

BANYULE BABBLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BANYULE

HOLY SPIRIT WATSONIA ❖ ST ANDREW'S ROSANNA ❖ ST JOHN'S HEIDELBERG

JUNE
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J IS FOR JUSTICE

WHAT is Justice?

For some time now you would have heard the popular term 'social justice'. There are various sources that hold their claim to know where this term originated. I wonder, what is your response to this term 'social justice' when it is mentioned? For me, it encourages me to investigate the many issues is being raised. When was the first time you felt a sense of injustice? Perhaps it was when you saw someone get away with something they were guilty of? Maybe watching or reading someone's life story, with all their trials and triumphs. Perhaps someone who grew up poor, not having the same opportunities.

I remember visiting the Philippines as a 13 year old to see where my family were from. I knew that my family came from an area of the Philippines that wasn't like a typical suburb in Australia. It was a rough place plagued with drug issues and violence. I was introduced to my step-mother at that time. She was wealthy and her house didn't look anything like my family's homes. My step-mother had two main house staff, Beth and Mon, and I became very close with them and I would follow them around on the errands and observe the way they did their work. My father would warn me "don't get too close with them", as he was genuinely worried that I might get kidnapped because I had a strange accent and wore different clothes – a clear indicator of a child from a wealthy family. I took note of this so I made sure I would dress down and talk more Tagalog

(the national language of the Philippines) than English so I could blend in. It was at this time I saw the difference between the wealthy and poor and I started to have a strong sense of justice. It may have been because of a 'western way of thinking' or possibly the Aussie culture of treating everyone fairly.

The Bible speaks a lot about justice. When it is mentioned in the Old Testament it is related to the Law: there are many laws about how we are to treat the poor. Reading through the Psalms this year, the theme of justice has stuck out to me more than ever before. I react with a sense of indignation when I read the injustices the Psalmist experiences. However, on the other hand, there are parts of Psalms that I feel go a bit too far, like the imprecatory Psalms where we get that famous song 'by the rivers of Babylon'. However, the Psalms play an incredibly important pastoral role in identifying with the human experiences of betrayal, evil and injustice, as well as providing care for the soul, declaring why we worship God, and restoring hope in an ultimate justice that we are yet to see.

This past election, one of the major issues raised was the cost of living and how the poor among us will suffer the effects of inflation. I recall having a friend's parents suffer under the recession of the 80's. I know, working for the Salvation Army not long ago, that the youth I led were from families that were in generational welfare dependency. Another social

justice issue raised was how we treat asylum seekers and refugees – something close to my heart.

What can we do? How do we respond as we pray and look for ways to seek justice for the poor?

I am encouraged by the Old Testament scholar, John Goldingay, who answered the question 'how can we pray for justice'? He noted that we live in a time between Jesus encouraging us to:

• **Be persistent in prayer** through the parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1–8): be persistent in praying for justice

AND

• **Be patient and wait for justice** – the future justice we see in places like Revelation 6: the prayer of the martyrs.

In this time, we who reside in the 1/3 of the world (the western world), who are considerably wealthy in comparison to the 2/3 who live in either extreme poverty or less than \$2 USD a day—we need to **pray for mercy**, that our actions and choices do not further oppress the poor. He also added we need to be **praying for our governments** like in Psalm 72, that whoever God has brought into leadership, (despite our political party preferences) would govern well, have compassion on and care for the poor, and save the lives of the needy (Ps 72 v 13).

Jonathan



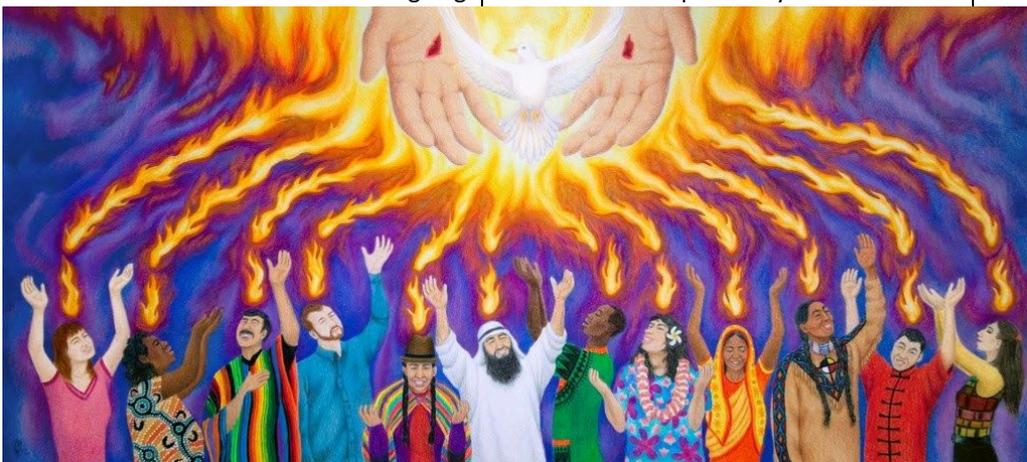
Pentecost!

On Sunday 5th June we shall all be together in one place, viz Holy Spirit Watsonia at 10.15 am, as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

It is traditional, but not compulsory, to wear something red. Speaking in tongues is not required.

STOP PRESS

The community garden's tea cosy (made in lockdown for Brewster the teapot) has just won an honourable mention prize at the Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival! — Katrina [More in July]



This Month – June

Wednesday 1st: 11 am Iris Grange; 3.30 pm Strathalan

Sunday 5th Pentecost: 10.15 am Combined at Holy Spirit
Acts 2:1–21; John 14:8–27

Sunday 12th Trinity Sunday: 9 am St Andrew's;
10.15 am St John's; 5 pm Holy Spirit
Psalm 8; Romans 5:1–5; John 16:12–15

Friday 17th: Jonathan's birthday

Sunday 19th Pentecost 2: 10.15 am Combined, St John's
Galatians 3:10–14, 23–29; Luke 8:26–39

Wednesday 22nd: 10 am Holy Spirit Mothers' Union;
11 am Streeton Park and general mid-week service
at St John's; 3.30 pm Regis Macleod

Sunday 26th Pentecost 3: 9 am St Andrew's; 10.15 am
St John's; 5 pm Holy Spirit
Galatians 5:1, 13–25; Luke 9:51–62

Wanted

- Donations to help with repairs to St John's

Money: April

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|--------------------|
| Income: | Giving: | \$8,147.11 |
| | Other: | \$16,610.74 |
| | Total: | \$24,757.85 |
| Expenses: | | \$35,609.85 |
| Deficit: | | \$10,852.00 |

Expenses included the first tranche for the very expensive repairs to 57 Gloucester Dve. A loan has been taken out to cover this, but the money did not arrive until May.

Holy Spirit Mothers' Union

Wednesday 27 April 2022: After our usual 'Three Cs' (clean, cuppa, chat), Val led us in the MU Service, with all taking part. We sent flowers and cards to the Ryder families, and Elizabeth will be remembered in the MU Remembrance book.

Funding to our MU projects has been sent. Fifteen beanies have been taken in to the seafarers. We received a beautiful spring card from our link branch, Broughty Ferry Scotland, which will be on display at the Pentecost service.

We finished our meeting with midday prayers, praying for Elizabeth Ryder's family, St Alban's in the North/West Deanery for success in their projects, St Mary's Broughty Ferry Scotland, and in the Defence Anglican Chaplaincy, we pray for war widow and widowers and for the work of Legacy. We give thanks for those who spend their lives for caring for others.

Our next meeting will be May 25th, at 10 am.

Elsie Storr

mainly music: June 2022

We celebrated Mother's Day on our second week back with a special morning tea. Each child was encouraged to come up for a bookmark with a poem about Mother to give to their mother. Even so young, they wanted to come but a few still clung to Mum as they came. Each family then went home with a bag containing a mug filled with a serviette, a tea bag, a coffee bag, a small chocolate and a couple of individually wrapped biscuits. Mothers (not the children) are **THE** most important members of any *mainly music* group.

