



# Reflections

July 2020

<b>Seek Growth</b>	<b>Find life</b>	<b>Know love</b>
<b>Sunday Worship Services: 10am Traditional</b>		<b>6.30pm Contemporary</b>

*What's Online This Month July 2020*

**Tuesdays 7.30pm Women's Meeting**  
**Wednesdays 7pm Café Church and Bible Study**  
**Thursdays (1st & 3rd) 7pm Men's Group**  
**Thursdays (2nd & 4th) 7pm Be Upheld**  
**Sundays 10am Traditional Worship Service**  
**Sundays 6.30pm Contemporary Worship**  
*Links for these Events are found on p4. Also on the Website and on Facebook each week.*



***We Bid Farewell to Brad Fisher***

It is hard to say goodbye to someone who has been such an integral part of our church for so long. Brad has been Chair of the Board of Directors for many years including during periods without a Pastor. He has served also as Office Secretary in the absence of another volunteer. Brad has taken our technology to another level in our PPTs and has been Website Manager right up until recently. He attends every MCCS event possible; has astounded those attending Outside the Box with his Biblical knowledge; is one of our very first (Stephen) Be Upheld Ministers, sets up the Morning Service and probably many more attributes and contributions that I have forgotten. Brad and Partner, Grant, are moving to Taree and will be greatly missed. Thank You brad for everything.



***Pastor's Word***

*An excerpt from Rev. Dale's June 27 Letter to the Congregation*



Dear Friends,  
 I'm pleased to announce we are moving forward to ready the church for the resumption of church services. Working through the Government Safety Plan and the Uniting Church protocols for reopening.... is a huge task and responsibility. For Information see my June Board Report available from our Secretary, Paul at secretary@mccsydney.org . Also read...a Letter to Uniting Churches <https://nswact.uca.org.au/media/8747/covid-19-guidelines-returning-to-worship-2-june-2020final.pdf> to see why we must not rush into this process. At church currently...we have: placed maximum capacity signs in the rooms; placed Covid-19 signs around; put up new Entrance/Exit signs; reduced the seating capacity. We are; removing unnecessary items that pose a risk; cleaning and sanitizing all areas; purchasing thermometers for temperature checks, hand sanitizers and cleaning products; preparing contact forms to collect data in case of an outbreak; gathering contactless Communion supplies; preparing rosters for cleaning and sanitizing after every use. Then there is the spiritual and physical health of our community to consider which is why we are putting so much effort into our online programming and our BeUpheld Ministry. Your church is here for you and we look forward to welcoming you back into the building as soon and as safely as we can.

Blessings, *The Rev. Dale Yardy*

July 2020

### IN PRAISE OF OUR PASTOR

We must be getting so close to returning to our Church building but what an amazing journey together this has been. We have not had any reports of any of our Congregants becoming ill with COVID 19 and so many of you have been attending Church Services online, Lunch on Sundays, Bible Study, Women’s and Men’s Meetings , Board Meetings and other Volunteer Team catch-ups.

The main person responsible, who has kept us connected, is our incredible **Rev Dale Yardy**.

Not only did he do an incredible amount of research to find the most workable system but he then had to learn how to operate the system and remove the inevitable internet issues as they



occurred. Sometimes this was whilst Church online was already broadcasting! Fortunately Sarah’s hand went up to become Coordinator and Dale could focus on Worship. In the background were the many who volunteered to read, pray, put together the service order, prepare the PPTS , upload music videos, record live singing and prepare the online Sanctuary. What an amazing Team! There is also a small group of very generous people who are sponsoring the Webinar cost. If you would like to contribute to lower these costs, please let me know on [Events@mccsydney.org](mailto:Events@mccsydney.org).

So we send out a **MASSIVE THANK YOU** to everyone who has played a part in keeping our church alive and vibrant. We understand that not everyone has access to online programs and we thank those people who have been reaching out to those who may have felt isolated from our Church Family. Thank you to our Be Upheld (Stephen Ministers) who have been ensuring that those who wanted support were able to receive it.

We are an amazing Church Family, caring for one another.

Editor

### *I believe God wants you to know*

... that your job, your invitation from the Universe, is to give people back to themselves.

You can do this every day,  
in a hundred ways.

Why not practice it with the first person you encounter after reading this?

It is really a very easy thing to do -- yet it can affect a person mightily. All you have to do is look for the best in that person, and then show it to them, right then and there. Describe it. Admire it. Thank them for it.

Do this for three people every day and watch how your whole life can change.

At last you will realize what you are doing here. All the rest will be just stuff and nonsense.

Your Friend, Neale Donald Walsch

### *A Blessing For You*

May the God of Forgiveness be with you, receiving you, loving you in your weaknesses, holding you in your brokenness. May you hear God's words to you: "Who you are in this moment is enough. Let me love you as you are." May this forgiving God be with you in all your relationships and in each of your endeavours, knowing that the best reason to forgive is having been forgiven. May you be blessed with the Spirit of Forgiveness.

