



ST TOM'S AND ST ED'S
**JULY
NEWS**

“Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress,
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
Selah”

PSALM 32:6–7 NRSV



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Times of distress (the rush of mighty waters) come upon all of us. Prayer is key to not being overwhelmed with anxiety by such times. Prayer helps prepare us for when times of distress come, when the Lord seems hidden from us (Ps 104:29).

May we learn to pray faithfully (at all times) rather than being taught to pray in the distressing times.

JULY SERMON SERIES

Our first Sunday of July will be a baptism service! It will be a great opportunity to witness this public declaration of faith!

During most of July we will be continuing our Gentle and Lowly sermon series, working our way through chapters 13-21 of the book by Dane Ortlund. So far, we've looked at Christ in the New Testament, but how does this connect with the Old Testament? When Christ unveils his heart as gentle and lowly, he is continuing on the natural trajectory of what God has already been revealing about himself throughout the Old Testament.

The heart of Christ is gentle and lowly. And that is the perfect picture of who the Father is "The Father himself loves you" (John 16:27).

SERIES	DATE	TITLE / INFO	SCRIPTURE	PREACHER ST TOM'S	PREACHER ST ED'S
Gentle and Lowly	2 Jul	Why the Spirit? Baptism Service @ 10:30 Eng	John 14:16	8.15: Ros 10.30: Rachel	Ros
Gentle and Lowly	9 Jul	His "Natural" Work and His "Strange" Work	Lam 3.33	8.15: Ros 10.30: John	Ros
Gentle and Lowly	16 Jul	His Ways Are Not Our Ways	Isa 55.8	8.15: Ros 10.30: Joshua	Ros
	23 Jul	Messy Church		8.15: Joshua	Joshua
Gentle and Lowly	30 Jul	Rich in Mercy	Eph 2:1-5	8.15: Ros 10.30: Susan	Ros

For additional readings see [2023 Planner & Sermon Series](#) on Elvanto or request a copy by emailing admin@sttoms.org

REFLECTION - ROS ARMSTRONG



The theme of the recent Clergy Conference was "Reimagining" and one of the highlights for me was to do a workshop with Peter Adam on "Reimagining Prayer". He began by emphasising the importance of prayer: Jesus died so we could pray and come to our heavenly Father. Jesus was raised so we might pray. Jesus ascended so we might pray through him.

He referred us to his website (peteradam.org, which is geared towards those in ministry), and we spent time individually looking at some of his thoughts. I looked at section "Using the Bible to reimagine your prayer", which was not a new idea to me, but was a good reminder of ways of praying. Peter gave three main ideas.

1. Pray the prayers included in the Bible.
How would it be to pray this for someone else, or for someone to pray this for you? Philippians 1:9: *"that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight..."*
2. Adapt the New Testament, turning instructions into prayers.
Could I pray like this? 2 Timothy 4:2-3: *Please help me to proclaim the message; to be persistent... to convince, rebuke, and encourage, with utmost patience in teaching.*
3. Create prayers in response to our Bible reading.
These might be thanksgiving, praise, lament, repentance, intercession or more.

What struck me was the power and boldness of these prayers and how in

comparison, some of my own prayers were diluted or limited. I found they took me beyond what we might see as important and urgent; they focus us on who God is, and what God does, and how God deserves to be honoured and praised; we see into God's heart and vision for the world, the church, and us. I am trying to learn to pray more like this in my own prayers, both public and private. Recently, Bp Paul Barker called the Jumbunna episcopate to make July a month of prayer. In particular, there will be a regional day of prayer on July 29, held at GWAC from 8am to 8pm. Bp Paul plans to be there for the whole twelve hours, and encourages us to join him there for even just a few minutes – I also encourage us to attend. Perhaps it is something that small groups could do together.

As well, St Tom's is starting a monthly prayer meeting, the first to be on July 6 (details elsewhere in the newsletter). Again, I encourage us to attend, not just once, but each month, that we might be a praying community, bringing to God our world and each other.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6.