Please keep praying that our numbers will increase and *that our team members will stay well*. COVID is still out there and playing havoc with the population along with all the usual ills of the winter.

Rosemary Bellair (9459 5394)

From *Ship to Shore* (the newsletter of the Mission to Seamen), issue 1, 2022:

Ukraine's touch

by John Winkett – Volunteer Ship Visitor

I was delivering some crew shopping to the Maersk Seoul berthed at Webb Dock East. For the first time in my experience an officer came down the gangway with the money before any of the crew had taken the shopping aboard.

I got to talking with the officer and it turns out that he came from The Ukraine. He was not in a good space. His wife and children are in Mariupol and he hadn't been able to speak with his parents for nearly a month. He was happy with his situation on board but he was always very worried about his family.

It is situations like this that make you realize the terrible impact this war is having on its citizens. So far from home and almost no support. I assured him of our thoughts and prayers but he was very pessimistic about the eventual outcome.

As I write this it has just been announced that the Russians have destroyed a Maternity hospital in Mariupol. Thousands of people are trying to get out of the city including our seafarer's family.



Irene Elizabeth Ryder

24 November 1939 – 16 April 2022



Elizabeth Ryder's funeral was held on Monday 2nd May, at St John's, to give enough room for the approximately 100 people who came to pay their respects.

At the beginning of the service members of the family came forward with various objects of Elizabeth's representing her life, including her Bible, her Prayer Book, and her Cats scarf. Elsie Storr and Sylvia Webb also brought up the Holy Spirit Mothers' Union banner.

After we sang *Amazing Grace* and heard Rebecca Ryder read Psalm 121, we heard three eulogies from Elizabeth's family.

Belinda Hirschauer:

Our beloved mother, Irene Elizabeth Ryder (affectionately known as Elizabeth or Liz) was born on 24th November 1939, at Newtown in Geelong. Her parents, Ronald & Betty Moodie, purchased a State Savings Bank home at 30 Donnelly Avenue in Norlane, a new suburb of Geelong.

Mum grew up close to her mother as Pa joined the Army when World War Two broke out, serving in the Australian Field Ambulance in Wewak, New Guinea. Mum recalls meeting Pa for the first time when she was four years old, when he returned home on leave. The front porch light was on and Nan exclaimed that a special person was waiting for them both inside. In 1946, mum's much loved sister, Rhondda, was born.

Mum was educated at North Shore State School and Geelong High School, where she obtained her Leaving Certificate.

Mum was very active in her local Anglican Church, St. Michael's, in Norlane as a Sunday School Teacher, G.F.S Leader and member of the Church Choir.

Mum always spoke fondly of her childhood and early adult years in Geelong. The Moodie family had close ties to Geelong Grammar School and Clyde Girls' School in Woodend, and many holidays were spent enjoying the facilities of the respective schools. Mum's love for Geelong also extended to us.

We spent a lot of time at Indented Heads, where we had a holiday home, and cheering on the Cats at Kardinia Park.

In the mid-sixties the family moved to Melbourne and resided at 13 Monash Ave in Balwyn.

Mum's first job was at the Commonwealth Bank in Geelong. She was then transferred to Bourke Street and finally the Kew branch. Mum saved up her money and bought her first radiogram. My aunty tells me that the house was always full of music and that she and mum would dance around the lounge-room together. This continued into our childhood too, with the likes of Elvis Presley and Glenn Campbell on in the background. My boys even compiled a playlist for mum to enjoy in the car when she was with us.

Mum worked in a number of jobs over the years including the California Motor Inn in Hawthorn, the Savoy Corporation in St Kilda, the Chamber of Commerce in Collins Street, then later in our family business, Rotadie, in Heidelberg West.

Mum married our father, Steve Ryder, in 1973, and welcomed Mark and me (her twins) in September of 1975.

In 1984, we moved over to this side of town, residing in Viewbank for many years.

Mum continued her faith journey, joining St Stephen's Anglican Church in Viewbank in 1991, then later the Anglican Parish of Banyule.

In her retirement, mum was heavily involved in the community. She was a member of the Rosanna Golf Club for many years and later played at Bundoora with Life Activity Club Heidelberg. She was a member of Heidelberg View Club for twenty years, in which she served as Treasurer and Secretary, and a member of the Heidelberg Choral Society.

She taught *mainly music* at St Andrew's Rosanna for ten years and was a member and president of Mother's Union at Holy Spirit Watsonia. She also enjoyed working in the op shop for many years.

Above all, mum's greatest passion was her family. She was an incredible mother to both Mark and me, and a wonderful grandmother to our children: Benjamin, Samuel, Rebecca and Rachel.

On a personal note, I feel truly blessed to have had such a close relationship with mum. She was everything to the boys and me. Mum loved nothing more than coming over to our place, pottering around and walking the dogs. She told me a few weeks ago, that it was family that had kept her going, particularly during the last few months of her illness. Mum will leave a huge void in all of our lives. She will always be remembered for her kindness, compassion and service to others.

Mark Ryder:

Good morning everyone, my name is Mark and I am Elizabeth's son, and I'd like to begin by thanking you all for coming here today to celebrate Mum's life. Seeing the room filled with so many people that knew and cared for Mum means a lot to my Sister and me today, so thank you.

I couldn't have really asked for a better Mum. To me she epitomized the fruits of the Spirit with her love, patience, kindness and gentleness. I am so thankful to God that she was my Mum and couldn't imagine having grown up without her.

To help you to better know who Mum

was as a person, I wanted to share three things Mum taught me about life – all starting with the letter 'C'.

The first one was **CHILDREN**.

From an early age, it was always the three of us (Mum, Belinda and I). We were blessed to all have a really close relationship which continues to this day, now that it's just my little sister and I. We didn't have much of a family life with Dad, but Mum was always there: running us around to activities, and ensuring that we were both loved and cared for.

When Dad left home, Mum never re-married, but instead focused her energies on looking after and raising us.

I remember one particular difficult time in Year 12 when I was in the middle of my maths assessment. It was 2 am in the morning and I was so tired and not coping. Mum came into my room and told me to sleep for two hours, whilst she just sat there in the dark, ensuring that I would wake up in time to complete the assessment before the morning deadline.

Later on when I was an adult and worked in the UK for 4 years, Mum would come across each year to London to make sure I was taking good care of myself, and wasn't drinking too much lager. We had some lovely holidays together to Cornwall, Ireland and Scotland, and also Bradford and Leeds – memories which I will cherish.

Mum wasn't shy to give me life advice when I needed it. I remember when she first met Jessica (who was my girlfriend at the time) and she told me "*You'd better get a move on, Son, and put a ring on her finger – because knowing you, you will just dilly-dally along and end up being the oldest bachelor in the village!*" This was good advice and Jessica and I have been married for 14 years, and we gave her two lovely granddaughters – Rebecca and Rachel.

And with her two grandsons from my sister's side, Mum pretty much co-parented with Belinda to help raise her boys Benjamin and Samuel, and the fact that they are such fine men today is a real testament to her.

The second 'C' stood for **CHRIST**.

Christ was a central part of Mum's life. I grew up hearing stories about the 1959 Billy Graham crusades, and her teaching Sunday School at St Michael's Norlane. I remember attending Blackburn Church of Christ when we lived with Aunty Rhondda and Uncle Kevin. And, as a kid we would sometimes attend St Stephen's in Viewbank when Dad was away.

At the Anglican Parish of Banyule, Mum would attend Holy Spirit Watsonia and St Andrew's Rosanna. She was a member of Mother's Union, and volunteered at the Watsonia Op Shop for over 20 years. She developed many friendships, and Belinda and I became familiar with many names from the congregation: Elsie, Dorothy and Mavis, Philip, René and Patrick and more recently Denise and Jonathan to name a few.

