

From the Rectory Desk...

As you read this letter, we will have started Lent. For many this is a time when we intentionally do something that will deepen our faith journey. I believe that 'do' is the operative word there. I remember as a schoolboy being told that Lent was about giving up chocolate (or as a young adult, alcohol or coffee), but it is more about what we choose to do, than what we try to stop doing.



One practice that I have followed for several years, is to use a book of Lenten devotions. This year I have one written by an American Lutheran pastor, John Stevens (who incidentally produces a very helpful weekly video blog with suggestions for children's ministry). His book 'Because Grace: A Lenten Journey' (available on Kindle) contains for each day in Lent a bible reading, a devotional reflection and a haiku prayer. His prayer for the first day in Lent is as follows:

I betray my soul
when I try to go alone.
Help me walk with You.

We betray You, God
by forgetting about Grace.
Remind us again.

When we betray You,
You continue to love us.
Help us remember.

I encourage you to find something to read, or to join in with our Lent Studies, 'Conversations with our awesome God'.

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PARISH DIRECTORY – FEBRUARY 2022

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CHURCH WARDENS Brian Wood 3848 2086 Chris Bromwich 0402 058 919 Alison Lampe 0408 183 701 SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES Chris Bromwich David Fraricciardi PARISH NOMINATORS Judy Jones Alison Lampe Alistair Crawford	CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Chris Bromwich 0402 058 919 PRAYER CIRCLE Judy Jones 0405 683 768 KOFI KLUB Chris Bromwich 0402 058 919 PARENTS & PIPSQUEAKS In recess	WORSHIP SERVICES Join us to worship at St Luke's at 7am and 9am each Sunday. You can also link to the 9am service by Zoom. Join us on Saturday at 6pm on 1st Sunday of each month by Zoom to worship together. Evening Prayer by Zoom: 6pm Tuesday to Friday https://zoom.us/j/7210725462) or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462). Contact the Parish Office for the password.
PARISH TREASURER Janette Hagerty 3277 8848 SECRETARY OF PARISH COUNCIL Chris Bromwich 0402 058 919 WORKPLACE, HEALTH & SAFETY TBA	HELPING HANDS ORGANISER David Newsome 3892 2876 PARISH SUPPLIES David & Jenny Newsome 3892 2876 CHURCH NEWS EDITOR Honor Lawler 0410 423 446 E-mail: phlawler@optusnet.com.au	HALL BOOKINGS FOR ST LUKE'S PARISH HALL St Luke's Parish Office: 3848 2123 admin@stlukesebibin.org.au

Our Mission Statement:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to be a faithful, worshipping, caring community, committed to serving God by sharing His love and peace with others, in the name of His Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

St Luke's Ekibin

Weekly during Lent:

06.00pm Tuesdays-Fridays: Evening Prayer (Z)

06.30pm Tuesdays: Contemplative Prayer - After E.P. (L)

09.30am Wednesdays: Holy Communion (L)

10.00am Tuesdays: Study Group (L)

07.30pm Thursdays: Study Group (L)

Study group topic- 'Conversations with our awesome God'

07.00am Sundays: Holy Communion (L)

09.00am Sundays: Family Service inc Holy Communion (L & Z)

Holy Week

09.00am Monday-Saturday: Morning Prayer (L)

06.00pm Monday-Thursday: Evening Prayer (Z)

07.30pm Maundy Thursday: Holy Communion (L & Z)

10.00am Good Friday: Family Service (L & Z)

02.00pm Good Friday: Devotions at the Cross (L)

06.00pm Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil (Z)

Easter Day

06.30am: Holy Communion - With lighting of the new fire (L)

07.30am: Resurrection Breakfast (L)

09.00am: Family Service with Holy Communion (L & Z)

(L - @ St Luke's, Z - by Zoom)

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The other major thing that is occupying us in the parish at the moment is the detailed design phase of the redevelopment project. I thank all those who have been part of the process of specifying how our new buildings will look – it is not too late to join in! The next stage will be for the architects to present their design ideas, based on our input and that of the Schools Commission. We hope that this will happen at an open meeting at the beginning of April. After that, the diocesan property team will re-evaluate the budget and seek tenders from builders, and we expect that construction will begin in July. As I commented at the Annual Meeting, for me the most exciting part is that it will be a truly integrated project between the parish and the Early Learning Centre with many symbiotic and missional opportunities.

