



## Update & Welcome

Welcome to our second newsletter – another opportunity to update you on both recent and upcoming events.

### Recent Events

I wish to introduce myself. My name is Dr Keith Weller, the newly appointed honorary warden of the Library. I am a retired scientist and I worked for CSIRO for many years in the area of mineral processing. During my career, I edited and produced a specialist international newsletter on a particular area of mineral processing. I love books and I am committed to the purposes of the library, namely to provide resources and teaching for people in parishes in Brisbane and beyond.

Reverend Dr Stephen Lake gave an excellent talk called “Journeying with Young People”. His recent research has been in the area of what and/or who constitutes for young people a significant point of emotional connection and

support. During the talk there was a real sense of engagement with the audience. Everyone who attended thought Dr Lake’s talk was very helpful.

Reverend Graham Cole, who is very interested in early church history, gave a very interesting presentation about the Da Vinci Code. This talk, along with the other major addresses given at the Library, can be downloaded in audio form from the website at [www.mathewhalepubliclibrary.com](http://www.mathewhalepubliclibrary.com) free of charge.

The Reverend Dave Fuller, who lectures at Ridley College in Youth Ministry, gave a very challenging and informative address regarding youth ministry. He recommended that youth ministry be taken seriously by the churches and that people be trained well, paid well and be considered for long term ministry. I consider anyone interested in youth ministry would benefit from listening to this address.

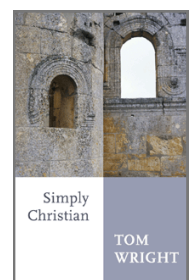
Dr Keith Weller

Keith is the Honorary Warden of the Mathew Hale Public Library.

## Book Review: Simply Christian

Bishop Tom Wright, the Bishop of Durham in the United Kingdom, is an elegant speaker, scholar and writer. He recently concluded a speaking tour of Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane and I was privileged to hear him speak twice. His use of the English language is wonderful. He is considered to be one of the world’s leading New Testament scholars.

In “Simply Christian”, Bishop Wright re-expresses the heart of the Christian faith and the change it offers to both personal and social life. The book contains three parts. In part one, “Echos of a Voice” he discusses the human yearnings for justice, spirituality, relationships and beauty. This part is a fertile basis for reflection regarding appropriate connecting points with other people to commence discussion about



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**WWW:** [www.mathewhalepubliclibrary.com](http://www.mathewhalepubliclibrary.com)

*\*Note that the library is currently open only for advertised events.*

Christian faith. In Part 2 “Staring at the Sun”, Bishop Wright discusses the grand narrative of God, Israel, Jesus : the coming of God’s Kingdom and rescue and renewal and the Holy Spirit (God’s breath of life).

He writes beautifully. For example, at page 95, he writes:

*“The meaning of the story is found in every detail, as well as in the broad narrative. The pain and tears of all the years were met together on Calvary. The sorrow of Heaven joined with the anguish of Earth; the forgiving love stored up in God’s future was poured out into the present; the voices that echo in a million human hearts, crying for justice, longing for spirituality, eager for relationship, yearning for beauty, drew themselves together into a final scream of desolation. Nothing in all the history of paganism comes anywhere near this combination of events, intention and meaning. Nothing in Judaism had prepared for it, except in puzzling, shadowy prophecy. The death of Jesus of Nazareth as King of the Jews, the bearer of Israel’s destiny, the fulfilment of God’s promises to his people of old, is either the most stupid, senseless waste and misunderstanding the world has ever seen, or it is the fulcrum around which world history turns.”*

**Author:** N. T. Wright  
**ISBN:** 0281054819  
**Pages:** 208pp  
**Publisher:** SPCK  
**RRP:** \$29.95

Alex Crawford



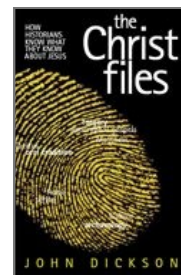
## Book Review: The Christ Files

I enjoyed reading this short book (101 pages) about the lively issue of the historical basis of the Christian faith. Dr Dickson, as historian, (he is an Honorary Associate in the Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University Sydney) in an engaging and concise style, takes the reader on a journey of what we can realistically know about the life of Jesus of Nazareth, from mainly hostile, ancient and Jewish writings and also New Testament and near contemporary Christian sources from the time of Jesus or soon after.

Anyone who is interested in history, theology or what historians say about Jesus should enjoy this work. I found his chapter about the role of academic scholarship very interesting. He contends that in New Testament studies, it seems, that scholarship tends to fall into three points along a continuum – sceptical, mainstream and apologetic. The book also contains a number of interesting references for further study and an interesting brief discussion of some aspects of the Da Vinci Code under the sub-heading “Secret Gospels” at pages 90 – 97.

Professor Alanna Nobbs, Head of the Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University, says in her forward “This books rests on a sound basis of scholarship (both English and non

English speaking, as is entirely necessary in this field), and nothing in it has been written without due concern for the wave of scholarly argument behind the scenes. It is also written with a conviction that comes from an historian’s judgment. John presents his material fairly, noting where disagreement occurs and letting us see how he has come to make up his mind as he has. He invites us to look closely at the historical claims of Christianity, while being careful to draw the line between what a historian can argue and where a more personal faith comes into play. The critical point is that his scholarship, though real, is also accessible. The reader will find it hard to escape his conclusions that the Gospels, the main source of our knowledge of Jesus, deserve to be read seriously”.



**Author:** N. T. Wright  
**ISBN:** 1921137541  
**Pages:** 101pp  
**Publisher:** Blue Bottle Books  
**RRP:** \$14.95

## Upcoming Events

### September 5

“Hermeneutics – The Intersection of Theology and Law”  
with Mr Simon Fisher  
7.30pm at the Library

### October 31

“Is the Reformation Relevant Today?” with Dr Stewart Gill  
7.30pm at the Library