

HELPING PEOPLE EXPERIENCE GOD



www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au

AUGUST 2026

As a church we are about **'Helping People Experience God'** which means creating welcoming spaces for people to connect and feel safe. To help with this it is exciting to see some recent progress, for example:

- (1) We have added a Sunday welcome team. Thanks Browyn Felger, Bronwyn Halpin, Sonia Ottley, Robyn James, Joyce & Ewant Jones for trialing this new initiative. If you'd like to get involved then let me know.
- (2) Knit and Natter have moved to Kanahooka and now have some new attendees from the area.
- (3) Our Wednesday night bible study is bursting, but we believe there is always room for at least one more.
- (4) Our Tuesday men's coffee group has been growing.
- (5) We've been clearing out gardens, adding large signage, and moving things around to make the place tidier and more inviting.

Thank you everyone for making us a place 'anyone can come to'.

Pastor Peter Watson

To subscribe to this monthly newsletter go to
www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/resources or scan QR code.





Special Offerings

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.

Every 4 months we take up a special offering to support those outside our congregation.

Our coming special offerings are:

- 23 Aug 2026: Noel Bolero in the Philippines
- 13 Dec 2026: Wollongong Homeless Hub
- 4 April 2027: Mercy Ministries

You can contribute to any of these at anytime by giving a donation to John Piper in an envelop with the ministry name on it or via church bank account. (Put in the reference the ministry you are contributing to.)

New to Church

So we can connect please either scan this QR code to complete this form to provide your name & contact details **OR** fill out the contact form on the information desk **OR** text details to Peter at 0407-278-175.



Coming Events & Guests

Coming Events & Guest Speakers						
Every Sunday	Lunch at Dapto Citizens Bowling Club 102 Fowler's Rd. (From about 11.45.)					
Soup Sunday	1st Sunday of each month					 Soup Sunday 1st Sunday of Month Free but any donations go to support Mercy Ministries HELPING PEOPLE EXPERIENCE GOD
Small Groups	To join a small group, check out groups in Newsletter or on the website at https://illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/connect/					
	Interested in a Mission Trip to the Philippines in 2027? Talk to Catherine					
Speakers / Events	 Mike McGarity 2 August	 Ian Forrest-Jones 30 August	 Our short annual AGM 20 Sept	 Dallas Thom 20 Sept	 Carol Preston 18 October	 Adrian Jackson 8 November

The Letters of Paul, in Chronological Order

INTERESTING FACT

- Galatians — ~AD 48-49
- 1 Thessalonians — ~AD 50-51
- 2 Thessalonians — ~AD 51-52
- 1 Corinthians — ~AD 54-55
- 2 Corinthians — ~AD 55-56
- Romans — ~AD 56-57
- Ephesians — ~AD 60-62
- Philippians — ~AD 60-62
- Colossians — ~AD 60-62
- Philemon — ~AD 60-62
- 1 Timothy — ~AD 62-64
- Titus — ~AD 63-65
- 2 Timothy — ~AD 66-67



Operation Christmas Child

Can you please help us to continue filling
“**Shoeboxes of Love**” for children in
developing countries?

Sponsor a Shoebox - \$15/box

Donations can be paid into our working account:

BSB:	062 624
Account:	10512244 Fillerz 4 Shoe Boxes
Reference:	Sponsor a Shoebox

For further information, contact Lyn Brown on
0425 219 233.



**churches
of Christ**
in NSW & ACT

<https://ccnswact.org.au/events/canopy-regional-womens-gathering/>

We're so excited to share something new with you: *Under The Canopy* - a series of Women's Regional Gatherings are being organised across our network, starting in October.

This initiative is a direct response to network-hosted conversations where women voiced a shared longing for opportunities to connect with each other outside their local contexts.

Save The Date

Our first *Under The Canopy* gathering will be held on Saturday 17 October, 9:30am–3:30pm, at Connect Church Engadine.

It's a space for women who are passionate about community-building, or just yearning for connection with like-minded women, to come together and encourage one another in their walk with Jesus.

Save the date, register your interest, and we'll be in touch with more details as we get closer to the day.

