

ST TOM'S

# MARCH NEWS





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## MARCH SERMON SERIES

March will be kicking off with our first Messy Church for 2023! Using our topics from February, we will be looking at Time, Talent, Treasure for kids.

Our second Sunday in March marks our Tenth Anniversary of being in the new St Tom's building! We will be having a church wide combined service and lunch together on that day. We are expecting many visitors who have been part of the life of St Tom's in the last decade and beyond.

The last Sunday in March we will be having our first Mission Sunday for 2023. Different to previous years, our mission Sundays are no longer combined services. our guest speakers will be preaching at four services!

SERIES	DATE	TITLE / INFO	SCRIPTURE	PREACHER
Lent	5 Mar	8.30am - Traditional Service 10am - Messy Church	8.30 - Matt 17:1-9	8.30am - Ros Armstrong 10am - Rachel
Lent	12 Mar	Tenth Anniversary	1 Thessalonians 1	Joshua Millard
Lent	19 Mar		Eph 5:8-14	Denise Clarke
Mission Sunday	26 Mar	CMS	Matt 4:1-11	Wei-Han Kuan

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

## CHILDREN&FAMILIES - RACHEL

March is the month to be preparing for and reflecting on the death and resurrection of Jesus and what it means for us. It is challenging to 'find the time', but worth it. A few ways I enjoy spending time with God are: having my cup of coffee in the morning quietly, putting on a devotion in the car on my way to work or setting aside 5-10 mins to pray quietly before I start work. By no means am I super disciplined at this. I would love to say it's everyday but it's not. I know the days I do are better than the days I don't and it is really encouraging to stop and be thankful and be grateful to God for all the wonderful things that are happening around me. I am praying this Lent and in preparation for Easter that you are able to find time to thank God for Jesus - his life, death and resurrection.

We have had a wonderful start to our playgroups and Tom's Crew this term. There have been lots of new families and returning families join our Playgroups, especially brand new babies and their mums, new dads and grandparents too!



Tom's Crew numbers have been a little light but we've had fun. It means we get to do activities like make slime!



I want to thank our volunteers; your warmth, generosity and care make our programs a wonderful place of connection and community. Please pray for beautiful relationships to form and for St Tom's to be an important place for our community to meet. Please pray for more kids to join Tom's Crew and for some new cooks to join our team.

But most of all, please pray for the children who come, that they will learn who Jesus is and how much he loves them!

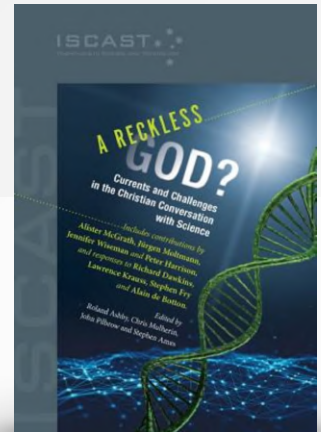
I know for some of us we are dealing with disappointments and set backs. Many of us have had health struggles, accidents and for me silly old covid means not achieving a goal I set for myself. Despite all of this, once again, I'm thankful for the support of friends, family and St Tom's. It is great to know we're not alone. Can I encourage you to think of someone who may be feeling lonely, disappointed, or isolated and send a text or call them and let them know they are not alone? Pray for them too, curve balls aren't easy but having a good team around you makes playing the game better.

*Rachel*

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

### ***A Reckless God? Currents and Challenges in the Christian Conversation with Science***

John Pilbrow, Chris Mulherin



What sort of God would create a world full of life yet plagued by earthquakes and genetic disorders? The Christian God is the loving 'reckless' God who, like the devoted father of the prodigal son, risks himself for the sake of relationship. This book includes contributions from theologians Alister McGrath and Jurgen Moltmann, astrophysicist Jennifer Wiseman and physicists Tom McLeish and John Pilbrow. Jointly published by the Australian group ISCAST Christians in Science and Technology and The Melbourne Anglican, the book also includes chapters by some familiar to St Tom's: addiction medicine specialist Alan Gijssbers, engineer/philosopher Rev. Chris Mulherin (and Denise Cooper-Clarke).

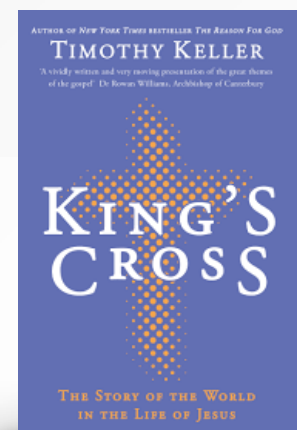
It also includes responses to prominent atheists Richard Dawkins, Lawrence Krauss, Stephen Fry and Alain de Bouton. "This impressive collection shows that, far from there being a conflict between science and Christian faith, the interaction furnishes fruitful dialogue and mutual enrichment" (astrophysicist and Church of England priest Dr. Rodney Holder).