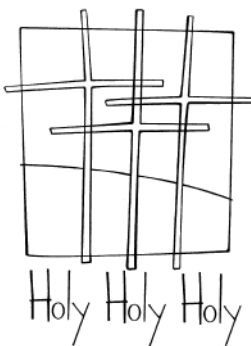
Another of John Stevens' haiku prayers sums this up nicely:

We need our neighbours.
We are better together.
We're Christ for the world.

We're Christ for the world.
Together we learn to love,
living in God's Grace!

Living in God's Grace,
We're pulled together for good.
We need our neighbours.

Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson



Sacraments And Rights Of Passage

December 2021, January and February 2022

Baptisms

Hamish Kim Forrester 12 December 2021

Isabel Emma Forrester 12 December 2021

Funerals

Clyde Charles Leslie Mitchell 28/01/2022

Barbara Mary Johnson 31/01/2022

Jane Onini Markotsis 9/02/2022



Memorial Service

Richard Alexander Kreltszheim 21/01/2022

Interment Of Ashes

Richard Alexander Kreltszheim 21/01/2022

Marriage

nil

Contemplative Evening

Join us on Tuesdays @ 6.30pm during Lent for Christian meditation. It will be in person, in the church and will follow on from evening prayer (via zoom) at 6pm. You can join just one, or both, with us in the church.

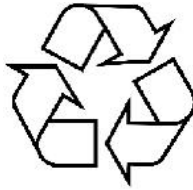
Meditation and contemplation are universal spiritual practices shared by the great wisdom traditions. Christianity has its own stream that reaches back to Jesus' own teachings.

The core of the session will be sitting together for 20 minutes in silence. Some introductory instruction can be provided, and anyone can participate regardless of experience. Anyone from our community is welcome to participate, regardless of their involvement in the church or faith background.

Come join us, to spend some quality time with God, in community.

Jen Basham

Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship @ St Luke's



Sustainability - the capacity of the earth's biosphere and human civilisation to co-exist, avoiding depletion of natural resources in order to maintain ecological balance. This implies meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own (UN World Commission on Environment and Development 1987).

The Environment - The natural world, especially as affected by human activity.

Stewardship - taking care of, responsible management of.

At our October meeting of Parish Council, a motion was supported to include sustainability and environmental stewardship as a standing agenda item for future meetings. Our aim is to encourage the principles of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle", promoting careful use of resources and increasing our contribution to sustainability.

The Parish Council would like to encourage anyone with ideas on how we can enhance our environmental stewardship to raise them with a view to initiatives being considered at our monthly meetings. A group at St Luke's for interested individuals to discuss ideas could also be formed.

Initiatives being considered for St Luke's soon are soft plastics recycling and composting of kitchen waste at parish dinners.

Please speak to Rev'd Timothy, or one of the church wardens, if you have ideas you would like considered, or if you wish to be involved in a working group for our church.

Alison Lampe

Advent: An Approach to Christmas

Advent is about planning ahead. The Reverend Timothy planned a full program of events for our parish leading up to Christmas. Thank you.



Rev'd Luke Collings

As mentioned in the St Luke's "Church News" December 2021 edition, Advent got off to a glorious start with the confirmation of seven of our young people by the Archbishop of Brisbane, the Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall.

On the second Sunday of Advent the Reverend Luke Collings was the guest speaker from the Anglican Church of Moranbah, a Bush Church Aid supported ministry. Reverend Luke told us about the trials and triumphs of serving in a mining town in Central Queensland. He was very informative and very deserving of our support as one of our mission partners. It was a very busy day for the Reverend Timothy, who also conducted a baptism for two children from the Forrester family.

The third Sunday in Advent was also special with the Parish Christmas Carols evening taking place. It began with a sausage-sizzle on the village green. The Carols began at 6 pm in St Luke's church, given a festive air with a glowing Christmas tree. The choir and orchestra members wore Santa hats etc to complete the look. There were plenty of opportunities for community singing which sounded wonderful! The school chaplain for Wellers Hill School, Robyn Maxwell, talked about the important work she does and a retiring collection supported this work. The Christmas cake raffle raised funds for the Bush Ministry Fund. This



Brian Wood leading the music

beautiful cake was made and iced by the indomitable skills of Maxine McElnea and won by Jenny Newsome. The evening was well attended and a very joyous occasion. Thanks to the choir, orchestra and Brian Wood for the music.

