

Kelso Chronicle

with James & Charly Boardman • September 2026



Welcome to the latest edition of the Kelso Chronicle. We have much to report and so many reasons to give praise to God for: a new contemporary service, a growing church, conversions and amazing, encouraging partnerships...

New Contemporary Service

Earlier this year we started a contemporary style service to complement the traditional service. We like to say the traditional has an emphasis on the transcendence of God, and the contemporary has an emphasis on the intimacy of God. So, it's a difference in the degree of emphasis which is mostly reflected by the music.

The new service has proved to be very popular, we are averaging 30 people but it's probably about 40 coming regularly. We've had transfer growth from other churches but most excitingly, a couple of families have been converted through our Playtime ministry! We did *Hope Explored* with them at the Cathedral before we left and when we started the contemporary service they started coming along. It's been so exciting and encouraging.

When we started in Kelso the average Sunday church attendance was 25. Last year it was 42 and this year we're averaging 60. We probably have 75 to 80 regulars.

One of the wardens pointed out that the last time we were averaging 60 people on a

Sunday was three rectors ago. It's significant, it's exciting and we keep praising God!

There seems to be a hunger out there. We're getting quite a few enquiries. One lady decided to do the *321 course* with us. James is running a private course for her with a couple of parishioners coming along to support this lady and equip themselves for evangelism. We're hoping to run another *321 course* before *Playtime* in Term Four in order to try and deepen people's understanding of the Christian faith and build links to church.

Give thanks and praise for the new contemporary service and its growth.

Thank God for the two newly converted families.

Pray that the lady doing the 321 Course would come to faith in Jesus.

Pray that the 321 Course being run in Term 4 would build God's church in Kelso.

Links with our Partner Churches

We continue to be so grateful to God for the links with our BCA Partner Churches. A team from St Thomas' North Sydney

Banner Image: Holy Trinity Kelso

Circle Image: The Boardmans

Middle Image: New Contemporary Service

Bottom Image: Bishop Mark Calder's final service in Kelso. We're so thankful for all God has done through Mark.



A music team from Lower Mountains Anglican blessed us at our Contemporary Service

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is coming out for our biannual Church Fete in the third week of October and a team from St Paul's Castle Hill came for the March fete.

But the most exciting thing coming out of the links with our partner churches is our one-to-one Bible reading program.

I (James) believe that this program helps build up the maturity of congregations on both sides of the partnership. This idea came to fruition after collaborating with Keith Baker the former Senior Associate Minister at St Paul's Castle Hill. I said I was struggling to find as much time as I would like to disciple people. It was our bicentenary year so we were super busy. I was so aware that there was a hunger to read the Bible and the idea of one-to-one came from that!

We've got eight parishioners who are reading the Bible one-to-one with either someone from St Paul's Castle Hill or from Lower Mountains Anglican. Another few parishioners are hoping to start soon too. People have said that they're growing in faith and growing in their prayer lives.

One parishioner from Lower Mountain Anglican Parish who is reading the Bible with a member of our parish

provided some feedback to his missions partnerships minister Neil Atwood. *"I think that doing one-to-one studies via video call is such a good idea. I feel connected to the Kelso church and I can pray more meaningfully for our BCA partner. Hopefully a number of newer believers can benefit from the individual time that I'm guessing it's hard for James to find and I'm thankful for the privilege of sharing God's Word in this way."*

Give thanks for the one-to-one Bible reading program that is being run with St Paul's Castle Hill and Lower Mountains Anglican. Praise God for the hunger to read His Word.

Pray for the program to continue to grow, and the bond between BCA Partner Churches and Kelso to flourish.

Our partnership with Lower Mountains Anglican has seen them send teams of musicians for our contemporary service. It has been a real joy. So far we've had two bands come and play. Otherwise for a regular service, James downloads songs from iTunes and embeds them into a PowerPoint. This works well but to have live music is a real joy. The last time the band came, two of our parishioners joined them. So we had a combined band! The sound equipment for

our contemporary services was paid for by St Paul's Castle Hill, so again you see these three parishes coming together!

Year of Prayer

Another initiative this year which we've taken from Bridge Church in Kirribilli where we used to be, is having a theme for the year. Last year was the year of hope, and this year has been the year of prayer. As part of this we started monthly prayer meetings. It was slow to gain momentum because it can be confronting to pray out loud, but at our last meeting we had 11 people! And then in Term Two during our church services, we looked at The Lord's Prayer based on J.I. Packer's book *Praying the Lord's Prayer*. And 16 parishioners went out and bought that book! It has set up a real culture of prayer in our church and was a real encouragement to James that people were invested enough to buy the book and read it.

The Parish Council has been right behind this initiative and we are already planning ahead to the themes for 2027 as well as 2028.

Speaking of our Parish Council, they are phenomenal. They have backed every decision we've made, as well as being

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supportive and hard-working in doing a lot around the place to improve things. New security cameras have gone in and there's been various groundskeeping projects. They're so very diligent and provide so much encouragement and enthusiasm.

Give thanks for our year of Prayer.

Give thanks for a supportive and encouraging Parish Council.

Moore College Mission

In March we had a mission team from Moore College come out to Kelso and the Bathurst Cathedral. We had an evangelism training course for our parishioners at Kelso and the Cathedral. We ran a few events for the students so they could understand what it's like ministering in the bush compared to the city. And that's what we really want, more people out in the bush.

During the week we had a *Taste and See* banquet, where each course represents a different part of the Bible. We started with salads to show that God provides variety, looking at different colours, and that He's not a boring God. He shows how life should be lived. If

you live off salad you would have a very healthy life. Course number two was a packet of chips. Chips promise so much and deliver so little. They promise satisfaction, but you never feel satisfied. You always want another chip. And if you live off it forever you will have a very unhealthy lifestyle. Then for course number three we hired a spit and had a lamb roast. We explained that this animal had to die so that we might have life. And Jesus, the Lamb of God, had to die so that we might have spiritual life because sin separates us from God. We finished with course four, which was international desserts, representing the great banquet, and that we're all going to enjoy this wonderful

time with God in the new creation and anyone who turns to Jesus can be part of that. People would have come away knowing that God is an abundant God because we had desserts coming out of our ears! 75 people came for that dinner. We think we'll run it again next year followed by the 321 *Course*. It was so encouraging to see parishioners inviting people along to the banquet and by holding one again next year it will build on that culture of evangelism.

Give thanks for the Moore College mission and the Taste and See Banquet. May more people accept Jesus' invitation to be part of the new creation!



Love from

James, Charly, Elijah, Joshua & Hannah

Pray for

**our work in
Kelso**

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Going the distance to share Jesus in the bush