

The Leaflet

No. 1050
December 2014



Jesus

Follow the *Spirit* of Christmas





THE SCOTS' CHURCH, MELBOURNE

The First Presbyterian Church in Victoria – Founded 1838

LOCATIONS The Scots' Church, Melbourne, 77 Russell St (cnr Collins St), Melbourne
Assembly Hall Building, Werner Brodbeck Hall, Grnd Flr, 156 Collins St, Melbourne
Assembly Hall Building, Robert White Hall, 1st Flr, 156 Collins St, Melbourne
St Stephen's Church, Flemington and Kensington, 26 Norwood St, Flemington

WORSHIP **SUN:** **9.30 am Service**, St Stephen's Church
10.30 am Indonesian Language Service (www.icc-melbourne.org),
Werner Brodbeck Hall
11.00 am Traditional Service, The Scots' Church
5.00 pm Engage City Church Contemp. Service, Robert White Hall
(Crèche and Sunday school are available during all Sunday services.)
TUE: **7.00 pm City Bible Study (CBS)**, Robert White Hall
WED: **1.00 pm Service**, The Scots' Church
THU: **1.00 pm Lunchtime Worship and Meeting**, Werner Brodbeck Hall
(Prayer requests may be given to the church office during office hours, or to any duty manager at any service.)

MEETINGS **SUN:** 9.15 am Choir practice
WED: 10.30 am PWMU (second Wednesday)
7.30 pm Kirk Session (first Wednesday)
7.30 pm Board of Management (fourth Wednesday, bi-monthly)

DIRECTORY

Senior Minister	Rev. D. R. Robertson	9650 9903
Minister, Central Business District	Rev. R. O'Brien	9650 9903
Assistant Minister	Rev. D. E. P. Currie	9650 9903
Minister, St Stephen's, Flemington	Rev. P. Court	9650 9903
Pastor, Indonesian Language Congregation	Dr S. Sendjaya	9650 9903
Administrator	Mr A. North	9650 9903
Ministers' Secretary	Mrs W. Gregory	9650 9903
Church Officer	Mr K. Bowden	9650 9903
Building Officer	Mr R. Holt	9650 9903
Bookkeeper	Mr M. Hirst	9650 9903
Director of Music	Mr D. Lawrence OAM	9650 9903
Assistant Organist	Dr R. Batterham AO	9650 9903
Session Clerk	Miss D. R. Anstee AM DSJ	9650 9903
Chair, Scots' Church Properties Trust	Miss D. R. Anstee AM DSJ	9650 9903
Hon. Treasurer, Board of Management	Mr J. Nuske FCPA	9650 9903
Hon. Secretary, Board of Management	Dr D. Sherman	9650 9903
Convenor, Planned Giving	Mr G. Harris	9650 9903
Christian Education Convenor	Mr G. Harris	9650 9903
Superintendent Sunday School	Mrs D. Sherman	9650 9903
Superintendent Indo. Language Sunday School	Mrs L. Sendjaya	9650 9903
Editor, <i>The Leaflet</i>	Miss R. Strother	9650 9903



Welcome to The Scots' Church, Melbourne,
and this edition of our bi-monthly newsletter,

The Leaflet

The Scots' Church Melbourne is a diverse and eclectic body of God's people who come together each week to worship God in a variety of styles and settings.

Beyond our weekly gatherings, we seek to love and serve the Lord by being faithful in our devotion to the Word of God, caring in our fellowship with one another and visitors, and generous in our outreach to the communities in which God has placed us.

We would be delighted to meet you at any of our church services or at any of our other public meetings and functions.

If you want to know more about the Christian faith, the Presbyterian Church, Scots' Church or the range of activities and ministries that we're involved in, please don't hesitate to contact us:

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Senior Minister
The Rev. Douglas Robertson

Dear Friends,

Isn't it a little bit sad when the '12 days of Christmas' come to an end and you have to pack away all the decorations for another year? The bright lights, the glitter and tinsel, angels and animals, and all the greeting cards from friends and family far and near, all tucked

up neatly into boxes under the stairs for the next 11.5 months. If the decorations add fun and colour and light and excitement to our lives, why don't we leave them up for the rest of the year too?

Well, if you drop in to our house anytime (and you're always welcome) you'll discover that my wife's wonderful collection of ornamental Santas is on display all year round! Yes, we still pack everything else away, but there's a little bit of Christmas in our front room all the time.

I'm not meaning to equate Jesus with Santa, but there's maybe something symbolic in this. There are many people in our society who will identify themselves as Christian if asked, but the truth is that they only dust down their faith and put it on display for a couple of relatively short seasons in the year—Christmas and Easter and maybe a family wedding—and then pack it away again. For the rest of the year there is nothing visible about their lifestyle that identifies them as Christians.

My point is quite simple: if Jesus Christ offers you hope, encouragement, strength, forgiveness, joy and love when you turn to him on special occasions, why not turn to him more regularly? Why not make it a weekly habit to come to church, or even



a daily habit in private prayer or Bible study, to look upon Jesus and seek his grace and blessing?

I do hope that this Christmas season is a lot of fun for you all, that you enjoy the family gatherings, the feasts of food, the gifts, the office parties and whatever particular festivities you get involved in, but I also hope you find something meaningful, inspiring and uplifting in the message of God's Son sent to be our Saviour that you might want to continue to explore and enjoy throughout the rest of the year as well.

Wishing you every blessing,

Douglas



A Christmas greeting from Douglas Robertson

Alison, Mairi and Duncan join me in sending you all our very best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas season.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people (Luke 1:68, ESV).





Minister, Central Business District
The Rev. Richard O'Brien

The Spirit of Christmas

The recent concern about Ebola reminded me of a famous quote from Dionysius who lived around 260 AD at the height of the second great epidemic that devastated parts of the Roman Empire. Dionysius, Bishop of Alexandria at that time, wrote a lengthy tribute to the heroic nursing efforts of local Christians, many of whom lost their lives while caring for others:

Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbours and cheerfully accepting their pains. Many in nursing and curing others, transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead ... The best of our brothers lost their lives in this manner, a number of presbyters, deacons, and laymen winning high commendation so that death in this form, the result of great piety and strong faith, seems in every way the equal of martyrdom. (Quoted in Stark, page 82).

Rodney Stark in *The Rise of Christianity*, commenting on Dionysius' quote says:

Indeed, as God demonstrates his love through sacrifice, humans must demonstrate their love through sacrifice on behalf of one another. Moreover, such responsibilities were to be extended beyond the bonds of family and tribe, indeed to 'all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:2). These were revolutionary ideas.' (Stark, page 86).

When the New Testament was new, these were the norms of the Christian communities. Tertullian claimed:

It is our care of the helpless, or practice of loving kindness that brands us in the eyes of many of our opponents. 'Only look,' they say, 'look how they love one another!' (Stark, page 87).

In this Christmas Season we are reminded of the birth of Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us, the one who came and served and gave His life as a ransom for us. This is the spirit of Christmas.

Richard O'Brien

Reference: Rodney Stark, 'The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries', Harper Collins, San Francisco, 1997.



