



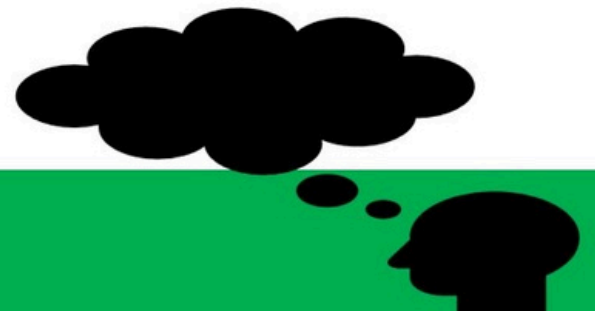
ILLAWARRA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

**A CHURCH ANYONE
CAN COME TO**

www.illawarraChurchOfChrist.com.au

December 2024 - January 2025

**THOUGHT
FOR THE MONTH**



Changes to the newsletter:

The Church Newsletter is moving to a 'once-a-month' newsletter with occasional 'extra news' emails sent out when there is a need. So the next newsletter will be available in February.

The main reasons for the change are (1) so can provide a printed version on Sunday for visitors or those who don't get the email; (2) producing a weekly newsletter takes significant time which I believe is better focused doing other activities. I will trial this change for three months and then seek your feedback.

Pastor Peter Watson

To subscribe or get past copies of newsletter go to
www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/newsletter/ or scan



CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR SERVICES

15 December

10am Advent 'Give More'

22 December

10am Advent 'Love All'

24 December Christmas Eve

No Service

25 December Christmas Day

No Service

29 December

10am

5 January

10am

Barry McMurtrie Memorial Service Video

If you missed Barry McMurtrie's Memorial Service you can watch it at www.youtube.com/live/a5CJ04U6PC8 or scan QR code



If you would like to contribute to the 'Dr. Barry McMurtrie Memorial Fund' being established to provide an annual grant to support the development of effective leaders you can do this by sending a donation to our bank account and in the details indicate the memorial fund.

Bank Account Name: Northern Beaches Church of Christ*

BSB: 112 – 879 Account number: 477 353 233

In details put "Dr. Barry McMurtrie".

(* Our bank account is currently still under our previous name which was 'Northern Beaches Church of Christ'.)

SPECIAL XMAS OFFERING

22 Dec



Non-perishable items suitable to giving to homeless or those in special need can be brought any Sunday up till 22nd December. On the 22 December we will take up a special offering. The proceeds will be split 50:50* with the **Homeless Hubb** and **Mercy Ministries**.

*** IMPORTANT NOTE:** For this special offering 100% of the gifts will go directly to those in need and not for any staffing or administration costs.

WEBSITE RESOURCES



www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/grow/

Check out the 'Grow' page on our website to resources. Some of the areas covered are:

1. 'Cover the Bible' Resources
2. Bible Teaching Resources
3. Spiritual Basics
4. What does the bible teach about:
5. Resources for Relationships
6. Stewardship & Generosity Resources
7. How and why to share the message of Jesus with others
8. Bible Colleges with free online courses for going deeper

BIBLE SUMMARIES

2 Timothy 3:16
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.



For a brief summary each book of the bible check out

<https://biblehub.com/summary/>

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



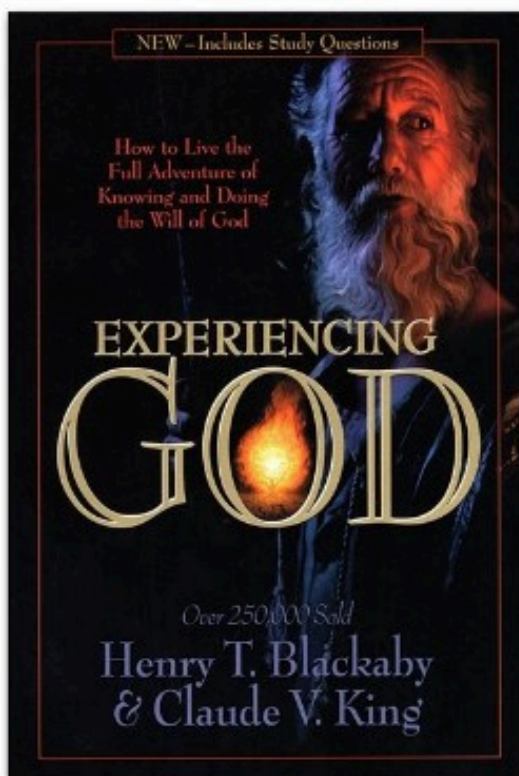
This is highly recommended resource for helping you understand the whole Bible. The videos provide you a short 5-minute input every day (5 per week) to walk you through the bible in a year. Links to videos and the book are free on our website at

www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/grow/.

