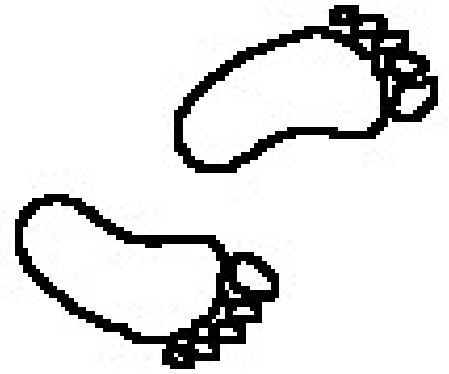


July, August 2018
Issue 101

The Next Step



Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Sunday, 17th June - Miss Dhee Subramaniam - I have kept the faith



We were glad to welcome Dhee who came to tell us more of the work of Barnabas Fund - Aid Agency for the Persecuted Church.



Standing L to R: Denis, Solomon
Seated L to R: Alec, Ruth, Dhee

Why?

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, **especially to those who belong to the family of believers.**

Galatians 6:10

How?

From Christians - Through Christians - To Christians



What?



What can you do?



Feel



Pray



Speak



Give

We are thankful to the Lord for all that Barnabas Fund is able to do through your gifts and prayers, in bringing hope and aid to our persecuted brothers and sisters.

Sunday, 24th June - Rev. Phil Anderson - Belief in miracles is not enough

As Jesus moved about and preached, great crowds gathered to see and hear Him. Reports of miracles He performed attracted the curious.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee who had heard about Jesus' activities and wanted to learn more. Jesus explained to him that to see the Kingdom of God, it is necessary to be born again in the Spirit. The signs that brought Nicodemus to Jesus could not in themselves provide admittance to God's Kingdom. Nicodemus was confused as he didn't understand who Jesus was - he regarded Him only as a teacher come from God.



We know Jesus is the Word and the Word is God. (John 1: 1). Paul talks in Romans 1: 3 of Jesus as God's "Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David".

Later in Romans 7: 5,6 Paul explains that people can live "according to the flesh" or "in accordance with the Spirit". The choice we make determines our outcome - "death" or "life and peace".

"the Spirit gives life" [Romans 8: 10]. If we are "led by the Spirit of God [we] are the children of God.", adopted to "sonship". [Romans 8: 14,15].

"we have an obligation ... by the Spirit [to] put to death the misdeeds of the body" [Romans 8: 12,13]. As willing recipients of God's Spirit we adopt His discipline and look forward to a wonderful inheritance.

We can ask ourselves 'Are we living as slaves to sin or as sons or daughters of God?'

Our good deeds get us nowhere but are a response to God's goodness to us.

ID

Sunday, 8th July - Mr. Tim Collison - Making a difference

Tim grew up in Africa - Tanzania and Kenya, in a Christian home and shared the faith of his family. He attended a conference where he witnessed people with a living relationship with God. That experience helped him develop his own personal living faith.



Now working with Leprosy Mission, Tim pointed out that our richness in life exists primarily in our relationships rather than objects. People with leprosy are poor because they are often isolated and rejected because of their disease. In Biblical times lepers were banished from their communities and had to live in isolation. Even though leprosy is now treatable, lepers are still often shunned. Leprosy Mission treats the disease and helps reestablish sufferers in their communities.

Someone is diagnosed with Leprosy every 2 minutes and there are millions who are not coming forward or being diagnosed who also have the disease.

We might think we cannot make a difference for such people because we don't have medical skills, or enough money to provide sufficient support or for some other reason, however God through the Holy Spirit empowers us to love others. The story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5: 1-15 illustrates this.

Naaman's wife had a Israelite servant girl who had been captured during a raid. Instead of being resentful or vengeful, the girl wanted to see Naaman healed of his leprosy so suggested he see the prophet she knew of in Samaria. Naaman took that advice and was healed.

The girl knew God and told Naaman's family how God is powerful enough to heal him. She had no power or influence and every reason to be angry about her situation but she lived out God's call on her life.

We can do so too in whatever way God calls us.

ID

Old friends

At this service we were joined by Steve and Dinah who are now living in Townsville.



L to R: Steve, Warren, Ian H., Tim, Laurie, Joyce, Dinah.