Mum's favourite verse from the Bible was Philippians 4:13 – "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*", in which the Apostle Paul tells us how we can rely on God's strength to help us during difficult times – something Mum took great comfort in during her battle with cancer.

Mum understood how sickness and death were never part of God's original plan for us,

but was instead something which mankind brought into the world through our rebellion against God. Mum taught me how Jesus had come into the world to set us free. Mum was not afraid of dying and as a Christian had the hope of going to heaven to be with Jesus, free from pain and suffering. She endured and remained faithful to the end.

The greatest thing Mum ever did for me was direct me to Christ. I got a bit lost in my mid-20s, and Mum saw this and invited me to go and see a movie with her. I thought we were going to go and see the next Star Wars instalment, but instead she had booked tickets to 'The Passion of the Christ'. After the movie we had coffee and she asked me if I enjoyed it – to which I said "No not really, the things they did to Jesus were absolutely terrible!" I will never forget what happened next... Mum, summoning all of her courage, leaned in and whispered to me: "Do you know, Son, that Jesus actually died for you – to save you!" This hit me like a lightning bolt! Seeing the look of shock on my face, she arranged for the minister from St Hilary's (Anthea McCall) to follow me up, where I ended up doing the Alpha course and following Christ myself.

I am just so thankful, that Mum did not give up on me, but kept pointing me to Jesus for all those years.

The last 'C' was **CARRYING ON**.

Mum grew up during World War II and had always had a stoic 'carry on' attitude.

She was the strongest person I knew, and taught me the importance of carrying on when the tough times hit, and not spend too much time in self-pity.

Mum's last words to me in hospital were 'Don't worry about me Son, you go home and live your life with your family'. Even though she was very sick, she wasn't concerned about herself – but in typical Mum fashion didn't want to make a fuss.

I think it is fitting that as we give thanks to God today for Mum's life, that we too don't make too much of a fuss (as she wouldn't want that), but instead 'carry on' as best we can.

To this end, I would like to close with Mum's favourite Psalm (from the Bible) which we read together shortly before she passed.

It is Psalm 23 . . .

Samuel Hirschauer:

Hello, my name is Samuel. Elizabeth Ryder was my grandmother or 'Nanny' as she was known to us.

Many images come to mind when I think of Nanny. First and foremost, she was always present in my life. She was one of my greatest supporters, always cheering me on and helping mum to transport me to school, training, games and work commitments. I loved the conversations we had in the car and listening to nanny's favourite talk back radio, 3AW (Neil Mitchell in the morning and Tom Elliot in the afternoon). Nanny could always be relied upon to get to my school at 2.30 pm each day to get the prime parking position. In the last few months, Nanny would allow me to drive home from school.

Mum would drop Benjamin and me to nanny's place each morning. The table was always set and a hot breakfast cooked. Nanny would always go the extra mile to provide us with the *Herald-Sun*, a hot washer for our face and toothpaste on our toothbrush.

Yes, we were both teenagers, but this is what Nanny loved doing for us and who were we to complain?

Another image that comes to mind is the holidays that we enjoyed together. Each year, since I was seven years old, I would accompany Nanny, Aunty Rhonda and Uncle Kevin on their annual Queensland trip in the school holidays. I have many fond memories of our trips including enjoying vanilla slices at Madisons in Broadbeach, Happy Hour with lemonade and French onion dip, and trips to the surf clubs.

We have been very fortunate to travel a lot with nanny. We enjoyed cruises to the South Pacific, New Zealand and Hawaii. We also went to America twice, where I introduced nanny to my love of basketball. Nanny attended five NBA games in total. Go Nanny! Nanny was not your typical grandmother. She had a lot of energy and enjoyed walking and sightseeing. On one occasion, mum, Benjamin and I thought it would be a good idea to go bike riding in Central Park. Nanny decided to walk instead. Needless to say, it took a long time to find Nanny in the busiest park in the world!

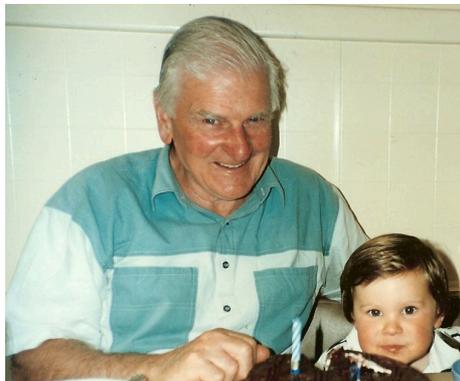
Nanny was a strong, independent woman who loved life. She never complained and took everything in her stride. While I knew she was unwell, she always had a smile on her face and never displayed how she was truly feeling. We love you Nanny and we will never forget the impact you had on our lives.

We then sang *Shine, Jesus, Shine*, an old St Stephen's favourite. Jessica and Rachael Ryder read Luke 2:29–32, and Benjamin Hirschauer read John 6:35–40. Denise preached a sermon that I have regrettably forgotten, pictures of Elizabeth were shown, and then Jonathan led us in prayer.

We sang *Be thou my vision* (another old St Stephen's favourite—Elizabeth chose the hymns), and we all left with a blessing.

George Lockhart

27 November 1926 – 13 May 2022



We regret to report that George died in the early morning of Friday 13th May, seven months after he lost June. At the time the *Babble* goes to press funeral arrangements have not been set.

In May 2011 the *Babble* printed this interview of George by Gay Miller:

GEORGE LOCKHART

Born: Yarrawonga Hospital on 27 Nov 1926.

Went to school: George went to three different primary schools. First Rankin's Springs (midway between Hay and Sydney). Then, as George's mother was ill, the family was split up and he was sent to live with his Auntie and Uncle on a dairy farm in SA. His school was in Mypalonga on the Murray River just upstream from Murray Bridge. He has memories of the smell of his first school books, and of riding a little bike to school. His last school was Mount Evelyn Primary School where he finished grade 8. During his school years George played the cornet in a band, and later on he learnt the piano.

George is married to June. They had two daughters; their eldest is Pamela. Tragically George and June's other daughter Susan died some years ago in a car accident, aged 18 years.

Q What hobbies do you have?

I am a Collingwood supporter, and have been a ticket member for over 30 years; listening to classical music; gardening and reading.

Q What makes you happy?

Reading good stories, listening to music. George's love of classical music began after hearing a Beethoven Violin Concerto which he thought was just wonderful.

Q What annoys you?

Nothing much.

Q What have you achieved or performed in your life that has given you great satisfaction?

Going from the building trade, where my brother Bob and I worked as builders and sub contractors, and joining the public service. I then worked my way up from a base grade temporary worker, a couple of years later I attained permanency and then worked my way up to a position of support to the police working in administration.

Q Who (living or dead) would you most like to have a cuppa with and why?

Nelson Mandela, because after everything that happened to him he was able to rise above it. He could turn the other cheek and not be obsessed with hatred. He kept his equilibrium.

Q What do you think people would be surprised to learn about you?

Maybe that I am a Collingwood supporter.

Q In looking back over your life who or what event(s) have had a great influence on your life?

My teacher, Ted Kreiger, had a great influence on me. He was a great teacher, had a good philosophy on life and was well adjusted—just a very good person. He was also one of the leading people in the Education Department in Victoria. He taught me in my last years at Mt Evelyn Primary. Strangely one day years after my schooldays, I saw him walking down Plenty Road, Rosanna, off to catch a train to the city.

Q What motto or saying would sum up your attitude to life?

I have learnt to *Let everything go to the keeper*. Everything happens for a reason and we have to live our life and do the best we can. I look to Jesus and to the future after-life. This life is short and things happen that we may get upset over, but it is not worth it to dwell on it.

Interview by Gay Miller

Crossed lines

Crossed lines used to be quite common in the old days of telephony, when you would get to hear, and sometimes join in, someone else's conversation.