1:1 DISCIPLESHIP GOING DEEPER



Interested in experiencing God in a deeper and more profound way? Come and study Henry Blackaby's excellent book 'Experiencing God' with me in a 1:1 study where we can really grapple with being a fully committed and fruitful disciple of Jesus. Let me know if you are interested and we can discuss it more. Pastor Peter Watson. (Talk to me at church or via peter.watson@illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au / 0407278175.



The book is structured around what Blackaby calls the "Seven Realities of Experiencing God":

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.

GROUPS

DISCUSSION & GATHERING



- **Experiencing God:** This is a one-to-one foundational course working Pastor Peter Watson, 0407278175.
- **Conversations.** Venues and times vary. Catherine Green 0427038640.
- **Monday 5pm:** Online women's study. Beth Robinson 0412047146.
- **Tuesday 2.00pm:** Bible Study. 9 Pendleton Close, Tarrawanna. Peter Watson 0407278175.
- **Tuesday 5pm:** Book discussion. Online. Beth Robinson 0412047146.
- **Wednesday:** Monthly Social Event. Venue and times vary. Brian Healy 0417296983
- **Wednesday 10am:** 'Knit & Knatter' fortnightly at Balgownie Village Community Centre, 113 Balgownie Rd. Robyn James 0402460795.
- **Wednesday 7.30pm:** Bible Study. 9 Pendleton Close, Tarrawanna. Peter Watson 0407278175.
- **Thursday 10am:** Women's Bible Study. Venue varies. Narelle Blue 0402032547.
- **Friday evenings:** Youth Group. Times and venue varies. Contact: Catherine Green 0427038640.
- **Friday / Saturday Evenings:** Visiting Tribute Bands in the area. Stephen Corry 0402892552
- **Sunday 10am:** Sunday Service. Venue: Balgownie Village Community Centre, 113 Balgownie Rd, Balgownie.
- **Sunday 12pm:** Sunday lunch at Corrimal Bowling Club, 43-47 Francis St, Corrimal.
- **Sunday 12pm:** Monthly Youth Pizza & Bible Study. Catherine Green 0427038640.

Groups may not meet every week or may change venues so check with the designated contact for current details. (Many have a break over Christmas.)

ROSTERS



Date	Speaker	Bible Reader	Communion	Prayer	Morning Tea	Service Packup Team	LONG WEEKENDS / PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
15/12/2024	Peter Watson	Allie Clark	Anne Trezise	Catherine Green	Sue & John Piper	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies	
22/12/2024	Linda Watson	Robyn James	Iwan Jones	John Piper	Raka / Tully	Pack-up Team 1: Youth	
29/12/2024	Peter Watson	Terry Blue	Stephen Corry	John Bilboe	Rebecca Young and Wilma Barker	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies	
05/01/2025	Peter Watson	Denis Morgan	John Piper	Brian Healy	Gillian Morgan & Joyce Jones	Pack-up Team 1: Youth	
12/01/2025	Peter Watson	? Youth re Bible Reading ? Rakatane	Catherine Green	Iwan Jones	Margaret & John Bilboe	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies	
19/01/2025	Jay Bacik	Graham Barker	Beth Robinson	Anne Trezise	Dianne Kavanagh / Lorraine Graham	Pack-up Team 1: Youth	
26/01/2025	Peter Watson	James Magispoc	Denis Morgan	Iwan Jones	Robyn James	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies	AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND
02/02/2025	Peter Watson	John Piper	Brian Healy	Stephen Corry	Sue & John Piper	Pack-up Team 1: Youth	
09/02/2025	Peter Watson	Robyn James	Terry Blue	Steve Caskey	Raka / Tully	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies	
16/02/2025	GUEST To be confirmed	John Bilboe	Bruce Wilson	Denis Morgan	Rebecca Young and Wilma Barker	Pack-up Team 1: Youth	
23/02/2025	Peter Watson	Catherine Green		Terry Blue	Gillian Morgan & Joyce Jones	Pack-up Team 2: Oldies	
02/03/2025	Peter Watson	Gillian Morgan	John Bilboe	? Youth video prayer	Margaret & John Bilboe	Pack-up Team 1: Youth	

RECENT SERMONS



Messages are available at

www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/sermons.

If you'd like to listen on your phone then the Podbean app by the QR code.

In the app search for 'Illawarra Church of Christ' in the player.



