

The Leaflet

No. 1079
December 2019





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 Stephens Church, Flemington and Kensington, 26 Norwood St, Flemington

WORSHIP **SUN: 10.00 am Service**, St Stephen's Church
10.30 am Indonesian 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, quarterly)

DIRECTORY

| | | |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Senior Minister | Rev. D.R. Robertson | 9650 9903 |
| Minister, Central Business District | Rev. R.O'Brien | 9650 9903 |
| Minister, St Stephen's, Flemington | | 9376 3777 |
| Minister, Indonesian Congregation | Rev. C. Tirtha | 9650 9903 |
| Director of Music | Mr D. Lawrence OAM | 9650 9903 |
| Assistant Organist | Ms R.A. Polo | 9650 9903 |
| Organist Emeritus | Mr R. Batterham AO | - |
| Session Clerk | Mr P. Armstrong | 9650 9903 |
| Chair, Scots' Church Properties Trust | Mr P. Kerss | 9650 9903 |
| Honorary Treasurer, Board of Management | Mr J. Nuske FCPA | 9650 9903 |
| Honorary Secretary, Board of Management | Dr D. Sherman | 9650 9903 |
| Convenor, Pastoral Care | Mr D. Gibb | 9650 9903 |
| Convener, Planned Giving | Mr. W. Truong | 9650 9903 |
| Convenor, Christian Education | Mr G. Harris | 9650 9903 |
| Superintendent, Sunday School | Mrs D. Sherman | 9650 9903 |
| Administrator | Mr S. Ruddock | 9650 9903 |
| Assistant Administrator | Mr J. North | 9650 9903 |
| Administrator, St Stephen's, Flemington | Rev. Litha Heshusius | 9376 3777 |
| Accountant | Mr M. Hirst | 9650 9903 |
| Ministers' Secretary | Mrs W. Gregory | 9650 9903 |
| Church Officer | Mr K. Bowden | 9650 9903 |
| Building Officer | Mr R. Holt | 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,

In recent weeks we have had several guest speakers at church. On October 20, Eustace Constance preached the sermon at our 11am service and on October 27 we had Colin Morrow in the pulpit and Lexie Sheard addressing our Annual Congregational Meeting afterwards.

Eustace was a founding member of Street Pastors, which began in the UK, and he currently works in London for Ascension Trust, which is the charitable body responsible for Street Pastors all over the world. He was in Melbourne as a guest of Yarra Street Pastors, to address a conference for many different street ministry organisations from all around Australia.

Colin is the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, but in his day job he is the Home Missionary who pastors the Sunraysia parishes in the far north west of the state, and he also works part-time for Presbyterian Inland Mission as a Patrol Padre covering large swathes of western New South Wales as well as northern Victoria.

Lexie works for TEAR Australia, and personally I was delighted that we couldn't get the computer to work, which meant that she shared some inspiring stories from her own experiences working in communities of extreme poverty in Cambodia and Thailand.

Each in their own way is an expression of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, reaching out beyond the walls of church buildings to meet people in their time of need and to draw close to them with a helping hand. James reminds us (in multiple places in his little letter in the Bible) that faith is not really faith at all unless it impacts on the way we live and relate to people around us – especially people in need.

As you know, Alison and I will be moving back to Scotland in early January. More might be said later, but for the moment I want to mention one very special characteristic of Scots' Church that has deeply impressed me and will remain with me forever: namely the same spirit of humble service that James speaks of, the desire to help someone in their time of need no matter how small or great.

This is often expressed in support for ministries beyond our walls, such as Street Pastors, PIM, TEAR, Compassion, Samaritan's Purse, the Flemington Mission, educational scholarships for indigenous students and the many charitable and

mission organisations supported by the monthly Sausage Sizzle or the Outreach Committee. But sometimes it's the little things that are unseen that truly make our character: a phone call to someone feeling down; buying a coffee and sitting down to chat with someone who's lonely; a gift just to remind someone that you care; a card sent for a birthday. We have an outstanding Pastoral Care Committee that does many of these things, and we also have many other people who do them informally and spontaneously.