We can't wait to see more of what God is up to in this space!

[Register Your Interest Online](#)



VOICE OF THE MARTYRS CONFERENCE

Crown Conference is a one-day Saturday event – 1 August, Rozelle – for Christians who want to stand with the persecuted Church.

Three speakers. Three true survivor stories:

- Petr Jasek – 14 months imprisoned in Sudan alongside Islamic extremists
- Kang Chol-Hwan – 10 years in a North Korean concentration camp
- Daniel Shayesteh – former radical Muslim leader and politician in Iran

\$30 includes lunch.

A Saturday gathering – and a chance to meet your global family in Christ.

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/crown-conference-2026-sydney-tickets-1987978555374>



SPONSOR: Tannith Sargeson

Tannith is participating in the MISSION AUSTRALIA SLEEP IN CAR fundraiser. If you would like to support here make use of the following QR code.



This Month's Big Question: **How to have a daily devotional time?**

5W Devotions

HELPING PEOPLE EXPERIENCE GOD

Treat the following like elements in smorgasbord meal where you can pick & choose different elements depending on how you sense to spend time with God today.

WELCOME

Grace-filled **WELCOME**: Where everyone is welcome.

- **Silence:**

“Be still & know that I am God.” (Ps 46:10)

Spend some time in silence. It might be helpful to:

- Set a maximum (not a goal) time e.g. 1, 5, 10 minutes so that you can relax and enjoy the time of silence.
- Nasal breathing to calm the body.
- Notice what you can hear.
- Notice what you can feel.
- If you get distracted notice the distraction (I notice I am thinking about xyz) and then use a bible verse like Ps 46:10 to bring yourself back to the silence.

- **Welcome:**

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Eph 2:8)

Thank God for his grace-filled welcome.

- **Commitment Prayer:**

Thank you, God our Creator, for inviting me into your family.

I believe Jesus is who He said He is: the Son of God from the beginning.

I believe Jesus was crucified and died for my sin.

I believe You raised Him to life again to show he is your Son.

I commit to You as the Lord of my life, seeking to live as the Spirit guides and empowers me.

Thank you, Heavenly Father,
for making me your child.

WORSHIP

Awe-struck **WORSHIP**: Honouring God in his rightful place.

- **Psalm:**

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
(Psalm 95:6)

Spend time meditating on a Psalm,

- **Sing a song**

“ ... speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord ...” (Eph 5:19)

You may find it helpful to use the ‘Worship Music’ playlist on the church YouTube channel at

www.youtube.com/@IllawarraChurchofChrist/playlists

WONDER

Joy-filled **WONDER**: Sharing stories of what God is doing.

- **Reflect:**

“They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds.” (Psalm 145:6)

Think about your recent past e.g. like the last 24 hours and notice what you can be grateful for. It can be helpful to say these out loud or write them down using this framework. “I am grateful for ... because ...”.

Here are some categories that can help you reflect:

- Faith, Family, Finances, Fitness / health, Friends, Fun – things you enjoy, Future – looking for to ...
- Or you can think of things that start with the letters of the alphabet and thank God for them. Thankyou God for A = Air, B = Breath, C etc.

WORD

Life-transforming **WORD**: Discovering God’s truth.

- **Bible:**

“Open my eyes to see wonderful things in your Word..” (Psalm 119:18)

- Spend some time reading or listening or watching some of the bible. You can use a physical bible , a bible app like YouVersionⁱ or an online bible like The Bible Hubⁱⁱ, Bible Gatewayⁱⁱⁱ, or Net Bible¹.

¹ <https://netbible.org/>

- It can be helpful to use a bible reading plan like the one in our monthly newsletter^{iv} those available from Navigators^v or focus on one book of the bible for an extended period of time.
- When you read the bible it can be helpful to ‘write down questions’ as you read. For example you might ask:
 - Who is writing this and why?
 - When was it written? What is the context of this books?
 - What point is the author making?
 - What other parts of the bible talk about this same idea?
 - How does this idea fit into the whole story of the bible? Check out www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/how-do-i-understand-the-bible/
 - etc
- **Meditate / Reflect**
 - Spend time specifically reflecting and meditating on what you have just read. Ask God to reveal his truth to you.
 - Write down the impressions, thoughts, directions you receive.
- **Spiritual Books / Podcasts / YouTube Channels:**
Reading Christian biographies, commentaries or Christian books on key themes. You can find a list of books I recommend at www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/recommended-resources/

Works

Kingdom-building **WORKS**: Building God’s abundant Kingdom.