A Christmas greeting from the O'Brien family

Good news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven. (Martin Luther)

Have a blessed Christmas.

Richard, Rosemary, Maddy and Emily





Assistant Minister

The Rev. David Currie

What a Difference a Baby Can Make!

We're fast approaching that time of year once again when we start to think about sending off our overseas Christmas cards, then others, when we look out the decorations, and try to get our heads round what to buy the family for Christmas this year! Having said that, in this multicultural, multi-faith and 'no faith' society

that we're living in these days, some people are wondering:

- What's this all about?
- Why should I have to sing Christmas carols?
- What does all this tinsel and lights mean for me?
- I don't know if I can be bothered with this anymore!

Well, even I, as a Christian minister, believe that people should be allowed freedom of expression, and besides, I know a few Christian people who get a bit fed up with all the pizzazz and consumerism that surrounds Christmas these days.

So in this brief reflection, I want to cut across some of that and simply remind you—what a difference a baby can make!

Those of us who are parents, grandparents, or simply family members or friends of someone who has had a baby, will certainly testify to this anyway—the mounting anticipation as the predicted 'due' date draws closer, the joy and excitement of birth, the turmoil and upset, the change in family dynamics ... yes, what a difference a baby can make!

Now let's go back to thinking about Christmas again. Imagine then, if you will, that this baby is unique! ... Every baby is unique! ... No, I mean really unique ... of the essence, of the being, of the spirit, of the life of God—and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)' (Matthew 1:23, ESV).

Now just let that sink in for a moment or two. And you're beginning to see what a difference a baby can make! And I know we don't see the whole picture sometimes,

and we have lots more questions to ask about these things: Why did God come in this way? Is Jesus really God? What was his message? How did he change the world? Why did he die so young? Why didn't the church die a few years later? Is he still alive? How can I meet him?

And they're good questions too! I'd encourage you to work away at them in your own way, as I am in mine. People come up with different answers: then (his supporters or his critics) and now (church-goers or cynics). As for me, I want to join the shepherds, 'praising God for all they had heard and seen' (Luke 2:20, ESV).

What a difference a baby can make!

Wishing you God's joy and peace this Christmas, and throughout the New Year.

David Currie



A Christmas greeting from David and Gwen Currie

Gwen and I take this opportunity of wishing all the members of the Scots' Church, Melbourne, and the worldwide family of 'friends of Scots' Church', God's peace and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year of 2015.

David and Gwen





Minister, St Stephen's, Flemington
The Rev. Philip Court

Updates

Signposts to Christ: Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament

In the lead-up to this year's Advent season at St Stephen's, I preached a sermon-series on some of the many Old Testament passages that are (or will be) fulfilled in the person and mission of Jesus the Christ. The unifying theme of the series was the risen Jesus' words to his disciples:

These are the words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled (Luke 24:44, ESV).

The topics covered by the series were:

- The seed of the woman, reading Genesis 3 in the light of Luke 10:17-20;
- The lamb of God, reading Exodus 12 in the light of Luke 22:7-20;
- The bread of heaven, reading Exodus 16 in the light of John 6:47-58;
- The suffering servant, reading Isaiah 53 in the light of Acts 8:26-38;
- The forsaken Son, reading Psalm 22 in the light of Mark 15:22-39;
- In the belly of the great fish, reading Jonah 1 in the light of Matthew 12:38-42;
- Coming in clouds, reading Daniel 7:13-14 in the light of Mark 13:14-27.

By foreshadowing Christ throughout the divinely inspired Old Testament, and by plainly revealing this to us through the divinely inspired New Testament, God has provided his children of faith with ample assurance that his word is reliable, trustworthy and purposeful. That ought to be a source of great hope, comfort and joy to us, whatever season of our lives we are moving through.

Food for Thought: In the Footsteps of St Paul

We recently trialled a new form of fellowship we are calling Food for Thought. The idea is to gather a few people together for an occasional potluck evening meal

with a presentation and discussion on a topic of interest.

One of our elders, Bob Farquharson, and his wife Yvonne, agreed to be our 'first cab off the rank'. On a Thursday evening in October, they gave us a thoughtful and entertaining presentation on their recent overseas travels. The first part dealt with the life and context of an evangelical church in Hungary where their son and daughter-in-law are serving as missionaries. The church, Calvary Christian Church, is in the ancient university city of Pecs, about two hours' south of Budapest.

The rest of the presentation focussed on their visit to Ephesus in Turkey, an extensive archaeological site of the city that featured so significantly in the life and writings of the Apostle Paul.

With the evening unanimously voted a success, I look forward to several more Food for Thought evenings in 2015.

Phil



The first St Stephen's 'Food for Thought' evening fellowship gets under way in the Muir Hall. As you can see, no one starved!



The Library of Celsus, in the ancient Greek city of Ephesus.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons, Benh LIEU/SONG, 2010.

The Rev. James Clow

In the last issue of *The Leaflet*, a link between the Rev. James Clow and the Dandenong and Rowville areas was described. Clow's home, 'Tirhatuan', was built in 1841. The location of the homestead was on the present site of a golf course of the same name. Clow lived at 'Tirhatuan' until its sale in 1850.



Photo credit: Tirhatuan Golf Club.

Early homestead of Tirhatuan.

Reference: Rowville-Lysterfield Community News, 7th September 2014, page 1, 'CLOW Rev. James Clow Writes to Governor La Trobe'.

A Christmas greeting from Phil and Deb Court

May the peace of Christ fill you, uphold you, and sustain you
this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Phil and Deb



Elder in the Spotlight

Dr Andrew McDonald

Dr Andrew McDonald was born in Melbourne, and grew up in Hawthorn East. He attended Auburn South Primary School and went on to complete his secondary education at Scotch College, where he graduated as dux in mathematics. As a child, Andrew attended South Hawthorn Presbyterian Church, where he went to Sunday school, and was a member of the Young Worshippers League.

Andrew was awarded a commonwealth tertiary scholarship, studying dentistry at the University of Melbourne, where he graduated in 1974, winning the prize in orthodontics. After practising for five years, he returned to university studies, graduating with a Master's Degree in Orthodontics in 1982. Since then, Andrew has worked as an orthodontist in private practice. Early in his career, at a time when there were very few orthodontists in Victoria, he joined a practice in Dandenong. At the time there were no orthodontists east or south of this practice in Victoria, so people travelled long distances from Gippsland and the Mornington Peninsula for treatment. Over time, branch practices were established at Mornington, Wonthaggi, Traralgon and Box Hill. Currently, Andrew works as a sole practitioner, including travelling to King Island every six weeks to treat patients there. He is a member of the Australian Society of Orthodontists, Victorian Branch, of which he is a past president.

The first association with Scots' Church for Andrew was through his friendship with Barbara Brodbeck, whom he married at Scots' in 1986. The Brodbeck family, members of Scots' Church, were close friends with minister the Rev. Ray Russell, whom Andrew got to know well. He describes the Rev. Russell as 'down to earth', very approachable, and a warm and caring person. His successor, the Rev. Norman Pritchard and his wife Joan, were also well known to the family. After the death of Barbara's father, Werner Brodbeck, Andrew, together with his brother-in-law Simon Walters and their friend Paul Keress, made a decision to become members of Scots' Church. Simon and Paul were subsequently ordained as elders, with Andrew also being ordained on 22nd June 2014.