It seems that crossed lines can occur with emails too, and sometimes unexpected messages pass across the Editor's screen . . .

To: Sussan Sharp
From: Vacua Bloggs-Wimshurst-Smythe

Sussan, I haven't heard from you much lately!!



My friends and I thought we'll do the red-light district tour on Saturday evening! We'll wait for you in that sort of square in the middle at 8 o'clock! I'll be wearing my gorgeous new dress! I got it last week from—well, I know someone on a curate's salary couldn't possibly afford it, so I won't say! But Alastair is very good to me!!

Vacua ❤️

To: The Bloggs Gang
From: Vacua Bloggs-Wimshurst-Smythe

Hey Gang, meeting in the red-light district (the square in the middle) at eight! Wear your best new frocks!!
I'll be wearing a fabulous new yellow-orange creation Alastair got me!!!

Vacua ❤️❤️❤️

To: Churchwarden Samson Harid
From: Rev'd Susan Sharp

Samson, I am now home from hospital but I am still not recovered from the hurt and trauma caused by that terrible Easter Service you organised. Please arrange for a locum to take services until I am recovered.

I also have a booking for Saturday evening to tour the red-light district with the Bishop's wife and take photographs of the women who work the streets there, for a lecture the Diocese has asked me to prepare; however I cannot possibly do it now. Will you please go in my place. You will meet the Bishop's wife there. Please take plenty of photographs, as the Diocese wants to point out clearly the problem that exists in that area.

Have you included the cost of my biretta in your insurance application? It is quite ruined.

Susan Sharp

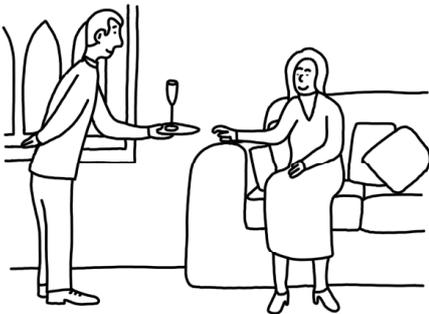
To: Sister Humility
From: Rev'd Susan Sharp

Sister, I have simply not had time yet to follow up the issue with the Rev'd Horace ffoulkes. Looking after the parish here, without any help, has been exhausting, and then when my churchwarden's mismanagement caused a fire, I suffered severe burns fighting it (as one must do for the sake of the congregation). I have only just been discharged from hospital, and there will unfortunately be a lengthy period of rehabilitation. Please show some patience!

Regards,
Susan Sharp

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

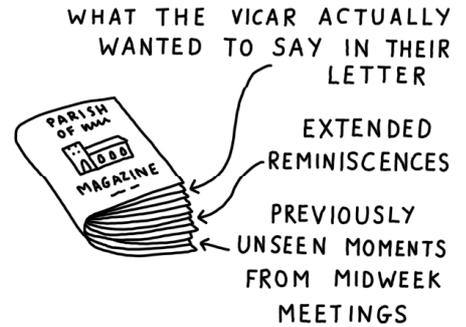
THE BENEFITS



USE OF THE SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY LOUNGE



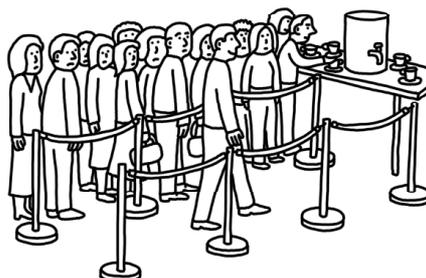
PREVIEWS OF SERMONS THE NIGHT BEFORE RELEASE



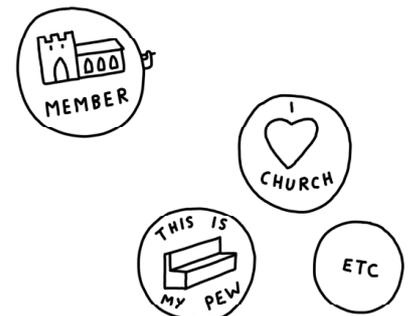
WHAT THE VICAR ACTUALLY WANTED TO SAY IN THEIR LETTER
EXTENDED REMINISCENCES
PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN MOMENTS FROM MIDWEEK MEETINGS
A SPECIAL BUMPER EDITION OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE



A 'GET OUT OF A ROTA FREE' CARD



PRIORITY LANE AT AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE



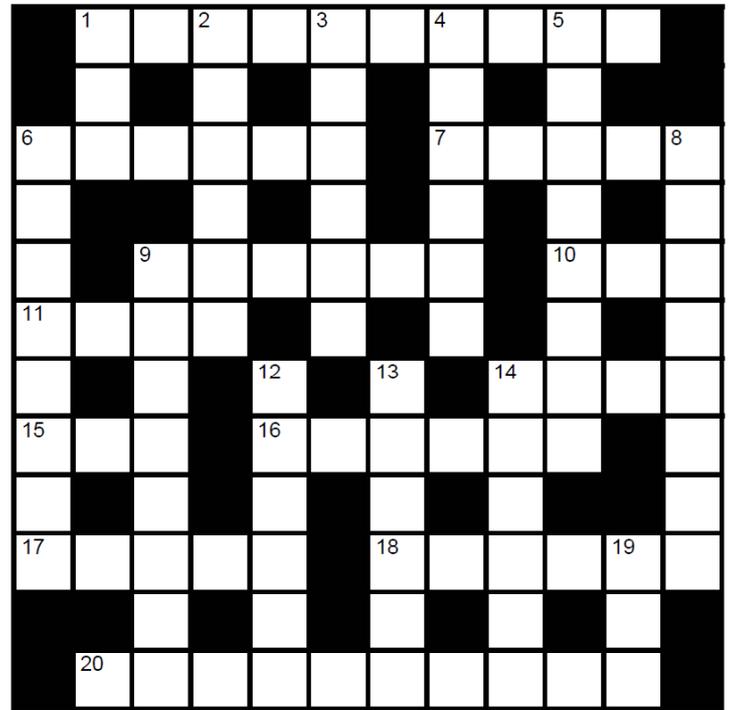
A BADGE, AND SOME STICKERS

Across

- 1 Remorse (10)
- 6 Consecrate (6)
- 7 Break a Commandment (5)
- 9 Make a hole (6)
- 10 Pot (3)
- 11 What Ai became (4)
- 14 This initially watered the earth (4)
- 15 Samuel's mentor (3)
- 16 Small river (6)
- 17 Mount that Moses climbed (5)
- 18 Prophet in David's time (6)
- 20 Biblical garden (10)

Down

- 1 Take flight (3)
- 2 One of the twelve (6)
- 3 All living things (6)
- 4 Response (6)
- 5 Guardians of Eden (8)
- 6 The father of Levi (8)
- 8 Grow (8)
- 9 Forbearance (8)
- 12 Second longest book (6)
- 13 Statue metal (6)
- 14 Sister of Lazarus and Mary (6)
- 19 Wood splitter (3)



by Philologus

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S T F I G O B E D I E N C E S
 L O V E G R A C I O U S L U E
 U T R U S T W O R T H Y R K G
 F O R G I V I N G O N R I I R
 R S U B M I S S I V E L F E A
 E S Y S M R D I U N T C S B T
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 A N I O D U M E I M E A E C F
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 P O I G T S H A T E I A F E L
 L O M A A C S T L F R U I T R
 E G U R T S S E N E L T N E G
 A J H U I S S O L O Y A L T Y
 R O N O O S C O Y H T L A E H
 N Y N C N G T M E E K N E S S

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Tower of Babel Anagram



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- dimnor _____
- bcikr _____
- cfinnoosu _____
- aeehnv _____
- aaegtwy _____
- bdilu _____
- aaeglnsu _____
- deipr _____
- acdeerstt _____
- aabbilnoy _____