Such is the Kingdom of God spoken about by Jesus in the Beatitudes (and elsewhere), a place where comfort, peace and righteousness reign.

Preaching through a series of sermons on The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) in the last couple of months, I am finding it a very appropriate way to draw to a close my time as Senior Minister at Scots' Church – though I will still be with you through the Advent and Christmas season as well.

The Beatitudes express a heartfelt desire for happiness. Not the superficial happiness that we find in the entertainment sense, or in the satisfaction of base human instincts, but a happiness that truly is a soul-deep blessing from God as we pursue his Kingdom on earth as in heaven. The happiness of knowing God's mercy and peace and trying to live out these same graces in our relationships with other people. This is my wish, my ongoing prayer, for all members and friends of Scots' Church.

May God bless you and may you be happy,

Douglas

The Australian Chamber Choir sings...

As its final concert series for 2019, the Australian Chamber Choir, with Director Douglas Lawrence OAM, presented a wonderful program, 'Keys to Heaven', by music of composers Palestrina and Josquin des Prez, who were associated with the Sistine Chapel, Rome in the late 15th and 16th century AD. Other composers from the same period included Allegri, De Victoria and Marenzio. The program notes state that the music by composers of the Sistine Chapel was intended to give listeners an idea of how it might feel to be transported to heaven.

For your diary: the ACC will sing Fauré's Requiem at Scots' Church on 19th April 2020 at 3 pm.



The ACC concert at St. Andrew's Brighton on 19th November 2019.



Minister, Central Business District

The Rev. Richard O'Brien

**Tabletalk
– a helpful monthly magazine**

Rosemary and I do not subscribe to many magazines or journals, but one that we do is Tabletalk. Tabletalk is published monthly, by Ligonier Ministries. Each monthly issue contains a series of very short articles, and daily Bible studies with notes. The notes are generally based on the same book of the Bible for the year.

We have found them very helpful for our spiritual growth.

For example, in the recent October 2019 issue, the topic raised was that of the relationship between the generations. Christmas can be a real family time, where the generations in our families gather together, for a Christmas meal, for present giving, for catching up with each other.

Burk Parsons, in his editorial wrote: “In this issue, we have sought to publish articles that speak from generation to generation – from the older generation to the younger generation and from the younger to the older. Young men and women need to hear hard things and to receive wisdom, encouragement, admonition and instruction from the older generation. Those things come most often as a result of genuine care expressed in tough love that leads us to understand what authentic love really is. Older men and women need to be more engaged in seeking out younger men and women to come alongside them – not with a finger pointing in their faces but with their arms around their shoulders.

Younger generations desperately need the wisdom and discernment of older generations, and in order for us to possess wisdom so that we can pass it on to future generations, we need to humble ourselves, show honour and respect, close our mouths and open our ears.

We need to keep listening, observing, and following the old paths of those faithful fathers and mothers who have walked arduous paths before us, for ‘where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counsellors there is safety’ (Proverbs 11:14).

This Christmas period is a great time to take the opportunity for the generations to mix, chat, listen, learn from each, laugh, play the annual family cricket match, do a jigsaw or whatever together. These are very precious times indeed.

Yours sincerely

Richard O'Brien

In the Bleak Midwinter – Christina Rossetti

English poet Christina Rossetti was the author of the beautiful Christmas carol, 'In the bleak midwinter', written for a monthly magazine prior to 1872, and published posthumously in her 'Poetic Works' in 1904. It first appeared as a Christmas carol in 'The English Hymnal' in 1906, to a setting by Gustav Holst. This is the tune still familiar to us, although other arrangements have also been written.

Christina Rossetti, the youngest of four children, was born in London in 1830 to Gabriele and Francis Rossetti. The family included artists, poets and critics, Christina inheriting artistic tendencies from her father, and a religious temperament from her mother. She was educated at home by her mother, and developed an early appreciation of a wide range of literary works. Christina wrote poetry from an early age, with her first volume of poems being published when she was just 17 years of age.