Andrew and Barbara have two daughters, Priska and Lara, who were both baptised at Scots' by Norman Pritchard. Priska, named after Barbara's mother, is a third year resident doctor currently working at the Alfred Hospital, and at the same time doing her Basic Physician's Training in order to specialise. Lara is at Deakin University where she is completing a Construction Management Degree following a Bachelor of Architecture. Both girls attended the Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC), where



Andrew McDonald.

Andrew joined the college council in 1999. Since then he has been a member of the Planning and Property Committee and has been involved in major building works at the school over the intervening years, with another large project, a Performing Arts Centre, due to commence in the next couple of years. He also took on the position of President of the PLC Foundation in 2009, with its goal of raising funds for major building works at the school. Although his daughters no longer attend PLC, Andrew sees this as a way of contributing to a sound future for this excellent school.

Andrew is a keen skier—an interest he shares with his family. Other interests include travelling, gardening and golf.

Our warm congratulations to Andrew on his ordination as an elder. ■

An update on building works at 150 Collins Street

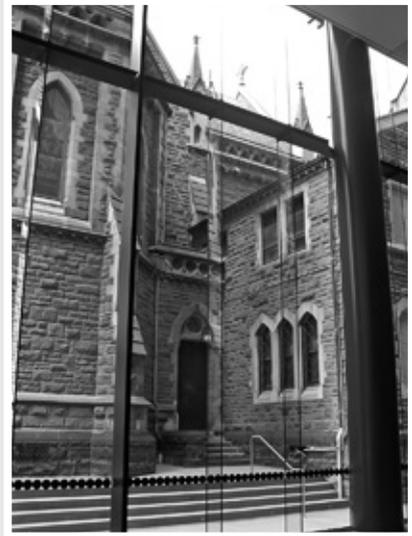
From 15th August, Westpac started to move into the new building. They have been progressively moving with a big date being Practical Completion on 24th October.

On Monday, 27th October coffee was available in the entry area! Also on this date, the perimeter of the church was open and for the first time for about 100 years we could walk the circumference. The experience was everything as awe inspiring as envisaged with magnificent views of the church from the foyer of the new building. The foyer itself is tastefully designed with sandstone walls and a bluestone floor, so that the exit from the back of the church is almost as impressive.

The walkway between church and Assembly Hall was opened and immediately access between both buildings became much easier.

In the weeks ahead, the fountain and garden will be rebuilt and the Station of the Cross returned. The exteriors of the older buildings will be tidied. The temporary Collins Street ramp will disappear. The function room in the new building will become available early next year and our car parking will be made available.

We moved our last things out of 99 Russell Street in January 2011 and so the project will have taken approximately three years from demolition commencement to building and exterior completion. Quite a feat, and at some inconvenience cost



Scots' Church as seen from the magnificent foyer of the new building.

and resource cost to the church. We appreciate the patience required, but look forward to the benefits.

Andrew North



Church and new building viewed from Russell Street.



The 'cloisters' of the Assembly Hall form part of the walkway.



The expansive forecourt of the new building is now open.

From the Archives

Distinguished Churchmen

Henry Bremner Lewis (1875–1948)



Henry Bremner Lewis.

Mr Bremner Lewis belonged to a pioneer family well known and much respected in the Beaufort district of Victoria. His father came from Fifeshire, Scotland, in 1846, and served as an elder for many years. Henry Bremner Lewis was educated at Scotch College and Ormond College, and in due time became chairman of both councils. He was admitted a solicitor and barrister of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1901.

Mr Bremner Lewis never thought that life could be divided into two compartments, the sacred and the secular. He considered that everything that affected man was a religious problem and served his Master as a member of a number of committees, including the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Gordon Institute, looking upon this work as his Christian duty and privilege.

For almost half a century, he was a member of The Scots' Church. He was elected to the Board of Management in 1905 and served as secretary for 20 years and as chairman for 16 years. His services as trustee covered almost the same period, and for some years he was chairman of trustees of this church. He was ordained an elder in 1925.

The Rev. Dr F.W. Boreham commented that Mr Bremner Lewis attended him in the vestry and escorted him to the pulpit each week at the Lunch-Hour Service.

He really loved his Bible; he really loved Scots' Church; and he really loved this mid-day service for business people. It made him extraordinarily happy if, on one Wednesday, I could tell him the subject with which I should deal a week later; and, when the day came, he would arrive brimming over with the fruit of his study and meditation on that theme.



The church doors.

He served in the courts of the Presbyterian Church, and on its committees and boards, including the Trusts Corporation.

The congregation, in grateful remembrance of his devoted service, sheathed the doors leading into the church in bronze.

His wife and a sister survived him.

Judith Kilmartin

Reference: Excerpts from copies of eulogies held in The Scots' Church Archives.

National Museum of Scotland Video of Scots' Church

online



In July, the National Museum of Scotland featured both the inside and outside of Scots' Church when they filmed Scots' Church member, Captain Dr Lionel Boxer CD KCSJ, speaking about Scottish diaspora involvement during World War I. In particular, Lionel spoke about the involvement of his grandfather, Cr Robert Edward McIndoe MBE (a member of 21st Battalion and later 24th Battalion) and how he met Lionel's Canadian-born grandmother, Dorothy Sofia Mock (who nursed Bob McIndoe after he was injured).

This video—and others from around the world—can be viewed on the Internet at <http://vimeo.com/103692696>.

AFL Grand Final Mid Week Service

The Scots' Church Grand Final Mid Week Service, held on 24th September, was again strongly supported by members of the congregation, with visitors from Castlemaine, Maffra, Bairnsdale and suburban Melbourne. The service was conducted by the Rev. David Currie, with the Rev. Daniel Bullock, Chaplain of the Western Bulldogs AFL club, as the guest preacher.

The Rev. Steve Stubbings, National Development Director, Sports Chaplaincy Australia, led the congregation in prayer and the New Testament lesson from Acts Chapter 1:6-11 was read by Mrs Isabelle Scott, Chaplain to St Albans Spurs, Victorian Women's Football League.

A highlight of the service was that, for the first time, Anthony Miles, an AFL footballer, accepted an invitation to be involved in the Grand Final Service. Anthony, a team member of the Richmond Football Club, was interviewed by the Rev. David Currie about his faith and his football career. The congregation was impressed with his readiness to speak of his Christian faith and how it enabled him to cope with the demands of being an AFL footballer.

The music was provided by members of the Crossway Worship Band and the congregation sang the two selected hymns: *Christ Alone* and *To God be the Glory* with full voice.



The Rev. Daniel Bullock delivering the address at the service.

Our guest preacher, the Rev. Daniel Bullock, in his sermon 'The Game Plan', spoke of the need to look outside of the team huddle. He said team structure is so important to footballers that they tend to look inwards instead of giving a little of themselves to others. Daniel told the congregation that is the way Jesus taught us to care and live



The Rev. David Currie (left) and Eric Pretty with the 1964 AFL Premiership Cup, on display during the service.

our life for Him, not to live entirely for ourselves, a message that is so important in whatever we do with our lives.