Ros

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Lydia

Paula Gooder

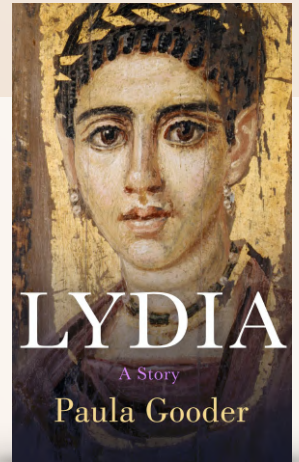
Recommended by Ros:

What do we know about Lydia who converted to Christianity by the apostle Paul, as recorded in Acts 16?

In the same vein as her previous book, *Phoebe*, Gooder uses her NT scholarship to put together a story about this significant figure in the Philippian church. While the story is fictional (obviously), it paints a picture of what life may have been like for the early church in the Roman Empire, also drawing in other characters recorded in both Acts and the letter to the Philippians.

There are two parts to the book: the story itself and then extensive notes of what is known about Philippi, the early church and events of the time, both in and external to the Bible. As well, readers are encouraged to read Acts 16 and the letter to the Philippians to provide a solid background to the story.

These two sections can be read in any order. Personally, I found it helpful to read the story first, then the notes, then reread the story with a fuller picture.



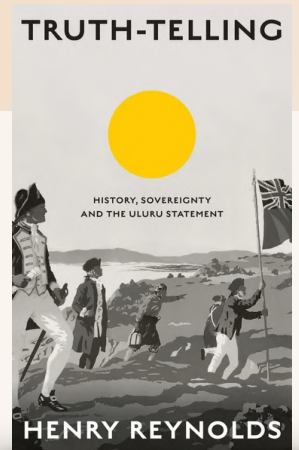
Truth Telling: History, sovereignty and the Uluru Statement

Henry Reynolds

If we are to take seriously the need for telling the truth about our history, we must start at first principles.

The historical record shows that the argument of the Uluru Statement from the Heart is stronger than many people imagine and the centuries-long legal position about British claims to the land far less imposing than it appears.

In *Truth-Telling*, influential historian Henry Reynolds pulls the rug from legal and historical assumptions, with his usual sharp eye and rigour, in a book that's about the present as much as the past. His work shows exactly why our national war memorial must acknowledge the frontier wars, why we must change the date of our national day, and why treaties are important. Most of all, it makes urgently clear that the Uluru Statement is no rhetorical flourish but carries the weight of history and law and gives us a map for the future.



MISSION NEWS NUNGALINYA COLLEGE



Empowering Indigenous Christians

Nungalinya exists to 'empower Indigenous Christians'. Thus, our core business is the training of Indigenous church members and leaders, to grow their gifts to serve their local communities. So far in 2023 we have had four 'Foundation Studies' blocks focussing on the life of Peter and Paul and the early church, Ministry & Theology blocks on 'Leaders in the Bible', 'Hope & Healing' and 'Pastoral Care', two 'Art & Faith' blocks and two 'Faith & Family Wellbeing' blocks! All these courses have at their core a commitment to life-long discipleship, the growing in and authentic expressions of Indigenous faith. We are privileged to see daily examples of this

reality, so we can only thank you for partnering with us in this vital ministry. We often talk about Nungalinya offering training which is formal (accredited courses), centralised (in Darwin) and (largely) in English. However, we are very aware that we are only one part of the bigger training and growth that is happening- all of the churches offering other opportunities for growth, often informal, in Language and on-country. However, sometimes we do have a window in our calendar to send some trainers further afield- and Emily and Annette visited Alice Springs and Groote Eylandt recently to run 'taster' Foundation Studies courses!

Our last Mission Sunday brought us a message from Nungalinya College, if you would like to watch the sermon, you can find it [here](#).



