

Kelso Chronicle

with James & Charly Boardman • December 2025



**For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God
2 Timothy 1:6**

Hi everyone, and welcome to another Kelso Chronicle. The momentum hasn't slowed since we started, and we are so thankful to God for all He is doing.

We are deeply grateful for all your support, prayers, words of encouragement, visits, and financial contributions through BCA. We are so encouraged by all this and look forward to your emails and letters.

Church Services

Given the HOPE25 campaign earlier this year, we had coined 2025 'the year of hope'. The idea being to get excited about the hope contained in the Gospel.

During Term 3, to assure us of this hope, we looked at Isaiah, so we could ground our hope in God's character. The feedback was positive, with many really enjoying the challenge of working through an Old Testament book. Many reported coming away with a deeper love for God and a deeper understanding of His character.

In Term 4, we looked at the question of what to do with this hope. The answer from 2 Timothy was to 'Fan it into flame.' Following this series, we've been heartened by several parishioners who have been praying and seeking to invite others to church! Praise God!

We are very thankful for two interns from St Paul's, Castle Hill, who preached their first-

ever sermons for us during the 2 Timothy series. We were excited to provide an opportunity for them to practice their preaching. James was thankful for two weeks off from preaching so he could plan the program for next year and prepare for a parish strategy vision presentation.

Thank God for new people joining the church.

Pray that God would continue to raise up passionate leaders for Kids Church.

Pray that God would continue to build a culture of evangelism in the parish.

Playtime

Playtime remains a lot of fun, and we have new families attending. We're encouraged by the number of families inviting others along! This term, we've had a few families from the growing Nepalese community join. We finished off term two with a Superhero rescue party and term three with a teddy bears picnic, both of which were well attended. One of the most exciting things for us is the deepening community that is developing as families stay behind for a couple of hours of play after Playtime. Charly and some Mums are also meeting up



Banner Image: Holy Trinity Kelso

Circle Image: The Boardmans

Middle Image: Hannah at the Superhero rescue party

Bottom Image: A scene from the Spring Fair



A group on one of the Bicentenary Cemetery Tours

Continued from previous page...

for kid-free dinners together.

This term, we have been looking at why Christmas is special. We started with Creation and the Fall, moved to the promise of a Saviour in Isaiah, and have been looking at the Christmas narratives. We've been encouraged by the number of parents who have told us how the stories are shaping and exciting their children. The children have been talking at home about what they've been learning in Playtime.

Thank God for the conversations happening at Playtime.

Pray that God would bring more families to Playtime, and that God would help us bridge the gap between Playtime & church.

Evangelism Courses – Hope Explored and Hymns We Love

James ran *Hope Explored* in O'Connell in Term 3. We had three guests on week 1 and one stayed to the final week

and is still exploring. James was encouraged by the number of parishioners who invited people and for those who came to support the guests.

In preparation for an organ recital in November, we ran *Hymns We Love*. Eleven parishioners attended the course and several invited friends! One who came is now regularly coming to church! The course was well loved by the parishioners who said we should run it again next year and would be keen to invite people to the next one.

Bicentenary events

Our bicentenary events continued with another cemetery tour in September. Guests explored a different set of graves compared to the autumn tours. Furthermore, in honour of the First Fleeter buried in our cemetery, guests heard what life on the First Fleet would have

been like as we mapped out the size of one of the ships.

In November, we had our Bicentenary Organ Recital with Dr Brett McKern. Guests were treated to an excellent recital! It was wonderful to be able to sing the hymns from 'Hymns We Love' as part of the recital and enjoy the theology behind them afresh.

Bicentennial Spring Fair

October saw our second market of the year. More people came through than in Autumn, and financially, it was our most successful fete in recent memory. James was able to advertise the event on the radio twice, and one of the Wardens also got on the air. These proved to be great opportunities to share why we love Jesus with a wide audience.

We are grateful to an outstanding team from St Thomas', North Sydney, who came up for the weekend. The team were a great blessing, making balloon animals, face painting, having evangelistic conversations, and running stalls.

One particular God moment involved the organist from St Thomas' wanting to see the organ in our church. James mentioned he would be opening the church for an organist he was hoping might come and join the parish, and whose kids attend Playtime. When the second organist arrived, it just so



The team from St Thomas' North Sydney

Continued from previous page...

happened that the organist from St Thomas' had taught him how to play the organ! The second organist saw this as a sign from God, and he, his wife and kids have been coming to church!

Thank God for our BCA Partner Churches!

1 to 1 Bible Study

As a way of fostering greater Bible reading in the parish and growing our BCA church partnerships, we have been piloting a 1 to 1 Bible Study with St Paul's, Castle Hill. Four of our parishioners individually meet online with their 1 to 1 reading partners from Castle Hill. They catch up, read through a section of Philippians together, and finish in prayer. So far, our parishioners have been really excited by the course and are keen to continue next year. One parishioner texted James after her first session and said, "Wow, again I say wow and thank you for this program!". Another said, "First session was amazing, interesting & fulfilling. Thank you."

We are so excited about the response that we plan to roll the program out to the whole parish, giving everyone the opportunity to read the Bible 1 to 1 with our partner churches. We look forward to seeing how God might use this program to foster deeper discipleship and strengthen partnerships.

Please pray for the success of the 1 to 1 Bible Studies.

Special events

James officiated his first wedding in September. The couple joined the church this year, which made the event extra special for James.

One of our parishioners returned to church last year and is so excited by the faith, she wanted to share her rediscovered joy by reaffirming her baptism vows in a special service led by the Bishop. This was a real encouragement to the congregation, and there have been others who have suggested they would like to reaffirm their baptism vows next year.

At our Strategic Planning Vision presentation for the parish, James announced that next year

we will start a contemporary service to complement our existing services. We have started meeting to pray and plan for the new congregation, with a team of 10 people from the Cathedral parish who will join us to form its core. We were pleased by the positive response from the parish, who are keen to support and be involved. In October, we took a trip to Western Australia for a family holiday and to catch up with the Thompsons, who are with BCA in Dongara. We enjoyed encouraging one another and seeing a new part of the world for us.

Pray that God would use the new contemporary service for His Glory.



Family holiday and catching up with the Thompsons

Love from

James, Charly, Elijah, Joshua & Hannah

Find out more

about Bush Church Aid who support us in Kelso

Donate

Would you consider giving to support gospel ministry here and across rural, regional and remote Australia?



Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919