It was a pleasure to hear the Word of God preached by Daniel and hear the positive response of the congregation to his sermon.

Once again the outside of the church was decorated with balloons of the team colours of the two Grand

Final sides: Sydney Swans and Hawthorn. The fund raising team worked tirelessly in cooking sausages and providing tea and coffee for sale to the public in Collins Street. Through their hard work they raised \$800 for Sports Chaplaincy Australia. Thank you to Dennis Conradi, Roy Searle, Ian Marshall, Harold Burge, Gordon Taylor, Don Boyd, Adam Thrussell and Margaret Lowe for their support for the service.

A thank you to all who supported the Grand Final Service on this very special day in the life of our church, and we look forward to continuing the AFL Grand Final Service in 2015.

Robert Lowe

New Members

Christian and Lara Patone were welcomed as members of Scots' Church on 19th October, the day on which their daughter Aimee Jacqueline was baptised.

We also warmly welcome Mrs Rosemary Clencie to the membership of Scots' Church.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH

WHO WAS 'GOOD KING WENCESLAS'?

The well-known Christmas carol, *Good King Wenceslas*, tells the story of a king and his servant, a page, who set out to take food and wood to a peasant on St Stephen's Feast Day, celebrated on 26th December, the traditional date of Stephen's death as the first Christian martyr. During the journey to the peasant's home in the bitter cold of a snowy night, the page felt unable to continue, but when his followed in the king's footsteps, he was able to go on due to the warmth they generated.

This carol, which dates from the 19th century, was written by English hymn writer John Mason Neale in 1853, and was set to a tune based on a 13th century Finnish carol. However, the story of King Wenceslas dates as far back as the 10th century.

Wenceslas was born in Bohemia, the present day Czech Republic, in about 903 AD. His father was Duke Vratislaus of Bohemia, and on his death in 921, Wenceslas nominally came to power, although his mother took on the role of regent. His grandmother, who had raised him at her castle, had ensured that Wenceslas was instructed in Christianity, as well as receiving education in other subjects. His mother was a pagan, who had his grandmother killed for political reasons. Wenceslas remained a Christian. It appears



Part of the exterior of the magnificent St Vitus Cathedral, Prague.

he was devout and, on finally assuming his position as the ruling duke, had his mother exiled.

Known for his generosity to the poor, Wenceslas founded several cathedrals, churches and monasteries as he fostered the spread of the Christian faith. In September 935, on his way to church, he was murdered by his younger brother, who then became Duke of Bohemia. He later repented of his crime. Although only a duke in his lifetime, the title of king was conferred on Wenceslas posthumously by a Holy Roman Emperor.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons, user: Crtzy (Clayton Tang, New York)



St Wenceslas Chapel, situated within St Vitus Cathedral.

Wenceslas' remains, originally buried at the site of the crime, were later moved to the church of St Vitus, located in Prague Castle. In the 1340s, construction of the magnificent St Vitus Cathedral began, replacing the earlier church on the site. Included in the building was an ornate chapel dedicated to St Wenceslas, which contained his tomb. This chapel still exists and has paintings of the Passion of Christ on the walls dating from the original decoration in the 14th century, when it was constructed. The upper walls have paintings depicting the life of St Wenceslas, added to the chapel in the early 16th century. It is also decorated with over 1,300 semi-precious stones. A door in the corner of the chapel leads to the Crown Chamber that houses the Bohemian Crown Jewels.

Wenceslas is the patron saint of the Czech Republic.

References: Good King Wenceslas. Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good_King_Wenceslas; St. Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle in Prague. <http://www.pragueexperience.com/places.asp?PlaceID=602>; Wenceslas. Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wenceslaus_I,_Duke_of_Bohemia; Wenceslas. http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Saint_Wenceslaus.aspx.

Interview

Betty Harding

Betty Harding has been a member of St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Flemington, since 1959 and an elder since 1984. Throughout her years at Flemington, she has remained constantly loyal and faithful, supporting each new venture over this long period.

A staunch Carlton Football Club supporter for 75 years, where she is a life member and the longest living registered member, Betty is proud that she was born in Parkville, opposite the Carlton football ground. As a child, Betty attended College Presbyterian Church on the corner of Gatehouse Street and Royal Parade, where the Rev. Milne and later the Rev. Stuckey were ministers. Her primary education was undertaken at Brunswick



Betty Harding.

College, a school attached to Brunswick Presbyterian Church, and conducted by strict Presbyterian brother and sister, Mr and Miss Betts. Betty went on to Penleigh Presbyterian Ladies' College, now a part of Essendon Grammar School. At that time, three sisters—the Misses Limerock—ran the college. Lilian had attended the Sorbonne University in Paris; Alma had trained as a kindergarten teacher; and Muriel was nurse and matron to the six or seven boarders who attended the school. After completing her secondary education, Betty took a position as a dental nurse at the practice of Mr and Mrs Allwright, who treated her like a member of the family.

Betty and her husband Geoff were married at Scotch College. For the first eight years of their marriage, they lived in Parkville. During this time their only child, John, was born. A visit from the Rev. Bert Stevens, who had just graduated, and his wife, led to a lasting friendship. Bert and Geoff later bought a farm at Metcalfe, near Kyneton, which they shared for many years. Their weekends spent there helped to strengthen the Metcalfe church. The family moved from Parkville to Travancore, a suburb of Melbourne about five kilometres north-west of the city, in 1959. An early visitor was Mr Jack McDougall, an elder of St Stephen's, Flemington, who called to welcome them to the area. Betty has attended there ever since, and has seen many changes over the years. Sadly, on 24th April 1970, the beautiful old church was burnt down by an arsonist who had already destroyed eight churches around Melbourne.

Betty's husband, Geoff, had studied engineering and took a position with an asphalt and concrete firm in South Melbourne, owned by Mr and Mrs Loud. They were Presbyterian and Mr Loud was an elder at East Malvern Presbyterian Church. Geoff worked with the firm for many years and they ultimately bequeathed the business to him. Betty's son John now owns the business with two other directors, surfacing tennis courts, basketball and netball courts, and cricket pitches across Australia. Geoff, a keen sportsman, was one of the judges of the rowing on Lake Wendouree, Ballarat, at the 1956 Olympic Games held in Melbourne. Betty still maintains a link with this interest, as she is invited each year to present the trophy to the winner of Henley on the Yarra.

During the early years Betty was at St Stephen's, the church was full, with families attending and a thriving Sunday school. Over time, the children grew up and moved away and attendances were reduced. After the fire in 1970, St Stephen's combined with the Union Church, North Melbourne. However, this was not entirely satisfactory and Ted Eastham, an elder, pressed for a return to Flemington. In 1973, seven members returned and began services in St Stephen's church hall. With such small numbers, it was not easy to continue and St Stephen's was declared a 'home mission', with theology students filling the pulpit. Elder Ted Eastham continued as session clerk at St Stephen's until his death at the age of 102 years.

