

Together



Sunday 28 April 2024

Minister

Rev. Greg McConnell
0404 046 697

Website

www.stlukesbelmont.com.au

Email

belmontuca@gmail.com

Administration Assistant

Katy Burfield
4945 4655 - office
Tues 9am - 5.30pm
Fri 9am - 5.30pm

I am the True Vine



John 15:1

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon this land

Worship services

Sunday 28 April	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
Sunday 5 May	5.30 pm	Rev Greg McConnell
	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell
	5.30 pm	Rev Greg McConnell

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 3.45pm

Dinner Church—every Sunday at 5.30pm

Dinner Church is a casual service for all ages with a message, a catered meal, prayer, discussion and more. This week Rev Greg McConnell will be giving the message. Peter and Meredith Hudson will be sharing and Alison and Eldrene will be catering.

Lectionary readings for the coming week

Acts 10:44-48	Ps 98
1 Jn 5:1-6	Jn 15:9-17

Onsite internet: St Luke's Guest - no password required



Welcome to St Luke's Uniting Church, Belmont



A place for everyone

A church where you are welcome regardless of who you are, where you are from, and whom you love

Pray for those known to you who are in hospital,
not well or recuperating

Bank transfer option for your weekly offerings

If you would like to transfer your offerings into the St Luke's Uniting Church giving account the details follow.

All transfers are anonymous.

BSB: 634 634

Account No. 100028307

Account name: St Luke's Uniting-Giving Acc

Thank you for supporting the St Luke's Uniting Church!



