



Reflections

August 2020

Seek Growth

Find

life

Know love

What's Online This Month

August 2020

Looking for a Place to Belong?

Morning Service 10am

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/636917804949163533>

Evening Service 6.30pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/2204811490553632011>

Outside the Box -progressive Christians

Put your name on the Waiting list
events@mccsydney.org

Let's Do Lunch 1pm every Sunday

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/735862253>

Women's Meeting 7.30pm every Tuesday

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/920536597>

Café Church n Bible Study 7pm Wednesdays

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/518008421>

Men's Meeting 7pm every 1st & 3rd Thursday

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/631753989>

Be Upheld Support Meeting 2nd & 4th Thurs.

Be Upheld ministers have the link

Trans Formation for information...

thetransformation@mccsydney.org

Check out our ever-changing Website and Facebook each week.



Make A Difference

Volunteer

Pastor's Corner...Rev Dale Yardy,

As we move through winter, in one of the hardest years in recent history, how do you find yourself in this present moment? How is your soul? With so much going on around and within us, now is the perfect moment to draw a breath and simply BE: to reflect each day on something we are grateful for. We can always find something. Why not jot it down and see what tapestry of grace appears over the coming months? Grace emerges in ordinary everyday moments. Perhaps you are considering taking a class? Writing a book? Tending your garden? Reading Scripture? Attending online church? Walking along the water? There are many ways we might find God speaking to us during this time of unrest, how might we slow down to hear that Sacred voice calling? A prayer I have come back to this year is from the NZ Anglican Prayer Book and is said at the end of the day. It is part of my daily ritual-perhaps it might become part of yours?



Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

*What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.*

The night is dark.

*Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of
our own lives rest in you.*

The night is quiet.

*Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us, and all who have no peace.*

The night heralds the dawn.

*Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys, new possibilities.*

In your name we pray. Amen.

Blessings, The Rev. Dale Yardy

August 2020

LifeWords

THE QUALITY OF MERCY

Matthew 5:7 God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. (NLT)

This saying of Jesus can be misunderstood. He is not suggesting that our showing mercy somehow earns us mercy from him. By definition, nothing can earn us mercy: it is always a gift. If this is not what he is saying, what is Jesus getting at?

He is reminding us that if we have truly embraced the mercy we receive from him, we will inevitably show mercy to others. Similar to what he says in the Lord's Prayer, where those who are forgiven by him will be forgiving of others.

This doesn't mean we always show mercy: we are imperfect people who struggle to be merciful to those we would rather be rid of. But our intention, our desire, is to show mercy. After all, if God has not been harshly judgemental towards us, why should we act in such a way to others? The implied question is: "Would I want God to treat me the way I treat others?"

To be merciful is not to be "soft" on sin. Jesus is merciful yet he took human failings seriously. Enough to die for them in fact. Rather, we choose not to define our relationships with others in terms of those failings. We are not blind to them, but we choose not to see people simply as those who fail. God does not see us this way, though he is well aware of our failings.

I fail God so often, and yet he offers me mercy. Others fail me so often, I make a similar offer to them. Receivers of mercy are to be givers of mercy.

Blessings, David Reay

I believe God wants you to know

... that happiness and joy comes to you when it moves through you. There is no other pathway--and that's the miracle.

You will have a number of opportunities in the days just ahead to be a vehicle of happiness and joy for another. Step right into that.

Be the *source* of that.

As you bring others to a smile, so, too, will you bring yourself. The method is foolproof.

Your Friend, Neale Donald Walsch

A Blessing For You

May the God of Acceptance bless you, calling you always to look with love on your own being. May you know God's unconditional acceptance at each moment even as you question and search in the struggle for peace. May your acceptance of all God's people free them for their search. May the God of Acceptance be with you.

Maxine Shonk, OP

♥ *Congratulations to Our Newlyweds* ♥

Sophia and James were married at MCCS on July 4, COVID 19 style, in a beautiful ceremony performed by Rev Gavin Ward. Of course we all wish them the very best for their future together.



What being Treasurer taught me

I like endings because they give me a chance to reflect and to see where God was working. My time as Treasurer has come to an end. In June I began the process of handing over the reins to Ashley. Whilst I could wax lyrical about the role and what I learned, I actually want to talk about how God used the role to change me personally.

