



MATHEW HALE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS



MANAGING DIRECTOR UPDATE

Thank you for your support of the Mathew Hale Public Library. I'm keen to share some thoughts on recent events and what's in store for the future as the library continues its purpose:

To resource, promote and encourage leaders in the Anglican Church in Brisbane and the Province of Queensland to exercise ministry shaped by a clear understanding of biblical teaching.

As we focus on 2019 our key areas of focus for 2019-2021 are:

1. Supporting theological Students through to Anglican Ordination in Anglican Church Southern Queensland (ACSQ) and in the Province of QLD.
2. Supporting Clergy in ACSQ and in the Province of Queensland
3. Acting as a public voice in the Diocese to promote biblical teaching
4. Expanding & re-energizing our Donor Base focused on purpose of ministry
5. Building Ministry Capacity (Balance Capacity & Resources for the new Strategy).

MHPL exists to resource, promote and encourage leaders in the Anglican Church in Brisbane and the Province of Queensland to exercise ministry shaped by a clear understanding of biblical teaching.

Ministry Skills Seminar: “Worship by the book” with Rev Dr Graham Stanton

At the end of October 2018, Graham Stanton from Ridley College in Melbourne conducted a practical workshop on leading Anglican services of worship. The workshop was made up of two sessions. The first session entitled “Cranmer’s Vision” considered the basic principles of Cranmer’s Book of Common Prayer, and, what J C Ryle called “the great principle on which the whole Prayer Book is drawn up”.

The second session entitled “Prayer Book Logic” worked through the services of Morning and Evening prayer in APBA, considering the “spiritual logic” of how these services are constructed and led. Those who attended felt encouraged and enlightened by the wisdom and experience Graham shared in the rich liturgy we are fortunate to have.

Graham also continues his work mentoring young leaders, which we understand they greatly appreciate.

Thanksgiving Service

We held a wonderful Thanksgiving service at end of 2018 celebrating on the life and work of the library over the previous year with preaching by Revd Hugh Begbie and music by Dylan Malloch.

Facebook

You may have noticed that we now have a [Facebook](#) presence. I encourage you to follow the Mathew Hale Public Library on Facebook as we are sharing plenty of content and topics of interest.

Keep in touch and connect your friends

Do you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving information from the Mathew Hale Public Library? If so, please suggest to them that they sign up to our mailing list on our website (www.mathewhalepubliclibrary.com)

Thank you again for your support of the Library. If you would like to make a donation to the Library, please use the form at the end of the newsletter.

– **STEPHEN WOODWARD, MANAGING DIRECTOR, MHPL**

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS



The Church is today facing many difficulties, not just from outside, but challenges in handling many of the difficult moral questions thrown up by the rapid changes in our culture.

As Christians who follow Jesus, some things are very clear. Jesus was extraordinary, even at times shocking in his willingness to reach out in love and grace to the broken and marginalised of his world. As his disciple our obligation is to reach out as he has reached out to others, including the broken and marginalised in our society, remembering as we do so that we too are broken, people belonging to the ungodly for whom Christ died. It is a sobering thought that without Jesus we are enemies of

God and that in coming to him we come as enemies now forgiven and adopted into the very family of God.

So what is happening in our culture and in our church. Much of what we value in this country came about through the influence of Jesus on the world as men and women courageously set out to follow him, seeking to be salt and light as Christ called them (and us) to be.

This impact on society is like the fruit of a tree, a tree rooted in the story of Jesus. That tree bears a certain kind of fruit as believers grow in their obedience and their capacity to show with integrity the fruits of the Spirit. And how do we grow? Surely it happens when we take Jesus seriously by reading and studying the Scriptures, by prayer and communal worship and by seeking to build our lives in a way that is consistent with the teaching of Jesus and his apostles.