- Denise Clarke

### ***King's Cross***

Timothy Keller

'Unpredictable yet reliable, gentle yet powerful, authoritative yet humble, human yet divine.' At a time when interest in Jesus has never been higher, respected pastor and bestselling author Tim Keller takes a deep and thought-provoking look at the life of Christ. Drawing from Mark's gospel, he explains how Jesus' identity as king and his purpose in dying on the cross have meaning and significance on a cosmic scale as well as for the individual. THE REASON FOR GOD gave a passionate and intellectually compelling case for God, while THE PRODIGAL GOD explored the gospel's central message of grace. Now KING'S CROSS gives a captivating account of the person at the heart of it all: Jesus.



LIVING+GROWING+SERVING+PROCLAIMING IN CHRIST

Note: Books are in St Tom's Library on the Ministry Team Recommendations shelf

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### TUNEFUL TOTS



Tuneful Tots is our musical program for pre-school aged children run by Janelle and Narelle. In Term 1 it is running every Friday morning from 10am to 10.45 in the Red Room at St Tom's. Contact admin for more information.

### EUCALYPTS



Eucalypts is changing days!

Our group for the mature members of our congregations will now be held on Thursdays at 1pm. Our next meeting will be on Mar 16 – please BYO lunch – and then it will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month. All over 50s / retired people are welcome. Any queries contact Ros – [rosa@sttoms.org](mailto:rosa@sttoms.org)

### BORROWING AT ST TOM'S

If you would like to borrow anything from St Tom's (chairs, tables, brooms, etc) please fill out our new online form. You can find it here: [Borrowing at St Tom's](#). Alternatively you can find it directly on Elvanto in the member area, under Forms, and it's the last one on the list!

### BAPTISM

Every Easter the church welcomes new family members through the rite of baptism. At St Toms this Easter we will have baptisms - so please speak to someone if you or your children would like to explore being baptised. To be baptised means to get wet! To go through the waters of purification as a sign of God's grace that has worked in the person to bring them to faith and repentance. It is the rite of becoming a Christian, and entering the Christian family. Baptism requires some preparation, so please speak to a staff member to find out more.



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 16 March in the Library

## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY: ROBERT CRAIG

During 2022, St Tom's received a generous bequest from the estate of Dr Robert Craig, a former member of St Tom's and earlier of St Michael and All Angels' Bennetswood. Robert's ashes are interred in the Memorial Garden, but lockdown restrictions in March 2020, when he died, meant he had no funeral.

Robert was educated at Murrumbidgee State School, Melbourne Boys High, the University of Melbourne and at Lincoln College Oxford. He became Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at the University of Melbourne and Honorary Fellow of the University after his retirement (which meant that during the early years of his retirement Robert spent many unpaid hours developing and monitoring First Year Chemistry Pre-lab sessions).

Apart from a period in Oxford gaining his D. Phil, Robert lived most of his adult life in a house on the block adjoining the church boundary, to the North. He never married and lived with his unmarried sister, Margaret, until she died in 2012.

When he could no longer look after himself at home, Robert moved to a nursing home in Moonee Ponds to be nearer his cousin Gwenneth Holmes, and later, to a nursing home in Glenroy. He adapted to the changes with his characteristic resoluteness and spent many hours walking, exploring the streets of Moonee Ponds. Robert received many visits from St Tom's members at his nursing homes. Maurie Hevern was probably his most regular visitor at Glenroy (and almost always took ice cream!).

Parish members remember Robert's gentlemanly and courteous manner, his wonderfully dry sense of humour, his smile, his deep Christian faith and his loyalty to and passion for the ministry of the parish. These were exhibited in many ways: through his Vestry membership, particularly as Parish Secretary - a role he fulfilled with meticulous care; English teaching from the inception of Saturday classes (where Samantha Tse was one of his pupils); his membership of the choir and his very clear and careful reading of the Bible during services. Living next door to the church, Robert often ended up with the mundane jobs, like locking up or putting out the garbage bins! And he did these without complaint.

Robert had a beautiful voice and loved singing in the choir (which Margaret organised). In fact, when Ida Mak gathered members of the congregation to sing Christmas carols at his nursing home a few years ago, Robert still sang strongly and kept the time.

One of Robert's lasting legacies was his crucial role as a Churchwarden in the resumption of negotiations towards the amalgamation of St Theodore's Wattle Park with St Michael and All Angels Bennetswood, after initial discussions had stalled. In the course of the further negotiations, it became clear that Robert was persuaded of the ministry benefits of the amalgamation and that this was where God was leading us. Robert was able to influence others of his parish to a like mind and in 2007, St Michael's and St Theodore's merged to become the parish of St Thomas' Burwood.