Isobel

Back in the early 1800s a couple of seamen separately reached port in Victoria and decided that was the place to stay.

One, originally from Yorkshire, by then become a lime burner in Point Nepean to produce lime for Victoria's building industry, had children then grandchildren, one of whom was a girl. The other, a Finn from the west of Finland where Swedish is mostly spoken, also raised a family including a son. The boy grew up, became a carpenter, met the girl and married her. Living in Albert Park, South Melbourne, the couple raised a family of four boys and then ten years later added a daughter to the family. That daughter was Isobel.



Isobel progressed through her schooling, firstly at Brighton State School and then at Hampton High School with little fuss. She had a liking for English classes and was looking to find secretarial work once she left school.

Isobel remembers a happy childhood which included basketball (netball) matches as part of her school team.

War time saw her eldest brother die from pneumonia on the way to fight in Europe (he is buried in Port Said), another brother serve in the Royal Australian Navy and her youngest brother killed at age 21 in Bougainville just a few months before the end of the war.

War over, Isobel's navy brother married a WRAN and settled in her hometown Bundaberg, Queensland. His parents went to visit, liked the climate and decided to move there too. Isobel went with them.

Having completed her Intermediate year at age 15, Isobel had left school and commenced her secretarial career in the Commonwealth Public Service, working at first in the Navy Office, Melbourne which was based in the Albert Park Barracks. Her working life continued in Queensland and then in Canberra where she moved in the 1950s. Another of her brothers was already in Canberra.

1950s Canberra was somewhat different to the Canberra of today. It was much smaller, very quiet and easy to get around. Isobel had a flat in Ainslie Avenue and walked to work each day to the AMP building in Hobart Place.

While some people had difficulty adjusting to Canberra life, Isobel was quickly accepted into the community largely through her joining Reid Methodist Church just a few blocks from her flat. There she found friends with whom she could share activities. One Reid member was Bruce, who also happened to be her boss at Social Services. Bruce and Isobel got on well together and they married in September 1976.

Isobel continued working for a few months after her marriage but then gave up paid work to look after their home in Turner. She found time to become involved in a number of charitable causes as a volunteer including Goodwin fundraising stalls and Barnados. She also devoted time to her interest in family history research, becoming a Genealogical Society volunteer as well.

Following Bruce's death in 1989 Isobel started to travel. She has taken around 10 trips overseas, following her interests and to simply relax. Tracing family history took her to Scotland and England and England was also a destination that catered to her interest in gardening with the Chelsea Flower Show and other acclaimed gardens being big drawcards for her. Gardens also attracted her to Holland. River cruises on the Rhine and Rhone she found relaxing and she passed through many of the famous European cities during her travels.

Faith has always been a foundation for Isobel's life. Growing up in a Christian home and attending Armadale Methodist Church, Isobel moved from sharing a family faith to having her own personal faith in her early teenage years. That faith remained



with her as she moved from inner suburban Melbourne to Bundaberg, Queensland and then to Canberra.

She has filled a number of church related positions over the years including secretary of the Women's Fellowship and Elder's secretary at Reid plus been active in a many other aspects of the church's life. She has memories of Sunday School Anniversaries (running over two Sundays), marching up specially constructed platforms and of Sunday School picnics often held on Melbourne Cup day at Parkwood or Hall.



Isobel was disappointed to see the Reid congregation which she had so long been a part of close however she continued her church attendance at St. Margaret's in Hackett and of course Canberra Christian Fellowship where she has experienced a sense of belonging.

Isobel has been an active member of community and church for the whole of her life and made valuable contributions to both. She has travelled and experienced life in different places and she has found interests that she has pursued. For us at Canberra Christian Fellowship she has been a good friend.

ID

Sunday, 15th July - Mr. Jeff Mason - Living in exile

Eternal life is ours through knowing and trusting God, however the life we are experiencing now brings with it many difficulties. We can often feel like exiles in a foreign land where we are not welcome.

After the Jews were defeated by Nebuchadnezzar and taken into exile in Babylon, Jeremiah sent them a message from God. [Jeremiah 29: 1-14]



- *Build houses and settle down*
- *plant gardens and eat what they produce.*
- *Marry and have sons and daughters*
- *find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters*
- *Increase in number there; do not decrease*
- *seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper*
- *Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them*
- *When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, ... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

We would do well to apply that message to our circumstances.