“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

- **Application:**

Consider how you might take action based on what you have read, thought, felt. Consider each of these areas:

- Inward Prayer^{vi}: Talk to God about your personal needs.
- Inward Action: Consider what actions you could be taking to grow in your relationship with God, Self & Others.
- Outward Prayer: Talk to God about the needs of those in your life. We are called to pray for our family, our church family, for those who don’t yet know God, for those who are sick, poor, in need, and for our leaders both in the church and in the community.

- **Outward Action:** Consider what actions you should be taking in regard to your family, church, community. Use this checklist to consider how you might be being asked to do **more or less:**
 - How am I being asked to use my time?
 - How am I being asked to use my talents (skills, gifts, abilities)?
 - How am I being asked to use my treasure (money / resources)?

You may find it helpful to slowly pray the Lord's prayer and consider how you might respond to each line.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

For a sermon on this topic go to

www.illawarrachurhofchrist.com.au/messages/ and look for 19 July 2026.

Developed by Pastor Peter Watson, Illawarra Church of Christ. More resources available at www.illawarrachurhofchrist.com.au/resources July 2026

ⁱ <https://www.youversion.com/bible-app>

ⁱⁱ <https://biblehub.com/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

^{iv} <https://illawarrachurhofchrist.com.au/resources/>

^v <https://www.navigators.org/resource/bible-reading-plans/>

^{vi} <https://illawarrachurhofchrist.com.au/prayer-resources/>

BIBLE IN A YEAR: August

A Navigators Bible Reading Plan: Each month has 25 days of reading so you have a few 'free days' in case you get behind. You can read all four readings each day to read the whole bible in a year or select less columns to read over a longer period. Video summaries of each book can be found at www.youtube.com/@bibleproject/playlists. [Look for the Old Testament or New Testament playlists.]

New Testament		Old Testament	
LUKE	1 TIMOTHY	PROVERBS	EZRA
1. ☐ 13:1-9	☐ 1:1-11	☐ 1	☐ 1-2
2. ☐ 13:10-21	☐ 1:12-20	☐ 2	☐ 3
3. ☐ 13:22-35	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4-5
4. ☐ 14:1-14	☐ 3:1-10	☐ 4	☐ 6
5. ☐ 14:15-24	☐ 3:11-16	☐ 5	☐ 7
6. ☐ 14:25-35	☐ 4	☐ 6	☐ 8
7. ☐ 15:1-10	☐ 5:1-15	☐ 7	☐ 9
8. ☐ 15:11-32	☐ 5:16-25	☐ 8	☐ 10
			NEH.
9. ☐ 16:1-9	☐ 6:1-10	☐ 9	☐ 1-2
10. ☐ 16:10-18	☐ 6:11-21	☐ 10:1-16	☐ 3
	2 TIMOTHY		
11. ☐ 16:19-31	☐ 1:1-7	☐ 10:17-32	☐ 4-5
12. ☐ 17:1-10	☐ 1:8-18	☐ 11:1-15	☐ 6
13. ☐ 17:11-19	☐ 2:1-13	☐ 11:16-31	☐ 7
14. ☐ 17:20-37	☐ 2:14-26	☐ 12:1-14	☐ 8
15. ☐ 18:1-8	☐ 3:1-9	☐ 12:15-28	☐ 9
16. ☐ 18:9-17	☐ 3:10-17	☐ 13:1-12	☐ 10
17. ☐ 18:18-30	☐ 4	☐ 13:13-25	☐ 11
	TITUS		
18. ☐ 18:31-43	☐ 1:1-9	☐ 14:1-18	☐ 12
19. ☐ 19:1-10	☐ 1:10-16	☐ 14:19-35	☐ 13
			ESTHER
20. ☐ 19:11-27	☐ 2:1-10	☐ 15:1-17	☐ 1
21. ☐ 19:28-38	☐ 2:11-15	☐ 15:18-33	☐ 2
22. ☐ 19:39-48	☐ 3:1-8	☐ 16:1-16	☐ 3-4
23. ☐ 20:1-8	☐ 3:9-15	☐ 16:17-33	☐ 5-6
	PHILEMON		
24. ☐ 20:9-19	☐ 1-11	☐ 17:1-14	☐ 7-8
25. ☐ 20:20-26	☐ 12-25	☐ 17:15-28	☐ 9-10

