

MARCH 2019



Hemyock Baptist Church

This month I want to give thanks to everyone involved, and above all to the Lord, for the provision of our new kitchen facilities. I'm sure we're all looking forward to enjoying the fruits (and any other dish you care to name) of our labour! And of course, we also have a wonderful opportunity to serve others through the ministry of food...

Baptist Minister in Kew, Australia, Nicholas Tuohy, has studied meals in Scripture and comments: "Eating is the universal language. Food unifies people... but something else can happen when we gather around food. We don't just eat food; we make a big deal of it and place it at the centre of our celebrations. Eating has meaning and significance; sharing meals together is a significant spiritual experience." The Bible affirms this with 19 meals mentioned in Luke's gospel alone – and over 100 references to food and drink in Luke and Acts combined!

Meals were a vital element of Jesus' ministry. NT scholar Robert Karris says: "In Luke's Gospel Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal", so much so that in Luke 7 his enemies accuse him of being "a glutton and a drunkard" – someone who eats and drinks too much. The interaction that takes place over a meal can be so meaningful that theologians Anderson and Foley even claim: "... they killed Jesus because of the way he ate; because he ate and drank with sinners." Jesus revealed the Kingdom as he shared meals with others. And Jesus' 'fellowship meals' are formative for the mission of the local church today.

Sharing food together is a great way to express and affirm God's love for us all. Barry Jones (a professor in Pastoral Care) states: "Food is my love language. The experts who write about such things suggest that each of us have one or two primary means by which we communicate (and receive) love but they don't typically include food on their lists of love languages. And I'm becoming increasingly convinced that food is one of God's love languages. The average human has around 10,000 taste buds. And the only explanation I can conceive for why that would be is that God loves us. Really loves us. After all, it didn't have to be that way. God did not have to make us capable of experiencing such delight. He could have made us the sort of creatures for whom food is merely fuel."

So, we look ahead to the possibilities afforded to us by the new kitchen (with the help of our amazing volunteers); anticipating not only the mouth-watering prospect of a good meal, but also the hope that we, and many others, will be filled and satisfied by the Spirit of God.

Pastor Steve

FILM Night



Sunday 31st March, 7PM

After police officer Mac McDonald loses his son in an accident, years of bitterness and pain erodes his love for his family and leaves him angry with God... and everyone else. Can Mac and his new patrol partner, Sgt. Sam Wright, somehow join forces to help one another when it's impossible to look past their differences - especially the most obvious one? Every day, we have the opportunity to rebuild relationships and heal wounds by extending and receiving God's grace. Offer THE GRACE CARD; and never underestimate the power of God's love. THE GRACE CARD stars Michael Joiner, Michael Higgenbottom and Academy Award Winner, Louis Gossett Jr. (Cert.12)

Free admission, tea & coffee – why not bring a friend along!