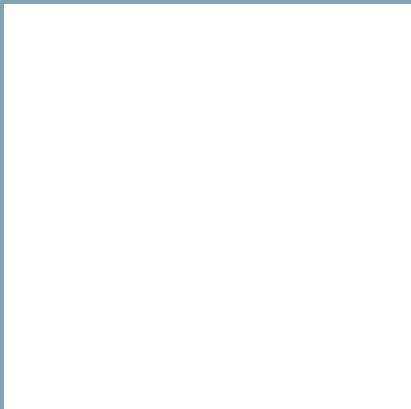


# Can we help YOU

in any of the following ways?

- finding out more about Jesus
- doing 'Christianity Explored'
- having a pastoral visit
- making St Hilda's my church
- youth and children's ministries
- joining a Bible study group
- being encouraged to serve
- special comments, requests, prayer needs or thanksgiving



- Please send my prayer needs to the prayer chain.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30 10:30 5:30pm

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

## Home Groups

Queries to Co-ordinator Trevor Rath  
Phone: 0401 291 497

	Home Groups
Mon:	9:30am Katoomba - Emma Argall
Tue:	12MD Katoomba - Trevor Rath 2:00pm @church - Margaret Bassett 7.30pm Katoomba - Philip Bassett
Wed:	10:30am Katoomba - Anne Robinson
Thu:	10:30am Katoomba - Vince Williamson 7:00pm North Katoomba - Ian Wilson
Fri:	10:00am men@shop Join us at the church



## Our Link Missionaries

Graham & Wendy Toulmin gwtoulmin@cms.org.au  
Kingsley & Veronica Box kvbox@cms.org.au  
Shine & Jessica Thomas shineandjessica@gmail.com

Financial support can be given through the offertory (please indicate who it is for) or online at:  
cms.org.au (Toulmin, Box)  
bushchurchaid.com.au  
interserve.org.au (Thomas)  
anglicare.org.au

**(Giving to the Toulmins and Thomas family is tax deductible)**

October 15, 2017



# St Hilda's

Anglican Church Katoomba

## You are welcome at St Hilda's today.

Please feel free to fill in the comments slip attached to this bulletin, tear it off and place it in the offering bag or the church mail box at the church front door.

We'd love to hear prayer points, news, or if you are new to St Hilda's we'd love to get in touch and get to know you better.

## Church Info:

Minister:  
Ray Robinson 4782 1608

Associate Minister:  
Mike Wells 0415 159 865

Family Worker:  
Robyn Glindemann 0438 401 088

Parish Assistant:  
Michelle Seers 0421 313 898

Community Chaplain:  
Kathy Powell 4782 1608

Anglicare Counselling/Emergency Relief: 4782 9318

Website: [www.sthildas.net](http://www.sthildas.net)

Email: [office@sthildas.net](mailto:office@sthildas.net)

Facebook: [sthildaskatoomba](https://www.facebook.com/sthildaskatoomba)

Home Groups:  
Trevor Rath 0401 291 497

## Doing good to our Society

The Archbishop has come under fire this week because the diocese gave almost a million dollars to support the 'no' campaign regarding the Same Sex Marriage plebiscite. (It happened to be out of the investment returns for the year, so part of the bounty of the current upturn in the markets, not from any money from parishes).

Some have argued the money should have gone to the poor. The diocese already does much for the poor in our city and I would contend that if Same Sex Marriage becomes legal, the long-term damage to our society will have enormous implications not only for the preaching of the gospel but ultimately the care of the poor and needy.

I would commend to you an excellent sermon by Andrew Heard which can be found at <http://evchurch.info/media/8171a> where he not only gives Biblical reasons why marriage is much more than love, but also effectively argues why changing the definition of marriage empties it of its Biblical meaning.

Life will go on if the plebiscite result is a yes, but the marginalisation of Christian teaching, which has been the accepted norm up to now, will deprive our society of many of the blessings God wants for people.

Please pray that we might honour Christ in our care for those around us.

**Ray Robinson**

## SUNDAY MATTERS

### Sunday Services October 15

“What must we do to inherit eternal life?”

8:30 Holy Communion

10:30 Morning service

5:30 Evening service

Bible Readings:

Isaiah 65:17-66:2

Matthew 19:16-30, 20:20-28

### Sunday Services October 22

“What must God think of us?”

8:30 Holy Communion

10:30 Morning service

5:30 Evening service

Bible Readings:

Amos 8

Matthew 21:1-22

**Worship God, and**

**Grow in Christ, and**

**Share the love of Jesus**

**In the power of the Holy Spirit**

**Looking to the Lord's return**

If you would like someone to pray with you after the service for some special thanksgiving or need, please come to the front of the church over by the organ, and members of our prayer team will pray with you.

A copy of the weekly bulletin is always available on the website:  
[www.sthildas.net](http://www.sthildas.net)

## PRAYER MATTERS

Sun Give thanks for the link missionaries we support and pray for the mission support meeting today that we might further develop our support of the mission links we have.