Financial Support



One of the ways that regular church attendees support the work of the church is through their financial contributions. You can do this by:

- Giving cash during the offering time in the Worship Service.
- Giving online contributions via our bank account. The details are as follows: Bank Account Name: 'Illawarra Church of Christ'*; BSB: 112879; Account Number: 477353233

Sermons

Audio & YouTube versions of our Sunday message can be found at

www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/messages.

At Youtube.com/@IllawarraChurchofChrist you will find the audio with the PowerPoints from Sunday added.



Meaning of our logo

Our logo represents key ideas behind what we believe and are committed to as a church. Each triangle represents one of the 5 key practices we invite everyone into.

Grace-filled **Welcome** (Romans 15:7)

Awe-struck **Worship** (Psalm 95:6)

Joy-filled **Wonder** (Psalm 145:5-7)

Life-transforming **Word** (Romans 12:2)

Kingdom-building **Works** (Matthew 16:18)



ILLAWARRA
CHURCH OF CHRIST



CHURCH OF CHRIST: WHO ARE WE?

- Want to become a church member?
- Want to know more about what we stand for?
- Considering getting baptised?

Check out our information page. Use the following link or scan the QR code.

illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/churches-of-christ-who-are-we/



CHURCHES OF CHRIST: WHO ARE WE?

These messages outline some of the key things that distinguish the movement 'Churches of Christ' that Illawarra Church of Christ is a part of.



[Click here for a copy of 'The Journey of Baptism'](#)

Volunteering Service Opportunities

Let us know what you can help with around the church by completing the Task Survey. It only takes 5 minutes.



Complete a **Church Task Survey** to indicate areas you would be willing to serve in. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/5n94t43z>

The survey asks about areas such as speaking, worship, outreach, setting up, prayer, hospitality, children/youth, administration tasks, etc.

Following are a couple of roles that we require help with:

- **Welcome Team:** Involves either coordinating or being on the welcome team on Sunday morning.
- **Monthly Newsletter:** Requires computer literacy and access to internet.
- **Rosters Coordinator:** Requires creating the roster involving some phone calls and/or emails.
- **Church Cleaning:** Involves being on a roster to do a basic tidy of the church building each month.

Helpful Information

www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au

					
Parking available on grass around church. Except when wet.	Toilets in outside block. If locked, key on wall in kitchen.	Lunch from 11:45 at Dapto Citizens' Bowling Club 102-104 Fowlers Rd, Dapto.	Visitor QR Code to let us know your contact details. Code also on notice board.	Signup for monthly newsletter on website via resource tab.	Use QR code to leave Google review to help people find us online. Code also on notice board.

Pastoral Contact

My normal contact hours for the church.

- I'm available anytime for hospital visits.
- For catchups I'm normally available Tuesday or Thursday but can do other times as well - contact me to arrange a time and convenient venue.
- Tuesday bible study 2pm at church building.
- Wednesday bible study 7.30pm at our home, 32 Brooks Terrace.
- Regular Friday night BBQ events at our home.
- Sunday lunch at Dapto Citizens Bowling Club.