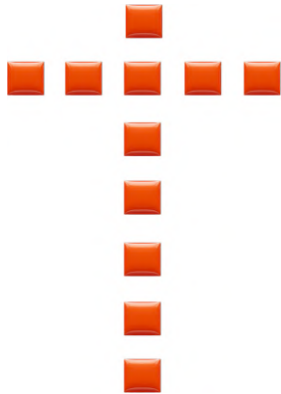
St Tom's and its work continues to benefit from both Robert and Margaret Craig's many contributions during their lives, for which we praise and thank God.

As Robert wished, we have used half the bequest to reduce our building loan and invested the remainder; the income from which will be used to support needy people in the parish.





## ST TOM'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY



This March St Thomas' is turning ten years old! To mark this happy occasion we are having a special church-wide combined service of thanksgiving and testimony on March 12th, followed by a bring and share lunch. Former staff are being invited to share with us as we look back on God's great gifts, and for us all to look ahead to the future. Please come to this service of joy and thanksgiving, bring a plate of something for lunch, and celebrate ten years of God's great faithfulness to us in this wonderful church.

## STATUTORY PARISH MEETING

### MEETING DETAILS

- Sunday 19th March 2023 at 12.15pm (after 10.30 services)
- St Thomas' Anglican Church, 44 Station Street, Burwood Victoria
- To consider and vote on a proposed co-operative agreement with the Anglican Parish of St Edward's Blackburn South
- A quorum of 20 per cent of the members on the electoral roll is required at the meeting

Our possible partnership with St Edwards Blackburn South is rolling along in its organisation - thanks to the great work of our warden's and parish council. This partnership will require the formal agreement of both parishes.

To give our agreement as a church, we must hold a Statutory Parish Meeting. The churchwardens of St Thomas' will recommend that the meeting vote to endorse the proposed co-operative agreement, under section 57(2) of the Parish Governance Act 2013. Members enrolled on St Thomas' electoral roll are entitled to attend, speak and vote at the meeting. A quorum of 20 per cent of the members on the electoral roll is required at the meeting. Copies of the proposed agreement will be distributed to parishioners by email and hard copies will be available at St Thomas' from early March 2023.

**An information and discussions session will be hosted on March 12th, 9:15am at St Toms.**



# EASTER AT ST TOM'S

## EASTER AT ST TOM'S

**GOOD FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**

9AM - COMBINED ENGLISH & CHINESE SERVICE

**EASTER SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**

8.30AM - TRADITIONAL ENGLISH SERVICE

10.30AM - FAMILY ENGLISH SERVICE

10.30AM - COMBINED CANTONESE/MANDARIN



## MISSION NEWS TIM AND OLIVIA MULHERIN



Video Update

Kids Prayer Sheet

Cambodia Kids Activity  
Sheet



# 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](http://sttoms.org/give) or via tithe.ly 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
<b>ON LSL FROM 16 JAN</b>	<b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN</b>		
Ros Armstrong	Assistant Minister	rosa@sttoms.org	0438 706 815
	<b>WORK DAYS: MON, (ALTERNATE TUE &amp; THU) SUN</b>		
Joshua Millard	Youth Minister	joshuam@sttoms.org	0450 638 890
	<b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SUN</b>		
Rachel Gijbers Hayman	Children & Families Coordinator	rachelgh@sttoms.org	0413 158 010
	<b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, SUN</b>		
Joey Chan	Assistant Chinese Minister	joeyc@sttoms.org	0481 238 631
	<b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN</b>		
Karen Morris	Evangelistic Ministries Coordinator	<u>karenm@sttoms.org</u>	0417 765 210
	<b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE</b>		
Tracy Chen	Pastoral Care Intern	tracyc@sttoms.org	0430 656 456
	<b>WORK DAYS: MON, TUE, THU</b>		
Denise Clarke	Small Groups Ministry	denisec@sttoms.org	0438 595 527
	<b>WORK DAYS: NO PARTICULAR DAY</b>		
Catherine Hallyburton	Admin Assistant / Child Safe Officer	admin@sttoms.org	9808 3250 0481 830 261 SMS
<b>ON LEAVE IN MARCH</b>	<b>IN THE OFFICE MON &amp; THU 9:30 AM - 3:30 AM, &amp; WED (WFH) 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM</b>		
Ming Lau	Chinese Admin / Child Safe Officer	ch.admin@sttoms.org	0402 581 838
	<b>MON, THU (THU - IN THE OFFICE 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM)</b>		