--Maxine Shonk, OP





## BLACK LIVES MATTER

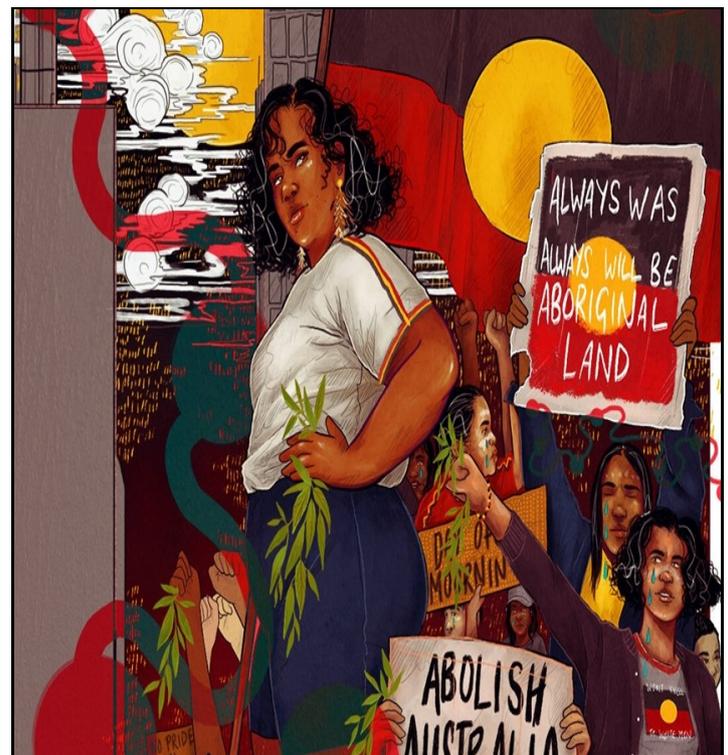
And so we turn to you to breathe ever more of Your Spirit into us because we find we cannot breathe, the arms of armed forces wrapped around our throats when we call out for justice. We call to you in defiance of a national system that betrays our noble ideals, where tanks and blood fill our streets, where every Black man, woman, and child is twenty times likelier to be killed by police. We shout to the Heavens with one, unified voice:

### **Black. Lives. Matter.**

We are called by scripture to pray for the day when we will beat swords into ploughshares and study war no more, when the surplus of war led by greed and deception will not spill into our streets, where swords and tanks and rubber bullets and tear gas will be beaten thinner and thinner, the iron of hatred vanishing forever. We pray to you because, as our prophets have taught us: human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere. We call to you, O God, because Your Image was abandoned on rainy concrete for 4 and a half hours. We call to you, O God, because Your Spirit was choked out of a father who called out 11 times' "I can't breathe."

We raise our hands to you, knowing that the work is ours to do, black, white, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, atheist, young, old, gay, straight – These are your images, battered By those sworn to protect and serve. We are all responsible for what happens next. And so we pray to You, Source of Life, raise up our eyes to see You in each other's eyes, to take risks for justice, to bring through our unified prayer today more Love and Compassion into the world. Ignite us to combat the hidden prejudice which causes police to open fire in fear, which transforms a child in a hoodie into a hoodlum, a person into a threat. We pray today not for calm but for righteousness to flow like a mighty river, until peace fills the earth as the waters fill the sea. Comfort the families of all who grieve. Strengthen us to work for a world redeemed. And we say together: Amen.

Inspired by Yehudah Amichai z"l and Rabbi Rachel Barenblat



July 2020

**Looking for a Place to Belong? Here It Is**



**Morning Service 10am**

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

**Evening Service 6.30pm**

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

**Outside the Box for progressive Christian thinkers**

Put your name on the Waiting list

[events@mccsydney.org](mailto: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 and Bible Study every Wednesday**

<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 Thursday**

*Be Upheld ministers have the link*

**Trans Formation** for information...

[thetransformation@mccsydney.org](mailto:thetransformation@mccsydney.org)



**CONTACTS FOR MCC SYDNEY**

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**Board of Directors**

Rev Dale Yardy Chair

Paul Houghton Secretary

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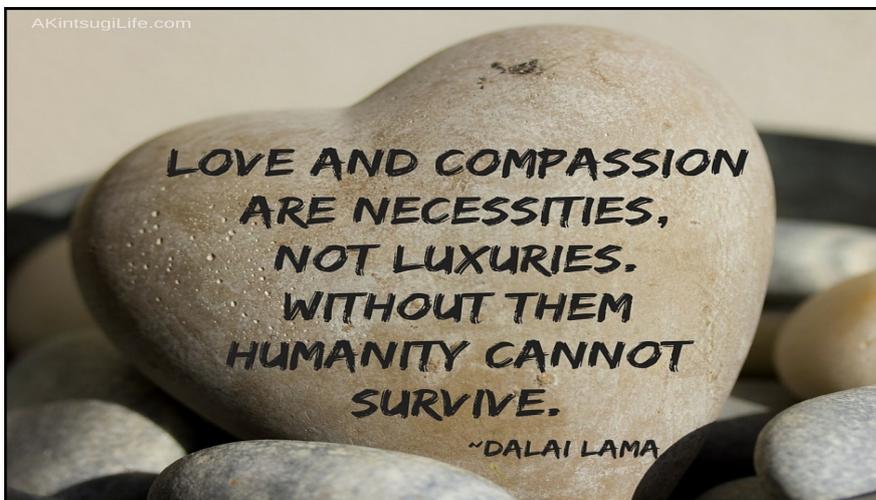
Ashley Yong Treasurer

Sarah de Rooy Member

Wayne Chilver Member

Pj Dwyer Member

Col Eglington Member **NEW**



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. Here are the details:

BSB 082-048

Account no.509412200

PAYPAL is also an option.

Another thing to consider

is making a larger donation

to the church whilst you are **living** rather than waiting for your Will to be put into play...a **Living Legacy**.

Imagine what we could achieve then.



**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**