Calendar

Monday 29 April

Activity Centre meet from 9.30am

Tuesday 30 April

Quirky Quilters meet from 10am

Wednesday 1 May

Fellowship meet from 9.30am

Thursday 2 May

Thursday Bible Study meet from 1.30pm

Just Kids Term 2 dates

tba



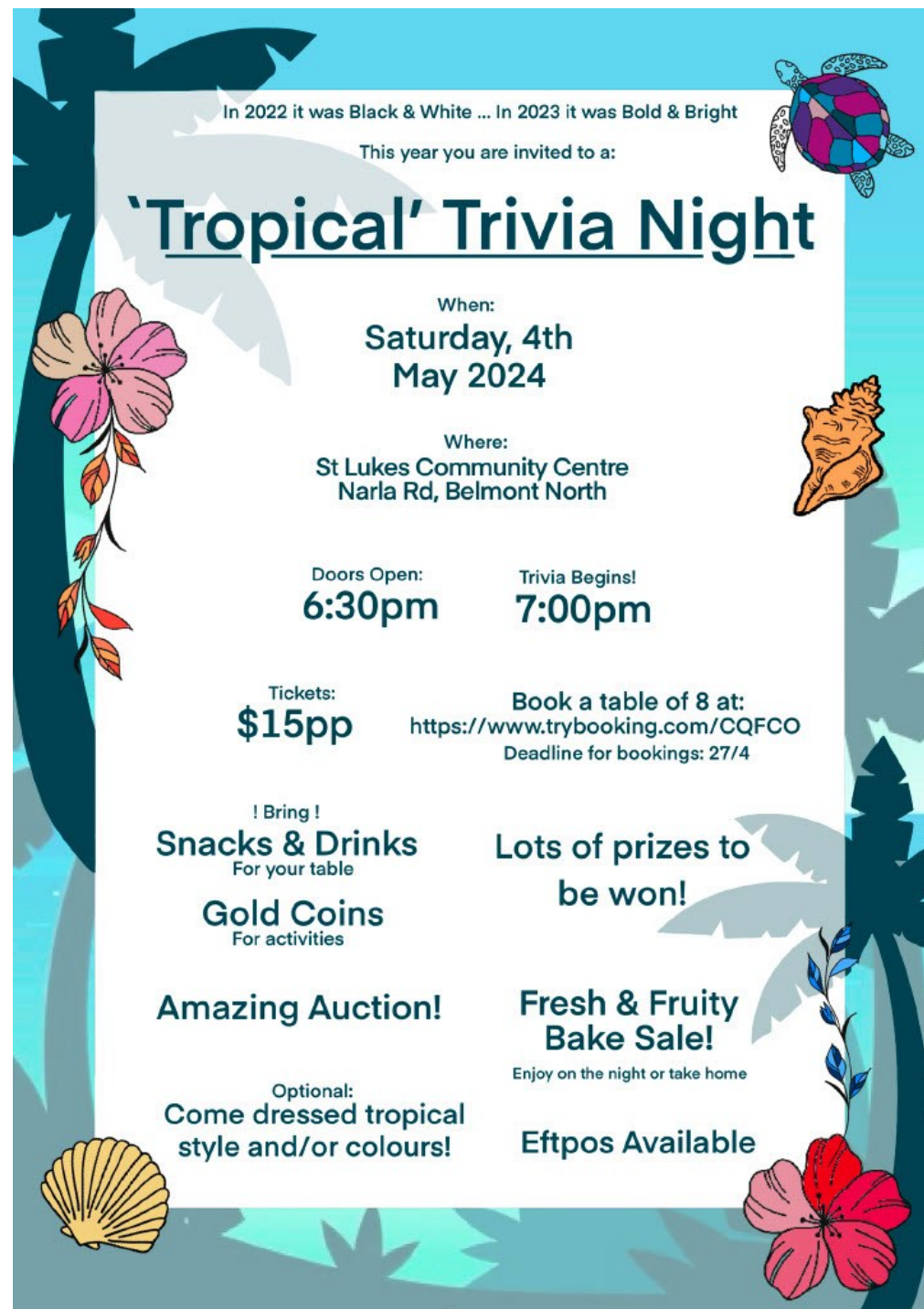
Presbytery Prayer Diary

The Hunter Presbytery has produced a Prayer Diary which includes prayer points for every congregation in the Hunter Presbytery over the next few months. Each Sunday every congregation will be praying for one of our other congregations. By praying together we can encourage one another in mission as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across our region.

This week's Presbytery Prayer Point is Cessnock - Bellbird Uniting Church

Cessnock Bellbird Congregation meets every Sunday at 9:30am followed by fellowship over morning tea. We have two worship centres (Cessnock and Bellbird) although services are held only at the Cessnock building. Reach up... reach out.... Reach in..... is our catch phrase. Our Innovations team meets to think up, plan and then carry out (with the help of congregation members) a whole bunch of energetic, innovative outreach ideas! (e.g. Christmas tree festival, Carols in the Bush, Seniors' Showcase). We have linked with Hunter Food Relief, Cessnock Rotary and Cessnock Lions clubs to offer meals and other help to homeless and vulnerable members of the local community. Our congregation numbers about 40 people, mainly over 70 years old. We are a happy and welcoming group, very encouraging of new members.

Prayer: Please pray for our new minister as she leads us into the future; for our innovations team and all congregation members as we venture more into the community; and for the groups working from our church hall to help the vulnerable and needy of the area. Amen.



In 2022 it was Black & White ... In 2023 it was Bold & Bright
This year you are invited to a:

'Tropical' Trivia Night

When:
**Saturday, 4th
May 2024**

Where:
**St Lukes Community Centre
Narla Rd, Belmont North**

Doors Open: **6:30pm** Trivia Begins! **7:00pm**

Tickets: **\$15pp** Book a table of 8 at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CQFCO>
Deadline for bookings: 27/4

! Bring !
Snacks & Drinks
For your table

Gold Coins
For activities

Amazing Auction!

Optional:
**Come dressed tropical
style and/or colours!**

**Lots of prizes to
be won!**

**Fresh & Fruity
Bake Sale!**
Enjoy on the night or take home

Eftpos Available

1 St Lukes Trivia Night: Saturday 4th May 2024

Tables: 15 tables (of 8) locked in and ready for our annual Trivia Night next Saturday night.



*Today (Sunday) is your last chance to book in as an individual to be a part of one of the St Lukes tables – please contact Jenny: 4946 8143 or email:jennmyandray@bigpond.com. It is also the last day to book a table of 8.

*If you have already booked in, please give your \$15 (individuals) to her in cash by Sunday 28/4.

*If you haven't paid for your table of 8, please do so by using the trybooking site or give the cash to Jenny, Alison or Jean.

*All tables will be finalised on Monday, 29/4 and you will be notified of any details you need for the night.

Donations from businesses/Prizes: As you would have seen over the past 4 weeks, we have been adding the names of businesses that are supporting our night with vouchers and items to use for prizes. This week, many more businesses have donated and they are as follows ...

Belmont: Belmont Golf Club, Dominos, Total Tennis (also in Mt Hutton), Juanitas Gourmet Pizza. Jewells: Hungry Wolf's Pizza and My Baker.