We read in John 17 that Jesus prayed for His disciples and all believers. In that prayer He states "*They are not of the world, even as I am not of it*". He also prays "*that you protect them from the evil one*", "*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth*" and "*Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us*".

As believers we are part of God's family and as we live in obedience to Him as His people we can "*have the full measure of [Jesus' joy within [us]]*".

ID

The joys of winter

A husband and wife purchased an old home in Cooma from two elderly sisters. Winter was fast approaching and the wife was concerned about the house's lack of insulation. "If they could live here all those years, so can we!" the husband confidently declared.

One mid-winter night the temperature plunged to below zero, and they woke up to find interior walls covered with frost. The husband called the sisters to ask how they had kept the house warm. After a rather brief conversation, he hung up.

"For the past 30 years," he muttered, "they've gone to Queensland for the winter."



Sunday, 22nd July - Rev. Janne Pekkarinen - Get some rest



Janne posed the question 'How rested are we?' He then suggested it can be hard for us to admit a need for rest - it feels good to be busy and wanted.

We know we need rest, physical, mental and spiritual, but often neglect to get it. God highlighted our need for rest by His example - on the seventh day He rested.

The 'right' time to rest will never come, something will come up to delay it, rest must be taken. Rest is not laziness.

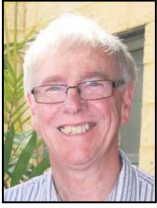
Spiritual rest comes as we spend time with our Lord God through reading the Bible and prayer. Spending time in His presence, growing in knowledge of Him and listening for what He says to us provides real spiritual refreshment.

It is important that we all make time to rest our bodies, minds and spirits. Rest is not wasted time.

Jesus said to us "*my peace I give you.*" [John 14: 27]

ID

Sunday, 29th July - Mr. Rob Nicholls - Keeping it simple



Rob began by giving us a brief history of how CBM (Christian Blind Mission) started.

German Pastor Ernst J. Christoffel, born in 1876 set out for Turkey in 1908 and founded a home in Malatia for blind and otherwise disabled and orphaned children, with the support of only a handful of friends.

Christoffel's work came to an end when the First World War broke out. In 1919, he was expelled and Turkey remained closed to him, as to all Germans.

As soon as the ban was lifted, Christoffel set out for Turkey again. Attempts to start again in Constantinople (later Istanbul) resulted in renewed prohibition, so Christoffel went to Iran. In 1925 and 1928, two homes were set up in Tabriz and Isfahan, respectively, for blind and otherwise disabled young people.

The Second World War destroyed everything, and the threat of deportation was imminent. Christoffel did not want to leave his charges on their own. In 1943, he was arrested and spent three years behind barbed wire, but his will remained unbroken.

As soon as he had access in 1951, Christoffel returned to Isfahan. Despite the fact that he was ailing and 70 years of age, he went on helping the disabled, poor, and abandoned in the name of Jesus Christ. Pastor Christoffel died on 23 April 1955. His tombstone in Isfahan names him the "Father of the Blind, Deaf-Mute, Physically Disabled and Orphans".

Christoffel was a simple man focussed on what he had to do. He wrote "The act of love is the sermon everyone understands".

The Bible reading Jeremiah 31: 31-34 mentions the covenant God made with His people. The people were to obey God and He would bless them. Unfortunately the people proved themselves unable to obey God's commands.

God tells of a new covenant He will make. His law will be written on our hearts and minds and He will forgive our sins. He will be our God and we will be His people. We experience that covenant in the life of faith in Jesus.

God recognised humanity's sinful nature and acted to overcome that frailty. The goodness that we have is not of our own making, but results from the forgiveness and cleansing made possible by Jesus.

It is simple really. God has Himself done all that is necessary for us to fulfill our part of His covenant. We need only put our faith in Jesus and live in God's grace.

ID

Sunday, 5th August - Rev. Patrick Cole - Speaking costly truth into a pagan world

On the 29th August this year the church calendar remembers the beheading of John the Baptist. Patrick took an early look at that event.

