



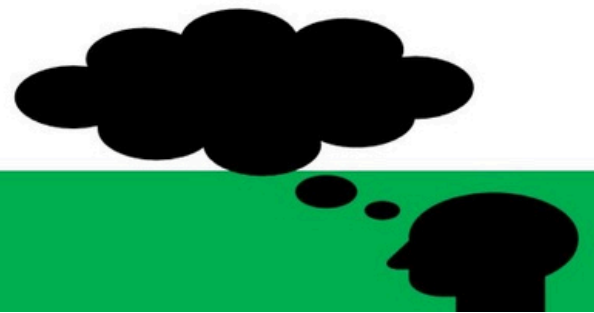
ILLAWARRA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

**A CHURCH ANYONE
CAN COME TO**

www.illawarraChurchOfChrist.com.au

April 2025

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



God's call, as the Creator (Gen 1:1) and Sustainer (Heb 1:3) of all, is for us to discover the joy of worshipping Him. For the spiritually alive person, this profound idea is both intoxicating and exciting.

A truly worshipping heart cannot help but share the joy and hope found in Jesus. Joyfully, they respond to Jesus's call to follow Him and reach out to others to do the same (Matt 4:19).

This journey of discovering the heart and joy of worship, which leads to growing obedience, is what the Bible describes as being a disciple.

Moreover, the Bible is clear that the natural outcome of being a disciple is inviting others to follow Jesus as disciples as well (Matt 28:19-20).

We say we are 'A Church Anyone Can Come To,' but how will they come unless we, who have discovered that joy, share it? (Rom 10:14)

Pastor Peter Watson

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



UPCOMING Events

3rd April: Workshop on 'How to talk to your adult kids'

7.30-9.30 at Balgownie Community Centre. Lead by Peter & Linda Watson

20th April: Easter Sunday Baptisms & BBQ

@ Linda & Peter's place after Sunday Service. Talk to Peter if you'd like to find out more about getting Baptised.

16 May: Trivia Night – 7.00-8.30pm at Balgownie Community Centre

Hosted by Wednesday night Bible Study

14th June: Combined Churches of Christ Women's Event

Venue: NewDay Church. More details to come. Being organised by Linda Watson & Loani Falconer (Southern Church)

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
A FREE WORKSHOP ON**

**HOW TO TALK TO
YOUR
ADULT KIDS**

**THURSDAY 3RD APRIL
7.30PM - 9.30PM**

Balgownie Community Centre
CWA Hall (at the back)
Let us know you are coming by
commenting Yes on this post.



Who its for:

Your children have grown up. They have their own lives and are making their own choices. Your relationship with them is different.

How it works:

This workshop will examine various methods of communicating with adult children to maintain a constructive relationship. You will receive tools and frameworks to assist you in making changes in your communication.

Who by:

Facilitators Peter and Linda Watson. The workshop is backed by Illawarra Church of Christ to support the community.

How to support:

- Invite people (invite on resources table)
- Like and share the Facebook post

Link for Workshop: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxmzc8c>



SPECIAL OFFERING

On the 1ST Sunday of the Month

April focus

Local Mission
80% for

Mercy Ministries

Overseas Mission
20%for

Noel Bolero, Philippines



Soup Sunday 1st
Sunday of
Month

Free but any
donations go to
support Mercy
Ministries

Mercy Ministries & Youth - Catherine Green

With the support of our church family the arms of God are being spread wide: From praying for the sick in Wollongong hospital to working in the housing commission estates with monthly morning teas. We invite you to join us as we socialize and enjoy our church service to our local community.

Recently our ministry has involved relocating a family affected by domestic violence to a safe home and advocating for proper aged care assistance for another. We ask for ongoing prayer and support for these efforts.

Furthermore, we are now focusing on young adult discipleship through community action, helping others, and developing personal relationships with God. This includes serving in the community, youth events, Bible studies, youth discussion meetings, and starting work on media projects with a music element.

Strict budgeting has allowed us to set aside funds to send five youth/young adults to the Church of Christ Stanwell Tops "Flourish" discipleship camp. Our youth are excited about this opportunity.

Our youth have been engaging in a mainly free activity program, including events such as the Hope for Illawarra Evangelistic event on Saturday the 29th March which had over 3000 in attendance at the Win Centre. We are also gone to a movie nights at Cats, moving people serving events, praying in the hospital for the sick, and dancing together (late night in the mall) praising God.

Additionally, as a ripple effect of our mercy ministries' reach through social media to Lukas in Lagos, Nigeria. He has been inspired by our encouragement and has started designing T-shirts proclaiming faith. Please pray for his continued walk with God and the challenges he faces.



I wish to offer thanks and appreciation to Scotty, who has become an asset to our church by providing transport to those in need, and to Samantha, John, Ben, and Ally for their kindness and helping hands in our ministry activities.

Want a deeper Experience of God?

