

# WELCOME TO PENSHURST ANGLICAN CHURCH

December 15, 2019

**Christmas Makes It Better!**

*“For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God...”* (Hebrews 4:8-9)





## 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?*”

15 Dec	<b>4– A Better Rest</b>	Hebrews 4:8-11 Matthew 11:28-30
22 Dec	<b>5– A Better Priesthood</b>	Hebrews 7:23-28
24 Dec	<b>6– A Better Promise</b> (Aisen preaches)	Hebrews 8:7-13
25 Dec	<b>7– A Better Worship</b> (Bart preaches)	Hebrews 12:18-24, 28

### A Prayer for the Third Sunday in Advent—

God of hope, you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing. Make us strong to join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Christmas Carolling in Penshurst—** Many people will be finishing up work or last-minute Christmas shopping on Christmas Eve. Let’s encourage them by singing Christmas carols at Penshurst Station from 6 to 7 pm! If you’re interested in doing this, see Bart.



**Christmas Eve service—** The music team has begun preparations for our annual Christmas Eve service. This year, our focus will be around local testimonies of love, joy, peace and hope, starting at 9pm. (This service will be bilingual.)

**Christmas Day--** our 9am Christmas Day service will be a traditional carol service with Holy Communion. It’s a great way to begin this special Day. (Service is bilingual.)

## 10:30 Combined Worship Roster

Date	Welcome	Music Team	Prayer	Bible Reader	Counters
15-Dec	Phil, Gavin	Team 3- Joy, Subash, Aisen, Lucy, Amy, John, Hua, Vivienne	Holy Communion	Joy	Kwame, Cliff
22-Dec	Saw See, Geoff	Team 4- Shirley, Gordon, Ray, Andrew, Nancy, Suganya, Leo, Eve	Gaye	Kathie	Cliff, Geoff
29-Dec	Millie, Kim	Team 1- Brian, Stephen, Sam/Josh, Bart, Michelle H., Louise, Anna, Zoey	Merilyn	Millie	Geoff, Michelle



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Fri., Dec. 13, 20	Choir rehearsals (7:30pm)
Sun., Dec 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 carolling in Penshurst (6-7pm)
Tues., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve service (9pm)
Weds., Dec 25	Christmas Day service (9am)

## Pray for the church in the Philippines

Several churches and Christian organisations in the Philippines have been labelled “communist fronts” in a security briefing delivered by the Defence Secretary. The briefing came the same day that religious leaders demonstrated against the silencing of government critics in Manila.

***The accusations leave churches and groups at risk of being targeted for attacks or false accusations of inciting rebellion.*** An Open Doors persecution researcher said, “*Activists and priest, but also church structures, may become the target of drive-by shootings, as is already happening every now and then. Investigations into these attacks are patchy at best. This may serve as an encouragement for more attacks with even more impunity.*”

One of the groups accused was the Protestant National Council of Churches, which represents 12 million people in the country. The Council has been a vocal critic of the government’s violent tactics in its war against drugs in the country. Despite the accusations, the council, and the Christians it represents, are determined to follow and share Jesus, no matter the cost. A spokesperson said, “*We will remain resolute in our prophetic witness and service to the people even in the midst of shrinking democratic space and impunity.*”

### Pray For The Philippines:

- Praise God that in the face of persecution, the church is showing strength and resilience.
- Pray that congregations will continue to meet, encouraging one another and bringing God’s glory to the Philippines.
- Pray that policymakers and political leaders will come to have a personal relationship with Jesus.



# 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](http://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  
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