WHAT'S ON AT ST EDWARD'S



LOVE IN A CUP CAFE

Thursday 27th July 1pm - 2.30pm at St Ed's

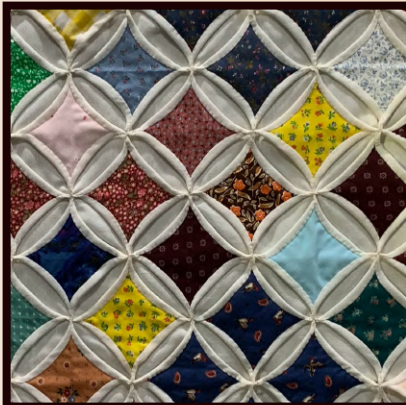
Join us for great food, good conversation and the monthly quiz. Cost is a gold coin donation. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday, 1pm - 2.30 pm in the foyer at St Ed's. We're currently studying the book of Acts. All welcome to join.

MONDAY EXERCISE CLASS

Exercise group in the hall for mature people. Includes balance, muscle strengthening and stretching exercises. Cost \$10 per session.



CRAFT GROUP

Wednesdays 10.30am - 12 noon

St Edward's Craft group in the foyer. Bring your own projects or join in making fabric Christmas stars for a charity fundraiser. All welcome.

CONTACT DETAILS

Minister	Ros Armstrong	rarmstrong@melbourneanglican.org.au	0438 706 815
Church Wardens	Jenny Lynch	jenny.r.lynch@gmail.com	0490 951 459
	Stephen Smith	marilynms129@yahoo.com	0419 888 579
	Ray Walker	raybulldogs26@gmail.com	0438 011 8812
Church Office		office@stedwards.org.au	

COMMUNITY NEWS

CHURCH RETREAT

Registrations are now open for our 2023 Church Retreat! We're really excited to welcome Karen Winsemius who will be sharing on 'Blessed to be a Blessing' from 2 Corinthians.

- **When?** 8-10 September 2023
- **Where?** CYC Adventure Camp, Phillip Island
- **Who?** All our congregations from St Tom's and St Ed's!
- **Why?** To have time together with God, to build community and to grow together

There is an elvanto page which we will be updating regularly with more information, you can find it [here](#). We will also be updating everyone via email and during our Sunday services.

- **Questions?** Contact Rachel rachelgh@sttoms.org or Catherine admin@sttoms.org

[Register](#)

TERM 3 PROGRAMS

Our programs are starting back up in Term 3!

- **Tuesday Playgroup:** 11th July - 12th September
- **Thursday Playgroup:** 13th July - 14th September
- **Clay:** 14th July - 8th September
- **Tom's Crew:** 20th July - August 24th



Residents of Fountain Court. A service with Holy Communion occurs monthly 3rd Thursday at 11:30 am. You're welcome to join.

Next service will be: 11:30 am Thursday 20 July in the Library

PRAYER MEETINGS AT ST TOM'S

First Thursday of each month - 7.30pm - St Tom's

First prayer meeting: 6 July 2023

We want to be more prayerful as individuals, as a ministry team and as a church. Anyone can attend and we encourage you to make a conscious effort to come and pray. We are looking forward to strengthening our prayer muscle, seeking Gods kingdom, His will and experiencing Gods heart for the world and his church.

DAY OF PRAYER



29 July 2023 - 8am-8pm - St Barnabas Glen Waverley (GWAC)

Bishop Paul and his ministry leaders are calling the people of Jumbunna to a focus of prayer in July. The invitation to all people in Jumbunna is to come on Saturday, 29 July, any time from 8am to 8pm at St Barnabas Glen Waverley (GWAC) to join in prayer for our world, society and church. Come for 12 minutes or 12 hours.

Heavenly Father, may we share in your great love for the world in Christ. Let your love compel your church to pray without ceasing - seeking your Kingdom your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Raise up in our churches, many evangelists, pastors, teachers and cause your word to bear much fruit among us - fruit of repentance and the Spirit.

UNCLE GLENN - A VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

27 August 2023 11.45pm at St Tom's (after our 10.30 services)

A Voice to Parliament will give Indigenous communities a route to help inform policy and legal decisions that impact their lives. You can read more about this [here](#).