Podbean App

PRAYER



PRAYER CHAIN

To be added to the church prayer chain send your name and mobile to Peter on 0407-278-175. The prayer chain is a list of people willing to be sent a text about important prayer issues.

LOCAL PRAYER

We are committed to working with and praying for other churches and ministries in the Illawarra:

This month we are praying for Austinmer Uniting Church at 48 Moore St, Austinmer. The senior minister is Rev. Roselin Fisher.

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

This month we are praying Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, US Virgin Island, Wallis & Futuna Island, Yemen, Zambia & Zimbabwe.

From <https://operationworld.org/prayer-calendar>



To learn and pray about the needs of Christians in persecution around the world you might like to check out:

Open Doors at www.opendoors.org.au

The Voice of the Martyrs at www.persecution.com

Like to
leave a
legacy
in your
Will?

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

We recommend you contact your solicitor to add appropriate wording such as follows to your will.

"I give \$... for the general work and activities of 'Illawarra Church of Christ'.

LAUGHTER



This month we have some Prognosis Puns:

- Why do your heart, liver and lungs all fit in your body? Because they are well organ-ized.
- Why are pediatricians always annoyed? Because they have such little patients!
- What did one tonsil say to the other tonsil? "The doctor's taking us out tonight."
- Why can you never lie to an X-ray technician? Because they see right through you.
- What should you call if you hurt your foot? A toe truck.
- Why should you trust the surgeons who are repairing your slipped disk? Because they have your back!

MERCY MINISTRIES



Mercy Ministries is led by Catherine Green to provide practical support for those in our community.

Cath's job is to build a team of people who are equipped to share the good news of Jesus in both word and deed.

Mercy Ministries loves people because they worthy of being loved and cared for. We are motivated by God's love for our community. Where appropriate we share 'why' we care, but we don't make our care dependent on 'coming to church'.

To learn more or to get involved contact Cath on 0427-038-640.

Current Mercy Ministry Activities include: Street Conversations, Conversation Groups & Song Revival Group.



BE BRAVE INVITE SOMEONE



Could you be brave enough to invite someone to church on Sunday, your Bible Study, a social event, or for a meal in your home?

Ask God for the courage to ask and wisdom about who to invite.

Make an invite by asking in a conversation, writing an email or letter, giving them a call or a text, or giving them an invite brochure. (See resources table.)

Don't be afraid of asking multiple times. (Most people who end up coming to church were asked a number of times but a number of people before they said yes.)

You could ask:

Someone you haven't seen at church for a while.

A friend, workmate, neighbour or family member.

A grandchild.



The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

Proverbs 22:9

Galatians 2:10 "Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do."

LOCAL RESOURCES

GambleAware

Illawarra & Southern NSW

gambleaware.nsw.gov.au

1800 858 858

Gambling can become an issue for some individuals and families.

Introducing the peer support worker role with Gamble Aware Illawarra. The peer support worker is not a counsellor, it is a person who has lived experience of gambling and is available to talk to you over the phone, online or face to face - for instance to have a coffee or go for a walk. They are someone who may understand what you are going through. Please email pss@missionaustralia.com.au or call GambleAware directly for a confidential conversation 4267 6600.

SPARE ROOM?

Acts 2:44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.



