

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST MICHAEL'S

INTERSECTION

MAY 2013

CELEBRATING EASTER 2013



Above: Easter Sunday church service was very special with a host of fine guest musical artists including soprano Shu-Cheen Yu.

Left and below left: Delightful Easter decorations and flowers on the chancel.

Below: An image from the Possible Dreams International (Swaziland) Concert visiting St Michael's, in the prelude to Easter.



THIS MONTH

DR MALCOLM SINCLAIR TO VISIT ST MICHAEL'S

The Rev Dr George Malcolm Sinclair came to the pulpit of the Metropolitan Church in Toronto, Canada in 1988.

In 1998 the congregation invited him to serve further in an Intentional Long-Term Ministry. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Laurentian University, a Master of Divinity degree from Emmanuel College, Toronto. In 1986 he received the Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University in the United States, and in 1997 was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree (honoris causa) from Emmanuel College.

Dr Sinclair has served four Toronto congregations over forty-one years, and is widely invited to preach across Canada and beyond. He has been a theme speaker at home and in the United States, and has lectured on "Imagination in Preaching" at the Toronto School of Theology. He has contributed to "Feasting on the Word", a multi-volume lectionary resource for preachers, published by Westminster John Knox Press in Nashville, and is now working on articles for their new series called "Feasting on the Gospels".

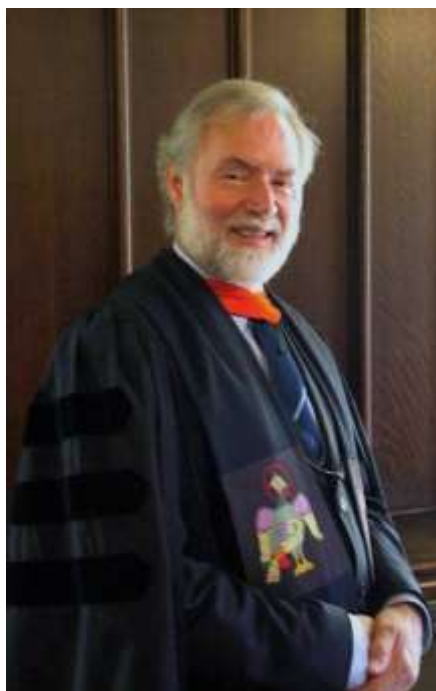
He is a Past-President of the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto, a member of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Clan Sinclair of Canada, and is a Captain in, and Padre to, the 78th Fraser Highlanders, York Garrison.

In May, we welcome Dr Malcolm Sinclair to St Michael's. Dr Sinclair is pictured below left and his church, The Metropolitan Church in Toronto, is also pictured below right.

During his visit Dr Sinclair will join in the leadership of our Sunday services and take part in conversations with St Michael's congregation and leadership about the future of churches and Faith in contemporary societies.

Dr Sinclair will offer two addresses on Sunday May 19 and 26 with the over-arching theme: "On what my life depends".

We warmly welcome Dr Sinclair's return to St Michael's.



'OUR RESILIENT COMMUNITY' - A MAJOR PROJECT



In 2013 St Michael's is emphasizing the theme of Human Resilience.

As a part of exploring and celebrating resilience we are creating an audio visual presentation featuring members of our community relating their experiences of resilience in their lives and what they have learned from hard times and recovery. Many wonderful, resilient people make up our membership and we want to capture their strength of spirit on film.

We invite you to be a star and contribute to this project—to be shared with the public via our website when it is completed. A number of filming sessions have been scheduled where participants will be asked to very briefly say why they are resilient and what they have learned is most important in life, through hardships and bouncing back from life's difficulties.

A random selection of stories will be compiled into a cohesive visual document that celebrates the resilience of our large St Michael's community.

An understanding of participation in the Resilience Project is that you consent to have your recorded piece shown publicly in the church and on St Michael's website and the internet, at St Michael's discretion. You will be asked to sign a release form indicating your consent to broadcast your contribution when you attend the filming session.

You can book your 10 minute appointment to be filmed by our Technical Director Jackson on one of the filming dates, via the Visitors and Information Table in the Hall on Sundays.

Filming Dates: May 5, May 19, June 9, June 16.