As well as these activities our Parish supported the Inala Careforce Pantry, Care Kits for Kids, and ABM through honey sales as part of our outreach program.

The Advent study for 2021 was “Living in Hope” – a York course written by Catherine Fox. This was an unusual study, and at first seemed contrary to welcoming the Christ Child. The four topics were “Living Well”, “Dying Well”, “Hell bent on destruction”, “Going to Heaven when we die”. However, we learnt:

- Living well can be knowing God as a loving parent for the wonder of Creation and the preciousness of individual lives. We can always live in hope. Death is neither an enemy nor a friend, but a natural process we all must face. We can do this through trusting God.
- Hell: both heaven and hell are difficult to conceptualise. Our humanity is limited; even Jesus was restricted to explaining things in human terms. How we live is more important than how we die. Sometimes we think we don’t deserve rewards. All we can do is try to be the best we can and to offer what we can to others.
- Heaven: if we believe, heaven might come to us rather than us going to heaven. Our relationship with God can be more than we imagine. If we know we are loved and welcomed, this gives us a sense of belonging, something deep: peace, love, joy, hope.

Yes, Advent is a time for planning for the greatest gift of all, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Desley Soden



Choir Report –December 2021 To February 2022

The choir continued with Saturday afternoon rehearsals in early December, with focus on the Parish Carols service on the 12th of December. We selected two songs for our part of the programme:-

It was on a Starry Night by Joy Webb and

Do You Hear what I Hear by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne (1962).

The former song had special significance to Rev'd Timothy. The writer, Joy Webb was a Salvation Army musician in England and also, many moons ago, Rev'd Timothy's boyhood piano teacher.

The latter song was one we had sung at least once before in previous Christmases and thought it added a little bit of variety to the traditional carols.

We had also invited parishioners in general to come and sing with the choir for this service. Sharon Moy and David Farricciardi consequently joined us for the event. We were even more pleased however, when they indicated a commitment to join us permanently.



The Choir performing at the Carols Service

The following Tuesday 14 December, Rev'd Timothy included some 'carols' singing during his fortnightly service at Regis Aged Care at Salisbury. A small group of choir members came along and gave a reprise of the two songs from our own carols service the previous Sunday. (This day also happened to be resident Jane Markotsis' birthday. Jane, the wife of our previous rector, Fr George Markotsis and some of their family were also in attendance at this service.)



The Choir at Regis Aged Care with Rev'd Timothy

Unfortunately after a busy November and early December that became the end of choir activities for the year. Covid and family constraints meant that we could not practise sufficiently or have a reasonable number of members available for one of the parish Christmas services. We then entered our regular 'holiday' period of late December to late January. We usually have a social about mid-January, frequently at the Lampe house in recent years; however, even this was cancelled out of Covid health concerns.

We did not reconvene in February due to Covid concerns and it seems unlikely that we will do so while mask-wearing is mandated indoors. We are hopeful that restrictions will ease over Lent and we will be able to contribute to the Easter services.

Greg Rodger

Carolling Away

With all the ups and downs of Covid it was a joy to have a full complement of choir members at our St Luke's Carol Service. The church was full, and the congregation sang loudly to old favourites, and then enjoyed a dance-worthy ending with *Feliz Navidad*. Several members of the choir were bopping away!

I understand we currently have one of the largest choirs we've had at St Luke's for a while and the power of so many voices lifted to God is truly wonderful.

Finding Christ In Music Everywhere

As the mother of a 7-year-old child, I find myself gaining a rapid musical education. Given many of my favourite song writers have been dead for more than 200 years, I am on the verge of being trendy for the first time. Many people who get in my car are often treated to the sounds of whichever Christian song I've been learning for choir or the trio. But these days you will hear Pink, Ava Max and Rachel Platten.

Now, I have been long aware of secular song writers who have Christian themes in their music – Paul Kelly and Peter Gabriel come immediately to mind. But I find myself listening to a lot of Top 40 music and finding imagery that relates to Christ.