Mon Please praise God for our music ministry - during church and for those who bring special performances throughout the year.

Tue Pray for those escaping domestic violence and so need food and financial assistance. Pray that God will open the minds of these people so that they are willing to turn to him for comfort. Pray that St Hilda's will be in a position to minister to their spiritual needs as well as their physical needs.

Wed Pray for Laura and Daniel doing the HSC. Pray they will remember what they have studied, and be able to do the best they can. Give thanks that our loving God already has their futures in His hands.

Thu Give thanks for the wonderful volunteers in the church/Anglicare office each week: for Guy, David, Margaret and Fiona and others who fill in occasionally. Pray that their presence will be a blessing to people as they walk in and that new systems will be mastered quickly.

Fri Pray for Thailand during the time of mourning for the king (October 23-29), and his funeral (23rd). Ask for open ears and hearts to the gospel of Christ and for its faithful presentation. Pray for Shine's preaching in church on October 29, for Christ to be honoured and trusted amongst all.

## Comments

Fold along the line and tear off if you would like to leave a comment.

Text of the month: Hebrews 11:6

*“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

*“What good thing must I do to get eternal life?”* (Matthew 19:16) is one of the most important questions that can be asked (and answered) in life.

Of course, there are many more much less significant questions that people ponder...here's Part #1.

*Why did the chicken cross the road?*

**How long is a piece of string?**

*Are dentists only happen when they're down in the mouth?*

**Why do people eat snails?**

*What was sliced bread the greatest thing since?*

**Why is it that psychics never win Lotto?**

*Why do goldfish have such short memories?*

**When the first missionaries brought the gospel to cannibals, were they giving them a taste of religion?**

*Is the glass half empty, half full, or twice as large as it needs to be?*

**Are magicians a vanishing species?**

*Where do all the odd socks go?*

**What colour does a Smurf turn when he's being strangled?**

*Why do we call the outside of a road the inside lane?*

**Do penguins dream in black and white?**

*If the universe is everything, and scientists say that the universe is expanding, what is it expanding into?*

**If one synchronised swimmer drowns, do the rest drown too?**

*What does a Scotsman wear under his kilt?*

**If you got into a taxi and the driver started driving backwards, would the taxi driver end up owing you money?**

*Why is a carrot more orange than an orange?*

**Do fish get cramps when they swim straight after eating?**

*If 7-Eleven shops are open 24 hours a day every day, why do they have locks on their doors?*

**Why are there five syllables in the word 'monosyllabic'?**

## MISSION MATTERS:

### David Pettett

Thank you all for your continuing prayer support.

Last Sunday there was a great feeling of togetherness as God's people in our two morning services. There was a positive vibe at the second service with some families with young children present. It is also a great encouragement that recent offertories have been above budget.

We had a great week in the holidays with the Vacation Bible School. 27 children in total came with between 20 to 25 each day having fun hearing God's message over five days of the school holidays. Please pray for the ongoing effect of God's word in the lives of these children.

On Sunday October 8 we had a Special General Meeting to elect a nominator. This person will join the parish wardens in the process of selecting a new minister and recommending a name to the bishop for appointment. Please pray that the right person was elected and that God will raise up a person who loves God's people and loves God's word to lead his people here. If you have any recommendations, please let me know.

Please pray that over time I will have opportunity to speak with people who have left the church to encourage them in reconciliation.

I want to also ask a few key men to study the Bible with me one on one. Please pray that I will approach the right men and pray for the men in their responses.

Thank you again for your prayers.

## Slovenia Information Evening

Peter and Lidija Novak are presenting an information evening on Slovenia at St Peter's Anglican Church Glenbrook (1 Wascoe St) on Thursday October 26, starting at 7:30pm.

If you would like to get to know the Novaks (who work with our link missionaries Kingsley and Veronica Box) you are welcome to come to this event. RSVP to David Shead on 0422 943 357 or david.shead@lmap.org.au

## 500 years of Reformation - Movie Night

In recognition of the 500th anniversary of the reformation we will be showing the movie *Luther* in the church on Tuesday night, October 31.

All Bible study groups are invited to gather, as well as anyone else who'd like to join us to watch the movie.

We will meet at 7:00pm for supper (please bring something to share) and Philip Bassett will speak briefly before the movie to give some historical context to Martin Luther.

You should be home by 10:00pm at the latest (and it will also help you to avoid children knocking on your door for Halloween!).



## A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

11 October 2017

Dear brothers and sisters

On 16 August, I wrote to Sydney Anglicans to advise you that the Diocese of Sydney had committed to being a lead partner in the Coalition for Marriage, and encouraged you to consider helping this Coalition by signing up as a volunteer and providing financial support. Now that the campaign has reached the final phase, I am writing again to urge those who have not yet participated to become involved, and to correct some misperceptions about our involvement in the campaign.

The campaign was always going to be difficult for us as Christians, who always wish to engage graciously with the world, and yet at the same time should stand firmly for God's good plan for marriage in a world that has increasingly abandoned that plan. This difficulty was exacerbated by the way in which the debate has been framed, implying that anyone who opposes a 'yes' vote is a hater and a homophobe.