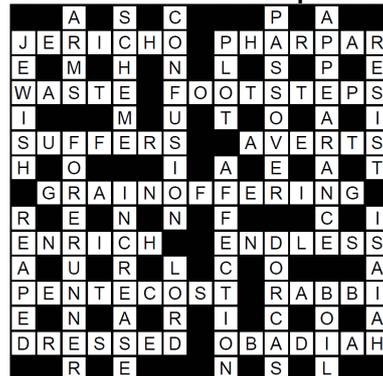
Bible Word Search – Fruits of the Spirit

All the words listed below are in the puzzle – left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and circle each letter of the words you find. After you have found all the words, the leftover letters form the **mystery answer**.

https://www.christianbiblereference.org/ws_FruitsOfTheSpirit-1_0.htm

- Blameless, Christ-like, Compassion, Confident, Considerate,
- Courageous, Forgiving, Fruit, Gentleness, Gifts, Goodness,
- Gracious, Grateful, Healthy, Humility, Joy, Learn, Love, Loyalty,
- Meditation, Meekness, Obedience, Prayerful, Respect,
- Submissive, Surrender, Tolerance, Trustworthy, Virtues, Wisdom

Answers to last month's puzzles



Bible Word Search mystery answer:
NEW TESTAMENT

Last month's anagram:

- aceilmrs _____ miracles
- cdeeitx _____ excited
- aacilprty _____ paralytic
- efginorv _____ forgiven
- bekor _____ broke
- aceehrst _____ teachers
- acdeirr _____ carried
- adeehl _____ healed
- aacempru _____ Capernaum
- aaceirsst _____ staircase

Fishing with the Words of Jesus

Luke 5:1-11

20 March 2022 at St John's Heidelberg

by **Adrian Lane**, *Bush Church Aid*
PO Box 281, Heidelberg 3084

Our gospel today is a great story. Jesus is standing by the Sea of Galilee, otherwise known as the Lake of Gennesaret, and he's teaching the crowd the word of God. But the people are so eager to hear the word of God that they are crowding around him, pressing in upon him and pushing him into the water!

So Jesus comes up with a wonderfully creative solution, which is going to help him in more ways than one. There are two fishing boats moored at the water's edge, one owned by Peter and Andrew, and the other by James and John. They've been fishing all night. And now they're cleaning their nets, which are laid out neatly on the beach – cleaning them of all the bothersome bits of reed and shell that's got caught up in them. Depressingly, they haven't caught a thing.

Jesus gets into Peter's boat and asks him to put out a little from the shore. Then Jesus arranges himself in the boat and teaches the crowd from the boat! And now he's protected from the eager crowd by the lake's moat of water between them!

And so the first thing I'd like us to notice from the passage is how this crowd was *hungry for the word of God*. They were pressing in on Jesus, eager to hear his every word. And I want to ask us this, "Has our attitude to the word of God become ho-hum, has it been blunted?"

I'm so grateful that when I first became a Christian I was taught to get into the habit of reading the Bible every day. And I'm so glad to say that God has helped me to do that. And it nourishes me. If I miss a few days, I find I'm missing something, just like not eating the right food. It doesn't matter how you do it – whether you listen to it on your phone, or read it together with your spouse or a friend, or whether you read *The Big Picture Story Bible* with the kids in your life or, like me, just read a chapter a day in a Study Bible. Just make sure you're being nourished regularly by the word of God.

After Jesus has finished teaching the crowd, he turns to Peter and says, "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch." "You've got to be joking!" thinks Peter, "We've been up all night and haven't caught a thing! We've just cleaned the nets and tidied up the boat! (Those of you who've been boating know how long that all takes!) We're tired and smelly and hungry...OK! Because you say so, and only because you say so, we'll do it."

And we all know what happens! They catch such a large number of fish that their nets begin to break and they have to signal to James and John to come out in the other boat to help them. And they fill both boats so full of fish that both boats begin to sink! There are fish everywhere!

And when Peter sees all this he realises that Jesus is like no other man. Only the Messiah could have known all this. Only the Messiah could have prepared, timed and organised all this. And Peter realises that Jesus has done this as a lesson for him. And when Peter remembers his hesitation and grumpi-

ness he falls at Jesus' knees, amongst all those fish, and says, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Just like Moses in the desert with the burning bush he realises he's in the presence of God! And he's not worthy to be. Indeed, he's so unworthy that he fears for his very life. Jesus' holiness is about to consume him. And so he begs Jesus to get away from him!

What a turnaround! Just a few moments before he's been keeping the boat steady as Jesus taught the crowds. My hunch is that he was feeling rather pleased with himself, rather smug, in that up-front pole position. This wasn't the first time he'd met Jesus. We learn from John 1:35-42 that Andrew had introduced Peter, his brother, to Jesus a short time ago. Andrew had been a disciple of John the Baptist, and one day John the Baptist had pointed out Jesus as he was passing by and said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" And the first thing Andrew had done after discovering Jesus was to find his brother Peter, telling him, "You won't believe who I've found! We've found the Messiah!" (that is, the Christ). And now this massive catch of fish after an empty night has lifted the veil on Peter's eyes and he's believed. He's realised he's in the presence of the long-looked-forward-to Messiah, the very Lamb of God.

And I can't help asking you, "*Has your life been turned around by Jesus?*" Sure, he's a great teacher, a great healer, which is what the crowds saw. But he's so much more than that! And are we game to pray that God would open our eyes to who Jesus really is?

You may have a sudden realisation, like Peter, or you may be more like Andrew, who was obviously a seeker. But in Jesus' presence we too should fall at his feet. Indeed, all the time, every day, we too should fall at Jesus' feet.

But then Jesus says to Peter, "Don't be afraid; from now on, you will catch people." And Luke tells us that those first disciples of Jesus pulled up their boats high upon the shore, just like at the end of the season, left everything, and followed him.

Wow! Luke wastes not a word. He is crisp and straightforward. And he is obviously challenging his listeners and readers to do exactly the same thing. If it is good enough for Peter, Andrew, James and John, those first disciples and apostles, it's good enough for us.

When Jesus finished teaching the crowd, he hadn't really finished his sermon, had he? He may have dismissed the crowd, and they probably went off to get something to eat, thinking that that was the end of their day, but he wasn't finished with those four men. For them, the most powerful, the most memorable, the most important part of the sermon was yet to come. You see, when Jesus said to Peter, "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch," he was giving them one massive illustration of what the rest of their lives were going to be. This was to be the end of their fishing career – fishing for fish, that is. And this was to be the beginning of a whole new life when they'd be fishing for people.

And they were going to catch plenty! You only have to think of that crowd at Pentecost, with people gathered from nations right across the world, when about 3,000 people became Christians after hearing Peter's first sermon. Peter the fisherman!

But first they had to be trained. And that training was going to be hard work and dangerous. And it was going to be focused, because they had left everything: their families, their businesses, to learn how to be fishers for people. Indeed, they spent the next three years with Jesus learning how to fish for people, as he taught them with his word.

I don't know if you've thought about this or not, but when you catch fish, they die. And these first disciples also died, when they themselves were caught by Jesus. They died to their old life, their old values. But then they went into training for a whole new way of living, instructed by Jesus' words. And when Jesus gave them his Spirit, they were given a whole new eternal life, so much more wonderful than their old life.

What are you fishing for? A nice home and family? Financial security? A quiet life? These are often gifts of God, but are they our Number 1 priority? If we give our lives to Jesus, like those first disciples, he will catch us up as well in his great rescue plan and make us, like them, fishers for people.

Now the great thing about a fishing boat is that there are all sorts of jobs! And there's a job for everyone! You need people to maintain the hull, and the sails or the engine. You need people who can navigate, steer and keep watch. You need people who can cook. You need people who can sort, clean and store fish. And, of course, you need people who can actually catch fish! All those jobs, every job, work towards catching fish. Indeed, there's no space on a fishing boat for anything else. It's not like a cruise ship, where you can just relax and let others do the work!