He began by outlining Herod the Great's family tree and we discovered it was anything but a happy family with several sons executed or disinherited by their father and son Herod Antipas forming an adulterous relationship with his half brother's wife Herodias. It was John speaking out continuously against that relationship that led to his imprisonment and then death when a lustful Herod promised Herodias's daughter whatever she asked after she had danced for him.



John had been delivering a message backed by Scripture. Leviticus 18: 16 specifically prohibits a relationship such as the one between Herod Antipas and Herodias. Leviticus 18: 28 colourfully describes the end result of such defilement when it says "*the land, it will vomit you out*"

John wasn't seeking to antagonise Herod, but rather to proclaim spiritual truth in the hope that he would turn back from sin.

In today's 'post-Christian' world many people tell us 'we can't expect Christian values'. Scripturally prohibited behaviour is condoned even by some in the church, however God remains Lord and ruler even if many don't recognise Him. His way is the only way to avoid creation spitting out whatever defiles the land.

God is ruler and He has given us a way to salvation.

We should speak out clearly as John did so people can hear God's message and have the opportunity to repent.

ID

Sunday, 19th August - Mr. Roy Dallos - The Ninevites believed God

Roy's series of sermons on Jonah this week found Jonah reaching Ninevah.

God's instructions to Jonah had not changed - "*Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.*" [Jonah 3: 2]. Jonah was not to just preach but to proclaim the message God gave him.

The message Jonah delivered, to repent or the city would be overthrown, was a direct challenge to it's people. They listened, heeded the message and repented of their unGodly ways.

True repentance was evidenced in their actions as it is with us.

God's Word saves and no one is beyond God's reach.

Will we go to our 'Ninevah' (somewhere or someone we find difficult to approach) and proclaim God's message?



ID

Finnish Fete

Unfortunately we became aware of the Finnish fete too late to let most of our Fellowship know it was on, however a small number of our people did attend.

Food was available to buy for lunch and more food (particularly Finnish dishes) was there for purchase and later consumption.



"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world.
There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord,"
and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

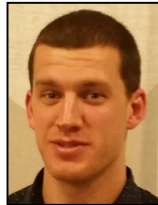
Services over recent weeks have included the following:



**Dhee
Subramaniam**



**Rev. Phil
Anderson**



**Mr. Brett
Hillam**



**Mr. Tim
Collison**



**Mr. Jeff
Mason**



**Rev. Janne
Pekkarinen**



**Mr. Robert
Nicholls**



**Rev. Patrick
Cole**



**Rev. Peter
Nelson**



**Mr. Roy
Dallos**

Sunday 17th June – Miss Dhee Subramaniam (Barnabas Fund) - I have kept the faith

Sunday 24th June – Rev. Phil Anderson - Belief in miracles is not enough

Sunday 1st July – Mr. Brett Hillam - The Son

Sunday 8th July – Mr. Tim Collison (Leprosy Mission) - Making a difference

Sunday 15th July – Mr. Jeff Mason (Scripture Union) - Living in exile

Sunday 22nd July – Rev. Janne Pekkarinen - Get some rest

Sunday 29th July – Mr. Rob Nicholls (Christian Blind Mission) - Keeping it simple

Sunday 5th August – Rev. Patrick Cole - Speaking costly truth into a pagan world

Sunday 12th August – Rev. Peter Nelson - The lion and the lamb

Sunday 19th August – Mr. Roy Dallos - The Ninevites believed God

We receive a lot of correspondence from various organisations. It often includes inspiring stories which give us an insight into God at work. The story below particularly caught my eye.

Miracle by the roadside

When 10-year-old Tania, pulled off to road one morning school, she knew wrong.

She was sick... so drive any further. Tania was Summer and her brother Kael to undergoing treatment.

Stranded by the roadside, unable to contact friends or family, wrapped her arms around her stricken mother and prayed for help...

When she opened school chaplain front of her.

It sounds like the of a movie, but it's family who was of their enduring relationship with their school chaplain, Chappy Dave.