The Rev. Jim Bain came on a visit to St Stephen's and suggested that Mr Abadi, an Indonesian student studying for the ministry, take up a 'home mission' position there, as he would be able to assist in bringing Indonesians to the church. He remained at St Stephen's for a couple of years, with his wife and four children, then moved on, but the Indonesian members of the congregation stayed, and continue to be vital members of the St Stephen's congregation. During the difficult

years the church faced, Betty's husband sometimes paid the bills when there was no money available.

When the Rev. Jack Pilgrim was appointed minister at Scots' Church, he took St Stephen's 'under his wing' and it became associated with Scots' Church. This was a wonderful step in assisting St Stephen's to move forward.

Since the Rev. Phil Court's appointment as minister of St Stephen's and missionary to the Presbyterian and Scots' Church Joint Mission, the church has shown steady growth and development. There is a Sunday school once more, and stronger links are being forged between the church and the mission. Betty continues to support the church in every way she is able.

Betty has had many interests through the years, including horse breeding and racing. She is also a keen gardener. Her son John and his wife have a daughter, Rebecca, and spend their time between their homes in East Keilor and Point Lonsdale. Sadly, Geoff died in 1986. Betty now lives in a unit which is part of The Village, Williamstown.

Our grateful thanks to Betty, who has given 55 years of wonderful commitment and service to St Stephen's, 30 of these as an elder, where she has enthusiastically engaged with each phase of the church's development. ■

Harvest Festival 2014



Victoria (right) and Anthony, from the Sunday school, at the Harvest Festival.

The Harvest Festival on 19th October saw a wonderful array of goods arranged in the apse. The Outreach Committee contributed over \$2,000 towards the purchase of the wide range of groceries on display, this funding being available through the continuing generosity of the congregation in supporting the committee's monthly cake stalls. Additional items were donated by members of the congregation prior to the service.

The goods were gratefully received by the Presbyterian and Scots' Church Joint Mission at Flemington.

The Big Hymn Sing – Scots' and Beyond

The Big Hymn Sing on Sunday, 12th October was once again very much enjoyed by the large congregation, who sang with great vigour and enthusiasm. David Preston, who introduced the hymns, provided some interesting background details that made the words more meaningful. The Scots' Church Choir, together with Ria Angelika Polo at the organ, the David Farrands Brass



The congregation enjoys the Big Hymn Sing.

Ensemble and, for several items, the Engage Music Group, with Douglas Lawrence conducting, all contributed to a wonderful time of music and song. In addition to the singing, a wonderful performance of Two Sonatas for Three Organs by Marian Mueller (1724–1780), with organists Ria Angelika Polo, Josh Hooke and Elizabeth Anderson, provided a rare opportunity to hear both main and gallery organs, and the Henk Klop chamber organ, all played together.

The Big Hymn Sing is not unique to Scots' Church. For instance, earlier this year in April, a 'Big Sing' was held at the Assembly Buildings, Presbyterian Mission, Belfast, Ireland. The event was entitled 'Old Hymns in New Ways'. Similar events were held in Scotland a couple of months later. One, 'The Big Sing-In', took place at the University of Glasgow Memorial Chapel, another as part of the West End Festival, Glasgow.

In September, a congregation of 5,000 gathered in the Royal Albert Hall to join in singing best loved hymns and carols. This was filmed, and will be shown on BBC



The David Farrands Ensemble plays and the Scots' Church Choir sings, as Douglas Lawrence conducts.

Songs of Praise at a later date.

The singing of hymns provides an opportunity for all to join in active worship, and allows both singers and musicians to enjoy the melody and text of some of our best loved hymns, both ancient and modern.

We look forward to the next Big Hymn Sing at Scots' Church! ■

Special Christmas Music Events at Scots' Church

Saturday, 20th Dec
8.00 pm

Messiah (George Frederick Handel)

Scots' Church choir, soloists and orchestra
Leader: Elizabeth Welch
Conductor: Douglas Lawrence
Soloists: Erika Tandiono, Felicity Bolitho, Aidan Bolitho, Elizabeth Anderson, Jacob Lawrence, Vaughan McAlley and Oliver Mann.

Sunday, 21st Dec
11.00 am

The Service of Nine Lessons with Carols

The Ministers
Scots' Church Choir
David Farrands Brass Ensemble and percussion
Organist: Robin Batterham
Conductor: Douglas Lawrence.

What you do there is what community is all about. You welcomed me and fed us, but not at the cost of our dignity.

Thank you again. It will not be forgotten.

I hope this gives you a glimpse into the work of the mission.

If you would like to support the mission this Christmas or in the coming year, you can do so by making out a cheque to The Presbyterian & Scots' Church Joint Mission and posting it to:

Mrs Glenys Wright (Treasurer)
86 Kurunjang Drive
KURUNJANG VIC 3337

Phil Court
Missioner



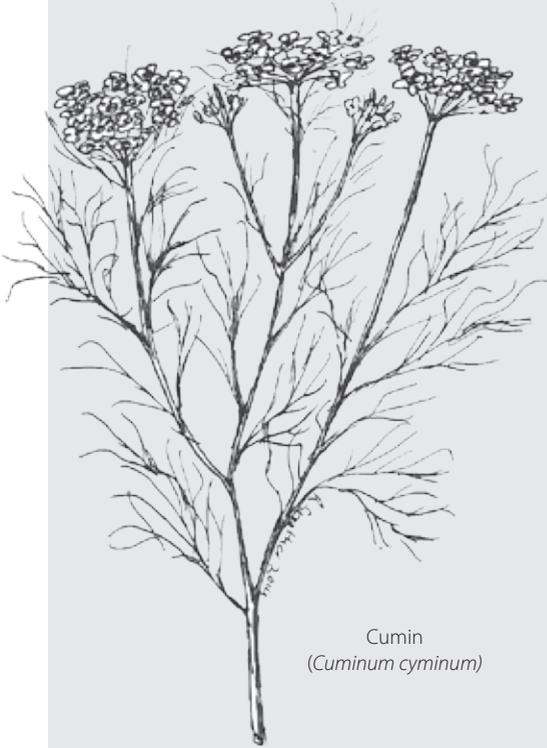
A Christmas greeting from Andrew North, Administrator

The staff of Scots' wish you a joyous Christmas and a wonderful 2015. May you catch a glimpse of what the shepherds and the wise men saw and felt as they took time to visit the Saviour, our Lord Jesus, that first Christmas.



Plants of the Bible

Cumin (*Cuminum cyminum*)



Cumin
(*Cuminum cyminum*)

The most well-known biblical reference to cumin is found in **Matthew 23:23 (ESV)**, where Jesus says: **'Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.'** Reference is also made to cumin in **Isaiah 28:25 and 27.**

Originating from Iran and the Mediterranean region, cumin (sometimes spelt cummin) is the small dried seed of the herb *Cuminum cyminum*, a member of the parsley family. An annual herb with slender dark green stems, it grows to about 30 centimetres in height. Each branch has two or three sub-branches, but all attain

the same height. The leaves are long and slender, and each branch terminates in an umbel, or flat topped cluster, of tiny white or pink flowers. The seeds resemble caraway seeds. It is a drought tolerant, tropical or semi-tropical crop.

