



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.

Over the recent months the Board has embarked on a process of Strategic Planning to determine how best to continue carrying out the vision of the Mathew Hale Public Library.

We are excited to share our newly agreed 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.

Our key areas of focus for 2018-2021 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.

We are indebted to Sodra, a consultancy, for their assistance in helping us decide upon this strategic direction and we look forward to your support over the coming years as we seek to realise these goals.

Since we last wrote to you, there have been a number of events:

Tribute Breakfast

A wonderful breakfast was held at St Mark's, Clayfield on March 18 as a tribute to Alex Crawford and the work he did for the Mathew Hale Public Library, in the parish of St Mark's Clayfield, in the diocese and well beyond. It is difficult to comprehend the significance of Alex's impact on so many. We were very thankful to St Mark's for hosting the event and for the generosity of many at the breakfast.



We continue to uphold Penny, James, Sally and Emily in our prayers and ask you to also do so.



RE/QUIP

The Library was proud to partner with St Bartholomew's in Middle Ridge, Toowoomba to present RE/QUIP, a three-day conference for people in their 20s and 30s focussing on work, evangelism and service.

RE/QUIP consisted of a mix of keynote talks, workshops, worship/prayer and Q&A sessions to engage, mobilise and equip young workers.

Utilising the emerging cafe culture in Toowoomba, informal sessions over great food generated ample opportunities to personally interact with guest speakers and peers on the challenges and opportunities for Christian young adults in the workplace, community and proclaiming the Good News.

To get a taste of what went on, we encourage you to listen to the keynote by Kara Martin on "Using Your Work to Worship God" which is available on the [St Bart's Website](#). The event was extremely encouraging, and the library were keen to be associated again.



FOR THE LOVE OF GOD: FOUR EVENINGS OF PIZZA AND DISCUSSION

Over four Tuesdays in August and September, the Mathew Hale Public Library held four public discussions in response to the recently-released documentary 'For the Love of God: How the Church is better and worse than you ever imagined', produced by the Centre for Public Christianity.

The discussions were very well attended with excellent interactions taking place. We look forward to hosting more events such as this in the future.



Preaching the Psalms Seminar

Revd Canon Dr Jill Firth delivered an exceptional seminar equipping attendees with vital skills and approaches to congregational preaching with a focus on Psalms 1, 2 and 3, Based on the following: Walking the Talk (Psalm 1), Worshipping the King (Psalm 2), Waiting on God (Psalm 3)

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



A QUESTION OF INTEGRITY

We are a sporting nation. One of our most loved activities is throwing muddy accusations of hypocrisy at two primary targets, the first being our beloved politicians and the second, if you're a non-believer, at Christians.

I feel sorry for our politicians because they are caught up in forces outside their control. How would we perform if we had to deal with complex, sometimes insoluble problems, faced with the 24 news cycle and constant opposition from those whose goal is your removal, or at the very least the demolition of any idea you put up, even if it is good for the country. Scratch beneath the surface and you will find many good people in politics trying to make some kind of difference in a bear pit that is almost impossible to navigate and in circumstances where their capacity to do anything or even make a living is under constant threat.

The question of Christian integrity is a different matter as there are two possible reasons for accusations of hypocrisy being made against us. The first is entirely legitimate (though unfairly universalised) and should be acknowledged. There are clearly those in the church whose lifestyle is a complete denial of their public commitment to the faith and to the words and commands of Jesus. Child abusers and those who protect them are clear examples although, in the end, God alone can judge their hearts. However, there are many variations including those who come to church but who are brutal in business, dishonest in their relationships or abusers of their wives or children, all the while pretending that they are pillars of the church and society. Blatant hypocrisy does the church great harm and we need to oppose it.

However, there is another way of looking at things. If we take the bible seriously we all have aspirations that we fail to achieve and we all know a darkness that we have difficulty confessing. This is part, albeit a sad part, of our humanity. However, if we are appropriately open about our frailty and limitations, we can avoid the accusation of hypocrisy and play a part instead in pointing to the mercy of God and the forgiveness we can find in and through the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Our churches need to give space in word and action for brokenness and pain to be made visible and embraced.”

Likewise, our churches need to give space in word and action for brokenness and pain to be made visible and embraced. It is great to be joyful, but it is a denial of truth if our church demands a culture of perpetual smiles, health or happiness. In the way we run our services and in the way we preach there must be room for tears, for grief, for confession and reconciliation.

For those of you who preach there is a message here. It is so easy to preach to the congregation as if we are the teachers and they are the learners. We need to let the scriptures teach us. We need to preach with passion to ourselves willing to wrestle publicly, not just with the text, but with our own struggle to live the Word out in our lives. It is my experience that openness of heart in preaching personalises the journey and invites others to walk the way with you, seeing together both the mercy and the wisdom of God.

– REV DR HUGH BEGBIE, CHAIRMAN, MHPL

EVENTS

MINISTRY SKILLS SEMINAR: "WORSHIP BY THE BOOK" WITH REV DR GRAHAM STANTON

6:00 PM 8:45 PM, Tuesday, October 30, 2018

St Andrews Anglican Cathedral, South Brisbane

Graham Stanton from Ridley College in Melbourne will conduct a practical workshop on leading Anglican services of worship. [Learn more here.](#)



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Mathew Hale Public Library will be holding a Thanksgiving Service to reflect on 2018 and pray for the future of the library in 2019 and beyond. There will also be a light supper.

Location: Blue Room, St Andrew's Anglican Church, 160 Vulture Street, South Brisbane

Date & Time: Thursday, 6 December 2018 at 6.30pm.

EVENTS



2019 ANNUAL DINNER

We are delighted to announce Dan Patterson will be the Guest Speaker at the 2019 Annual Dinner on Friday, May 10, 2019.

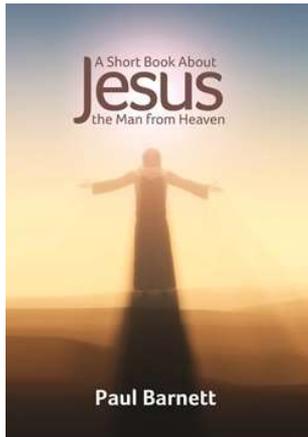
Further details will be available on the Mathew Hale Public Library website and future newsletters.

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.

BOOK REVIEW



A FABULOUS BOOK (TO GIVE AWAY)

Paul Barnett, Christian academic and historian and retired bishop, has written a wonderful book called 'A short book about Jesus, the man from heaven'. This is a must have book and an excellent one to read and then give away.

Dr Barnett has written an easy to read book explaining why we should have confidence in the historical details that go to make up the Gospel. In a clear reminder that scientific proof and evidential proof (used by historians) are quite different but equally important in their own area of use, Dr Barnett unpacks the evidential evidence of the New Testament demonstrating with great simplicity and power that believing in the truth of these documents is a very reasonable thing to do.

Dr Barnett is not the only person to do this, but what makes this book so good to give away is that it is not only easy to read, but has a devotional element built into it, showing how the Jesus revealed in these documents has unique marks of transcendence, the aroma of God about him. He is not just the historical Jesus crucified and risen, but he is Emmanuel, God with us, the one not just to know about, but to follow.

Those who attend the Matthew Hale Public Library Annual Dinner, will receive a copy of this book on the condition that, having read it, they give it away.

Reverend Hugh Begbie
Chair of 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.