Summer's mum, the side of the on the way to something was

sick she couldn't That morning supposed to drop five-year-old school before radiation

roadside, unable friends or family, wrapped her stricken mother help...

her eyes, her was standing in

opening sequence the true story of a rescued because

"I'd been working with this family for a while — mum Tania, Summer in Grade 4, and Kael in Prep — because mum had had cancer and it went away but came back with a vengeance and she started having pretty full-on radiation treatment," Chappy Dave recalls.

That morning, Chappy Dave wasn't supposed to be on the highway. He was on his way to school, running late after a real estate agent failed to make an appointment, but then his car fuel light came on.

"I'm like, 'I don't believe this. Now I'm going to be even more late!' But I just thought, 'Oh well', and fuelled up the car.

"As I'm coming out of the servo I've seen this car parked in the carpark and a mum sitting next to the car with her head between her knees, not looking real good at all. I thought, 'Gee that's not good'.

"Then all of a sudden I saw one of my students walk out from behind the car and put her hands on her mum's back, and I thought, 'That's really not good' and I realised it was Summer.

"I just fanged my car around and parked next to them, got out, and Summer's looked up and said, 'Chappy Dave! What are you doing here?'"

Tania explained it was the fourth time she'd needed to pull over on her way to drop Summer at school before going on to her radiation appointment. Kael was in the back of the car.

"She said, 'I absolutely cannot drive, I've been sick the whole way'. So I said, 'Well, move over and I'll drive you!' And she said, 'You can't do that, you've got to get to work; you've got work to do'. I looked at her and said, 'You are my work'.

"I left all my car windows down, I completely forgot to lock my car, and jumped in her car and started driving."

After dropping Summer safely off at school, Chappy Dave took Tania to her appointment and kept Kael company while she had her treatment.

He then drove Tania and Kael back to the service station where they met that morning, filled up their car for them — “Because I knew they were struggling financially” — and organised meals to be delivered to them that afternoon.

“It wasn’t until later in the day that Summer’s teacher came up and saw me, and said, ‘Oh my gosh, that was crazy what happened this morning! I’m getting goosebumps just telling you!’,” Chappy Dave recalls her saying.

“Apparently they’d tried ringing heaps of family and friends that morning and none of them could get there. Summer closed her eyes and was so distressed she told her teacher, ‘I closed my eyes, put my hands over my mum and asked God to help us, can you just help us?’ And when she opened her eyes, I was standing there.

“I found out later on that other people in Tania’s family had been praying because they knew no one could get to them.”

from SU Qld (School Chaplaincy) e-mail

Campbell High chaplaincy

Back in late July, the new Campbell High chaplain started work. The chaplaincy position had been vacant since late last year when Steve Lindner gave up that role although he has continued to provide support to students.

Mrs. Lee McMullan is the new chaplain.

In a few weeks after she has become more accustomed to the school and her role, she hopes to visit us and update us on the chaplaincy work at Campbell High.

Lunch

Every so often someone suggests we should get together for some form of social activity.

That thought transformed into organisational activity recently and as a result 14 of us gathered at the Burns Club in Kambah for an all you can eat lunch at their Star Buffet. The variety and quantity of food available was sufficient for all appetites and I suspect many evening meals were very light affairs.

Thank you Ruth for your organisation.

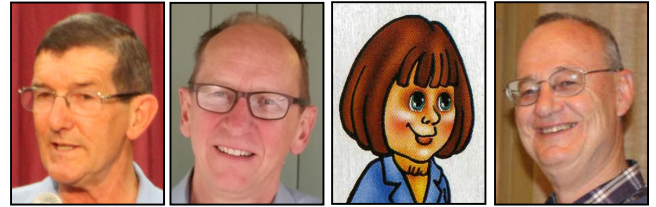


Left, closest to furthest, Right, furthest to closest: Laurie, Denis, Coral, Warren, Maurine, Chris, Helena, Ruth, John, Janne, Isobel, Janelle, Norma.

Photographer: Ian

Chaplains

Rev. Phil Anderson - Army chaplaincy
Rev. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy
Mrs. Lee McMullan - Campbell High chaplaincy
Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy
 Please remember Phil, Owen, Lee, Bob and their chaplaincy work in your prayers.