NEW MEMBERS MEETINGS

If you are interested in becoming a member of St Michael's please join us for a series of meetings where you can learn more about our unique church and theology.

The meetings will be held in the Waratah Room on 1st Floor of St Michael's Place after the Sunday Service on 12th May and 16th June.

At these small group meetings you will have the opportunity to meet with Dr Macnab, Dr Campbell and the members of the New Members' Team.

You will be very welcome to ask questions and find out more about the organisation of the church.

To join in, come up to the Waratah Room after the service.

We will have tea and coffee available and you will be welcomed by the New Members' Team.

If you would like further information, please ask for Lyndell O'Brien or Joy Arnot at the Visitor and Information Table in the Hall on a Sunday.

Alternatively, contact the office during weekdays on 9654 5120.

THE FUTURE OF CHURCHES

The following is an edited extract of an article by Philip Hughes of The Christian Research Association, first published on the Christian Research Association website.

Predicting the future is always risky.

The world is such a complex place that the unexpected can always happen. Yet we spend much of our time preparing for the future. We train leaders for the future church. We build buildings to be used in the future. We establish organisation structures to serve us into the future. To some extent, we can take the future into our hands through our imagination, creativity, and determination. We either do these things on the basis of tradition, ignoring the fact that the future may be different. We may prepare the future on some general hunches. Or, we can use the best information we can gather.

Some features of the future can be predicted with relative confidence. In particular, demographic trends do not change dramatically overnight. Some trends in the development of technology are evident, although predicting the consequences of them may be very difficult. Trends in the development of culture and opinion, in the nature of society and relationships, are less evident. Indeed, contradictory trends are often apparent. The demographic structures of mainstream churches, the Anglican, Uniting, Churches of Christ, Lutherans, and others make down-sizing a strong likelihood. The Anglo-Celtic section of the Catholic Church is experiencing the same ageing and decline.

Apart from demographics, there are some clear trends in the development of technology. It is hard to know where the developments in biological sciences and genetics will take us. It is clear that new human, religious and ethical issues will be raised by such developments.

The Internet is changing the patterns of human communications. While it is not clear what the consequences will be of such changes, it is obviously important that a host of new issues about community and relationships, about power and social division are being raised.

The effects of climate warming and environmental change on a global scale are becoming increasingly evident. Again, the scale of the consequences may be beyond imagination. The issues are critical, however, not only for future generations, but for future decades.

'Futurologist' Tom Sine sees the globalisation of business, communication and media as the major trend for the future. He says 'The power of this new global economic order is awesome and it has brilliantly demonstrated its ability to market not only its products but its values all over our small world'. In recent years, we have seen many areas of the market which have become dominated by one or a few very large players. McDonalds is dominating the fast-food world market. Microsoft is dominating the personal computer operating system and office software world market. One possible outcome of the globalisation of business could lower levels of international conflict. International conflict hurts global business. As some of these multi-national corporations become more economically powerful than most nation-states, conflict may be transformed into economic competition rather than political domination. Sine argues that the Christian community has hardly begun to grapple with the issues raised by the world of business. It has tended to approach life in a dualistic way. The world of business, which Sine calls 'McWorld' demands more and more of people's time and money. On the other side of the dualism, Sine says 'following Christ is too often trivialised to little more than a devotional lubricant to keep us from stripping our gears as we charge up the mountain trying to get ahead in our careers, the suburbs, and our children's activities'.

A major challenge for the future exists within the values which McWorld is seeking to impose on people, in the consumerism, the focus on the acquisition of goods, on economic security, and also on subduing the world of nature.

Sine also observed that this is clearly not an easy time for traditional institutions which find adaptability and fluidity difficult. This is a time of searching, experimenting, synthesising in every possible combination. It may also be a time when religious organisations themselves need to meet post-modern culture through participation in that search and experimentation.

God may be out ahead!

Philip Hughes.

175TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



This year St Michael's celebrates 175 years of outstanding service and nurturing to the surrounding and extended communities.

The site of the Church building marks the location of the oldest place of worship in Melbourne.

St Michael's stands proud as a facilitator and catalyst for community wellbeing, inspiration, courage and leadership over the past 175 years.

We have good reason to collectively celebrate this important Birthday.

