

WE
Believe
IN PRAYER
PRAISE
NEWS &
THE BIBLE

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE
20TH APRIL 2014

ST
ANDREW'S
Believes
IN NEWS

*All that's going on
around St Andrew's*

FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER



REV JOHN DICKSON

☛ Senior Minister

Dear St Andrew's,

For many, it is a strange thought to contemplate that, if we were transported back in time to Jerusalem in AD 29, we would quickly discover that Jesus of Nazareth was not the most revered religious figure of the period. Far more famous were the names Honi the Circle-Drawer who died around 65 BC or Rabbis Hillel and Shammai who died when Jesus was a boy. These men had captured the attention and affection of countless thousands of Jews in ancient times. Hillel and Shammai

founded the two prominent 'schools' of ancient Judaism, and Honi had been a revered holy man and glorious martyr, killed for refusing to curse his own people.

And, yet, today the names Honi, Hillel and Shammai are virtually unknown and the name Jesus is recognised by untold millions throughout the world. I would venture to say that, even among Jews today, more is known about Jesus of Nazareth than any of these other Jewish luminaries.

Why is this? How is it that a relatively marginal Jewish teacher and healer from Galilee came to eclipse every other religious figure of his era?

The thing that launched the church, that lit the fuse of its unprecedented missionary zeal, was the resurrection of Jesus—or, to put it more acceptably for the historian, the *belief* in the resurrection of Jesus. The first Christians were utterly convinced that their Lord had been raised to life by God, and this conviction gave them an unparalleled resolve to take his words and deeds to the ends of the earth. We live in the wake of that.

But what can a historian *speaking as a historian* say about this cornerstone of Christian conviction?

The first thing to know is that quite a bit *is* actually said on the subject. An annotated bibliography of the historical Jesus research published 25 years ago listed no fewer than 94 peer-reviewed books and articles devoted to the resurrection (Evans, *Life of Jesus Research*). A decade later Oxford University published the papers of an international scholarly symposium on the subject combining a range of relevant disciplines—history, philosophy as well as theology (Davis, ed., *The Resurrection: An Interdisciplinary Symposium*). A great many more books and articles have since appeared. I am not talking about the work of Christian apologists and seminary professors (which would inflate the numbers considerably) but that of professional New Testament historians, of varying beliefs themselves, many of whom hold chairs at leading secular universities around the world: Professors Graham Stanton of Cambridge University, James Dunn of the University of Durham, Gerd Theissen and Annette Merz of the University of Heidelberg, Marcus Bockmuehl of the University of St Andrew’s, Ed Sanders of Duke University and many others.

All of these scholars agree that there is an irreducible historical core to the resurrection story that cannot be explained away as pious

legend or wholesale deceit—almost no specialist today goes down those paths. Professor Sanders, who warms a seat at the sceptical end of mainstream scholarship, states things plainly: “That Jesus’ followers (and later Paul) had resurrection experiences is, in my judgement, a fact. What the reality was that gave rise to the experiences I do not know” (Sanders, *The Historical Figure of Jesus*). This is typical of the secular study of Jesus’ resurrection: something very strange happened, we just don’t quite know what!

To be clear, the fact that a number of clever people continue to research this topic proves nothing. I am simply trying to illustrate something that is rarely noted in popular discussions about Jesus. The resurrection remains a serious topic of academic investigation today.

‘Something’ happened, that first Easter. Indeed. I have personally come to feel that the most intellectually and emotionally satisfying explanation of those Easter events is exactly as Christians from the beginning have declared: God raised his Son to life as a demonstration of his lordship and a pledge of our eternal life.

Happy Easter,

John

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COMMUNITY WATCH

THIS WEEK

🕒 **ANZAC Dawn Service**

Friday 25th April - 5am

Roseville Memorial Club,
64 Pacific Hwy, Roseville

FOR THE DIARY

🕒 **Life of Jesus**

Tue 13th May – 7.30pm

John and Buff Dickson's home

A 4-week course on the life he lived and the life he gives; for people curious to find out about the basics of the world's largest faith.

Contact the Church Office or email

lifefofjesus@standrews.net.au

🕒 **Belonging Course**

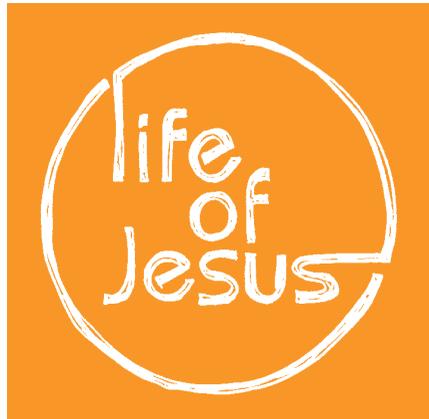
Wed 14th May – 7.30pm

Matt Stedman's home

3 week fast-track course for newcomers to get to know St Andrew's and meet others.

Contact James Smith for details.

james.smith@standrews.net.au



PLEASE PRAY

🕒 **Churchwide Prayer**

Please continue to pray for all those who are currently unemployed; for God to sustain their trust in his care and provision, and that he would give them patience to persevere and guidance to the work he has for them to do.

🕒 **10am Prayer**

Please pray for Andrew Wong and his medical team as he has surgery this Wednesday. Pray for freedom from complications, a complete and swift recovery and that Andrew and Catherine will deeply know God's faithfulness and care.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

Please pray for Elke Kroie's brother Michael and his wife Anna-My in Sweden as their newborn daughter is investigated for a serious congenital illness. Pray that she will be found free of this problem and that if tests are positive, she will be only mildly affected. Pray that they will be drawn to Christ's mercy and strength during this very stressful time.