Cumin has been in use since ancient times. It was used by the ancient Egyptians as a spice and as a preservative in the process of mummification. Both Greeks and Romans used cumin as a spice in cooking. It was one of the most common spices in use in the Middle Ages, when it was grown in the herb gardens of

Medieval monasteries. The recently replanted medieval gardens of Cluny Abbey in Paris provide some insight into the gardens of the Middle Ages. The original gardens have long since disappeared, but in 2000 a new garden was established to represent the various components of a Medieval monastery garden. Visitors can walk through and learn about the varieties of plants that were



Part of the Medieval herb garden at Cluny Abbey, Paris, France.

included. As well as cumin, herbs included tarragon, parsley, rosemary and fennel, together with a wide variety of vegetables and berries.

Today, India is the most prolific producer and consumer of cumin. Other producers include Syria, Turkey and Iran. Cumin seeds, either whole or ground, are used in cooking for their distinctive flavour. Cumin is the major ingredient in curry powder, is used in chilli powder, and is associated with Indian, Mexican and South Asian foods.

In the past cumin has been used medicinally to treat a range of conditions including fevers, gastro-intestinal disturbances of various types, and heart disease. Recent research reports possible anti-diabetic properties. It also contains an essential oil used in some perfumes.

References: Musée de Cluny, le monde medieval, Visitor's Guide; Zohary, Michael. Plants of the Bible. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1982; Cumin – Wikipedia. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumin>; Cumin in History. <http://www.indepthinfo.com/cumin/history.shtml>; Old Dominion University Plant Site. Barley. <http://ww2.odu.edu/~lmusselm/plant/bible/cumin.php>.

Interview

Maartje Van Der Vlies

When approached regarding the possibility of an interview, Maartje, one of the members of our Scots' Church family, offered to write something of herself and her life experiences. Our thanks to Maartje for this article, and for the many ways in which she contributes to the life of our church, and in a very special role to the community in which we live.

Maartje writes:

My father was Dutch and during the Second World War he was stationed at Wolverhampton as a serving officer in the Netherlands Irene Brigade, My mother was Scottish and they met during the war. My Dutch grandmother, who had the same name as I do, graduated from the University of Amsterdam in 1880. Female education in my family was and remains far in advance of most on this planet. My Scottish grandmother (Clan McArthur), who was widowed when my grandfather was shot in the Dardanelles, inherited and ran a tea plantation in Assam, India. Women as well as the men were educated and expected to work professionally as well as run families long before that became popular late in the last century.

I was born in "Auld Reekie" [Edinburgh] Scotland and christened in St Cuthbert's Church. As a child I spent many happy months in northern Scotland with various family members. We went to both Church and Sunday School every Sunday. By that time I was four and spoke Dutch, English and Gaelic and, as we traded with the Russians, I spoke that language as well.

We migrated to Australia when I was eight years old. Our migration to Australia meant I was alien in Tasmania and when I passed an entrance exam to the Launceston Matriculation College, I was the first alien student they ever had. The brilliant headmaster, Louis Amos, who understood I would never be accepted by the student body and many of the teachers, sent me, free of charge, to an elocution teacher; therefore I have no discernable accent. Those five years at that school were the loneliest years of my life. However I did learn to speak, read and write the French language connecting me with my Huguenot



Maartje Van Der Vlies.

family forebears, many of whom were among the 91% who were massacred by the Roman Catholics in Paris on 24 August 1572 and in the subsequent six months. Our escape at that time was facilitated by a son of Israel, certainly at a cost which was paid with high level interest but we survived and even today the Children of Israel live freely in the Netherlands.

Following school I moved to Melbourne and I started work as a clerk, but was not challenged intellectually; I needed a career, not a job. I married and we travelled the world, living in South Africa for a year when racism was law. I did not fit well there and was happy to move on to Europe where we visited the Netherlands and my husband's family in Croatia (another language was added). My 'in laws' were most accepting, bearing in mind I was not Slavic, could not speak the language, did not understand the culture, also I was Protestant (they were all Roman Catholic). That made no difference to them and they were devoid of discriminatory behaviour. I visited them again last year, where they live in Dalmatia; that superb coastline is famous for its islands and really good food and wine.

On our return to Australia my son was born and six years later I went to Melbourne University undertaking an Arts Degree majoring in Philosophy (Pure and Applied Formal Logic), English Language, Economic History and Criminology. I went on to do another specialist course and acquired a Post Graduate Diploma of Criminology. Then I worked for the United Nations as a mediator but for family reasons had to find work in Australia. By that time I

was working in the Public Service but the staffing cuts were turning people into enemies and I left to work for the State Electricity Commission (SEC); thus began the ten happiest working years of my life. As Manager Customer Service I was able to assist people get help when they were unable to pay their bills and give them a financial plan that would help them get their lives together. Over a ten year period, with growing customer numbers, I reduced the bad debts from \$18 million to \$9 million. The SEC were so pleased with my work they paid for me to study a Master of Business Administration at Monash/Mount Eliza. When the SEC was sold I went on to do mediation and various part time jobs as my second marriage to a Sassenach was dissolved. The hardest days of my life were those when I decided to end two marriages which were absent of commitment. I have never regretted those decisions.

Very unexpectedly a long-time friend Philip Jacobe (a son of Israel - non practising), who had left Melbourne and gone to work in mining as an expert manager in computer technology, had returned to live here again. He had retired early due to illness. We were real mates and, to my surprise, he proposed marriage; after a year of repeating the proposal he persuaded me to take another chance. We were married in the Botanical Gardens in Cooktown, far North Queensland. In the next six years we travelled by car all over Australia. I describe these as the Fabulous Australian Journeys. His death was totally unforeseen; he choked on a piece of meat and five days later he died. I was in profound grief for 18 months and miss him to this very day. The moment I let Philip go and he left I gave him permission to find someone beautiful on the other side of time as I did not wish him to be as lonely and unhappy as I. My really good health, support of family and friends as well as the church meant I had the capacity to go on.

Then very much alone, I had to depend on happy memories. Mark, my son's birth. The celebrations of my University Degrees. Mark's marriage and the births of my three grandchildren. Wonderful nights at the opera, the theatre and the ballet. Concerts at the Rochford Winery in the Yarra Valley. My beautiful home built in 1894, double brick, filled with lovely furniture, a huge library and many memories. My three wedding days and especially the last one in which the groom was more emotional than the bride.

Church links have lasted all my life from childhood to today. I am involved in several aspects including PMWU, using my community radio program, 'Anything Goes' (88.3 Southern FM) to promote the various concerts and items the church has. I recently joined the Street Pastors and I always buy from the cake stall. During the time Philip was in hospital I had the full support of the church, and both Richard and Rosemary O'Brien must have put in 20 hour days as they stayed with me for hours and still had all their pastoral obligations to fulfil. I have made friends with some of my brothers and sisters in Christ (we should all remember that is exactly who we are) and attend most church functions,

Next year I will commence a PhD in Mediation and now as a practising mediator in a small way follow the advice from the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called children of God." (Matthew 5 verse 9, NRSV) ■

In Memoriam

- Our sympathy is extended to Bruce Evans and his family on the recent passing of his sister.