Over the last three hundred years, but increasingly over the last 20 or so, the Christian tree has been largely uprooted from the Western world and discarded. Consequently, many of the social changes and challenges in our country are the result of the fruit of a new culture coming to maturity. This new tree gives less or no weight to the bible and places the self at the centre, seeing mankind as the measure of all things and seeking personal autonomy, freedom and happiness as its primary value.

One of the problems we face in the church is that we have often succumbed to the temptation to allow the dominate, non-Christian culture of the day to influence and distort the faith.

This was the major sin of the Medieval Church as it sought power rather than choosing to follow the call of Jesus and seek his glory. The German church did this in the 1930s, allowing itself to place Hitler in the role of Messiah. The churches that teach that prosperity is an automatic blessing of faith reinterpret Scripture through the prism of greed and profit. Part of the church in South Africa used scripture to justify apartheid despite the clear teaching of the New Testament to the contrary. Many other examples can be found where, in the name of Christianity, religious people have imported the values of the world into the faith reinterpreting or ignoring Scripture in the process.

“Much of what we value in this country came about through the influence of Jesus on the world as men and women courageously set out to follow him..”

My great fear is, that as we face the ethical and cultural pressures of our day we will do this all over again. The obvious challenges are how to respond to the change of law in regard to the marriage of same sex couples and desired changes in regard to abortion and euthanasia. However, we must not forget that much of the greed and conflict that afflicts our political, business and private economic practice is a reflection of the same spirit. The temptation for the church is to 'sing the song' of self-fulfilment and the pursuit of happiness rather than following Jesus, going beyond the requirement to love those who hold different views and actively normalising and blessing that which the bible questions or challenges.

Personally, I am very conscious of my own failings and propensity to seek self rather than God. As I (or you) struggle with my sinful natures I do not need others simply saying its all ok. What I need is your encouragement and your prayers to help me do better tomorrow than I have done today. I do not need (though sometimes I might desire) a blessing over or a blind eye ignoring any area of my life that does not resonate fully with the will of God revealed through Jesus and the apostles. May we be filled with grace and love for others but not afraid to be salt and light in the country and world in which we live.

— **REV DR HUGH BEGBIE, CHAIRMAN, MHPL**

EVENTS



Date & Time: Friday, May 10, 2019 6:30 PM
9:30 PM

Location: Kedron Wavell Services Club (map)

Cost: \$60

[Book your tickets now](#)

2019 ANNUAL DINNER – FAITH, FACT AND FEELINGS: Making Decisions in a Post Secular Age.

Tickets are now on sale to this year's event. We are delighted that Dan Patterson will be the Guest Speaker at the 2019 Annual Dinner on Friday, May 10, 2019 on the thought provoking topic of *"Faith, Fact and Feelings: Making decisions in a post secular age"*

Tickets will go on sale in February and will be publicised on the Mathew Hale Public Library website, emails, future newsletters and advertising.

Dan Paterson is a speaker with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries based in Brisbane, Australia. After some family tragedies in his childhood that raised a series of barriers to belief in God, Dan came to Christ at eighteen years old through an investigation of the New Testament. The towering figure of Jesus of Nazareth and his response to suffering moved him to faith.

Given this background and his involvement in speaking to youth, Dan developed a driving passion to study theology and apologetics in order to help make sense of the Christian faith for skeptics and spiritual seekers. He completed a bachelor's and master's degree in ministry and theology in Australia as well as the one-year course at the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics.

After having preached all over the world, Dan returned to Brisbane to pastor and train Christians. Dan then joined the RZIM speaking team in 2015 and now speaks regularly to audiences on how the gospel connects to life's biggest questions and on the popular objections to the Christian faith. Dan is married to Erin and they have a young son, Josiah. Dan loves reading, coffee, movies, the outdoors, and Australian Rules Football.



Date & Time: Friday, 29 March 7pm to
Saturday, 30 March 9pm

Location: St Bart's Anglican Church, 103
Stenner Street, Middle Ridge, Toowoomba

Cost: \$140

For further information and book tickets please
go to: <https://stbarts.com.au/events/requip2019>

RE/QUIP: Youth and Young Adults Conference.

