

WELCOME TO PENSHURST ANGLICAN CHURCH

December 8, 2019

“Christmas Makes It Better!”

⁵ “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future.

⁶ But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.”

(Hebrews 3:5-6)

A Better House



Preaching program



“Christmas Makes It Better!”

This year, our Advent Sermons come from *the Book of Hebrews*. As we look forward to Jesus’ birth, we need to ask, “Why was His incarnation so important? What difference did His birth make to the Jews and to the world?”

8 Dec.	3– A Better House	Hebrews 3:1-6 John 2:13-22
15 Dec	4– A Better Rest	Hebrews 4:8-11
22 Dec	5– A Better Priesthood	Hebrews 7:23-28

A Prayer for the Second Sunday in Advent—

Advent God, we journey with you to Bethlehem’s stable and a new-born King; with our ears attuned to the song of angels and eyes alert for Bethlehem’s star. Forgive us if, on our journey, we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of a Saviour. Amen.

TEAR Christmas Gifts! TEAR is a non-denominational movement of Christians responding to God’s call to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly. TEAR partners with local Christian organisations across Africa, Asia, the Pacific and with Indigenous Australians to enable communities to overcome poverty and injustice. **The Useful Gifts campaign** provides the opportunity for us to invest in the lives of those suffering injustice and living in poverty and to give useful and meaningful gifts this Christmas. Please see Gaye today if interested.

The building sub-committee hopes to present a final draft of the building plans, along with estimated costs, to the church family sometime before Christmas.

Baptism Classes have been cancelled.

10:30 Combined Worship Roster

Date	Welcome	Music Team	Prayer	Bible Reader	Counters
8- Dec	Millie, Kim	Team 2- Kat, Bing, Michael, Joseph, Michelle L., Millie, Lucy, WeiWei	Geoff	Bing	Michelle, Kwame
15- Dec	Phil, Gavin	Team 3- Joy, Subash, Aisen, Lucy, Amy, John, Hua, Vivienne	Holy Com- munion	Joy	Kwame, Cliff
22- Dec	Saw See, Geoff	Team 4- Shirley, Gordon, Ray, Andrew, Nancy, Suganya, Leo, Eve	Gaye	Kathie	Cliff, Geoff

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Fri., Dec. 6, 13, 20	Choir rehearsals (7:30pm)
Sun., Dec 8, 15, 22	Christmas Eve music rehearsals (12:30pm)
Mon., Dec. 9	Wardens meeting (7:30pm)
Sat., Dec. 21	Rectory Christmas Drinks (from 5-8pm)
Sun., Dec. 22	Sunday School performance and party
Tues., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve service (9pm)
Weds., Dec 25	Christmas Day service (9am)

Pray for IRAN

(As our brother, Nima, returns to Iran, let us remember him, his country and his fellow Christians in prayer.)

Iranian Authorities have sentenced nine Christian men to five years in prison, accused of “acting against national security”. Security officials arrested the men during several raids on house churches in northern Iran earlier this year.

In March, authorities released seven of the men on bail to later appear in court. The other two men, Pastor Matthias Haghnejad and Shahrooz Eslamdoust remained in prison until their court hearing on 24 July. The preliminary court hearing in July resulted in another three men joining Matthias and Shahrooz in prison. Their bail was set at 150 million Toman (\$52,000 AUD) and the court hearing was postponed. On 13 October all nine men were found guilty of “acting against national security”. They were sentenced to five years in prison and are now appealing this ruling.

Authorities consider Christianity in Iran a “Western influence” and a threat to the Islamic identity of the country. Christians accused of crimes are sent to the infamous Evin Prison, for political prisoners. Christians have reported imprisonment beyond their sentence, suffering unhygienic conditions and receiving beatings from the prison guards. **Despite these hardships, the church continues to grow in Iran.**

Pray For Iran:

- Pray that the Lord will aid the appeal of these men, and that they would be freed from prison.
- Pray that the government of Iran will respect freedom of religion and allow Christians to openly worship.
- Pray that the Lord will strengthen and encourage Christians in Iran to hold firmly to their faith and follow Jesus, no matter the cost.

Cell Groups at Penshurst Anglican Church

Our church calls itself a 'cell church', built upon the Biblical idea that the primary way that God's people can truly live out the Gospel is through small, intentional communities (called 'cells'). It is here where Jesus is given a far more intimate opportunity to do His work of transformation.

English-Speaking Cell Groups/	Day/time/frequency
Bart & Kim VandenHengel	Tuesday/ 7:30pm/weekly
Gaye Bishop	Tuesday/ 7:30pm/ fortnightly
Megan & Jeff Powys	Thursday/ 7:30pm/ weekly
ReCharge! (University+ group)	Thursday/ 8:00pm/ weekly
PAC Youth Group	Friday/7:30-9:30pm/ weekly
'The Quiet Place' prayer meeting	Sunday/7pm/weekly

If you are interested in joining one of these cells, you can either talk directly to one of the group leaders or to Bart for more guidance on which cell will fit you best. You may even want to start your own!

Sunday School:

Our Sunday School program runs during the 10:30am service, and only during school term. There are four classes available, based roughly on a child's age and year at school:

- Ages 3-4 Coordinator: Tiny Tse (in upper classroom 2)
- Kindergarten Coordinator: Naomi Zmo (in basement of hall)
- Primary Coordinator: Andrew Ung (in upper classroom 1)
- Secondary Coordinator: John Oakes (in Library)



Penshurst Anglican Church

2 Carrington St, Penshurst, NSW 2222. Website: www.penshurstanglican.org

Sunday Services: 8am Prayer Book Service in English and Mandarin
10:30am Bi-lingual Celebration Service in English and Mandarin
6pm Celebration Service in English

Senior Pastor, Bart VandenHengel:
9580 1217 or 0400 282 848

Assistant Pastor, Aisen Ju:
0433 315 745

Family Pastor, Tiny Tse:
0439 022 877

Internet Banking details:
Westpac Bank, Mortdale
St Johns General Fund
Account BSB: 032167
Account No: 870821