Pelican RSL, Anaconda (Bennetts Green), Jet Flight Simulator (Charlestown), Q & Co Café (Warners Bay), Lena's Café (Warners Bay), The Framing Game (Charlestown).

Please support these businesses whenever you can!

" TROPICAL/Fresh & Fruity Bake Sale".

If you can help our fundraising on the night by making/baking some fruit inspired slices, cakes, muffins, biscuits, jams, chutneys etc – please do. Provided in the gathering area are containers , some recipes (if you don't have any at home) and stickers to write the ingredients on.

All baking can be dropped at the community centre between 5-7pm on Friday, 3rd May or between 10-11am on Saturday, 4th May. Thanks.

Fruit Salad - help needed on Saturday, 4th May (day time)

3 local supermarkets are donating fruit to us for the trivia night and we will use it to make and sell fruit salad.

If you can help cut up and package the fruit salad please let Jean T know. Thank you.

2 Invitation to the Community Garden Morning Tea

Please come along and join our enthusiastic Community Garden team for a special morning tea between the 8am and 9:45am services **TODAY** (28/4). This is an opportunity to meet the team, see what's going on in the refurbished garden and enjoy the morning tea which will be provided.



3 9.45am Communion Preparation Roster

It is time for another 9.45am Communion preparation roster. This one will go up to November. If you can assist, please write your name on the sheet on the back table on the dates that suit you.

4 **Hunter Presbytery Annual Elections**

The Hunter Presbytery will hold its annual elections on Tuesday 28th May 2024. Elections for Office Bearers and members of the Standing Committee, Finance and Property Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee. If you are interested in finding out more information, please see Jenny Mathieson.

5 **Activity Centre Program**



On Monday 6th May Cathy & Michael Turner will be speaking about working with “Cows for Cambodia” charity that they participated with recently. The presentation will be in the church at 10am. Everyone is welcome to join us to view interesting photos of their work in this project.

The following week 13th May the talk on Motor Rules has been transferred to 1st July.

6 **Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser**

This week on Anzac Day, St Luke’s hosted a sausage sizzle outside the Bennetts Green Bunnings store from 1-5pm.

A HUGE thankyou to everyone that helped in planning leading up to the day and to Meredith, Peter, Gary, Cathy, Eloise, Alison C and Alison G for serving on the day. We also say thanks to those from St Luke’s who came and visited and to Ingrid who dropped off extra supplies. In the 4 hour period we took over 200 orders and next week we can let you all know what our profit was.

The other 2 dates for hosting these BBQ’s are Saturday August 3rd and Saturday Dec 7th.

Closer to the dates there will be sign-up sheets in the gathering area with options of 2 and 4 hr shifts.

Please keep these BBQ’s in your prayers, thank you.



The flyer for St Luke's Playgroup features a light blue background with white clouds and a smiling sun in the top right corner. The title "St Luke's Playgroup" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, black font. Below the title, the schedule "Fridays 10am - 12 noon" is listed, with a note "(During school terms)". The location "St Luke's Community Centre" is also listed, with the address "(Narla Rd, Belmont North)" in parentheses. A key date "Starts May 3rd 2024" is highlighted in a bold font, followed by the fee "\$3 cash per child per week please".

Below the main text, three columns of text describe the benefits of the playgroup:

- Playgroups help children learn how to play with other children and interact with adults other than caretakers**
- Playgroups allow children to try out new toys and activities**
- Playgroups help parents, caregivers and their children to connect with their local community and other families**
- Playgroups provide a safe and friendly learning environment**

At the bottom of the flyer, three cartoon children are depicted running happily on a green grassy field. The children are drawn in a simple, friendly style with large heads and small bodies.

7 **Invitation to a Mad Hatters Tea Party!**

“Warm Blankets for Everyone” invite you to attend a Mad Hatters Tea Party on Saturday 18th May 2024 from 2pm – 4pm to be held at St Luke’s Community Centre. Tickets are \$40 each and include a scrumptious high tea, entertainment, lucky door prizes and prizes for best hat and costume. There will also be an auction of quilts, raffle prizes and lots more! For Tickets contact Rebecca: 0477 292 794 or email: rebeccawett@tpg.com.au



8 **St Luke’s Leadership Team - April Update**

St Luke’s Leadership Team met on Tuesday night. Discussions took place about our recent Mission Planning session. Thank you to all who attended and for your contribution, the next step will be to take this information and shape it into the Mission Plan template. We will keep you updated. It is a work in progress! We have agreed that St Luke’s will be involved again in the National Assembly Prayer Chain that will commence on Pentecost Sunday. The congregations that we have been given to pray for this time are Warradale Uniting Church (SA) and St Luke’s Uniting Church in Boswell (Tasmania). We will contact them and ask them to give us their prayer needs. Greg Anderson tabled a comprehensive report from the Finance and Property Committee. We continue to be thankful for those who are working in the Community Garden and the wonderful transformation. It is looking so fresh and good!