We are delighted to again partner with St Bart's in Middle Ridge Toowoomba to present RE/QUIP. Matthew Hale Public Library has supported RE/QUIP from its humble beginnings two years ago as a gathering of young adults hungry to share the gospel with their friends at work and beyond.

RE/QUIP is a two-day conference for people in their 20s and 30s focussing on work, evangelism, and service. Now in its third year, RE/QUIP 2019 is shaping up to be another great weekend of training and equipping young to serve God wherever they are! Hosted by St Bart's Anglican Church Toowoomba, this unique conference through themed talks, workshops and Q&A sessions, participants will have opportunities to learn from, share and personally interact with guest speakers and peers on the challenges and opportunities for young Christian adults in the workplace and community, and in proclaiming The Good News.

With three distinct focus areas: work, serve, and proclaim RE/QUIP seeks to empower Christians in their 20-30s for outreach in their workplace, Christian service in their communities, and gospel proclamation through their whole lives. This year Tim Foster from Ridley College in Melbourne will be presenting on the topic of Gospel Proclamation in contemporary Australia, Sharon Cheung from City Bible Forum in Melbourne will be speaking on effective Christian witness in the workplace, and Christine Ellis the Southern Queensland Anglican Diocese's Reconciliation Action Plan Coordinator will be presenting on encouraging reconciliation with Australia's first people's.

RE/QUIP is a conference that mirrors the values of Bishop Matthew Hale and his desire for young Anglicans to be equipped as missionaries in their everyday lives.



Date And Time: 11-15 February 2019,
8:30am-3pm daily

Location: Brisbane School of Theology, 1
Cross Street, Toowong.

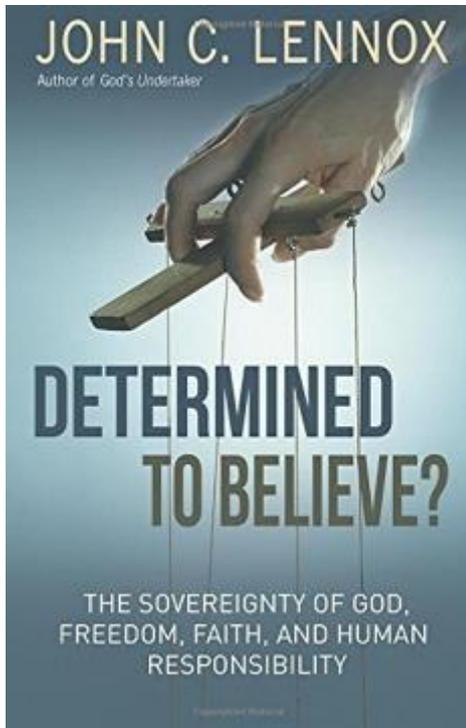
Cost: \$360. See the [Fee Schedule](#) for further
information

For further information please go to:
http://bst.qld.edu.au/Jesus_in_the_NT

JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT – CURRENT ISSUES IN NEW TESTAMENT SCHOLARSHIP with Paul Trebilco

This unit focuses on the way the New Testament presents the person of Jesus and issues in current scholarship associated with New Testament Christology. We will consider the portrait of Jesus in some key New Testament texts – the Gospels of Mark and of John, the writings of Paul, and the Book of Revelation. What do these books regard as the important features of who Jesus is? We will also look at some key titles used of Jesus. We will consider study of ‘the historical Jesus’ – what can we know about Jesus as a figure of history, and about his ministry, its aims and outcome. We will also discuss some important themes or areas of study related to our topic, such as the way belief about Jesus developed in the very early years of the Church and belief in Jesus’ resurrection.

BOOK REVIEW – DETERMINED TO BELIEVE



Did you choose to read this newsletter? Or were you predetermined to do so?

Was it a result of some kind of free will you possess that enabled your fingers to click a mouse button or tap a phone screen, thereby opening this article?