One of the favourites in our car is *Cover me in Sunshine* by Pink and the chorus goes:

Cover me in sunshine

Shower me with good times

Tell me that the world's been spinning since the beginning

And everything will be alright

Cover me in sunshine

Whenever I hear this song, I think of the light of Christ, the washing away of our sins, the God that has been there since the beginning and the promise of a better life in Jesus.

So next time you're forced to listen to the latest hits, you may just find Christ in them.

Helen Hutchings

Memories of Robin (Richard Kreltszheim)

When I think of Robin what strikes me most is his gift of connecting with people of all ages and walks of life and making whoever he was with feel special. For my children the opportunity to see Robin when they came to church was a definite draw card. He remembered what was happening in their lives and his gentle teasing about his knees being sore from praying for them to come more often was part of the fun and never interpreted as being judgemental. It is clear that Robin meant a great deal to all of the children of our church family. On the occasions when Robin was sick, the letters and drawings sent to him were clearly very precious to him as well. Robin was a gentle, resilient, generous man with a cheeky sense of humour.



Robin on a parish walk at Minnippi Parklands with David Newsome.

He bore the challenges of his health issues with great patience, never giving up making the effort to communicate, even when many of us needed to ask him to repeat himself time and time again. Robin was humble and felt very honoured to serve on Parish Council.

And he could be stubborn! He famously sat through a dinner with us, with what was later diagnosed as broken ribs because there was no way he was going to postpone an outing he was determined to attend just to go to the hospital. Robin was a loving, consistent presence at church services and at parish functions and his absence is keenly felt.

Judy Jones

Memories of Clyde Mitchell

My memories of Clyde began when we were parents of young children in the Parish of St Luke's, and Lynn and I were part of a regular bible study group forty-odd years ago. Some of us had toddlers in tow, meeting in each other's homes.

Clyde always supported the activities of St Luke's, and regularly could be seen at events, or painting, or pulling weeds from the memorial garden or anywhere else on the grounds that needed attention. Clyde also supported our Parish Walks program, although we all regularly meandered along our bush tracks and paths, much slower than he would have liked, having been a keen hiker and bush walker most of his life. Lynn and Clyde had tackled many challenging walks over the years, including the Milford Track in New Zealand, Cradle Mountain in Tasmania, not to mention the High Pyrenees in Spain. Lynn and Clyde regularly attended parish fundraising activities, and over the last five years or so, Clyde regularly attended services with Lynn.

One of my happiest memories of Clyde at St Luke's was at the confirmation service in November last year. Clyde suffered severe pain over many months and walking had become extremely difficult for him. However, Clyde managed to walk into St Luke's to be with his family when Archbishop Philip confirmed his two beloved granddaughters, Hannah and Eva. Clyde's face shone with joy, as Hannah and Eva were confirmed, and then joined their family in the pews.

Thank you Clyde, for your generous support, your faithful service and friendship, and the exemplary example you set for us all.



Honor Lawler

Clyde enjoying Karawatha Forest

Remembering Barbara Johnson

Barbara was a long-standing member of St Luke's Parish and attended St Aidan's Church, Clifton Hill from when they moved into the area until it closed, after which she worshipped at St Luke's.

At St Aidan's, Barbara was very involved and for many many years was Secretary of the Church Committee. It was amazing how she could take the minutes and have them ready for reading and ratifying as soon as the meeting finished. Every four weeks she was part of the roster to clean St Aidan's and arrange the flowers for the Sunday services.

Barbara had a passion for the gospel, passing this on to her children, with daughter Libby still a missionary in Nepal after 30 years and son Chris becoming ordained clergy. Barbara's commitment to CMS ministry was ongoing and attending CMS Summer School with Alan each year an automatic given. She also convened the Wider Witness Committee at St Luke's (now named Acts 1:8).

Election day stalls at St Aidan's were always well stocked due to Barbara's cooking skills and later the Bush Ministry stalls at St Luke's also benefitted.

Barbara always had a smile, was dedicated to her Church and her Lord and a more overtly Christian lady it would be hard to find. She will be greatly missed.



Barbara and Alan

Maxine McElnea

Memories of Jane Markotsis

Jane quickly settled into life at St Luke's Parish and joined in all activities. I asked how she was coping with the move. "Oh", she said, "it's a new adventure, a new chapter".