The Community Outreach Team reported on their fundraising activities. There is a very positive response to the Trivia night on 4th May and the organisation for the Bunnings BBQ on Anzac Day afternoon are in place, thank you to the BBQ team!

As you are aware each year, St Luke’s sets aside in our budget an amount to be given to the wider work of the congregation, and wider church and community groups. This year’s allocated amount is \$4,000 and was distributed as follows: \$800 each to St Luke’s Quilting group; Frontier Services; Uniting World; Margaret Jurd College Pathways Fund; Moderators Disaster Appeal.

Jenny Mathieson
Secretary

9 **Our Thursday Bible Study**

Our Thursday Bible Study group which meets at 1.30pm, is about to study John the Baptist and how he fulfilled prophecy. Following that, we will be delving into Isaiah and the relevance of his message to us today. If you would like to join us, you are most welcome.

Bruce Kay



10 **Friendly Foodies**

Six of us enjoyed getting together for the Friendly Foodies lunch at Valentine Bowling Club last Sunday. We chatted, enjoyed our food and watched the sun come out over the lake. The next lunch will be at Belmont 16s on Sunday, 2 June. I hope everyone will join us there.



Friendly Foodies Begins!

Seated at our table at the Valentine Bowling Club Greg said to me, 'This is the first time I have had a meal with you!' So what other opportunities await us at any future "Foodies" events, I wonder, where we can share stories and food together? We need to thank Alison Cleary for suggesting such a venture, for here is a great way to get to know others. Unless we spend time listening and telling our stories, (and yes, we all have them!) we remain unknown and our needs perhaps, unmet. Consider joining us at our next "Friendly Foodies" event in June!

Barbara Bell

A huge thankyou to the following businesses that are supporting St Lukes by donating vouchers and items for our upcoming trivia night.

- Lu Lu Beauty, Belmont
- Cassowary Cafe, Belmont
- Subway (Citi Centre), Belmont
- Unique Barber Co, Belmont
- 16 footers, Belmont
- Reading Cinemas, Charlestown
- Imagine Cruises, (Port Stephens)
- Dullboys Social Co, Warners Bay
- Citi centre Newsagency, Belmont
- Murray's Meats, Belmont
- Nargiss Indian & Kebabs, Jewells
- Sesame's On The Lake, Belmont
- Guzman Y Gomez, Belmont
- Priceline Pharmacy, Jewells
- Let's Face It/Beauty, Charlestown
- XS Espresso, Bennetts Green
- Valentine/Eleebana Physio
- Belmont Smash Repairs
- Charlestown Golf Club, Hillsborough
- Royal Copenhagen Icecreamery, Warners Bay
- NewsXPress, Jewells
- Mrs Beetson's, Jewells
- Jewells Tavern. Jewells
- Australian Reptile Park
- Canon, Warners Bay
- Star Anise Café, Belmont
- Belmont Hotel
- Woolworths, Belmont
- KFC, Belmont
- McDonalds, Belmont
- Belmont Fish & Chips
- Salina's, Belmont
- Hair Art, Belmont
- The Retreat, Anna Bay
- Rainbow Nails, Belmont
- Belmont Motor Repairs
- URTH Fitness, Belmont

Thank
you

- Belmont Golf Club
- Dominoes, Belmont
- Juanita's Gourmet Pizza, Belmont
- Hungry Wolf's Pizza, Jewells
- Q & Co Café, Warners Bay
- Total Tennis, Belmont (Also in Mt Hutton)
- Anaconda (Bennetts Green)
- Jetflight Simulator, Charlestown
- The Framing Game, Charlestown
- NewsXPress, Jewells
- Pelican RSL
- Lena's Café, Warners Bay
- My Baker, Jewells

Please show your appreciation by supporting these businesses whenever you can!



1 John 4:7-21 NIV

God's Love and Ours

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

John 15:1-8 NIV

The Vine and the Branches

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.