And it's exactly the same with God's church. Even our church buildings remind us of this. They are upturned boats – we're all sitting here in the nave, the Latin word for boat, and the planking on the ceiling reminds us that we're all in the same boat. And we're in the business of fishing, whether it be in Banyule or Regional Australia, with Bush Church Aid. We're in the business of fishing for people, of making followers of Jesus, through the words of Jesus.

Now, being a disciple is costly. It's expensive and it's dangerous – we will get persecuted. Those first disciples left everything to follow Jesus. They saw their Lord crucified and they were persecuted themselves as they took the news of eternal salvation through Christ to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. But Jesus tells us that those who lose their life for his sake and the gospel's will save it.

Are you, like the crowds listening to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee *hungry for God's word*? Has your life, like those first disciples, *been turned around by God's word*? Have you become, like those first disciples, *a fisher for people*? Let's pray that God would work in us, as individuals, as congregations, as a parish, to make us hungry for his word, to turn us around by his word, and to train us to be fishers for people through sharing God's word.

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Going the distance

Jesus Cooks Breakfast

John 21:1–19

Easter 2, 1st May, St. Andrew's

by Helen McAlley

Jesus is risen

In our gospel reading today the disciples know that Jesus has died a terrible death, but they also know that He has risen from the dead. They had heard the account of Mary Magdalene who had met the risen Jesus outside the tomb where He had been laid. Then Jesus had appeared to His disciples going into the room where they were staying through a locked door. A week later, Jesus appeared again to His disciples, this time with Thomas among them. Thomas had not been with them on the first occasion and had expressed doubt that Jesus had really risen from the dead. Jesus had spoken to Thomas and invited him to put his hands into the wounds in His hands and side and Thomas had replied in awe and wonder, 'My Lord and my God.' There had been other resurrection appearances as well, such as Jesus appearing to the two people on the Emmaus Road.

How would Peter have felt?

Let's think for a moment about how Peter may have felt about seeing the risen Jesus.

Peter, who tended to be very impulsive, had promised Jesus at the Last Supper that he was willing to lay down his life for his master. In response, Jesus had predicted that Peter would deny Him three times. And this is exactly what had happened. After Peter's denials, Luke tells us that 'Jesus (who was nearby) turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the words the Lord had spoken to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And Peter went outside and wept bitterly.'

Peter knows that he has failed Jesus and his proud boasting has come to nothing.

Have we failed Jesus too?

Maybe we can think of a time when we have failed Jesus. Maybe we have kept quiet, afraid of what others would think of us, when we have had an opportunity to witness for Jesus. Maybe we did not have the courage to speak up when someone was being mistreated. Maybe we made a promise to Jesus that we did not keep. Maybe, in our weakness, we failed to show love when it was needed.

I know I've been guilty of all of those things. How can we feel in those situations? Ashamed perhaps, disappointed in ourselves, condemning ourselves, possibly judging ourselves to be a failure. Maybe we are hard on ourselves thinking we will never get it right.

It's quite possible that Peter had all of those feelings. But now he knows for certain that Jesus has risen. With John, he had gone to the empty tomb and seen the stone rolled away and the grave clothes lying by themselves. He had been with the other disciples when Jesus had appeared to them in the locked room. Had he perhaps hidden behind the other disciples afraid that Jesus would single him out and rebuke him?

Peter may well have been wondering just where he stood now with Jesus. Could Jesus forgive Him and trust him again with the work of the heavenly kingdom? Might Jesus even reject Peter, who had been the leader of the disciples, as being unsuitable as His follower and disciple?

Going fishing

Maybe to stop himself from brooding over these questions, Peter decides to go fishing.

Fishing had been his occupation before he met Jesus. Maybe there was some comfort in doing this familiar task. He takes six other men with him and they fish throughout the night, but they catch nothing. The dawn finds them tired, baffled and hungry. Furthermore, when someone from the shore calls out to them, asking if they have caught anything, they have to answer, 'no.' There is however, a tone of authority in that voice, and they readily respond when they are told to throw the net over the right side of the boat. Suddenly, they are unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish in it.

A wonderful miracle

Of course, that stranger on the shore is the risen Lord Jesus Himself. He is reassuring the disciples, and especially Peter, by performing a miracle very similar to the one He performed when He first called them to be disciples. Then, they had also toiled all night unsuccessfully and Jesus had told them to put their nets down on the other side of the boat. On that earlier occasion, the nets had begun to break with so many fish and Simon Peter had knelt before Jesus and said, 'Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man.' Jesus had called Peter to follow Him saying that from then on, he would catch people rather than fish.

As Jesus renews His call to Peter, it is interesting that He now performs a similar miracle. This similar miracle after the Resurrection reminds Peter how Jesus had first called him to follow Him and serve Him and sets the scene for Jesus' reinstatement of him as an apostle and the leader of the apostles. It would not be surprising if Peter were remembering that first occasion and Jesus' words to him that he would now be catching people not fish.

Jesus knows each of us individually

By performing this wonderful miracle, Jesus prepares Peter for his encounter with Him in a way that is special for Peter. Similarly, He had ministered to Thomas in the locked room in just the way Thomas needed it. He did not rebuke Thomas, but graciously invited him to place his hands in his wounds so that he could reassure Thomas that he was indeed risen from the dead. And Jesus speaks to us too in just the way that we need it. He understands our different personalities, our fears, our hopes, our particular situations. He is not distant but like the most loving friend, knowing how many hairs we each have on our heads. He is the Lord of glory yet the Bible describes Him as our helper. We can go to Him in any situation knowing that He understands that situation perfectly and that he will fill us with His love and wisdom. Is there something that you need to talk to Jesus about today?

Jesus cooks breakfast

As they peer through the dim light of dawn, John, the beloved disciple, most probably Jesus' cousin, recognises that the man on the beach is Jesus and says, 'It is the Lord.' Immediately, Peter, ever impulsive, snatches his jacket and plunges into the water, no doubt hungry not only for physical food but for the forgiveness and reconciliation that only Jesus can provide. It may be that the miracle of the fish has given him fresh hope that he can be forgiven.

Jesus is cooking fish on a little fire on the shore. Think of that. The Lord of glory cooked breakfast for His disciples, just as he had previously washed their feet. It seems no task was too humble for Him and no task should be too humble for us to do. Jesus

asks the disciples to bring some of the fish they had caught to add to the ones He was cooking, a little reminder that the disciples, and we also, are fellow workers with Him. What a wonderful responsibility!

Jesus first attends to the physical needs of His disciples to have something to eat, reminding us that He is interested in our physical needs as well as all our other needs. Then He draws Peter aside to speak to him.

Jesus reinstates Peter

Jesus says, 'Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?' Simon was the name Peter had before he became a disciple. Jesus wants to make sure of Peter's love before He reinstates him.

Humbled by his betrayal of Jesus, Peter can only reply that he loves Jesus as a friend, not with unconditional love, which we sometimes call *agape* love using the Greek word for that kind of love.

Jesus knows Peter's heart, just as He knows each of our hearts. He knows now that Peter is being humble not proud as before when he responds honestly that he loves Jesus as a friend. Jesus asks Peter the question three times, 'Do you love me' and that reminds us that to serve Jesus we must first have that love relationship with Him.

Jesus reinstates Peter as an apostle and a leader of the disciples and asks him to feed His sheep. For Peter, that would mean continuous care for God's people, the church, until he would die a martyr's death. But now he knew that in his own strength he could do nothing. He was ready to trust Jesus and was prepared to be totally dependent upon the Holy Spirit. And, in the power of the Holy Spirit, what a wonderful leader he became in the early church. God can bring healing and redemption out of our worst sins and failures if we will allow Him to.