This is not a debate of our choosing. I am sure that we would prefer to spend our energies telling people about God's loving message of salvation through Jesus Christ, but in God's providence, this is the point of engagement with our culture at this time.

Since 2011 the Synod, by resolutions on five separate occasions, has asked Sydney Anglicans to engage in respectful advocacy in the public square for the legal definition of marriage to remain unchanged. The decision to be a lead partner in the Coalition for Marriage, and the Standing Committee's support for this, is an outworking of those resolutions.

Reflecting this consistently expressed view of our Synod, I said in my Presidential Address this week –

*I therefore make no apology for encouraging all Australians, especially Anglicans, to vote 'No' in this postal survey. I believe that a change in the definition of marriage is unwarranted, not just because it is in opposition to the teaching of Scripture and our Lord himself in Matthew 19, but because I believe marriage, traditionally understood as a union of one man and one woman, is a positive good for our society, where marriage and the procreation of children are bound together as the foundational fabric of our society, notwithstanding the sad reality that not all married couples are able to conceive. Moreover, I consider the consequences of removing gender from the marriage construct will have irreparable consequences for our society, for our freedom of speech, our freedom of conscience and freedom of religion. It is disingenuous to think otherwise, given the evidence to the contrary in Canada, the US and the UK.*

At its meeting on 18 September, the Standing Committee voted to support the diocesan involvement in the Coalition for Marriage by means of a million dollar contribution from the Diocesan Endowment. This contribution comes from the Synod's own funds which it uses for the operation of the Diocese, and does not come from parishioners' donations. The rationale for this financial contribution was provided to Synod members in the Supplementary Report from Standing Committee, and the contribution was announced in my Presidential Address.

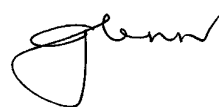
Some have questioned whether the money would have been better spent on social justice issues (feeding the poor, Sydney's homeless, refugees etc.). The reality is, however, that our participation in the Coalition for Marriage is not at the expense of our commitment to social justice, but because of it. We believe that the best way for Anglicare and other Christian agencies to serve the social good is for them to be able to operate on the basis of a Christian ethos, and to recruit Christian staff and volunteers. A legal recognition of same-sex marriage will significantly affect Anglican bodies who wish to maintain and promote a Christian understanding of marriage in opposition to the law of the land. Overseas experience indicates that same-sex marriage leads to government funding and recognition of charitable status being increasingly tied to "equality compliance". Christian agencies overseas have been required by law to hire staff who do not support the Christian ethos of the organisation. Our Anglican bodies make a real difference to Australian lives, worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Compare that with an investment of just one million dollars to help ensure that this vital work continues in the future.

I know that some of us take the view that same-sex marriage is inevitable and have questioned whether spending this amount of money was a waste of our resources. This is misguided on two counts. Firstly, because the result is by no means certain. The latest figures from the ABS indicate that only 62.5% of Australians have returned their postal surveys, meaning that 37.5% of people have not yet voted. The outcome literally hangs in the balance. Opinion polls have been notoriously inaccurate. Secondly, even if the 'no' vote does not prevail, the diocesan contribution came at a critical moment which allowed the 'no' campaign to raise awareness of the consequences of same-sex marriage for freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Both major political parties are now acknowledging the need for any proposed legislation to include protections for freedom of speech and freedom of religion. We are in a better position now to argue for robust protections, in the event of legislation being passed to enable same-sex marriage.

It is for these reasons that I encourage those who are already supporting the 'no' campaign to maintain their efforts to the very end of the postal survey period, and to encourage those who are not already involved to become so.

The voluntary postal survey has been called a referendum on religious freedom and freedom of speech, and it is very important we all make our voices heard. As Australians, we are not imposing our views on others, rather we are expressing our views as citizens of the country. As Christians, we are to follow our Lord's instruction to be salt and light in the world. We should not be ashamed to stand up for our convictions, whatever the cost.

Grace and peace



Glenn N Davies  
Archbishop of Sydney

## Christianity Explored

The next Christianity Explored course begins on Tuesday October 31 (10:30am-12:00 at St Hilda's) and goes for six weeks. Each week there is a short video, followed by a discussion on what is presented. There is no cost to attend.

The course is designed to explore the big questions of life and help people who want to know more about Jesus. To enquire or register, please call: Vince Williamson (0408 289 784), Kathy Powell (4782 1608) or David Ashton (0417 653 190).

## FINANCE MATTERS:

### Last Week's Giving

Weekly offertory budget: \$4,480

Offertory (October 8): \$4,944

Missionary (October 8): CMS \$105

### Account details -

Name: St Hildas Anglican Church General

Bank: Westpac, BSB: 032-828, Account no: 291895, Reference:

Offertory

### OR for the Building Fund:

Name: St Hildas Anglican Church Building, BSB 032-828, Account no. 291887, Reference: Building

