



St John's Camden

19 March 23...

Dear Church

Last week, a minister friend of mine asked the following question on his Facebook page.

“What are the challenges, obstacles and thoughts around being regular at church?”

Some of the responses were expected, some heart-breaking, but all of them thought provoking. I thought it would be good for our collective souls to reflect on some of the answers.

- Competing interests
- Work travel and shift work
- Disability - yours or your children's
- Social anxiety or trauma
- Feeling invisible or unconnected with others
- Unbelieving spouse or children
- Senior minister's unreasonable expectations or inappropriate behaviour
- Wanting a quiet, reflective/contemplative service but getting something different
- Lack of kindness and understanding
- Unimaginative or uninspiring services and sermons
- Little consideration given to aesthetics
- Minister doesn't seem interested in who I am
- I love other things more: fishing, long drives, sport, cafes etc.
- Lack of opportunity for congregation to participate in services
- Gossip

It's quite a list! Do you agree? Disagree? When I read through the list, and this is just a sample, I imagine many of these could be an issue for some at our church when deciding whether to come or not. This grieves me.

I'm not so naïve to think that these issues are easily dealt with. They're not. Some of them are complex, messy, and deeply personal. But I do believe that incrementally growing in love for one another, having understood Jesus' great love for us, goes a long way to break down the barriers that separate us and brings us together.

Grace teaches at least two things. Humility - that we're so in need of saving, it took Jesus to die on the cross. And confidence - that we're deeply loved and desired by God. Enough for him to want us to be in eternity with him. May that humility and confidence bleed into our gatherings and relationships at church.

With love,
Matt

School chaplaincy...

An opportunity is available for school chaplains in Mossvale (2 days/week) and Thirlmere (1 day/week). Applicants will need appropriate qualifications, working with children check and endorsement from their local church. Details are available in the weekly email or by contacting the office.

What's happening...

25th March - Mother's Union High Tea, speaker Mrs Cailey Raffle. 2pm at Mittagong Anglican Church. \$10p.p. RSVP today Pam Turner 0409 481 243

25th March - Mission Prayer Meeting 7.30pm @ the McKay's
33 Elizabeth Macarthur Ave Camden

26th March - Confirmation service, 10am.

26th March - St John's AGM 12noon in the hall.

1st April - Prayer meeting 8am in the hall.

1st April - Working bee 9am on St John's grounds.

Who can we pray for this week...

Community

- Pray for Camden and its surrounding suburbs.
 - Thank God for the work of the churches throughout the years here in Camden.
 - Thank God for the place of St John's within the community and the effect it has.
 - Pray that the community would see St John's as a place of benefit to all within Camden.
 - Pray for the people in our community, that God would speak into their hearts to know Christ's love more.

Ministry

- Pray for the church leadership and staff.
 - Pray for our Archbishop Kanishka Raffel and Bishop Peter Lin, that God will give them wisdom and integrity as they work in service to him and the church.
 - Pray for our senior minister Matt Stedman, that God will guide him with what is best for the community here in Camden.
 - Pray also for our staff and their spouses - Matt & Emily, Tim & Naomi, Matt & Elizabeth, Karina & James, Pat & Ray, Trish & Ian, and Tennille & Paul. That God will be with them as they work and grow together in service of the community and him.

Congregation

- Pray for the teachers among us as they teach and share in schools.
 - Pray for wisdom and opportunities amongst those in Christian schools to share and model Christ's love with those they teach.
 - Pray for courage and wisdom for those in the public school system as they navigate the secular working environment.
 - Pray for all as we navigate the many responsibilities and time constraints in our lives.

The world

- Pray for those God has put in place in institutions to lead us.
 - Pray for our federal representative Angus Taylor, our State representative Peter Sidgreaves, mayor Therese Fedeli and all our local council members.
 - Pray for wisdom and integrity as they govern us in this country.
 - Pray for safety in their lives and in their homes as they work.

Do you need prayer? Add a note to a connect card during the service and pop it in the collection plate.

Our Missionaries...

Imli & Heather Jamir Arnhem land, NT - Pioneers

Murray & Liz Benn Rural Mongolia - Pioneers

Jim & Linda Macintosh James O.Fraser Centre, Thailand - OMF

Jo The Middle East - CMS

Daniel & Rebecca Faricy Kununurra, WA - BCA

Chris & Kristy Galea Malta - CMS

Neil and Cheryl - Mission Aviation Fellowship

Service Times...

St Johns Camden: 8am, 10am, 6pm Sunday

Women's Church: 9:30am Thursday (during school terms)

St Paul's Mt Hunter: 10am Sunday except 9am 1st Sunday of the month

St Barnabas' Werombi: 10:30am 1st Sunday of the month

Contact...

Office hours: Mon-Fri 8.30am-4pm

Phone: 4655 1675

Email: office@stjohnscamden.net.au

Website: www.stjohnscamden.org.au

Postal: PO Box 87 Camden 2570

Location: 6 Menangle Rd Camden

Staff: Matt Stedman (Rector), Tim Ash (Assistant), Matt Carmody (Kids & Youth)

Karina Edgerton (Women's Church),

Tennille Davies (office)

Safe Ministry:

Marilyn Noonan; 0419441595;
safe.m@stjohnscamden.net.au

Parish Councilors & Wardens

St Barnabas': Greg, Mark, Peter.

St John's: Alix, Andrew, Bev, Charles, Daniel, Ian, John, Karen, Keith, Ross, Ryan, Steve, Ted, Tim.

St Paul's: Anne, Brett, Graham.

Giving...

We are deeply thankful for your generosity.

BSB: 032 717

Account no: 220 090

Account name: Camden Anglican Parish