One morning we were on morning tea together. I asked what the 'O' in her name stood for. "Onini", she replied and told me about the New Zealand chapter of her life and how she came to Melbourne and worked on creating a nutritious biscuit of which she was very proud. That biscuit saved so many starving children. Jane never boasted about the importance of her work, how it helped so many, or indeed, any of her many achievements. However, if you asked her she would tell you. She told me of the many moves and places they had lived, and the last one to Brisbane to help with grandchildren. She loved her family. Her favourite flowers were crucifix orchids and frangipani.

I would like to acknowledge Jane's time on the Pastoral Care Committee. She was a great help to me and I learnt so much from her. I had the privilege to work with four wonderful women, Gwen, Hazel, Sandra Beck and Jane.

Jane told me the devastating news and what lay ahead for her. What could I say? I hugged her, said how sorry I was and wished I could do more. To which she smiled at me and said, "Oh don't worry, the man upstairs (God) will look after me, and the man downstairs (George) will care for me". How gracious was that? As a dark fog descended on Jane and robbed her of her precious memories, the last chapter in Jane's life closed.

I feel blessed to have had Jane in my life.



Jenny Newsome

Jane Onini Markotsis



Jane was born and educated in the North Island of New Zealand, graduating from Massey university with a Degree in Science: Food Technology. She came to Australia at the end of 1967 to work for CSIRO Dairy Research in Highett Victoria. In Melbourne she met and married George Markotsis 50 years ago.

In the mid 1970's we moved to Canberra with son Martin and whilst in Canberra Jane completed a Degree in Health Education from Canberra University. When I moved to Morpeth NSW to study theology Jane and the

family joined me and she obtained a position as a senior lecturer at Newcastle Teachers College in Health Education & Nutrition.

When I was ordained in 1986 in the Diocese of Grafton, Jane ran the Lismore Neighbourhood Centre for 5 years. Jane was one of the first women to be appointed to the Board of the North Coast Children's Home. After our family adventure of travelling around the world to the Pastoral Care Conference in the Netherlands, we returned to live in Maclean on the Lower Clarence.

Whilst in Maclean Jane became the Area Assistance Scheme Coordinator with an area from the Queensland border to Taree to cover, then was seconded to head office in Sydney to run the state program. Whilst in Maclean Jane became a Licensed Liturgical Assistant and we ministered together; we also ran the Calling & Caring LaBs together. Jane became a Synod representative then on the Bishop in Council. She was an excellent networker! She was in the right place at the right time so we set up Anglicize North Coast and obtained funding from commonwealth and state governments to build the appropriate aged care facility in Iluka!



Jane assisting Father George

As an LA Jane often took Morning Prayer services in the centres and I particularly remember her preaching on the Bread of Life where she mixed dough during her sermon. After preaching three services, the yeast in the dough had risen in the warm car and had flooded the vehicle with dough!

On moving to Cairns, Jane obtained a health educator job with the Yarabah Indigenous Health Unit, then became the area coordinator of the Communities for Children project. Due to our son Dimitri having three children under three with the arrival of the twins, we moved to St Luke's Brisbane, where Jane continued as an LA and assisted in ministry in the parish. She also managed to volunteer with the Red Cross and was helicoptered into flood disaster areas. We developed a social network through the Yeronga pool, and the embroiderers group. Her last two years were at Salisbury Regis where she was well cared for and felt at home until her dementia closed her body down. So we said goodbye to a loving wife, an encouraging mother, a joyous grandmother and a faithful friend and colleague. A faithful follower of our Lord and a willing servant in ministry. A gracious image of God in our midst!

George Markotsis

Fellowship and Fund-Raising Report

Recently we have been unable to hold events because of Covid 19.

St Luke's connect has not been able to meet this year so far, but Rev'd Timothy has started a monthly communion service on the last Wednesday of the month at 9.30am. This will continue when St Luke's Connect restarts on Wednesday 27th April. Come at 9.30am for the service and then 10am for morning tea and activities in the hall – Covid rules permitting. All welcome.