Special events are being planned. It is likely they will entail a special church service as well as a separate civic event involving other key organisations and influential people. The history and detail of the Church building will also be featured along with relevant archival materials.

We want to encourage all members of our congregation to take the opportunity to participate in our planning and implementation and we welcome ideas that will assist in making this 175th Birthday a milestone to remember. Please email David Doherty at:

davdoh1@optusnet.com.au; or via St Michael's Office.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION

The Centre for Wellbeing is pleased to offer a community building initiative in the form of English conversation groups for overseas students and others wishing to meet with a group of friendly Australians for a coffee and conversation. If you know anyone who would benefit from the group please don't hesitate to refer them to our website: www.centreforwellbeing.org.au or bring them along to meet the group.

The English Conversation for Overseas Students (ECOS) Group will meet each month on the last Sunday of the month in the Waratah Room - 1st floor St Michael's Centre, 120 Collins Street Melbourne.

The group is Free. Enquiries: 9654 5120 or wellbeing@stmichaels.org.au

PROGRAMS

NEW FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP
Commences Sunday May 5

LIBRARY LOUNGE
Tues 10.30-2.30pm, Sundays 11.30-1pm

POETRY GROUP
Every 3rd Sunday - after service

MENS SHED
The last Sunday of the month

GLOBAL CONCERNS
Sundays - after service in the Hall

ARTS FOR RIGHTS
Activities held monthly

WALKING GROUP
2nd Saturday of the month.

**THE SPIRIT OF RESILIENCE IN
ST JOHN'S GOSPEL**
Sunday May 12

FRENCH CONVERSATION
The second Sunday of the month
May 12

IPAD ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
The second Sunday of the month

IPADS BEGINNERS COURSE
Tuesdays 6.30pm

YOGA
Thursdays 12.30— 1.15 from May 2

SAGE
Friday May 31, 11am

STORY TELLING/WRITERS GROUP
Sunday May 5

LAST TUESDAY BOOK GROUP
Last Tuesday of the month

TAI CHI
Fridays 1 -2 pm

CHARTER FOR COMPASSION GROUP
Third Sunday of the Month

CONVERSATIONS WITH LIZ
Last Sunday of the Month

RESILIENCE WORKSHOPS
Next Workshop: Friday May 10

Visit www.centreforwellbeing.org.au
or the St Michael's website for details:
www.stmichaels.org.au

Or

'Like' us on Facebook for regular updates

NEW FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP COMMENCES

On May 5 a new program will commence led by Dean of Programs Neil Blood.

The discussion group will be open to all who are wishing to know more about the New Faith theology of St Michael's and to those who are familiar with the New Faith themes and want to deepen their understanding by talking and reflecting on the New Faith theology with others.

The group will meet on four Sundays after church in 2013: May 5, July 7, September 1 and November 3.

In preparation for taking part in the group you may wish to read or review Dr Macnab's latest book "Discover a New Faith: Energy for a Better Life" available from our office or bookshop and available for loan from our library.

Discussion topics will be drawn directly from the book.

A companion workbook to the text will also be available for those who would like a copy, at the discussion group.

Come along and join in the discussion!

Below: On his recent visit to St Michael's, Warden of Trinity College Professor Andrew McGowan reflected on "A Humanitarian Religion for the 21st Century". It was the first time a Warden of Trinity College had ever visited St Michael's. It was therefore an historic occasion and Professor McGowan's address was warmly and unanimously appreciated.



RESILIENCE WORKSHOPS

The next workshop for helping people to cultivate greater resilience takes place in The Centre for Wellbeing Studio, 1st Floor St Michael's Centre, 120 Collins St, Melbourne from 11 am—12.30 on May 10.

The speaker is Senior Psychologist Dr Lynette Kramer on 'Developing a More Resilient Inter-personal Style'. The fee is \$10 including refreshments and the workshop is open to all, no need to book.

The June Resilience workshop topic will be 'Guided Deep Relaxation for Enhanced Resilience' with Senior Psychologist Dr Debra Campbell.