- Want to learn how to hear from God?
- Want to develop a vibrant relationship with God?
- Want to know God's will in your life?



Step 1: Grab a copy of 'Experiencing God'

- You can get a copy from Pastor Pete
- Or order one an online bookshop like Amazon or Koorong.com.au at tinyurl.com/bdffzsrj
- Or listen to via Audible (www.audible.com.au/)

Step 2: Read short sections as per the outline below and regularly meet with Pete to discuss. (Could be face-to-face, via zoom, on the phone.)

You can take anywhere from 3 - 12 months to complete the readings and discussions.

Here's the suggested reading and discussion plan:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| • Read Introduction and Chapter 1 | • Discussion |
| • Read Chapter 2-3 | • Discussion |
| • Read Chapter 4-5 | • Discussion |
| • Read Chapter 6-7 | • Discussion |
| • Read Chapter 8-9 | • Discussion |
| • Read Chapter 10-11 | • Discussion |
| • Read Chapter 12-13 | • Discussion |
| • Read Chapter 14-15 | • Discussion |
| • Read Chapter 16-17 | • Discussion |
| • Read Chapter 18-19 | • Discussion |
| • Read Chapter 20 | • Discussion |

GROUPS

DISCUSSION & GATHERING

www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/activities



- **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.)

Your Invited To



Conversations



Friendship

Just being you

Having Fun



A group that will be meeting to help establish
social connections over a cuppa and a bite to eat in the community.

A place where people can come to engage in socialising, conversations or enjoy the
atmosphere. Maybe you would enjoy the occasional outing or our monthly
free raffle for a donated hamper.

Morning/Afternoon Tea provided

Where: Akuna House Garden Gazbeo
27 - 31 William Street, Keiraville NSW

Contact:

Catherine: **(0427) 038 640**

Betty: **(0478) 612 024** on site see (Unit 14) for more information

FREE SONG BOOKS

For ten years a group of members held a lovely monthly service at Five Islands Care Centre. Covid virtually retired the volunteer group of Bruce Wilson speaker, David Morton vocals with Gil Rowan. Ruth Milne was on piano, and George Coward played clarinet. A few more special services were held

The books with words of songs are available for anyone who want them. They are traditional hymns and are printed in large easy to read print. There are about twenty of them. Please phone Ruth, Ph: 4271 4860, M: 0417 288 816.

ROSTERS



Date	Speaker	Bible Reader	Communion	Prayer	Morning Tea	SUNDAY SCHOOL
06/04/2025	Linda Watson		Stephen Corry	Iwan Jones	Soup Sunday	Sue & Helen
13/04/2025	Missions: Anthony Halley	Stephen Corry	Catherine Green	Anne Trezise	Gillian Morgan & Joyce Jones	John & Bronwyn
20/04/2025	Peter Watson	Brian Healy	Beth Robinson	Steve Caskey	Margaret & John Bilboe	Sue & Robyn
27/04/2025	Peter Watson	Lee Pring	Anne Trezise	Stephen Corry	Dianne Kavanagh / Lorraine Graham	Raka & Anne