Janette Hagerty



*St Luke's Theatre Society
Presents*



William Shakespeare's
Classic Comedy
with an Australian Flavour
Much Ado About Nothing
Directed by Matthew Hobbs

**Book now for St Luke's Theatre Society's
first production of 2022.**

Seating at each show is limited so please book early! Seating is at tables of 4. You may book 1, 2, 3 or 4 seats on a table.

All patrons over the age of 16 years will be required to register through the Check In Qld App and to provide proof of vaccination (or medical exemption) at the time of entry. Masks are no longer mandatory at our theatre; however, they are still recommended whenever you can't social distance.

Evening performances (7.30pm) on
11, 12, 18, 25, 26 March.
Matinees (2pm) on 12, 19, 26 March.

Adults: \$28, Concessions: \$22
(includes program and refreshments)

www.stluketheatre.asn.au or 0490 371 885

Acts 1:8 Committee Report

The first sentence or two of these reports are usually the hardest for me. Gaining inspiration normally involves a lot of coffee and walking around the yard asking the magpies, “How would you start it then?” This report is a little different in that I already knew what I was going to start with a couple of weeks ago. And so I would like to start with, “Thank you”.

Thank you to Barbara Johnson.

Those of you who attended Barbara’s funeral would have heard mention of her involvement in various church committees. This committee is one that owes a lot to the hard work and dedication of Barbara. At the time Barbara was chairing this committee it was known as the **Wider Witness Committee**. Same focus, different name.

Later when Barbara stepped back from the committee, Sue Vassella as chair suggested a name change to Acts 1:8. I still hold fond memories of a meeting where Barbara suggested that we should include the verse in documents so that people understood why we named the committee after the Bible verse Acts 1:8.

To this day I still include it on the minutes with a smile and remember Barbara on that day, and so we would like to acknowledge the work of Barbara and the great life that she led, and in loving memory of her I would like to include -

“ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Our first committee meeting of the year saw us review the mission support and focuses for 2022. Below is our list for the year.

- February – Launch of Bush Ministry Stalls for 2022.
- March – Regis Salisbury Staff Care Pack Support Drive.
- April – Defence Chaplaincy.
- May – CMS - Beautiful Feet Sunday.
- June – School Chaplaincy - Weller’s Hill Chaplaincy.
- July – Mission to Seafarers.
- August – Bush Church Aid.

- September – Anglicare Domestic Violence Support (heart tea) National Week of Prayer – to include mention of Prison Fellowship.
- October – Hospital Chaplaincy. Inc Harvest Ministry & Humour Foundation.
- November – The Archbishop's November Appeal.
- December – Annerley Baptist and Christmas Drive for Inala Pantry.

Bush Ministry stalls have returned again in 2022 with our first held on the 13th of February. As always you are welcome to bake items for sale on the stall and also to buy some of the delicious creations – just make sure you leave some coconut ice for me.

Go and grab your calendar off the kitchen wall. I will wait while you do and then you can add all the dates below for this year's Bush Ministry stalls so that you don't miss one.

- Sunday 13th March
- Sunday 10th April
- Sunday 8th May
- Sunday 12th June
- Sunday 10th July
- Sunday 14th August
- Sunday 11th September
- Sunday 9th October
- Sunday 13th November
- Sunday 11th December

Regis Salisbury Staff Care Support Drive In March our parish will be supporting the staff at Regis Aged Care Salisbury with a care support drive. Staff have been doing it tough with various Covid restrictions and requirements. We are aiming to collect items to show the staff our support for them for the great work they are doing in the community. Keep an eye out in March for ways that you can support this great cause.

Finally, our next Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday 27th March 2022. As always, everyone is welcome.

David Frarricciardi

Children's Ministry



During a recent Children's Message Rev'd Timothy managed to hold all the items June had chosen for her various needs, just as Jesus chose his disciples carefully for carrying out His needs for God's work!

The children always have fun being creative during Messy Church.



In December Messy Church, children made "foot" reindeer!



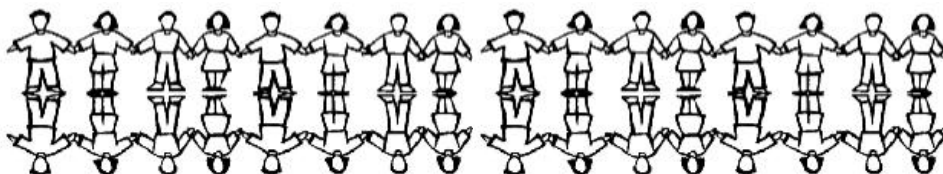
Holly just loved squeezing colours!



