

FEBRUARY 2026

ST MARYS HALSWELL FAMILIES UPDATE

Welcome back to 2026. We hope that everyone had a some rest and relaxation over the summer break. There was a lack of sunshine at times but we know many of you did manage a sunny break in other parts of the country or overseas.

At the beginning of last year Rev John held a discussion meeting to gather ideas about the morning service - he is keen to hear feedback on how you think this has gone and any more changes we need to look at. A short survey will be sent out soon and it would be helpful if all could complete this - comments can be anonymous if you prefer.

He recently met with children and youth leaders to brainstorm some 'big ideas' for worship and parish growth. Once Rev John returns from holiday he plans to revisit some of these ideas and discuss at a congregation meeting. It's a challenging task to make the morning service work for all the ages in our parish family at one time.

Leaders 2026.

This year will see changes in the children and youth team and we are thankful for all who help lead our children and young people on Sunday mornings. Anna and Chris Rutherford have joined the team alongside Lucy and Matilda.

The preschool/primary group will primarily be led by Anna, Matilda and Jenny. Marco, Lucy and Chris will generally leading the intermediate and high school groups. So that our leaders can also have some time in church, we will need to call on others occasionally to help out in both groups.

SMASH 2026

We plan to run the after school activity again in 2026 to test the need in the community. This will start at the end of February and run through March. Please pray for this activity.



AMPED

Sunday 15 February

AMPED will return this year on the 3rd sunday of the month at 5.00pm. We will work on getting this out to the community and encourage the young people to bring friends to this worship time.

Sharing kai after worship was well received and a great time of fellowship for both young people and adults alike. To enable this to continue we need to spread the preparation load.

This year we are looking at asking families or small groups share the responsibility of preparing a light simple meal to follow AMPED. Please talk to Marco if you are willing to take this on one month, reimbursement is available for the cost of food.

Coming up.....

Annual General Meeting, 12 April

Please support the parish at this meeting.

Palm Sunday - 29 March

Easter Sunday - 5 April

Mid Year Pot Luck Dinner - 25 July



FUNDRAISING

Our young people who are heading to Easter Camp will be doing some fundraising activities over Term 1. Please support them as they prepare for this event.

Quiz Night - Friday 27 February at 6.30pm. Gather your team of 4 - 6 people and come along for a bit of fun . \$5 per person. Prizes!

Car Wash - Sunday 8 March from 10am. \$10 per car. Our young people will save you a job and you can leave church with a sparkling clean car.

***We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him.
They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose. Romans 8:28***



He's got the whole world in His hands!

The start of the year we will focus on creation at Kids church, the wonders that God has provided for us, exploring creation and how he made each one of us special to Him.

Intermediates will have a range of discussions, possibly based on lectionary readings and some discussion on creation too.

High schoolers are working through elements of worship.



Age Group Splits

Sunday morning groups are:

- Pre school - Primary
- Intermediate
- High School

A verse to guide our thoughts for 2026:

God created us to do good things. Ephesians 2:10

DOMINOS Youth

Changes are planned this year in response to feedback from the young people at the end of last year.

There will be some weeks with an activity all together, but alternate weeks will have high school and intermediates with different activities. This will give the opportunity to meet the changing needs of older kids and provide opportunity for more discussion and hang out time, while still retaining games and activities for others. See information about planned activities. All are encouraged to bring their friends.

EASTER CAMP

Planning is well underway for Easter Camp. This year we are joining with Woodend Church and not relying on St Martins. This means more planning, preparation and gathering of equipment. Leaders Marco and Lucy will be leading the group with Paul and Sarah Mosely as Camp Parents. This is a great chance for our high schoolers to spend some time together in a safe Christian environment.

Registrations are now open, with early bird prices until 20 February.

Easter Camp: 2 - 6 April at Spencer Park

Litt'le Boppers

Our pre school music and movement sessions are held on Fridays at 9.45am in the St Marys Hall (term time). Activities for the young ones and a cuppa for caregivers. A great fellowship opportunity led by Sarah Mosely with great support from the kitchen crew.



Dates for Term 1

- Fri 13 Feb: Youth Group, 6.30pm*
- Sun 15 Feb: AMPED, 5.00pm followed by kai*
- Sun 21 Feb: Lent starts*
- Fri 27 Feb: Quiz Night, 6.30pm, All welcome*
- Sun 28 Feb: Band at 10.30 service*
- Sun 8 Mar: Car Wash fundraiser*
- Sun 15 Mar: AMPED, 5pm followed by kai*
- Sun 22 Mar: Band playing at 10.30am*
- Fri 27 Mar: Last Youth Group for Term*
- Sun 29 Mar: Palm Sunday, End of Term 1*



Whats' On?

Starting the year on 13 February we are off for fun at the Hornby Pool. If you don't want to swim there are plenty of places to just hang out and catch up after the holiday break.

Other nights will include games, water games, frisbee golf and craft with our fundraising Quiz Night on 27 February. High Schoolers will have a chance for their own hang out time too with some split activity weeks.

Every Friday at St Marys Hall, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Year 7 upwards, friends are very welcome.
Youth Minister: Marco Bischler supported by Lucy Brooker, Paul Mosley & Jenny Lowe



Easter Camp 2025

Contact us

To find out more about our programmes and activities you can contact the church office for details and leaders contacts.
Halswell Prebbleton Office
T: 03 322 6095
E: office@halswellchurch.org



The Youth team will email out details to families about Friday meetings. We also have an email address just for Youth. youth@halswellchurch.com
You will see emails coming out from here so make sure they are not in spam!