Rev. Canon Glenn Loughrey (Uncle Glenn) will be answering questions relating to a Voice to Parliament.

EUCALYPTS



Eucalypts will be meeting on Thursday 13th of July at 1pm at St Tom's. Contact Ros: rosa@sttoms.org.

FINANCES



Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV

If you consider St Tom's your church then please prayerfully consider giving financially to its ministry. The running of St Tom's relies upon the generosity of its members. Below you can see the amounts which are required on a monthly basis for running our church. Most people find giving either by Direct Debit, or online, the most convenient way and setting their giving to reoccur monthly or weekly.

There are many ways to give financially, such as:



Direct Debit
(see account details below)



Online with a Credit / Debit Card - go to sttoms.org/give or via tithely scan



Cash or Cheque, into the offering taken up during our services

St Tom's encourage giving electronically:

	Account Name	BSB	Account No.	Monthly Required
General Account	St Thomas Burwood	063-112	1039 7091	\$ 38,200
Building Fund	St Thomas ADF Building Fund	703-122	0500 5091	\$ 3,800
Necessitous Circumstances (TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	St Thomas Burwood	063-112	1054 9390	
St Tom's Hope (TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	St Toms Hope LTD	633-000	159591023	\$ 1,000

CONTACT DETAILS

	Coordinator	Email	Mobile
Small Groups	Denise Clarke	denisec@sttoms.org	0438 595 527
Meals	Lyndie Gebert	meals@sttoms.org	0417 304 894
Handy Help	Peter Crandle	handyhelp@sttoms.org	
Pastoral Care	Annette Ward	pastoralcare@sttoms.org	0411 624 573
Prayer Circle (prayer requests)	Yvonne Edwards	prayer@sttoms.org	0432 477 766
Women's Mentoring	Position vacant		

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Catherine Hallyburton and Ming Lau are our Child Safety Officers. Contact details back page.

FAMILY SAFETY CHAMPION

Lyndie Gebert	gebertll@gmail.com	0417 304 894
Ida Mak 麥趙淑貞	idascmak@gmail.com	0488 332 438

WARDENS

Ida Mak 麥趙淑貞	idascmak@gmail.com	0488 332 438
Ruth Kernebone	ruthk@ozemail.com.au	0408 345 136
Steve Tong	tongsyc@gmail.com	0459 453 847

ST TOM'S HOPE

Josephine Armstrong	English Class Coordinator	josephinea@sttomshope.org	0488 022 103
Melinda van der Westhuizen	Kids Hope Coordinator	mva66253@gmail.com	0403 182 654
Paula Adams- Grant	Coach Coordinator Hope Filled Bags	paulaa@sttomshope.org	0438 899 630



STAFF & MINISTRY TEAM

John Carrick	Lead Minister	johnc@sttoms.org	0412 438 021
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN			
Ros Armstrong	Assistant Minister	rosa@sttoms.org	0438 706 815
WORK DAYS: MON (ST), WED (SE), THU (SE), SUN			
Joshua Millard	Assistant Minister	joshuam@sttoms.org	0450 638 890
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN			
Rachel Gijbers Hayman	Children & Families Coordinator	rachelgh@sttoms.org	0413 158 010
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, SUN			
Joey Chan	Assistant Chinese Minister	joeyc@sttoms.org	0481 238 631
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN			
Karen Morris	Evangelistic Ministries Coordinator	karenm@sttoms.org	0417 765 210
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE			
Tracy Chen	Pastoral Care Intern	tracyc@sttoms.org	0430 656 456
WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU			
Denise Clarke	Small Groups Ministry	denisec@sttoms.org	0438 595 527
WORK DAYS: NO PARTICULAR DAY			
Catherine Hallyburton	Admin Assistant / Child Safe Officer	admin@sttoms.org	9808 3250 0481 830 261 SMS
MON, TUE, WED, THU			
Ming Lau	Chinese Admin / Child Safe Officer	ch.admin@sttoms.org	0402 581 838
MON, THU (THU - IN THE OFFICE 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM)			