Coming Up

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 2-30 pm at the church.
 Currently in **WINTER RECESS**
 All welcome - contact Joyce for more information

Prayer Meeting

3rd Monday of each month at **2-30 pm**, usually at Marie's.
 All welcome

Contacts

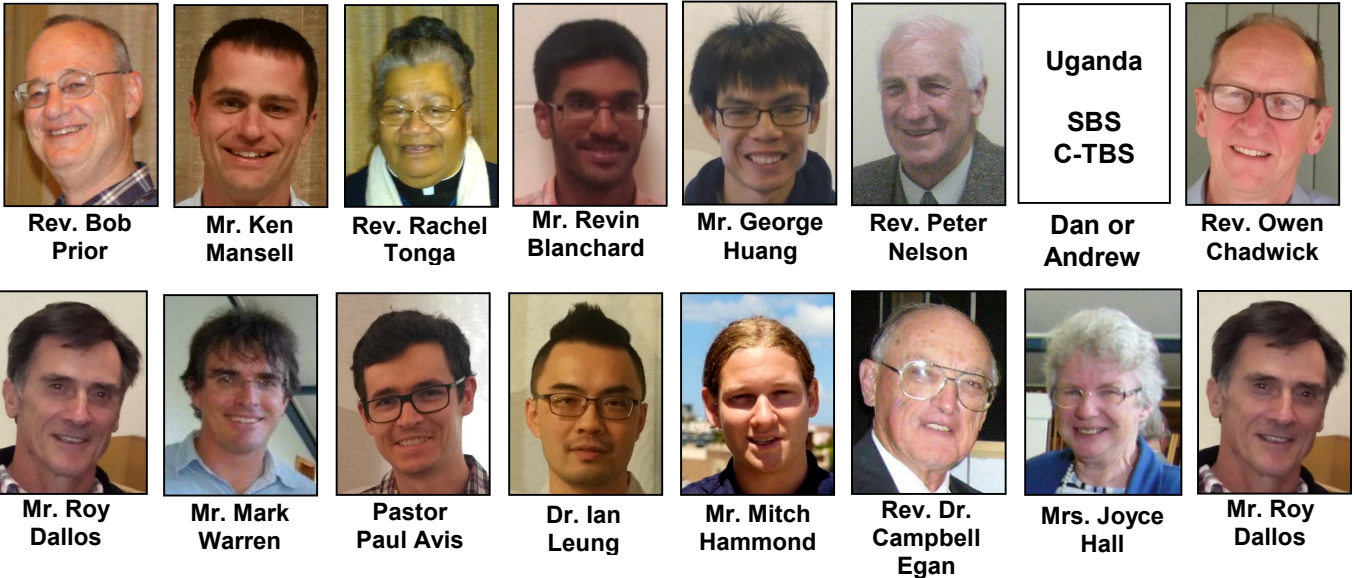
Canberra Christian Fellowship
 P.O. Box 184
 Campbell 2612
 A.C.T.

E-mail: canberracf@yahoo.com.au
 Website: <http://www.canberracf.org.au/>

TNS editor : Ian Denton – e-mail : iancd@yahoo.com

Coming Services

We meet at **Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Cnr. Gould and Watson Streets, Turner**



Sunday **26th August** at 5pm – **Rev. Bob Prior**

Sunday **2nd September** at 5pm – **Mr. Ken Mansell**

Sunday **9th September** at 5pm – **Rev. Rachel Tonga**

Sunday **16th September** at 5pm – **Mr. Revin Blanchard**

Sunday **23rd September** at 5pm – **Mr. George Huang**

Sunday **30th September** at 5pm – **Rev. Peter Nelson**

Sunday **7th October** at 5pm – **Dan or Andrew** (Uganda School of Biblical Studies / Church-based Training in Biblical Studies)

Sunday **14th October** at 5pm – **Rev. Owen Chadwick**

Sunday **21st October** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**

Sunday **28th October** at 5pm – **Mr. Mark Warren**

Sunday **4th November** at 5pm – **Pastor Paul Avis**

Sunday **11th November** at 5pm – **Dr. Ian Leung**

Sunday **18th November** at 5pm – **Mr. Mitch Hammond** (Bible Society)

Sunday **25th November** at 5pm – **Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan**

Sunday **2nd December** at 5pm – **Mrs. Joyce Hall** (Carols)

Sunday **9th December** at 5pm – **Mr. Roy Dallos**