

**Staff** > Gary Eastment | Chaplain 0409 725 193  
Gus Robinson | Assoc. Minister 0409 926 524  
Tam Ramsay | Women/Children 0431 092 152  
Michael Hemans | Youth 0403 273 750

**Office** > 6787 4015 Matthew Knights & Pam Dawson  
[unechurch@une.edu.au](mailto:unechurch@une.edu.au) | [pdawson3@une.edu.au](mailto:pdawson3@une.edu.au)

**Web** > [www.unechurch.org](http://www.unechurch.org) (unechurch | unechurch213)

**Facebook** > [www.facebook.com/unechurch/](http://www.facebook.com/unechurch/)

**Anglican Counselling Service** > 6772 9753

**Support St Marks** > Regional Australia Bank

BSB 932000 Account 609753 (add \$1 if transferring from another RAB Account)



## 'Faithfulness in the valley'



### Psalm 13

#### *How long, O Lord?*

Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I take counsel in my soul  
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;  
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,  
lest my enemy say, "*I have prevailed over him,*"  
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

But I have trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

If it is true that people are made in the image of God, the first thing we need to do when we talk about relationships is to ask vertical (rather than horizontal) questions. You will gain a greater understanding of the purpose of relationships not by examining humans, but by looking to God. Miroslav Volf begins with God to come to a conclusion about the essence of being human:

*"Because the Christian God is not a lonely God, but rather a communion of three persons, faith leads human beings into the divine communion. One cannot, however, have a self-enclosed communion with the Triune God - a 'foursome,' as it were - for the Christian God is not a private deity. Communion with this God is at once also communion with those others who have entrusted themselves in faith to the same God. Hence one and the same act of faith places a person into a new relationship both with God and with all others who stand in communion with God."*

Does this seem impractical and irrelevant? What in the world does the doctrine of the Trinity have to do with my relationship with my wife or coworker? The reason it seems jarring to inject God and theology into a discussion about human relationships is because we commonly misunderstand theology.

*Whether you 'think' theologically or not, you are 'doing' theology every day in the decisions you make - the words you speak, the feelings you have, and the attitudes you nurture in your heart ... The question is not whether you are a theologian, but what kind of theologian you are!*

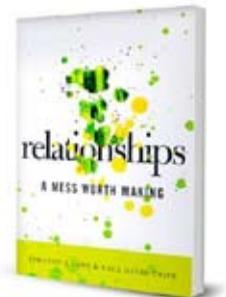
We see theology as a systematic study of religious thought that has little to do with everyday life. But, rightly understood, theology is the real life story of God's relationship to us and our relationship to one another lived out in a broken world. By this definition, whether you 'think' theologically or not, you are 'doing' theology every day in the decisions you make - the words you speak, the feelings you have, and the attitudes you nurture in your heart. All of these responses are rooted in your perspective on the nature of God, yourself, your relationships, and the world around you. These 'perspectives' are theology because they inform and frame the way you live your life.

The question is not whether you are a theologian, but what kind of theologian you are!

Excerpt from 'Relationships: A Mess Worth Making'  
by Timothy S. Lane & Paul David Tripp p20



*We see theology as a systematic study of religious thought that has little to do with everyday life. But, rightly understood, theology is the real life story of God's relationship to us and our relationship to one another lived out in a broken world.*



## Upcoming

- **Christianity Explored Course begins NEXT Sunday 21 May 12noon @ SMMC** > Led by Gus Robinson. Invites friends now!
- **Equip Women's Conference 9am - 3pm May 27** > in-house live streaming at St Marks uneChurch. See flyers in foyer.
- **'Train to Serve' Lay Ministry Conference 9 - 12 June 9 - 12 @ Copeton Dam** > For Service Coordinators, Lay Preachers, Prayers and interested others. A time of practical training, encouragement and fellowship across the diocese. Speaker: Simon Manchester. Rego opens April 14 and close Friday June 2. See flyers in foyer and <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=24676>

## Family Prayer

- **Hatched** > Jess Bryan (nee Patrick) gave birth to a baby girl Audrey Alice Bryan Friday May 5. 4 weeks early but all OK. Mother and daughter doing well- grandparents Ian & Ruth chuffed!
- **Baking** > Henry and Candy Yeomans (due end July); Heidi & Hunter Gerberich.
- **'Tent' Wear & Repair (2 Cor. 5)** > Samantha Guilbert; Amelie Wysel; Luke McCleneghan; Vern Williams; David Meares; Owen Chapman.
- **Betrothed** > Ben Lukins and Laura Millican.
- **SunAM Prayer Ministry** > See Robert Baker.
- **Prayer for Armidale 7.30pm THIS Monday May 15** > St Peter's Parish Centre. Come and pray for our city. 1 hour + supper.

## The Suffering Church | NIGERIA 82 Chibok girls released

**T**hree years ago Boko Haram stormed a government boarding school in Chibok, Northern Nigeria. They kidnapped 270 schoolgirls and fled into the Sambisa forest. Earlier this week, 82 of those girls were set free! The Nigerian government negotiated a deal and exchanged five Boko Haram leaders for the release of the girls. Almost half of the Chibok girls have been freed since 2014, but over 100 are still being held captive by Boko Haram. *"I find it very difficult to forgive the people who abducted my daughter."* said Ruth, a mother of one of the girls, *"I felt a heavy pain in my heart. But today I have forgiven them. I rely on God and His power to heal my wounds."* Thank the Lord for the girls who have found freedom. Please pray for them as they recover both emotionally and physically. Pray for wisdom for the negotiators as they try to get the remaining girls released. Pray for members of Boko Haram to come to know Jesus Christ as Lord. [opendoors.org](http://opendoors.org)

## Family Finances

<b>Giving 1/5 – 7/5</b>	<b>\$8366</b>
<b>Giving Year to Date</b>	<b>\$348,612</b>
<b>Amount needed to meet *Budget YTD</b>	<b>\$314,187</b>
<b>Amount needed to cover expenses YTD</b>	<b>\$358,210</b>

- \*Deficit Budget



### Support St Marks uneChurch via direct debit

Regional Australia Bank BSB 932 000 | Acc. 609 753 (add \$1 for internal transfers)

\* A deficit budget with a 7% increase is in place.