Pastor Peter Watson

Email: peter.watson@illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au

Phone: 0407 278 175

GROUPS

DISCUSSION & GATHERING



www.IllawarraChurchOfChrist.com.au/connect

- One-to-one discussions through 'Experiencing God' or 'The Gospel of Being Human' with Pastor Peter Watson, 0407278175.
- Monday 5pm Women's Online Scripture Study. Beth Robinson 0412047146.
- Tuesday 1.45 Men's Coffee & Chat at Passionate Palace Cafe, 1 Stanthorpe Dr, Kanahooka NSW 2530. Peter Watson 0407278175.
- Tuesday 5pm Online Book discussion: Beth Robinson 0412047146.
- Tuesday Evening fortnightly Youth Bible Study: Catherine Green 0427038640.
- Wednesday Monthly Social Event: Venue and times vary. Brian Healy 0417296983
- Wednesday 10am 'Knit & Natter' at Church: Robyn James 0402460795.
- Wednesday 7.30pm Bible Study at 32 Brooks Terrace, Kanahooka. Peter Watson 0407278175.
- Thursday 10am Women's Bible Study on 1st & 3rd Thursday at 4 Breynia Street, Figtree. Contact: Narelle Blue 0402032547.
- Friday evening (fortnightly) Christian Bikers 7:00-10:00 at Church. Contact: Gary Dronfield 0413915553.
- Friday evening Youth Events. Times and venue varies. Contact: Catherine Green 0427038640.
- Friday / Saturday Evening Visiting Tribute Bands. Stephen Corry 0402892552.
- Sunday 10am Sunday Service.
- Sunday 12pm lunch at Dapto Citizens Bowling Club 102-104 Fowlers Road, Dapto

Before attending check with leader as to time and venue.

ROSTERS



Date	Speaker	Bible Reader	Communion	Prayer	Morning Tea	WELCOME
02/08/2026	Mike McGarity	Allie	Iwan Jones	Graham Barker	Soup Sunday	Bronwyn Halpin & Bronwyn Felger
09/08/2026	Peter Watson	Bron Halpin	James Magsipoc	James Magsipoc	Sue & John Piper	Robyn James & Sonia Oatley
16/08/2026	Peter Watson	Shirley magispoc	Linda Watson	Brian Healy	Wilma and Joyce	Iwan & Joyce Jones
23/08/2026	Peter Watson	Graham Barker	Iwan Jones	Anne Trezise	Robyn and Linda	Bronwyn Halpin & Bronwyn Felger
30/08/2026	Ian Forrest-Jones	Robyn James	Brian Healy	Cath/Youth	Dianne Kavanagh / Lorraine Graham	Robyn James & Sonia Oatley

Increase Church Profile

You can help increase our church profile by taking a few minutes to give a review on our Google Profile in Google. Positive reviews rank us higher in Google searches for a local church. You can do this by going to <https://g.page/r/Ce6WB6vsY0RPECA/review>



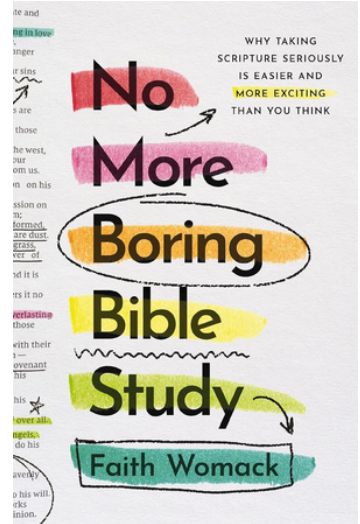
Church Statistics

	Worship Attendance	Average Weekly Giving
2022	35	\$1,495
2023	39	\$1,756
2024	45	\$1,874
2025	41	\$1,642
Our current 3 month average	43	\$1,550

Recommended Resources

A list of recommended resources can be found at www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/recommended-resources/

Faith Womack's **No More Boring Bible Study** is an engaging, accessible guide designed to help readers overcome guilt and confusion when reading Scripture. Combining relatable anecdotes with practical study methods, Womack demystifies context and exegesis, turning intimidating passages into an enjoyable, meaningful, and transformative journey of faith and personal worship.