In December the children also made and decorated cookies - a task requiring great concentration!



Jack & Philly loved being creative!



Dreaming Of A White Christmas



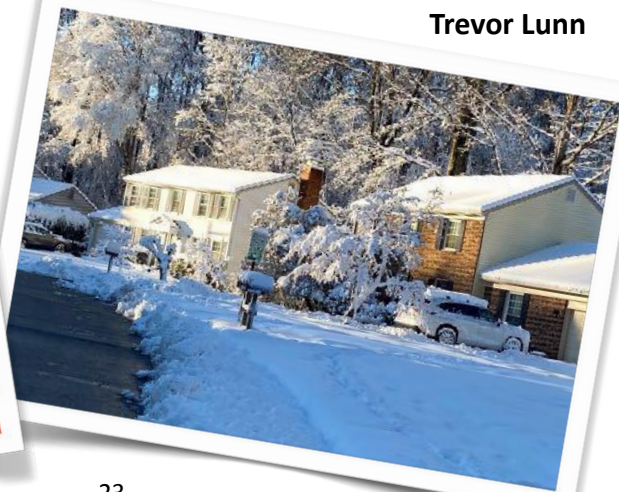
I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know
Where tree-tops glisten and children listen
To hear sleighbells in the snow

Well, actually, no. When I went to Virginia to be with my family over Christmas, the last thing on my mind was snow. Lovely traditional Christmas services, yes; way too much yummy food, yes: frantic shopping malls, yes; houses and living rooms decked out with the most beautiful Christmas trees and colourful light displays, yes, getting beaten multiple times playing chess with my grandson, yes.

But snow?

I can't remember the last time I saw snow over the Christmas season in Virginia. It snowed, and heavily. I woke up in the morning to see the whole neighbourhood blanketed with 8 inches of snow and it kept on snowing. The temperature was freezing cold, -10 degrees in the morning; so cold that my face was stinging after only a few minutes outdoors. The nice thing about it though, aside from how beautiful fresh snow looks, and the opportunities for sledding down the local church hillside, is that there was always an inviting fire in the living room hearth. Warm memories with my grandchildren, chess and guitar with my youngest granddaughter.... and a glass of sherry.

Trevor Lunn



The Song Of The Three

Probably everyone who has attended Sunday school or religious instruction at school in the past, will be familiar with this Bible story recorded in the Old Testament Book of Daniel. After the battle of Carchemish in 605 BC and the destruction of King Solomon's temple in Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon and his army, many Judeans were forced into captivity and exile in Babylon.



Nebuchadnezzar II

Three young Judean men were unfortunate enough to be among these exiles. Their Aramaic names, Ananias, Mis(h)ael and Azarias were replaced with Babylonian names and they became Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and are described as companions of Daniel chosen to be trained for the king's court. Because the three refused to bow down and worship a massive golden statue erected by Nebuchadnezzar after being summoned to do so, the King ordered them to be incinerated in a furnace that was so hot that the Babylonians who put them into the fire were burned to death outside of it. While surrounded by the flames in the furnace, the youths were observed to be walking around unscathed, accompanied by an angelic figure and singing praises to their God. A very astounded Nebuchadnezzar ordered their release and ruled that no one should harm them or mock their religion ever again.



Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego In The Fire

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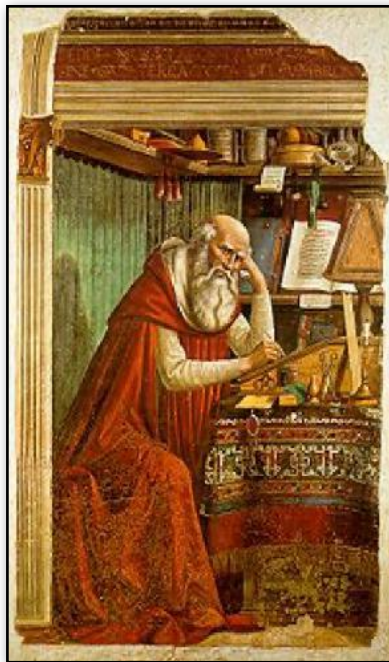
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The services of Evening and Morning Prayer printed in the green Anglican prayer books and online, each include two short ‘canticles’ daily as part of the liturgy. (They are called ‘canticles’ from canticulum, the diminutive form of the Latin word for “song,” canticum.) Excerpts from the song that the three young men were said to be singing, are listed for reading as appointed canticles in the prayer book on a Tuesday evening and a Saturday morning.