“A good half of the art of
living is Resilience”

Alain de Botton

SHOAH SERVICE

Dr Macnab and Dr Debra Campbell recently hosted Dr Lorraine Parkinson, Dr John Bodycomb and guests at a special ecumenical service at St Michael's to remember the Shoah (Holocaust)

The service was organised by the UCA Working Group on Jewish-Christian Relations and was also supported by The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne and The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The service was a moving and memorable event which included the participation of a number of senior school students in laying out symbols of suffering and hope.

A fascinating and emotional account of a personal experience of the holocaust was then offered by Professor Frank Vadja AM.

Professor Vadja was saved as a child from Nazis and Hungarian fascists by Raoul Wallenberg and he has written a biography of Wallenberg describing his life, humanitarian acts and mysterious death.

We were proud that St Michael's was able to host this important event.

LETTERS AND FEEDBACK

Emails received:

From an overseas admirer of Mingary:

I had the great pleasure of visiting The Mingary in 2001 and would like to use a photo of it for a book I am writing on behalf of the Episcopal Church Building Fund (ecbf.org), to be published by Church Publishing, a national (US) Episcopal Agency.

I had the pleasure of visiting Australia in 2001 (and fell in love with the place, but that's a different story) and the trip included Melbourne.

My then-partner and traveling companion was fairly hostile to almost any sort of church, and rarely wanted to visit churches. Neither of us knew what a "mingary" might be, so we stepped inside. Jon was an architect, so his initial, conscious reaction to the space was that of an architect, analyzing it.

I was quite taken by the... all I can say is "the resonance" of the place. The arches, the light, the water, the solidity of the stone sort-of altar in the center. It was most definitely a highlight of our time in Melbourne.

So then last year, when the EVBF contracted with me to write for them on worship spaces that work, and that draw people in, I wanted to use photos not only from our own, fairly dignified (and sometimes stiff) tradition, but those from related-but-different traditions, to illustrate that (for example) you don't have to have a crucifix up front to evoke religious feelings.

Mingary the Quiet Place very naturally came to my mind. I have drafted a little bit of commentary ("the arches evoke classical and Romanesque architecture; the geometry of the skylight feels somewhat Islamic") since, as with all works of great art, a photo can't really convey the experience of the piece or the place.

Church Publishing wants more permission than simply a reference to St. Michael's website. Also, if you have any newer photos of The Mingary-its beauty and power are hard to convey in photograph-I would be most grateful.

Robert Allen, Virginia, USA.

SAGE THIS MONTH

S.A.G.E

Successful Ageing for Growth and Enjoyment

SEVEN THINGS

YOU WILL NEED AS YOU COPE WITH THE STRESSES
OF OLDER YEARS



7 vital pieces of psychology for your health and wellbeing.
Presented By Francis Maonab

Friday 26th April
11am-1pm
\$20 including lunch
Bookings are not required

St Michael's Centre
120 Collins Street,
Melbourne 3000
PH: 9654 5120



VALE

Three of our members have recently died and we honour the good presence they brought to St Michael's and to many people.

Mrs Judith Anstee

Mrs Janet Stevenson

Mr George Davies

We say farewell and thank them for their contributions, for being a part of our lives and for allowing us to be a part of theirs.

THE CHOIR OF TRINITY COLLEGE IN CONCERT

This month St Michael's is proud to host a return visit from the renown Choir of Trinity College under the direction of Michael Leighton-Jones.

The Trinity College Choir will offer a special concert at 12.15 on Sunday May 19 at:

St Michael's Church

120 Collins Street Melbourne—with all proceeds to aid the Spina Bifida Foundation.

Tickets:

\$20, \$10 (concession) will be available at the church door on the day or in the Hall after services on Sundays.

Enquiries: 9654 5120

www.stmichaels.org.au



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St Michael's Place

120 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

PATSY WORLEDGE EXHIBITION

St Michael's member Patsy Worledge who created some of the sculpture and paintings on display around St Michael's, and other artists are presenting their works in a combined May exhibition at:

Lillico Glass Studio, 243 Lillico Road, Warragul.

Called Space x 5, the exhibition will feature paintings, jewellery, textiles, clothing, felting and bags.

The exhibition is open Wednesday to Sunday 10am—5pm from May 4—May 31, 2013 or by appointment: 95623 1592.



ST MICHAEL'S

ON COLLINS - MELBOURNE

120 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

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