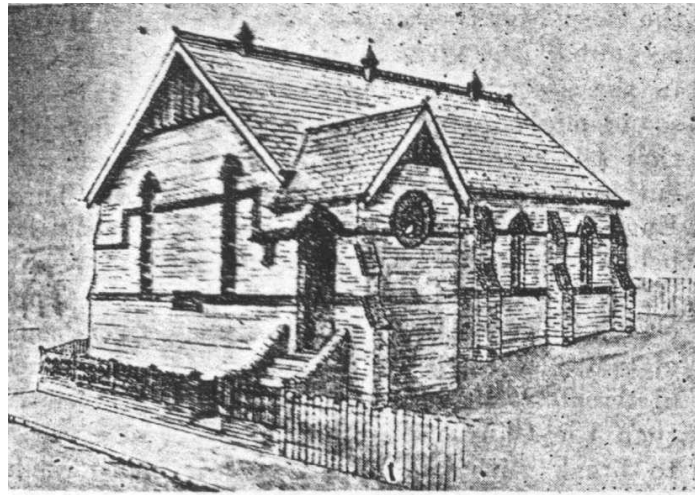


# **Our Journey Together A Final Time of Gathering at Cardigan Street, Stanmore**

**25 June 2023**



*I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full.  
**John 10: 10** (NIV)*

**West Kingston Methodist Church**  
**1905 - 1977**

**West Kingston Uniting Church**  
**1977 - 1999**

**Camperdown Stanmore Community Church**  
**1999 – 2023**

## Welcome and Call to Worship

### ***Psalm 117*** (NLT)

*Praise the LORD, all you nations.  
Praise him, all you people of the earth.  
For his unfailing love for us is powerful;  
the LORD's faithfulness endures forever.*

## Opening Prayers and Confession

### **SONGS**

*Be Exalted O God (SIS 396)  
Alleluia Alleluia Give Thanks (TIS 390; SIS 276)  
He is Alpha and Omega (SIS 418)*

## Announcements and Messages

## Greetings from Sydney Presbytery by Ian Goff

### **Prayers**

**For our World** led by Kay Roxby  
**For missions we supported** led by Carol Randall  
**For Missionaries we supported to 2023** led by Allan Miles  
*Rev. Darrell and Margaret Thatcher and family  
David and Christine Jeyanchandran and family  
Warwick and Lauren Walker and family*



## Message from Joy Lacey



I hope I don't get teary – this is the last time I will be standing up here. Back in 1968 I arrived at this church and one of the first things I was invited to was the bible study and I was a uni student so I didn't go every day so I was invited to Ladies prayer meeting and these two – bible study and prayer were the hallmarks of this church. But by the early '80's I was actually leading a bible study. This bible study was at the Beavis' home which was just up the road and Mr and Mrs Beavis hosted it and Bob Jarman and Shirley McLeod attended and why my husband didn't come was that he was at home minding kids then he did another bible study at the Dempsey's which I think that was when he first met Peter.

We studied a few books of the bible over a few years at the Beavis' and the one I remembered was a study we did on 1 Thessalonians and I so enjoyed that and there was this one verse that stood out for me and it is so true – this is Paul writing but it is like our church - saying this 1Thessalonians 2:8 says

***8 Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God's Good News with you, but even our own lives. You had become so dear to us!***

That is my experience here in this place.

**BIBLE READING** 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12 NCV

I am going to read some verses from this chapter vs 6-12. Paul writes --

***6 We were not looking for human praise, from you or anyone else,***

And that also has been a hallmark of this church – people just do what the Lord leads them to do, what's been organised. No one is looking for praise – you just do! You have your little job and you do it.

Then Paul says -

***7 even though as apostles of Christ we could have used our authority over you.***

I never felt that as a member here that someone here had authority over me – I was accepted as I was and welcomed.

Paul continues -

***But we were very gentle with you, like a mother caring for her little children.*** When you come to a place where people really care for you and care for you gently – that is so important; and we made mistakes, we all make mistakes, but those mistakes were forgiven, they weren't dwelt on.

Paul writes again -

***8 Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God's Good News with you, but even our own lives. You had become so dear to us!***

People were willing to be vulnerable and to share their own lives and what was happening in their lives. Also, Paul has got all these images of family ***like a mother caring for her little children*** and then further down he says ***Brothers and sisters*** then in vs 11 ***we treated each of you as a father treats his own children.***

So, we found family here didn't we Graeme? This has been our family. I've been here over 55 years that's a long time. We have learned in that time.

Paul said

***9 Brothers and sisters, I know you remember our hard work and difficulties. We worked night and day so we would not burden any of you while we preached God's Good News to you.***

And that's what happened here. The church has always had a voluntary scene we have had paid ministry from time to time but the hard work of the lay people, the teaching – if anybody said anything wrong from here in this church they were told – Lyn's smiling away there – a sign in the pulpit said PREACH THE WORD. I remember on one occasion one person being told!. God's Word and it's teaching and the truth of it is always so important. We were given that truth and we have grown in it. Also, the hard work – we have seen such examples of hard work of people amongst us. Then there was generosity - people worked hard but people willingly gave. If you think about the size our current congregation and yet the giving is there – pretty enormous really. Not only in that sense but giving of themselves sharing things and a whole lot of stuff. As I'm saying this I hope you're remembering things that happened to you too. TEACHING TEACHING TEACHING - how important the teaching was. But it wasn't only teaching – the love was with it as well. We came to trust one another.