The Pj of old lived from pay to pay, ably assisted by a credit card. Then God brought someone into my life – namely a financial adviser. Some of you met him when we ran a budgeting workshop years ago. Let's call him God because, with the help of hindsight, I believe God was using him to change my habits.

God challenged me to stop using the credit card. "Not yet, I need to get through <insert an excuse>" was my response. The challenge kept coming so I started to analyse the transactions. Through a series of spreadsheets, I started to see patterns. Around the same time banks started offering accounts that had a debit card attached to them. So I started to wean myself off the credit card by shifting payments to the debit card. Eventually I got to a point where I had paid off the credit card. I cut it up and for a year or more and lived successfully without one.

Being responsible for MCC Sydney's financial position taught me that I should show the same care and diligence for my own finances. It's a work in progress for me but I can see that I am getting better.

So if you asked why I choose to belong to MCC Sydney, I would reply saying that this is the church of opportunity. When I say 'yes' to the opportunities, I have life changing moments... including cutting up a credit card! God is always working. Pj Dwyer

Pj we thank you immensely for the God work you have done over the years as our capable Treasurer. Editor

***What is Your Role In our Church Family?***

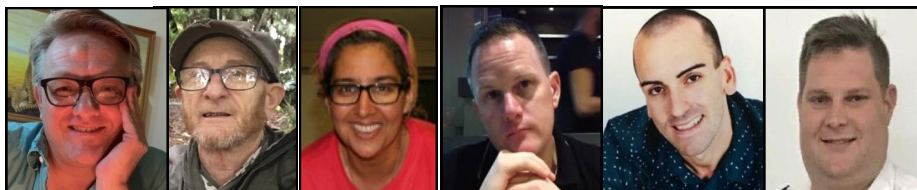
Here are some ideas of where your God-given talents would be greatly valued when we go back into the Church building AFTER COVID.

1. Setting up the altar for Communion
2. Greeting people as they arrive
3. Reading from the Bible
4. Prayers for the People
5. Holding the Elements (morning)
6. Offering a Communion Prayer (evening)
7. Singing in the choir/Music Team
8. Morning Tea or Supper
9. Vacuuming the Community Room (evening)
10. Taking the garbage home to your bin
11. Taking the Recycling home to recycle
12. Buying something from the Little Corner Shop in the Community Room
13. Donating items to be sold.
14. Selling on Gumtree and Marketplace and donating the money to church
15. Putting positive posts on MCC Sydney Facebook and also MCC Sydney Members and Friends FB.
16. Inviting friends along and mentioning MCCS on your FB posts occasionally.



August 2020

MCC Sydney Board of Directors



Wayne Col Sarah Pj Ash Paul

Please keep them in your prayers as they work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our church is safe, heading forward and ticking all of the right boxes



What You Need To Know This Month

We all need to remember that we are never alone. Never, ever, ever. God is always with us, and we have people all around us who care. Even when it doesn't feel that way. Sometimes it feels good to spend some time by ourselves, but remember, too, that it is okay to reach out to another if you feel lonely. You would want him or her to reach out to you, wouldn't you?



More and more people are paying **electronically**. It's so easy to organise and takes the worry out of having to bring change with you. It helps the church budget for the future too. PAYPAL is also an option.

Direct Deposit Details:

BSB: 082-048

Account: 509412200

Name: Metropolitan Community Church Sydney

Fast Payments:

PayID: treasurer@mccsydney.org

BSB: 082-356

Account: 780 749 9652

Name: Metropolitan Community Church Sydney



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Board of Directors

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Pj Dwyer Member

Col Eglington Member

Reflections Items to the Editor, Lee

newsletter@mccsydney.org

Questions re Events, Lee

events@mccsydney.org

MCC Good Shepherd, Granville Tues.7

Rev Robert Clark 0431361519

mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com

CRAVE MCC, Paddington Sun.3pm

Rev Karl Hand 0425220635

redchiron@gmail.com



Disability access

is via Crystal St
Hearing Loop is connected.



Parent's Room is currently closed

Morning Tea & Supper are unable to be served at present.

Everyone is welcome ONLINE