church hall in Blackheath from 2—3.30pm. Rowan Coull will be running this course, exploring what makes the Christian faith unique by looking at the life of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. People won't be asked to sing or pray aloud, you don't need to know anything about the Bible to get a lot out of it. Speak to Rowan after the service if you or anyone you know might be interested.

St Peter's—On the 18th September 2024, St Peter's at Mt Victoria celebrated 150 years since the foundation stone was laid for the church, which was then officially opened with it's first service on 21st June, 1875. St Peter's congregation plan to celebrate this milestone next year 2025—watch out for details.

Notes

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BLACKHEATH

St. Aidan's Blackheath, St. Peter's Mt Victoria,
St. John's Hartley, St. George's Mt Wilson

CENTRED ON CHRIST

Building up One Another, Reaching Out to the World

Sunday 29th September, 2024

SERVICES FOR TODAY

8.45am Mt Victoria —Morning Service

10.30am Blackheath— Morning Service

6.30pm—Night Church

First Reading—Psalm 118

Second Reading—Luke 19:28-48

Welcome

Next Sunday 6th October, 2024

Bible Readings

1st Reading—Job 18:1-21

2nd Reading—Luke 20:1-19

Sermon—Rowan Coull

Prayers

St Peter's : Open Prayer. **St Aidan's**: Stephen Fifer.

Night Church: Michelle.

Minister: Rev Tim Mclver

0425 285 295

tmciver@gmail.com

Assistant Part Time Minister.

0404 910 997

Rowan Coull

coull.rowan@gmail.com

Pastoral Worker: Michelle Seers

0421 313 898

seersmichelle@gmail.com

Parish Office

0490 116 490

blackheathanglican@gmail.com

www.blackheathanglican.org