Paul says

***10 When we were with you, we lived in a holy and honest way, without fault.*** And we had those models provided for us here.

***You know this is true, and so does God.*** Paul is saying that they lived exemplary lives before the Thessalonians and we saw that in the leadership here.

***11 You know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. 12 We encouraged you; we urged you, and we insisted that you live good lives for God, who calls you to his glorious kingdom.***

And I know this place has been like a haven for so many people. We had ministry to single people and then in later years – single older women. Many have joined us in their later years.

We've been given opportunity to serve, we've learned and then we've seen how God has been able to use our gifts.

Music has always been important and that continues. We're going to be different on Zoom. When we all sing together it's just shocking! Just shocking – but we have to just listen. We are very good at making a joyful noise those of us who don't have wonderful voices. So, in all of this we've learned so much about God our heavenly Father, God, Jesus the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is so precious to each one of us and we've learned to love him and serve him with our whole heart.

In the past our church has been described a number of times as fairly typical of a new testament church – and if we correctly recall the new testament churches had their problems too. We've had to deal with some issues that haven't been so easy over the years. You know people are very difficult really aren't they – you know. You meet some very difficult people, including myself. So, we don't always get on so nicely but we do love each other, we do love God, seek to serve him, and share his love and we're not perfect. But God is.

**Thank you for listening.**



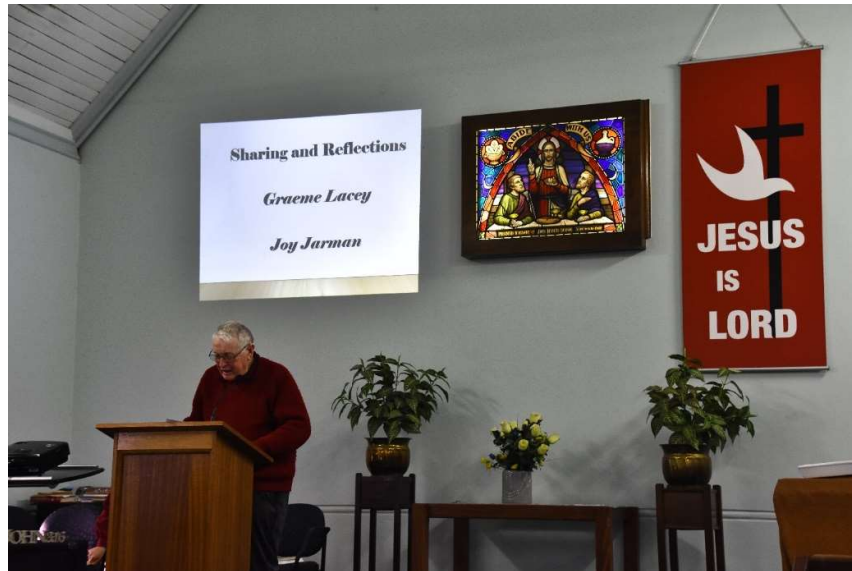
**SONG:** *The Servant King* (TIS 256)

**Prayers for the local church and for the future  
led by Meisy Ninamo and Colin Qualao**



**SONG:** *Bind Us Together* (SIS 185)

## Message from Graeme Lacey



I want to talk about the building and it's use.

Allan and I were suited to do this work in the church – Allan having a banking background and me having a plumbing background.

We've had some special times when meeting the people who were hiring the hall. We have had opportunities when meeting with the various tradespeople for just the fact that they were working in a church building gave us opportunities to share about our faith – God's love in words and actions.

Now for some stories – firstly we gained a large amount of money from a sold property in the parish we were part of at the time. We had lots of ideas how to use this money but we realised the importance of wheelchair access to the building. We engaged Geoff Deane. A Christian architect, who drew up the plans. But after further investigation he discovered that the foundations of the church building were very poor and had to be under-pinned; if we did not do this the church would not be safe to use! As you can see God's hand was at work in all this. The work went ahead and a few extra things were done inside of the building.

We then turned our attention to the toilet and wheelchair access. Also, wheelchair access to the buildings at the Salisbury roadside. After much thinking on our behalf about what we could do Geoff Deane came up with a plan that was within our budget. Before work began we had an inspection by the local council and that person said that if we hadn't changed the current toilet arrangements the toilets would have to be closed as they did not meet the current safety and health arrangements. So, we can see again God's hand at work just at the right time and we were very pleased how it all turned out.

We give thanks for Geoff and the many others down through the years who have provided wise guidance and good workmanship for keeping these buildings in good shape.

It was strange how a building with such weak foundations had such strong spiritual foundations with a strong lay ministry and good solid teaching of the bible and love of God and all people – that it had such an impact.