Receiving Jesus' forgiveness and commissioning for service

Peter could have condemned himself and refused to receive Jesus' forgiveness and commissioning for service. He could have followed in the footsteps of Judas and despaired, taking his own life. For that matter, the apostle Paul could have also refused to accept God's forgiveness for persecuting and killing Christian people. He could have refused to forgive himself. What a tragedy that would have been!

Are we living in the shadow of something we have done wrong in the past and refusing to forgive ourselves? If so, we are saying that God's promises of forgiveness are not true. We are putting our own ideas ahead of the Scriptures, and that is an example of pride. The instant that the Lord convicts us of sin, we need to confess it and receive forgiveness instead of thinking that we are being somehow more holy by refusing to forgive ourselves and allowing the condemnation of the enemy, which he loves to do, to overwhelm us. Let us not become so self-absorbed with our sins that we refuse to receive God's forgiveness and, as a result, are unable to do the work that the Lord calls each one of us to do.

Prayer

Shall we pray: *Lord, you know each of our hearts. You know when we are truly repentant and sorry for our sins. Help us always to receive your forgiveness quickly and to forgive ourselves. Help us to love you dearly and to be diligent and persevering in the work you call us to do, just as Peter and Paul received your forgiveness and were able to become such wonderful leaders in the early church. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

The Holy Spirit

John 14:23–29

Easter 5, 22nd May, St John's

by Helen McAlley

Jesus prepares His disciples for what is to come

In our gospel reading today we find Jesus speaking with His disciples at the Last Supper. He has shown His love for them and also left an example for them by washing their feet. He has predicted His betrayal by Judas Iscariot and Peter's denial of Him. He has comforted His disciples by telling them that he is preparing a place for them in heaven and explaining that He is the way to the Father. He is 'the Way, the Truth and the Life.' Now He explains about the Holy Spirit. Throughout the evening, His disciples have asked Him questions and He has patiently answered them. He knows that terrible suffering and death await Him, and yet He focuses on the disciples and their need to know what is happening. As we ponder this we might think how wonderful Jesus is to be able to put aside His own concerns and think of the needs of His disciples. Here He is a wonderful example to us. There are times when we too need to put aside our own needs and concerns in order to minister to someone else.

Manifesting Himself to those who love Him, not to 'the world'

Jesus has explained that through the Holy Spirit, He will manifest Himself to His followers who love him. He will not manifest Himself to the world. When Jesus speaks of 'the world' here, He means those in the evil world system which is under the control of Satan and which has rejected Him. They cannot know Him. In contrast, those who love Jesus, and that includes those early disciples as well as all of us who love Him today, will know the Holy Spirit. The Lord the Holy Spirit was with them and would be in them, Jesus said that through the Holy Spirit, the believers would have access to God the loving Father and to Jesus the loving Son of God.

If we love, we will obey

If we love Jesus, we will want to obey Him. Think of our earthly relationships. Husbands and wives often do things which annoy each other like failing to put their dirty socks in the clothes basket, or being late for appointments or leaving their belongings on the kitchen bench. When confronted, it is very easy to dig in one's heels and justify the behaviour. But one husband said, 'Why wouldn't I make that small sacrifice to please her?' He knew that if you love someone, you will delight in doing things that will make them happy. Similarly, if we love Jesus we will want to obey Him.

'Not as orphans'

Jesus wanted His disciples to know that they would not be on their own after His death and ascension to heaven. They would not be like orphans. Most of us can only imagine what it would be like to be orphaned at an early age. I recently read the story of Rosie Batty whose nine-year-old son Luke was killed violently by his father, who was Rosie's ex-partner. Rosie describes her early life when she lost her mother when she was only six years old. Her mother died very suddenly. Rosie felt she never fully recovered from this terrible loss.

She felt sad that she had been left to fend for herself on her own without her mother's guidance and this had been instrumental in some of the wrong decisions she made in her adult life.

Jesus said it would not be like that for His disciples when He ascended to heaven. Rather they would be like a child with the full support and protection of loving parents. They would continue to have fellowship with Him. Anyone who loves Jesus will be loved by both the Father and Jesus and they will show themselves to them through the Holy Spirit.

At this point Judas, not Judas Iscariot, asks Jesus why He will show Himself to His disciples and not to the world. Jesus patiently reiterates that anyone who loves Him will obey His teaching. The Father will love them and they will make their home with that person. Those who do not love Jesus will not obey His teaching.

A love relationship

Our Christian faith is a love relationship with Jesus and the Father. So often we think it is like a servant-master relationship where we try very hard to please Jesus and are afraid He will reject us if we do not try hard enough. However, Jesus declared that he would not call His disciples servants, but friends. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, He does not come to condemn us. There is no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. He wants us to be free and happy and to have an abundant life.

When we really love someone we want to please them, as I mentioned before, and it is not usually even difficult. We are not in fear that they will stop loving us either. They have shown us by their actions that they love us even when we are not perfect. We feel confident and free to be ourselves. And this is what it should be like when the Holy Spirit comes into our lives. Even when the Lord convicts us of sin, He does it so lovingly that we can welcome it and not feel that we are being put down. It is our love for Jesus, knowing who He is and what He has done for us, that helps us to be obedient to Him.

The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as an advocate for us. An advocate, sometimes used in a court setting, will plead in favour of someone, will support them and will vindicate them. The Holy Spirit is on our side. Jesus said, 'But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.' What a wonderful promise that is. The Holy Spirit will teach us everything we need to know to live a godly life and remind us of what Jesus has said. In order for the Holy Spirit to remind us of the words of Jesus, we must be familiar with those words. We should be reading and studying the Bible regularly and asking for the Lord to illuminate it to us. When we have God's words in our hearts, that is when the Lord can remind us of them in a particular situation.

I was praying for friends with a difficult family situation. They are having family counselling. I reflected as I prayed that

we have an enemy who comes, as Jesus said, only to steal and destroy. Then I remembered that verse from the book of Joel that says that the Lord will restore the years that the locust has eaten. I knew the Lord wanted to restore the relationships within that family to what they had been in past years and that the Lord had reminded me of those verses so that I could be effective in praying for them. We could probably all share times when the Lord, the Holy Spirit, has reminded us of Scriptures that are relevant to the situation we are facing ourselves or the situations of those we are praying for.

Working in our thoughts

The Holy Spirit also teaches us by giving us the right thought or direction when we need it. He works through our thoughts. It is often different from when we have been going over and over a situation in our minds. The Lord will sometimes give us a fresh thought – something we may not have considered before. With practice, we can learn to distinguish between the voice of the Holy Spirit and our own thoughts. We can also learn, with God's help and discernment, to recognise the voice of the enemy who tempts us, condemns us or generally tries to put us down.

It may be helpful to have a few minutes each day to talk quietly with the Lord and listen to Him speaking to us. He will often encourage us, show us what we need to do, convict us of sin and all in love.

God's peace

Jesus goes on to promise peace to His followers, saying, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.' This is the peace that we have when we are facing a difficult situation, but we have committed it to the Lord and know that He will resolve that situation or give us the grace to bear it. Those in 'the world' tend to feel peace only when their circumstances are easy. But there is a condition that we must abide by in order to receive God's peace. We are not to allow our hearts to be troubled or afraid. That means we make the decision to be peaceful in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. We affirm, 'I will not allow myself to be troubled or afraid in this situation. I am trusting God to help me.' When the anxiety comes back, we simply affirm again that we are trusting God and we choose to stay in peace. In doing this, we are fellow workers with God.

What a blessing it is to have the Holy Spirit. We should speak to Him regularly throughout our day. He lives within us and has perfect love for us. We are never alone and we can trust Him in every situation.

