

# WELCOME TO PENSHURST ANGLICAN CHURCH

December 22, 2019

**"Christmas Makes It Better"**



## **A Better Priesthood**

**"Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood." (Hebrews 7:23-24)**



## 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?"

|        |   |                                  |
|--------|---|----------------------------------|
| 22 Dec | <b>5— A Better Priesthood</b>               | Hebrews 7:23-28<br>Luke 10:25-37 |
| 24 Dec | <b>6— A Better Promise</b> (Aisen preaches) | Hebrews 8:6-13                   |
| 25 Dec | <b>7— A Better Worship</b> (Bart preaches)  | Hebrews 12:18-24, 28             |

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

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we declare our awe of you and our love for you, Lord Jesus. Open the eyes of our hearts to behold even more of your beauty; expand the chambers of our hearts to make room even more of your grace and glory. Free us to be generous and joyful as the Magi. Free us to love as you love us; to forgive as you have forgiven us; and to pursue others as you so faithfully seek us. So very Amen we pray, in your trustworthy and worship-worthy name. 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 (9pm)—** Testimonies of love, joy, peace and hope. (Bilingual.)

**Christmas Day (9am) —** Traditional carol service with Holy Communion. (Bilingual.)

**Sermons for the New Year:** (Tiny Tse will be preaching)

- December 29— **"Another year of Grace"** (Luke 13:6~9)
- January 5— **"Children of the Light"** (Ephesians 5:8-14)

## 10:30 Combined Worship Roster

| Date   | Welcome        | Music Team  | Prayer         | Bible Reader | Counters        |
|--------|----------------|---|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 22-Dec | Saw See, Geoff | Team 4- Shirley, Gordon, Ray, Andrew, Nancy, Suganya, Leo, Eve        | Gaye           | Kathie       | Cliff, Geoff    |
| 29-Dec | Millie, Gavin  | Team 2- Kat, Bing, Michael, Joseph, Michelle L., Millie, Lucy, WeiWei | Merilyn        | Millie       | Geoff, Michelle |
| 5-Jan  | Phil, Geoff    | Team 3- Joy, Subash, Aisen, Lucy, Amy, John, Hua, Vivienne            | Holy Communion | Naomi        | Michelle, Kwame |

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Sun., Dec. 22   | <b>Sunday School performance and party</b>      |
| Sun., Dec 22    | <b>Choir sings</b>                              |
| Sun., Dec 22    | <b>Christmas Eve music rehearsals (12:30pm)</b> |
| Tues., Dec. 24  | <b>Christmas carolling in Penshurst (6-7pm)</b> |
| Tues., Dec. 24  | <b>Christmas Eve service (9pm)</b>              |
| Weds., Dec 25   | <b>Christmas Day service (9am)</b>              |
| 26 Dec to 9 Jan | <b>Bart away on holidays</b>                    |

## Pray for our Missionaries

**Jason and Maria Lee** (with Charisse and Eliana)— Pray for the Lees as they seek to raise enough support to go to their designated mission field in Asia sometime next year.

**Michael Duckett**— Pray for Pastor Michael as he leads the *Macarthur Indigenous Church* in Campbeltown in several outreach events over the Christmas/New Year holidays.

**David Lakos**— David will be taking a much needed break over the Christmas period. Pray for his refreshment away from the hectic duties of being a hospital chaplain. Pray for the Pastoral Team at St. George Hospital as they continue without him.

**Elizabeth McDougall**— Elizabeth will be on school holidays throughout January. Pray as she gets some needed rest and prepares for a new school year at Penshurst Girls High in February. Pray generally for Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers throughout the state of NSW.

### Here are some specific, practical areas of missionaries' lives to pray for:

- *A strong personal walk with God.* Pray for daily faithfulness to spend time in God's Word in the midst of ministry busyness. Ask God to protect and strengthen them spiritually and cause them to grow in their relationships with Him.
- *Good physical health.* In foreign lands, good health care can be hard to find. Pray for physical strength on a daily basis and long-term good health.
- *Strong relationships with co-workers.* Sadly, personality conflicts and relationship struggles happen among missionaries as they seek to work together to bring people to Christ. Pray for unselfishness, kindness, and humility in these cooperative efforts.
- *Ability to speak accurately.* Ask God to cause them to speak with clarity and precision as they declare God's Word (Colossians 4:3-4).
- *Opportunities to relax.* Servants of God are just like anyone else—they need a break sometimes! Ask God to provide them with recreation and rest.
- *Wisdom in all they do.* Pray for the wisdom to make good decisions in their personal lives, as well as their ministry lives (James 1:5).



## 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  
Account BSB: 032167  
Account No: 870821