Or were you helplessly at the mercy of various chemicals in your brain that emanated from various particles that are left over from the Big Bang, rendering you subject to a predetermined course of your life?

Perhaps more relevant to those reading this article, was your salvation the result of you examining the truth claims of Jesus Christ and making your own decision to follow Him? Or was the decision made for you in the hands of a sovereign God who alone decides those who are 'in' or 'out'?

It's these questions that Oxford scholar and well-known Christian apologist, Professor John Lennox, seeks to explore in his book: *Determined to Believe?: The Sovereignty of God, Freedom, Faith, and Human Responsibility*.

The first part of the book is in Lennox's adopted home turf – tackling atheist arguments. He briefly contends with the philosophical musings of atheist scientists such as Daniel Dennet on whether we are at the mercy of our atoms and therefore completely absolved of any decision-making capacity, or whether we are a little more complicated than that.

This is Lennox's strongest part of the book and indeed his arguments against a total deterministic outlook are compelling. However, this is also the shortest part of the book.

The remainder focuses on examining the traditional five points of Calvinism: Total depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, and Perseverance of the saints (or TULIP) and examining their validity in light of scripture.

At least, that is what he asserts he will do. I, however, found it to be a little disingenuous.

This pains me to say because John Lennox is something of a hero of mine. I've watched his debates with well known atheists such as Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens and been greatly encouraged by his defence of the gospel, incredible brain, and his peerless exposition of the intersection between science and faith.

However, in this book I did feel like Lennox was guilty of what he often demands of his critics – to present the best version of the opposing argument and then proceed with your defence. And it is this aspect of the book that has come under fire from those in the reformed tradition.

Indeed, Lennox seems to begin his examination with the end in mind – which seems an anathema for a scientist. One of his most strident defences of Christianity is that it is evidence-based. But I feel Lennox presupposes what true 'freedom' looks like (and, in his definition it appears to be rather libertarian) and then follow the Scripture in that direction.

While much of the book is highly engaging and its dealing with scripture is expansive, it does feel a little as if I'm only getting one side of the argument. Rather than seeing this book as an objective review of Scripture, I can't help but feel it's a defence of a borderline-Arminian approach.

If it's an objective look at scripture I'm after, I believe I'll have to buy a book that defends a more Calvinist perspective and then objectively reach my own conclusion. Perhaps that's what I should do anyway.

Overall, I do recommend the book. It is a brain-stretcher and its concluding chapters on the perseverance of the saints are some of the most encouraging writing I've ever read.

But if you're looking to close the door on the great predestination debate, you'll have to keep reading.

But that's your choice.... Or is it?

– DYLAN MALLOCH, BOARD MEMBER, MHPL

SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY

DONATE ONLINE

The Library depends on financial support from its friends and supporters. If you would like to make a Tax Deductible donation online, please [click here](#) and follow the prompts.

DONATE VIA DIRECT DEPOSIT

To donate via direct deposit from your bank account to the Library (either a once-off or recurring donation), please deposit to the following account:

- Account: Mathew Hale Public Library
- BSB: 034-000
- Account: 687856
- Reference: Your Name

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library are a group of people who support the Library in its various activities. They will be involved in one or more of the following activities:

- staffing the Library;
- maintaining the Library collection;
- undertaking research;
- arranging lectures and discussions;
- attending various functions organised by the Friends of the Library.

If you want to become a Friend of the Library, please access the brochure below.

BEQUESTS

A will is a very good way to ensure that your possessions are well used beyond your lifetime according to your wishes.

- Provide for your family and friends;
- Make arrangements for the care of your children;
- State your preferences regarding funeral and burial arrangements and organ donation;
- Name a person who will be responsible for carrying out the wishes that you have outlined in your Will;
- Make provision for others such as the Mathew Hale Public Library.

It is helpful to seek the advice of a solicitor when you prepare your Will. A solicitor can help to make sure that the document is valid and meets all the legal requirements.