Prayer

Shall we pray: *Dear Lord, we thank you for the love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We thank you that Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit at the Last Supper, preparing His disciples and us for what was to come. May we have a deep love relationship with you through the Holy Spirit, to love you and allow you to love us and to help us in every way that we need it. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*



Parish Council Notes

Meeting of Wednesday 27th April

Finance report

- March 2022: expenditure exceeded income by \$6060. Not seen as a concern: many income payments quarterly/irregularly, Feb income substantially greater than expenditure.
- Encouraging that halfway through Parish's financial year (major deficit forecast), a slight excess of income over expenditure.
- However, some large repair and maintenance bills will need paying in the next few months.
- Received \$5,000 for the filming of a DARE iced coffee ad at St John's: in April finance report.
- Recently found Diocese failed to act on our requests to set up Motor Vehicle Replacement Funds for Denise and Patrick when they started in 2018. Now rectified, but since we pay the contributions to these, we now owe several years' worth: unexpected substantial liability. Diocese has organised an interest-free loan: pay off over the next few years.
- Kaye now authorised bank account signatory: currently Emmi Godau, Kaye Collins, Andrew Fegan, Mike Connor, Peter McKay.

Watsonia new service initiative

- Jonathan has spoken with Watsonia congregation, has begun boxing classes with soldiers at Simpson Barracks; hopes this will lead to people coming to Watsonia Church.

Watsonia Town Square

- Still waiting to hear whether Banyule Council will accept a long-term ground lease or push for acquisition of the land.

Gloucester Drive

- Repairs well under way, hope completed in a couple of weeks. Wardens thanked for organising repairs and doing some themselves.
- Applied to ADF for a loan to cover some of cost of repairs.
- Hopefully available for re-leasing soon. Try for a lower commission fee.

Rosanna

- Parish Council does NOT wish to receive a cash settlement and supervise hall demolition itself: prefers insurer take responsibility.
- Raise with insurer relocating electricals to ensure supply to rest of property, maintaining suitable toilet facilities on the property.
- Keep Footscape and St Peter's informed.
- Denise, wardens and Diocese representatives meeting 3 May on site to discuss future plans.

St John's building subcommittee

- Helpful to get a second architectural opinion.
- Search archives and Maureen Shand for relevant previous reports.
- Meeting between Denise, Andrew and Chris Hall to explore what we do next.

Queen's Jubilee tree canopy grant

- Grants for tree planting across Australia to mark Queen's Jubilee—Community Garden developed Tree Canopy proposal: changes, improvements to parts of St John's property, especially around the Community Garden.
- Parish Council enthusiastically supports.
- Parish and Garden to liaise with local Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and elders and seek their input.
- If successful, a celebratory function would need arranging.
- Approach Melbourne Water and Banyule City Council about cleaning Salt Creek up.

Watsonia op shop

- Contacting Mark of BSL to establish procedures that ensure we get regular payment of our share.

Correspondence to/from PC

- Letter to Raj Ariyathurai thanking him for his contributions to Parish Council. Very nice reply.

Child safety

- Posters put up at each Parish Centre.

Preventing Violence Against Women

- Posters put up at Parish Centres.

Vicar's report

- **Ministry**
 - Easter Services went really well. Excellent attendance (90) on Easter Day.
 - Attendances fluctuate with many elderly in our congregations becoming ill and more frail.
 - A few funerals last month; seek PC's advice on pricing. Syd is paid separately; our fee currently \$600. Funeral directors surprised it is so low. *PC agreed fees for funerals should be raised to be more in line with elsewhere.*

Merri Creek partnership

- Banyule/Merri Creek Prayer Retreat on 9 April.
- Important some attend the first service at Merri Ck Fairfield; postponed due to work on building.

BSL & op shop

- We received February 2022 monies from BSL seamlessly as it was under the old system.
- I have contacted Mark Lane about the March trading results so that we can invoice BSL for our 50% portion. How to do this going on?

Watsonia Town Square

- Attended final meeting of the Reference Group on 29 March, which endorsed preferred option.
- Diocese asked to convey to Banyule Council preference to enter into a long-term ground lease for the car park. Would provide a CPI-indexed income stream. Awaiting.

Rosanna

- Arrange meeting of Diocese with the Wardens to scope out the site and discuss actions.
- Asked to meet with Chris Hall: now with a State Govt Housing Authority that is looking for land.

Other

- Bishop Kate had to change her visit to Sept.
- Annual leave 9 May – 2 June incl. Really need a longer break this time. Jonathan Acting Vicar.

Associate's report

- Continuing discussions with Lito Cruz (former pastor Mill Park), engagement with Watsonia Barracks: 1st boxing session (07/04).
- Regis Aged care service.
- Attended prayer retreat.
- First baptism 26/03.
- Holy Week; preached Easter Day.
- Get Rossi Landscaping to St John's play area.
- **Thanks:**
 - Easter Services
 - Alpha at St Pius to start (27 April; *one marriage couple has shown interest in attending*).

Prayers:

- Alpha attendees
- Watsonia progress

Goals next month:

- Level 3 Safe ministry training
- Complete website and go live
- Pooling of research, resources on revitalisation
- Study and plans for Watsonia: resources into church revitalisation

Goals next quarter (Apr–June):

- Further EPIC training
- Planned meetings in Watsonia
- Possible first Sunday services at Holy Spirit

Wardens' report

• Wardens' meeting – 10.04.2022

- Signed letter to Diocese re reletting car park.
- Take interest-free loan from diocese for MVRF.
- Make date for Diocesan reps to visit and tell us the next step re Rosanna development.
- May need a fund-raising campaign for St John's restoration but need a timeline and a target.
- Ask for a \$40,000 loan for 10 years for repair of Gloucester Drive but try to pay it off sooner.

• Heidelberg

- Switch for lights at front of church fixed temporarily; Colin to get special order permanent plate.
- New light unit installed over the organ.
- John Ryan engaged to dig the tree roots out of sewer: brought forward due to overflow.
- Met with Community Garden re application for tree canopy grant. John Hawker, retired Heritage Victoria Tree Advisor, assessed trees at St John's, esp those in need of removal. Arborist from Diamond Valley Tree Services, has inspected, will quote for tree removal.

• Jika Street

- Sensor light at entrance repaired.

• Gloucester Drive

- Inspected 8th April: clean, needing only some paint on cupboard doors, several door stops, new cover for the manhole, some minor tasks.
- Slight leak in cooktop gas regulator: replaced.
- Jeff Harvey quote accepted, work started 12th April, removed asbestos, old fascia, spouting.
- Asked builder to remove dilapidated window in garage, fill in with sheets of metal already there. No cost for that yet, but quote is \$44,600 for builder and plumber and \$3575 for electrician; approx. \$9000 paid so far.
- Power reconnected: \$600 dis- and re-connecting.

• Rosanna

- Little has happened; insurer put up a higher fence!

• Watsonia

- Emergency lights replaced, now comply.
- Exit sign above entry now working.
- Kaye will be getting quote for cracked glass and investigating insurance for repair.

• 80 Watsonia Road

- On Good Friday tenant reported next door neighbour had pruned trees inside our property—quite upset. Situation assessed.
- Routine inspection by agents identified the following needs, mostly urgent:
 - Remove ensuite wooden strip, install shower seal. Re-silicone?
 - Resecure kitchen cupboard, reattach ceiling light. Request for new blind. Window winder comes off. Smoke alarm goes off when cooking: fan not strong enough? Replace silicone behind sink.
 - Replace bedroom 4 curtain as full of mould.
 - Replace slow main bathroom fan. Ceiling covered with mould needs attention ASAP, mould-proof paint. Bath base is worn.
 - Dead tree in front yard. Outdoor blinds on order. Front fence wobbly. Fascia boards' paint peeling. Power line very close to tree.

• Additional matters discussed:

- Possible ways of alleviating mould issues in the property at 80 Watsonia Road.
- The wardens were again thanked for all the work they had put in.

General business

- Request by Grace Baptist Church to use Holy Spirit church 22 May, 10 am – noon, approved.
- Parish Council minutes uploaded to hard drive of parish computer and can now be accessed by Council members.

Minutes by Mike Connor, précis by Editor