Many of our past members dedicated themselves to continue to serve the Lord in mission work, full time ministry and as faithful Christians in the churches where they worshipped.

We often sing the song – “Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you”

- the last verse goes like this:

*“Though we are weak, his grace is everything we need.*

*We’re made of clay, but this treasure is within.*

*He turns our weaknesses into his opportunities*

*So that the glory goes to him.”*

And that is what has happened!

Now we are going forward without a building; not in strength but looking forward to opportunities to continue for us to bring glory to God.

We are thankful that Ian from the presbytery is happy for us, as we leave these buildings, to continue our witness on our sign board (for a time) with the verse

**1 John 4:9** *“This is how God showed his love among us:*

*He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.”*

**SUCH LOVE**



### Message from Joy Jarman (via Telephone)



My early impression of West Kingston Methodist Church was the commitment of those for whom it meant a whole lot of travelling. Even twice on Sundays. There were some for whom Church respectively their training in their work and place made them ideally suited. Quite a number of our congregation lives close to our church property. If unexpected moments of special needs came to be known there was a community response from our members. We were almost like the West Kingston Village.

The time came over the years when our members came from far countries. We have been blessed by dear folk from Ghana, Zimbabwe, Fiji, England, Hong Kong, Ethiopia, Kenya, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, Solomon Islands, China, and other places.

As time went on we had the need for extra helpers and we were blessed with gifted preachers. Two younger ones share their life of study, one from Taree and one from Kempsey who found his wife here. How very grateful are we today for their presence with us and their blessing amongst us.

But we know of those who moved away yet to know God's power in their lives and still great blessing did come. I myself have met some and their comments would be that God's work in them was through the preaching and fellowship at West Kingston.

Speaking to Stuart Sommerville recently [Methodist Annandale-Kingston Circuit Minister from 1962 - 1972] and commenting on our present situation he said, "It's Sad". I wondered what to say to this.

Then my mind went to a scripture very real in my own life and very precious.  
*“so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55: 11)*

And then as we remain in Jesus praying for the fruit that may yet come  
**(John 15: 5)**, we shall see the answer to our prayers.  
 May that still be the burden of our prayers.



## Bible Reading

John 1: 1-5; John 20: 30-31; John 21: 25 read by James Torres



## A Final Reflection (Peter Bentley)



We began our preaching series on the Gospel of John in November 2018, and it is appropriate to conclude with these verses.

At that stage [2018] we did not know what our future held, and we certainly did not think of a global pandemic occurring and the impact this would have on church life and worship.

But then those members who gathered in 1904 to plant a church here in a newly subdivided area west of what had been Kingston Farm, and then opened the church a year later, did not know what the future held. Soon people would be caught up in the War to end all wars, and then a global pandemic and then a great depression.

**118 years later**, through all these years different generations of God's people have gathered here, worshipping in different ways, using even slightly different buildings and significantly different furniture but there has been one constant:

In the beginning was the Word

The Word of Life, the incarnate word,

God made flesh.

The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jesus Christ as the centre of the universal church and this Church.

And now we have come to the end of our series on John.

This has worked out providentially, saving these last verses for this final service as God's people at Camperdown Stanmore Community Church.

These verses simply outline that

*Jesus did many other things as well.*

How true – Interestingly It is the basis for the new series about Christ *The Chosen*.

And this wonderful statement of

*If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.*

An inkling of this is in our contemporary world as there have been more books about Jesus than anyone else

And the Bible is still the most published and read book on earth,

The purpose of the bible, as the purpose of John was not to record everything.

It is like writing a church history – it is humanly impossible to record everything.

In our case, most of what happened here has not been recorded, but we know that:

People came to faith here

People were nurtured in the faith here

And thanks were given for the faith of people who passed from this earthly place.

Lives were changed

And at all times

The word was faithfully preached

**And that links into a focus for our church.**

As the canonical Scriptures, God's word records all that is needed -

The reason for the book:

That you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

And a second feature – acting on that belief.

One aspect that has consistently rung true for West Kingston and Camperdown Stanmore has been people going out.

It was never a mega church.

At times it seemed like half the then congregation left to go into ministry, missions, and service in other local churches,

This was all part of continuing to tell the story of Jesus so that people may believe.

And I want to suggest that this time is another time of going out.

Our ministry does not end with a building, or with the conclusion of legal formalities,

It ends when the Lord calls us to himself or returns.

Through his gracious provision we will continue to minister as has happened in the past in different ways, in new ways, with new opportunities.

The constant will be that the Lord is with us –

In the words of the writer of Hebrews 13: 8

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.”*

**SONGS**

*Give thanks* (SIS 509)

*Rejoice The Lord Is King* (AHB 147, TIS 216)

**Holy Communion**

Presider: Joy Lacey

**Prayer for the Fellowship Lunch**

**And**

**Blessing led by Peter Bentley**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.  
And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere  
—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth.”*

**Acts 1: 8 (NLT)**





*With appreciation for the use of photos from:  
Mark Torres, Ray Cannon, Peter Bentley, and Allan Miles*