Praise God for the safe arrival of Joshua to Nadia and Brad Pickford and pray for them as they welcome their first child into their family.

🕒 5pm Prayer

Please pray for Malcolm and Kara Woods and their family as they travel to the Philippines to participate in the ICM mission to children and youth living in poverty. Pray that the truth of God's love will transform many lives and that the young people will have a wonderful and memorable time.

🕒 7pm Prayer

Praise God for the marriage of Steph Lentz and Hamish Henderson on Easter Saturday and pray that God would be central in their lives together and unite them in deepening love and commitment.

ST ANDREW'S MINISTRY UPDATE

🕒 Scripture Teaching

A key part of our ministry in the local community is our co-ordination of scripture teaching at Roseville Public School. This involves running 12 weekly classes from Kindergarten to Year 6 with 11 teachers from St Andrews and 3 from other Protestant churches in the area; all are volunteers who do an amazing job fitting preparation and teaching into already busy schedules.

We started the term with the story of humans being created for relationship with God and we concluded with Easter assemblies that focussed on how this sadly broken relationship can be restored. The message of Jesus' death and resurrection was presented as a gift to all; friendship with God forever. The children and teachers were encouraged to consider whether they would accept this gift. What a great privilege it is to share the good news of Jesus with almost 300 young people every week!

Term 2 starts on Wednesday 30 April. If you would like to know how you could be trained and involved in this wonderful ministry (we are always looking for new recruits) please contact Cath Ahern to find out more:

cath.ahern@standrews.net.au

*All that our missionaries
do in and around their communities*

MISSION & AID

STEPHANIE AND ANDREW BROWNING



📍 Tanzania

Stephanie and Andrew Browning with children William and Christopher, serving in Arusha, Tanzania, where Andrew works as a surgeon at the Lutheran Mission Hospital in Arusha.

Andrew mainly treats women who have been injured in childbirth, and also travels to Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Uganda for surgery.

Stephanie has set up Christchurch International School with the assistance and blessing of the local Bishop. From a small beginning of 5 students, it has increased to 30.

Pray for for Andrew as he has surgery in Sydney on 22 April to relieve the pain in his back. Pray that it will be successful and that he will heal quickly before the Brownings return to Tanzania in the next couple of weeks.

Pray for the Pocknalls who are taking full responsibility for the school while the Brownings are away.

Pray for negotiations for more land which is needed as the school grows, preferably for land which is adjoining the school where there are houses that can be adapted for classrooms.

Pray that the need for a Pre-school teacher will be met.

Pray for Rick and Jenny Hooper who are preparing to go to replace the Pocknalls in September. Pray for them and their three boys, Ben, Matthew and Adam, as they prepare to move to Tanzania, and that their work permits will be ready on time.

*Words you'll need for
today's contemporary services*

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE PRAYERS

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily glorify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

KEY CONTACTS

➤ Senior Leadership Team

John Dickson – Senior Minister
T. (02) 9412 2553
john.dickson@standrews.net.au

Santino Dimarco – Executive Pastor
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Matt Stedman – Senior Associate Minister
M. 0403 860 501
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Cath Ahern – Children's Minister (*Honorary*)
M. 0407 152 995
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➤ Pastoral

Suz Gorham – Assoc. Women's Minister (*Part Time*)
10am and 7pm Congregations
M. 0478 040 773
suz.gorham@standrews.net.au

Mike Hastie – Assist. Minister (7pm Congregation & Youth)
M. 0421 014 977
mike.hastie@standrews.net.au

Meredith Hatcher – Assoc. Women's Minister (*Part Time*)
8:30am, 10am and 5pm Congregations
M. 0403 154 160
meredith.hatcher@standrews.net.au

Jean Rixon – Senior's Ministry Worker (*Honorary*)
T. (02) 9416 5436
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James Smith – Assist. Minister (10am Congregation)
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Peter Watson – Minister for Seniors (*Part Time*)
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➤ Children's Ministry

Cath Ahern – Children's Minister (*Honorary*)
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➤ Community Service Project

David Morris – Coordinator of Volunteers
(*Part Time, Honorary*)
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➤ Administration / Church Office

T. (02) 9412 2553
office@standrews.net.au

FINANCIAL SUPPORT DETAILS

➤ Supporting the General Ministry

To support the general work of St Andrew's, electronic banking details for regular direct credit are:

Anglican Parish St Andrew's
BSB 704 998
A/C 100 005 413

This is our preferred method to receive your regular support.

If you prefer to make cash/cheque contributions, there is a gifts and donations box attached to the church's rear pew.

➤ Supporting the Property Redevelopment

To support the St Andrew's Property Development, **tax-deductible** contributions can be made to the following account:

St Andrew's Anglican Church Roseville Donation Fund
BSB 704 998
A/C 100 010 195

Please include your surname and the initials "PV" (for Property Vision) in the reference field.

Donations by cheque should be made to St Andrew's Roseville Donation Fund.

Please mark the envelope with your surname and "PV".

A receipt for tax purposes will be forwarded to you upon receiving your electronic or cheque donation.

If you would like to support the Property Redevelopment but **do not** require a tax deduction, please contact Santino Dimarco for specific instructions:
santino.dimarco@standrews.net.au

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IN THE COMMUNITY

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