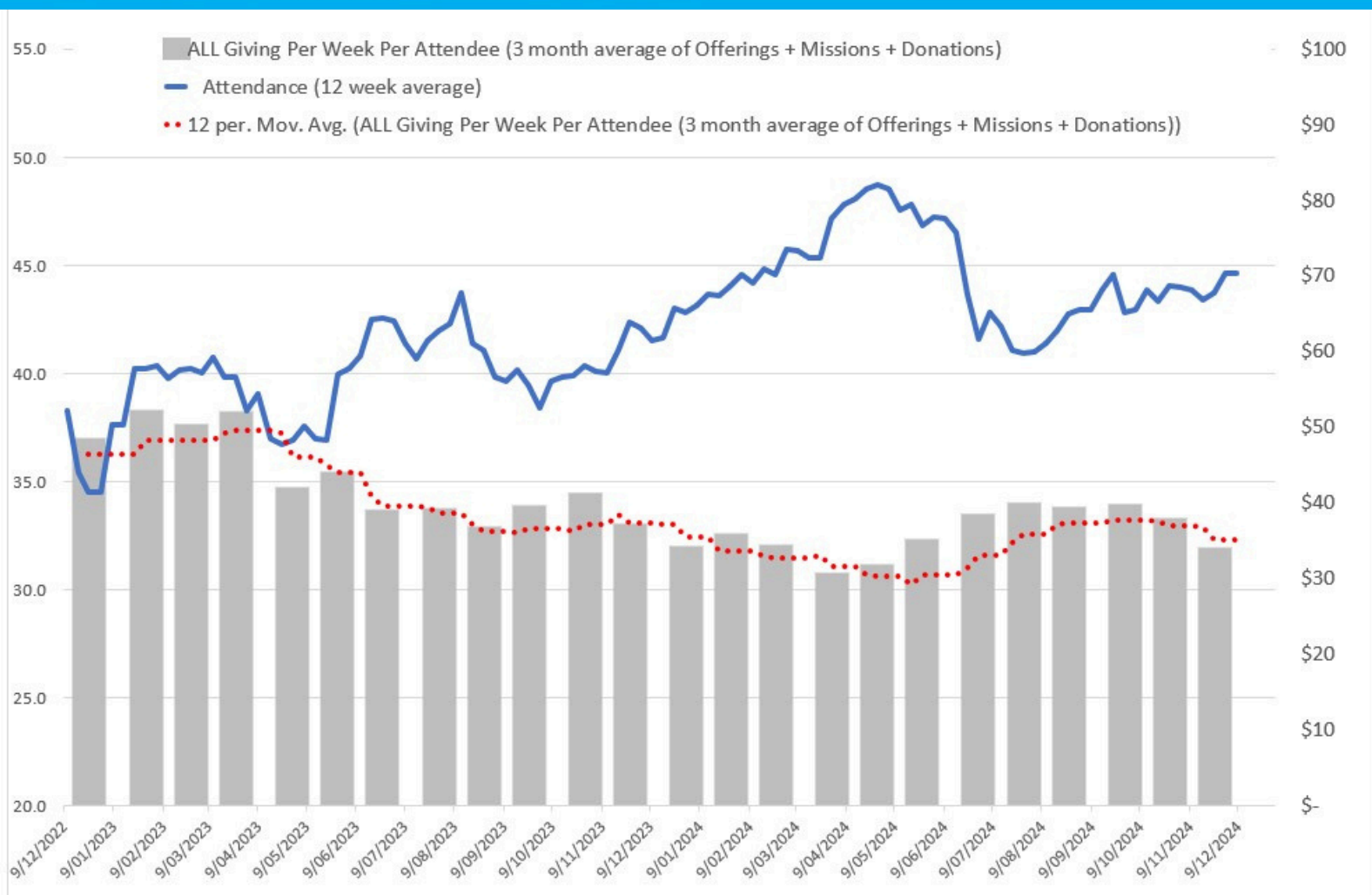
David Milne* through his outreach ministry at Wollongong University occasionally has people who require short-term accommodation. (Often a couple of weeks.)

If you are prepared to go on a list of potential availability let David know via 0402-600-044 or dave.milne061@gmail.com.

If something comes up you will be contacted, given specific details (who, when, how long) and then you can decide whether it is something you can help with.

(* Brother of Anne Trezise, Son of Ross & Ruth Milne)

CHURCH STATISTICS



Financial Support



One of the ways that regular church attendees support the work of the church is through their financial contributions. You can do this by:

- Giving cash during the offering time in the Worship Service.
- Giving online contributions via our bank account. The details are as follows: Bank Account Name: 'Northern Beaches Church of Christ'*; BSB: 112879; Account Number: 477353233

* Our bank account is still under our old church name.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

ROLE	NAME	MOBILE	EMAIL
Lead Pastor	Peter Watson	0407-278-175	peter.watson@illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au
Board Chairperson	Anne Trezise	0434-350-913	anne@planningplus.net.au
Board Secretary & Treasurer	John Piper	0409-808-119	john@piperpiper.com.au
Board Member	Robyn James	0402-460-795	
Board Member	Bronwyn Halpin	0402-460-795	
Mercy Ministries	Catherine Green	0427-038-640	shimmerc1@hotmail.com

If you have any concerns regarding:

- Children & Youth safety, please contact John Piper.
- Pastoral or general concerns, please contact Peter Watson.

Meaning of our logo

Our logo represents key ideas behind what we believe and are committed to as a church.



ILLAWARRA
CHURCH OF CHRIST



The colours represent that we are 'a church anyone can come to' because we are not all the same and accept people with different backgrounds, experiences and ideas.

Each triangle represents one of the 5 key practices we invite everyone into.

Grace-filled **Welcome** (Romans 15:7)

Awe-struck **Worship** (Psalm 95:6)

Joy-filled **Wonder** (Psalm 145:5-7)

Life-transforming **Word** (Romans 12:2)

Kingdom-building **Works** (Matthew 16:18)

Watch the 5W Explanation Video by scanning QR code or going to

<https://youtu.be/WaqBl3QLiF4>