Mrs Lee Towler died on 22nd September 2014. She joined Scots' Church on 25th February 1993. Lee was unable to attend worship at Scots' due to ill health for many years, but contact was maintained through her elders. She remained in touch with Margaret Watts, widow of the Rev. Douglas Watts, an assistant minister to the Rev. Norman Pritchard.

Mrs. Alice Baldwin died on 23rd September 2014. She joined Scots' Church on 28th June 1977. She had not been able to attend worship for some time as she was in care. Her husband died in June 2012.

Our condolences to the families and friends of Mrs Towler and Mrs Baldwin.

- Raylene White, a former member of Scots' Church and the PFA, and who is now ministering with the Anglican Church in New York, USA, has recently lost her young nephew, Lachlan. Our thoughts and prayers have been extended to her and to Lachlan's family.

Psalm 121

Cities and Towns of the Bible

Bethlehem

According to the accounts in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Very early tradition, possibly as far back as the second century AD, identified a cave as the site of the birth of Jesus. Because of these associations, Bethlehem is a pilgrimage destination for Christians from around the world.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons, Berthold Werner, 2010.



The ancient Church of the Nativity.

Situated about 10 kilometres south of Jerusalem, close to the hill country of Judea, modern Bethlehem has a population of about 25,000. It is an ancient city, with first records of it being in the Amarna letters of the 14th century BC, these letters being diplomatic correspondence between Egyptians and foreign countries at the time, including Canaan. The city of Bethlehem played

a significant role in the history of the Israelites through the Old Testament, both prior to their time in Egypt, and following their exodus. It was the city from which David came, and the place where he was crowned King of Israel.

Destroyed by the Emperor Hadrian in the second century, its rebuilding was promoted by the Empress Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great. She also commissioned the building of the great Church of the Nativity in 327 AD. Although damaged in a revolt in 529, it was rebuilt about a century later by the Emperor Justinian I, in very much its present form. This building is the oldest standing church in the Holy Land. Under the boards of the present floor, magnificent mosaics of the early church building are preserved.

Although the area was captured by Muslim armies in the seventh century, the caliph promised that the Church of the Nativity would be preserved for Christian use. In 1099, Bethlehem was captured by the Crusaders. They built fortifications and a new monastery close to the Church of the Nativity. There followed a period of complex history, where control of Bethlehem passed into several hands, resulting in some bitter disputes. Its complicated story continues to the present day, where it is now under Palestinian control. Its economy is primarily based on tourism.

An area east of the city is recognised as the traditional site of the fields where shepherds were watching over their flocks when the angel of the Lord appeared to them. ■

References: Bethlehem. <http://www.bibleplaces.com/bethlehem.htm>; Holy Land Network. Bethlehem History. <http://www.holylandnetwork.com/bethlehem/bethlehem.htm>; Wikipedia. Bethlehem. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethlehem>.



A Christmas greeting from Rae Anstee, Session Clerk

May the joy of the birth of Christ so long ago be again celebrated with love and gratitude for all the many blessings we share. May we give thanks to God for his continuing loving care and guidance.

God's blessing to each and everyone.

Rae and Ann (Robinson)



The Glastonbury Thorn

The Glastonbury Thorn is a form of the common hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna* 'Biflora', which grows in the area of Glastonbury, Somerset, England. It is unusual as it flowers twice yearly, first in winter and then in spring.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons, Tom Ordelman, 1984.



The Glastonbury Thorn.

The Glastonbury Thorn, or Holy Thorn, is associated with Joseph of Arimathea and the arrival of Christianity in Britain. (Joseph had donated his own tomb for Christ's interment following the crucifixion). According to legend, the Holy Thorn came to Glastonbury as the staff carried by Joseph, who was said to be a trader in metal. On his arrival at Glastonbury

in a quest for lead, which is found in the area, he placed his staff in the ground. In the morning, he noticed that it had taken root, thus becoming the Holy Thorn. The Thorn in the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey is said to be descended from the original tree, and flowers each year around Christmas and Easter.

Propagation of the original tree over the years has resulted in a number of plants being established. The 'original' tree was destroyed as a relic of superstition during the English Civil War (1642–1651). More recently, vandals have cut branches off a Holy Thorn that had been planted as a replacement in 1951. However, specimens of the tree continue to flourish.

Every Christmas a flowering sprig of the Holy Thorn is sent to the British monarch. This custom was initiated by the Bishop of Bath and Wells during the reign of King James I, and the tradition has continued since that time.

References: Glastonbury Abbey. <http://www.glastonburyabbey.com>; Glastonbury Thorn. Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glastonbury_Thorn.



Victorian Presbyterian Churches Past and Present

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Mordialloc

In the 1870s, the Melbourne suburb of Mordialloc, 24 kilometres southeast of the city, was a small beachside town with market gardens in the area and a fishing industry. During the summer, numbers increased due to holiday makers enjoying the seaside. The aborigines, whose camping ground was close to the Mordialloc Creek, had died out by the end of the 1870s. The town was serviced by a railway from 1881. Although no specific records exist, a report in the minutes of the Presbytery of Melbourne South of 1876 implied that services of worship had been held at this time, from Mordialloc to Cape Schanck on the Mornington Peninsula, probably consisting of the gathering of families and neighbours.



St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Mordialloc.

In 1885, there is a record of two acres (0.8 hectare) in Mordialloc, set aside for the site of a Presbyterian church. In November of that year, two trustees were appointed to further the cause. At that time, local Presbyterians worshipped at the Cheltenham church, with meetings scheduled for moonlit nights to make travel by horse and cart, or on foot, easier. Cheltenham severed its links with the Brighton church and the Charge of Cheltenham/Mentone/Mordialloc was established. The earliest recorded services at Mordialloc were held in the Church of England building in late 1885. The first minister of the United Charge was the Rev. R. Fergus, a Scot who was ordained and inducted at Cheltenham on 6th January 1887. The Presbyterian Church sold one acre of the Mordialloc site in order to finance the building of the church. This provided about half of the funds required, the remaining cost being borne by the congregation. The church building was officially opened by the Rev. S. Robinson of St Kilda, in January 1889.

Many of the early Presbyterians at Mordialloc were Gaelic speaking Scots, who were not pleased with the hymns being sung to the accompaniment of an organ. However, initial problems were overcome, and an organ was purchased from the Essendon congregation.

By 1898, renovations to the church and grounds had already been in progress; these included painting of the interior walls and staining of the sills and doors, while the church grounds were laid out with paths.

Following a gap of two years after the resignation of the Rev. Fergus, the Rev. J. Higginbotham was appointed minister of the United Charge. Records of the quarterly communion services show that numbers of communicants had increased to 50 by 1905. There was a Sunday school, and a 'Band of Hope' program for the children. The congregation supported such initiatives as drought relief and harvest festivals.

In 1908, the Parish of Mordialloc/Carrum was formed and the congregation called the Rev. Hugh Jones. Membership had increased to 60 by 1914. A senior and junior choir provided music in services, and a precentor and organist held appointments. Pew rents were in place at this time.