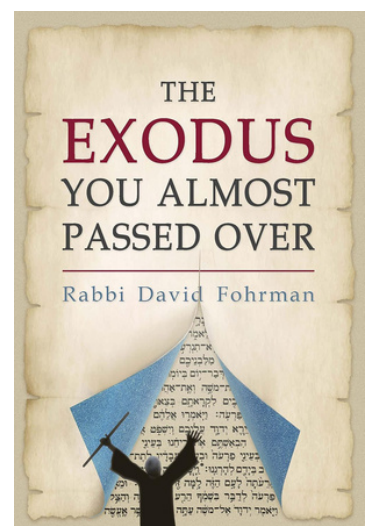


ARTICLE: How To Get Unstuck: 6 Secrets From Philosophy

www.bakadesuyo.com/2026/06/william-james/

Eric Barker's article draws on 19th-century philosopher William James to outline six ways to get unstuck: let action precede emotion, manage expectations to boost self-esteem, practice minor difficulties, selectively ignore distractions, automate routine decisions, and measure effort over outcomes. Ultimately, personal growth comes through deliberate action, not waiting for motivation.

In **The Exodus You Almost Passed Over**, Rabbi David Fohrman invites readers to re-examine the biblical Exodus narrative through meticulous textual analysis. Uncovering hidden patterns and addressing perplexing questions, such as why God hardened Pharaoh's heart, Fohrman reveals fresh and transformative insights into freedom, divine destiny, and Israel's foundational story.





PHILIPPINES 2027

Find out how to
support or
participate by
talking with
Catherine Green
0427 038 640



**Former church
member Paul
Dickson**

Forest Mindfulness Day Walk

Check out a restorative, science-informed experience supporting wellbeing, clarity and connection with this four hour guided walk led by Paul Dickson.

Find out more and make a booking at:
www.natureengagementtours.com.au/bookings/
or call Paul on 0422 178 723

PRAYER



PRAYER CHAIN

To be added to the church prayer chain let Peter know at 0407-278-175. The prayer chain is a list of people willing to be sent a text about important prayer issues.

LOCAL PRAYER

We are committed to praying local churches in the Illawarra. Here is a list of churches and their key details:

www.5icm.org.au/Attachments/Illawarra_Churches.pdf

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

Operation World at <https://operationworld.org/prayer-calendar>

Open Doors at www.opendoors.org.au

The Voice of the Martyrs at www.persecution.com

Global Mission Partners at www.gmp.org.au/

COMMITMENT PRAYER

Thank you, God our Creator, for inviting me into your family.

I believe Jesus is who He said He is: the Son of God from the beginning.

I believe Jesus was crucified and died for my sin.
I believe You raised Him to life again to show he is your Son.

I commit to You as the Lord of my life, seeking to live as the Spirit guides and empowers me.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for making me your child.

Becoming a Church Member



Membership is open to all who have openly confessed their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord (Romans 10:9), and who support the church and regularly attend. We recommend that all follow the Bible's teaching and follow Christ in the waters of Believer's Baptism by immersion. (Information below.)

Membership requires that you indicate you wish to be a member which can be done by completing this form.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-qpPCl23gLrkPtnoDaQ24lhfZV--vMT7RLJV1Ws8GvQReaA/viewform>

Contact details or updating contact details



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-qpPCl23gLrkPtnoDaQ24lhfZV--vMT7RLJV1Ws8GvQReaA/viewform>

There is also a paper version on the resources table. If you complete the paper version please give it to Pastor Peter Watson or John Piper.

Social Media Links

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@IllawarraChurchofChrist

Facebook: www.facebook.com/IllawarraChurchOfChristWollongong

Facebook Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/illawarrachurchofchrist

KEY CONTACTS:

Pastor Peter Watson: 0407-278-175,

peter.watson@illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au

Board Chairperson: Anne Trezise, 0434-350-913, anne@planningplus.net.au

Board Secretary & Treasurer:

John Piper, 0409-808-119, john@piperpiper.com.au

Board Members: Robyn James, 0402-460-795; Bronwyn Halpin, 0415-366-977

Mercy Ministries Coordinator: Catherine Green, 0427-038-640,
shimmerc1@hotmail.com

Safer Kids

We are committed to ensuring the safety of everyone, especially our kids and youth. If you have any questions or concerns regarding keeping our kids and youth safe you can contact either John Piper (Board Secretary) , Anne Trezise (Board Chair) or Peter Watson (Pastor) at the numbers listed above.