Rosters for May-July coming out soon

www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/about-rosters

LAUGHTER

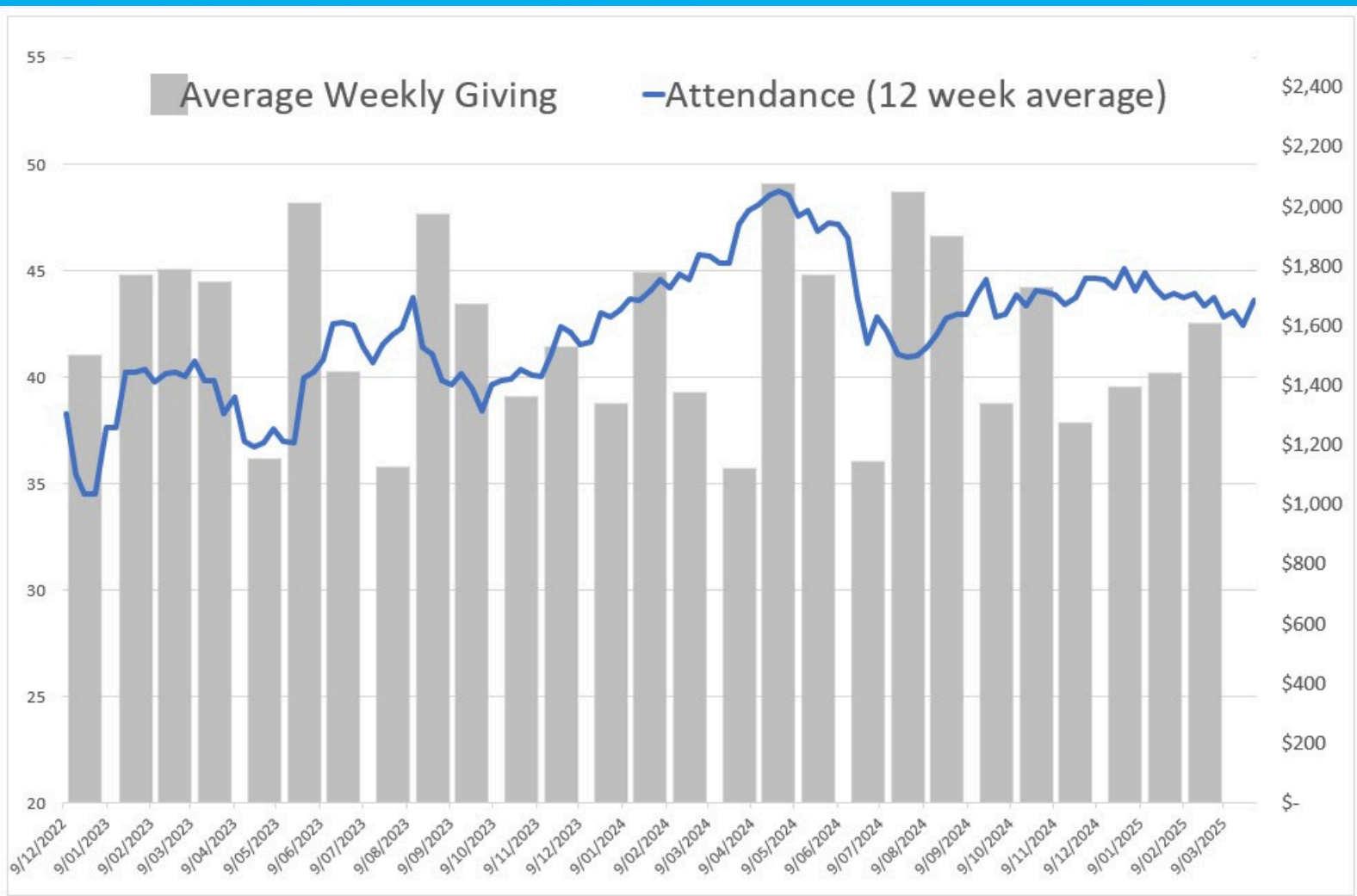


This month we have some Hospital jokes:

- A patient in the Emergency Room filled out a form. After Name and Address, the next question was "Nearest Relative." She wrote "Walking distance."
- When a patient was wheeled into our emergency room, the nurse on duty asked, "On a scale of 0 to 10, with zero representing no pain and 10 representing excruciating pain, where is your pain level is now?" The patient snapped, "How should I know? I'm terrible at math!"
- An Emergency Room Nurse asks, "So, what brings you here?" The patient looks around confused, then replies: "An ambulance."

<https://www.rd.com/article/doctor-jokes/>

CHURCH STATISTICS



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.



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:

Corrimal Community Church gathers 10am weekly at 9 Augusta St, East Corrimal and the meeting is also live-streamed. The lead minister is Graeme Hush and alongside a developing team of preachers and worship leaders, serves 4 other churches currently.

St Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church at 86 Kenny St, Wollongong is part of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

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

Operation World at <https://operationworld.org/prayer-calendar>

Open Doors at www.opendoors.org.au

The Voice of the Martyrs at www.persecution.com

Global Mission Partners at www.gmp.org.au/

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.



Meaning of our logo

Our logo represents key ideas behind what we believe and are committed to as a church. 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/WaqBI3QLiF4>

Becoming a Church Member



Membership is open to all who have openly confessed their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord (Romans 10:9), and who support the church and regularly attend. We recommend that all follow the Bible's teaching and follow Christ in the waters of Believer's Baptism by immersion. (Information below.)

Membership requires that you indicate you wish to be a member which can be done by completing the paper or electronic contact details form.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqpPCI23gLrkPtnoDaQ24lhfZV--vMT7RLJV1Ws8GvQReaA/viewform>

Contact details or updating contact details



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqpPCI23gLrkPtnoDaQ24lhfZV--vMT7RLJV1Ws8GvQReaA/viewform>

There is also a paper version on the resources table. If you complete the paper version please give it to Pastor Peter Watson or John Piper.

Suicide & Mental Health Support Services



www.suicidepreventioncollaborative.org.au/assets/Suicide-Prevention/Where-to-go-for-Support-resource-portrait-2024-v1.jpg

KEY CONTACTS:



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 Members: Robyn James, 0402-460-795; Bronwyn Halpin, 0402-460-795

Mercy Ministries Coordinator: Catherine Green, 0427-038-640,
shimmerc1@hotmail.com

Safer Kids

We are committed to ensuring the safety of everyone, especially our kids and youth. If you have any questions or concerns regarding keeping our kids and youth safe you can contact either John Piper (Board Secretary) , Anne Trezise (Board Chair) or Peter Watson (Pastor) at the numbers listed above.