A Sabbath school hall was built in about 1908, with an extension in 1910 and the addition of a porch in 1914. An attempt was made to address the problem of water seepage on the western wall of the church; this was to recur for 90 years before it was finally resolved.



A photo of the Sunday school in the early 20th century. (Courtesy of St Andrew's Church.)

During World War I, a District Relief Fund was set up by the church to care for returned servicemen and their families. An honour board was erected to record the names of those who served, and those who died.

Renovations were again carried out on the church building, including a choir screen, re-slating of part of the roof, and the installation

of electric lights in 1919. A new organ, donated by the choir, replaced the original organ from 1886.

A manse was erected on church land in the 1920s and a kindergarten hall was completed in 1925. The Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU) Mordialloc Branch and the Ladies Guild were established in 1923.

On 9th March 1925, the church became known as St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the name being chosen by the congregation. The membership continued to grow from 83 in 1928, almost doubling in the following years. A tennis club, and boys' and girls' clubs were established, and the financial position of the church remained stable, in spite of the Great Depression.

In 1939, the church offered its halls for accommodation for families who had lost homes through bushfires in the Warrandyte area. Beds and furniture were made available and 33 people were given a holiday. This initiative was supported by local churches, the council and other groups.

World War II saw special services held for members serving in the armed forces, and various appeals, including food and money for Britain, were supported. Stained glass windows, in memory of members of the congregation who had served the church



A stained glass window in the church, depicting the Good Shepherd, in memory of the Rev. F. L. Heriot, minister from 1941 to 1952.

over many years, were donated. These included one given by members of the Sunday school to a teacher of many years. Another was dedicated to the memory of Mrs Florence Baker, who died during the time her husband, the Rev. Paul Baker, was minister there. Several other memorial windows followed, and the dedication of three stained glass windows high in the north wall of the church meant that, by the mid 1970s, all windows in the church were of stained glass.

A rapid growth in population in the area surrounding Mordialloc saw the establishment of the North Mordialloc Presbyterian Church. St Andrew's continued to work towards reducing financial debts due to the ongoing renovation and refurbishment of buildings. The manse was sold to the Education Department to allow extensions to the nearby Mordialloc Primary School, and another manse purchased in the area. A new electronic organ was purchased around this time.



The three windows high in the north wall of the church.

St Andrew's and the Mordialloc Methodist Church had for some time been considering the feasibility of a possible union. This was quite apart from the much wider discussion regarding Church Union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches, which finally occurred in 1977. When the vote for Union was finally taken, St Andrew's remained continuing



The interior of St Andrew's Church.

Presbyterian and North Mordialloc became part of the Uniting Church of Australia.

Since Union, St Andrew's has continued to maintain its presence in the community. A communicant membership of 100 in 1984 saw it classified as one of the larger Presbyterian churches. Maintenance of the buildings continued, with painting,

carpeting, cushions in the pews, and installation of fans and new heaters.

In the 1980s, a number of new groups were formed, including a Scottish Country Dancing Group, which continues to meet regularly to the present. This group holds an annual social charity event to support people with a disability. In 1984, St Andrew's Travellers' Group was organised to enable people to enjoy holidays together. It catered for all ages and capabilities, with many wonderful holidays being shared in Victoria and interstate. Lasting friendships were formed, and people from other churches and the community were also involved. This group continued until 2008.

The warm and friendly congregation of St Andrew's, with minister the Rev. Mike Wharton and his wife Sue, continues to welcome people of all ages. The PWMU organises congregational lunches, where there is an opportunity to meet missionaries and hear about their work. In 2013, the Ladies Guild and PWMU celebrated 90 years of meetings with a 'dainty afternoon tea'. St Andrew's continues to serve the community in many ways.

Ed: The assistance of Miss Barbara Firth of St. Andrew's in the preparation of this article is gratefully acknowledged.

Reference: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Mordialloc Centenary 1884-1884. Researcher Mrs Patricia Bailey (no details of printing or publishing listed).

Word search

Luke 1-2:1-7 (ESV)

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top to bottom. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions. (Solution on page 25.)

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

www.WordSearchMaker.com

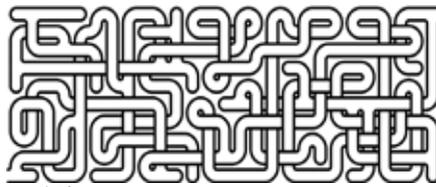


The words to find ...

- ANGEL
- BETHLEHEM
- ELIZABETH
- FIRSTBORN
- JESUS
- JOHN
- JOSEPH
- MARY
- NAZARETH
- PRIEST
- RIGHTEOUS
- THEOPHILUS
- WISDOM
- ZECHARIAH

Amazing maze

Help the shepherd find his way to Bethlehem where Jesus is lying in the manger.



www.davidbau.com



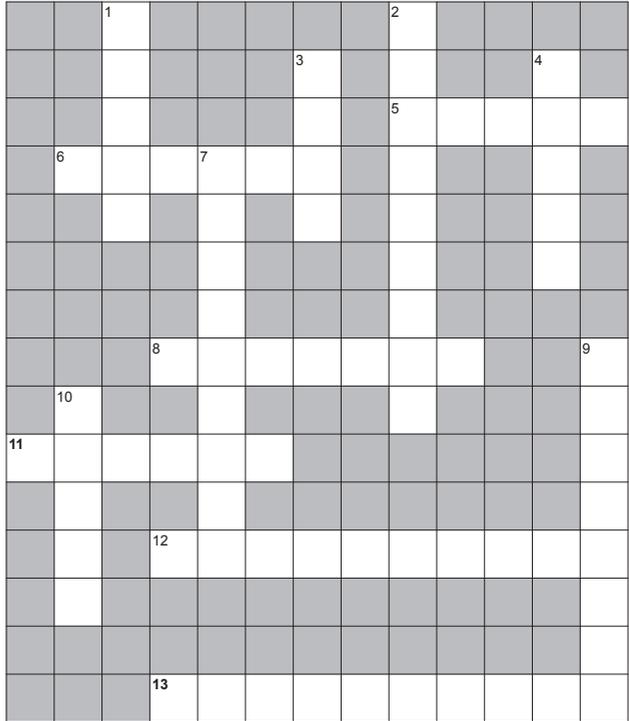
Biblical Crossword

Luke 1-2:1-7 (ESV)

Solution on page 25.

Across

5. When Mary visited her relative Elizabeth, how many months did she stay?
6. To whom was Mary of Nazareth betrothed?
8. What was the name of the angel who spoke to Zechariah?
11. When Jesus was born, where was he laid due to lack of space at the inn?
12. To whom did Luke address his gospel?
13. As John grew up, where did he live until his public appearance?



EclipseCrossword.com

Down

1. Who was the king of Judea?
2. To what city did Joseph and Mary go to be registered?
3. What was the name of Zechariah's son?
4. The angel said that Mary should call her son _____.
7. The priest Zechariah had a wife, whose name was _____.
9. Caesar _____ sent out a decree that all the world should be registered.
10. Bethlehem is known as the city of _____.

Want to join us at Scots'?

**You'd be sure of
a warm welcome.**

Please contact the Session Clerk,
Miss Rae Anstee, on (03) 9650 9903.