Interestingly the texts of the cantic are not from the protestant canon of the Bible that we use today. They are each part of a longer work titled the *Song of the Three Holy Children*, which is included in a separate volume called the *Apocrypha* which contains scriptural texts which are considered biblical but have an origin which is unsure.

There are hundreds of documents purporting to be true biblical texts. Many scholars were instrumental in choosing what was part of the canonical text, what may have been part, and what was plainly not. For instance Eusebius of Caesarea in the early 300s AD, divided the New Testament biblical texts into what he considered “recognized, disputed, spurious and heretical,” (or as some wit has remarked “the legit and the borderline bogus”).

Early biblical scholars considered the song of the three young men to be part of the Book of Daniel originally (3.30-68), but it was later recognised that it was not included in the early Hebrew scriptures at all nor is it today. None of the fragments of the Book of Daniel, the second-most numerous after Isaiah, found among the ancient Dead Sea Scrolls in caves at Qumran, mention the song. It was included in the first translation of the Bible into Greek, the Septuagint, completed in the 2nd century AD and is thought to have been taken at that time from some other ancient document of the Book of Daniel, now lost. Translation of the Bible from Hebrew as well as the Greek was completed by St Jerome who translated the bible into Latin as the *Biblia Sacra Vulgata* the Vulgate, in the 4th century AD. He included all the verses of Daniel containing the song in his translation.



St Jerome in his Study by Domenico Ghirlandaio

As mentioned, after later assessment of the origin of the song, these verses were removed from various bibles and included in the *Apocrypha*, a book published as a separate section in Martin Luther's Bible of 1734, to contain dubious texts. The decision to exclude the passage from the canonical bible and include it in the *Apocrypha* was not unanimous

among Christians. The Catholic and Orthodox faiths still retain the deleted verses as part of the complete Book of Daniel, while Anglicans and Lutherans and others place it in the Apocrypha, or omit it completely. The canticle title in the Apocrypha is *The Song of the Three Holy Children*, (They could not have been young children, as the book of Daniel (3.12) describes them as being “appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon” by the King).

However, whoever wrote the words, the song is a beautiful and inspiring song of praise which well deserves to be remembered for all time.

“Blessed are you, the God of our forebears: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. Blessed is your holy and glorious name: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. Blessed are you, glorious in your holy temple: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. Blessed are you who behold the depths: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. Blessed are you in the heights of heaven: worthy to be praised and exalted for ever...” v 35f

A Prayer Book for Australia (1995), Canticle for Tuesday Evening, p. 399.

(The full text can be read in the many different editions of The Apocrypha like the edition printed by Cambridge University Press (undated) p108.)

Llyn Crawford





K I D S K L I P S

Word Fun

Circle the word in each square that does not belong.

chair table heart	friend run walk	flower love tree	speech pen pencil	car gracious truck	valley mountain king
2	6	1	4	3	5

In the blanks below, write the word you have circled from each box, matching the numbers.

Those who _____ a pure _____ and are _____

in _____ will have the _____ as a _____

Proverbs 22:11

Answers: love, heart, gracious, speech, king, friend



Loving Ways

Read the first word in Group A. Then look for a word in Group B that is the exact opposite attitude.

1. Draw a line to connect these two words.
2. Circle the word that describes the attitude that is most loving.
3. Cross out the word that is not loving. (The first one is done for you.)

Group A

~~rude~~
selfish
humble
bored
kind
forgiving
deceitful
lazy
cheerful
annoyed
stubborn

Group B

mean
patient
honest
resentful
grumpy
flexible
generous
respectful
prideful
helpful
interested

Answers:
rude - respectful
selfish - generous
humble - prideful
bored - interested
kind - mean
forgiving - resentful
deceitful - honest
lazy - helpful
cheerful - grumpy
annoyed - patient
stubborn - flexible