Christina's father, a professor of Italian studies at King's College London, who suffered illness over a period of years, was forced to retire due to failing health in 1853. In order to support the family, Christina and her mother set up a day school. However they could not sustain this, and from this time onward Christina led a quiet life, as she was troubled by recurring illnesses. At various times she also suffered from depression.

Although she had three suitors and was twice engaged, Christina never married, twice at least for religious reasons. She continued to write verse in various forms, including sonnets, hymns and ballads. She drew upon narratives from the Bible, lives of saints and folk stories. Writing and publishing for the remainder of her life, her focus was on devotional writing and children's poetry. She died on 29th December 1894.

Although Christina's poetry was popular in her lifetime, interest in her work faded in the early 20th century, to be revived by the 1970s. Another poem, 'Love came down at Christmas', is also sung as a carol.

References:

Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894) Short Biography. <http://www.adnax.com/biogs/cr.htm>

The Life of Christina Rossetti. Glenn Everett. <http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/crossetti/rossettibio.html>

Christina Rossetti. Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christina_Rossetti

Taken from an article first published in The Leaflet No. 1044, December 2014.



Minister,
Indonesian Congregation
The Rev. Christian Tirtha

Baptism and Membership

On Sunday 29 September, we are grateful to God as we officially welcome new members, as well as baptising an infant and three adults. May the Lord continue to bless them as we minister to and alongside with them.



Back (L-R): **Moses Sitompul, Jeffrey Wangsaripura, Andrew Juwono**, Benidictus Jobeanto*.

First Middle Row (L-R): **Josephine Darmawan, Jessica Delphina, Jessica Setiawan, Kharisma Tanu, Nelly Cemerlang.**

Second Middle Row (L-R): Lanny Susilo, **Tiana Alisa, Lupita Wijaya, Amazia Pravianti, Helena Agnes**, Rev Christian Tirtha*, **Luciana Charissa, Nadia Budiman, Patrick Waliry, Adam Fidelis**, Rhesa Onorato*.

Bottom (L-R): **Fannia Rahardja**, Andy Sentosa* (with daughters **Adeline** and **Agatha**), **Harry Febrian, Yohana Dianwidi, Rebecca Kuncoro, Marvela Kurniawan, Josephine Daniella**, Prof Sen Sendjaya*, **Steven Tjahjadi, Elie Cung***.

*Note: * = members of the ICC Core Committee, bold = baptised and/or new members*



Harry & Lupita with Douglas Lawrence (left) and Christian Tirtha (right).

Marriage celebrations

Congratulations to Harry Febrian and Lupita Wijaya as well as Ricky Wibowo and Reissa Boediman, members of the Indonesian congregation, who were married on Oct 26 and Nov 2 respectively. Both wedding services were quite well attended by family and friends as we celebrate God's goodness in joining one man and one woman in the glorious bond of marriage.

Christian Tirtha



Ricky & Reissa with relatives and friends.



Christmas Greetings From David and Maggie Lunan

Dear Friends in Scots' Church,

Rosalie Strother has kindly asked if I might send you greetings in the December Leaflet. I am very happy to do so.

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ, looking forward, living with expectation and anticipation. We all need something to look forward to, the alternative is dullness and despair. Our faith is always one of expectation, and hope, recognising that 'we're not there yet', and so the last words of the New Testament are 'Come Lord Jesus,' and our repeated prayer is 'Thy Kingdom come.' Anticipation is the essence of a good book, of the finest music, of true love; and also of the Christian lifestyle anticipating on earth, here and now, the reality of heaven.

Advent is a time, like Lent, to slow down, to reflect a little, and to pray more. So often, however, in the 'developed' world, it is just the opposite, with all the emphasis on the externals of Christmas rather than the inner changes that Christ's coming brings.

Read again the Magnificat, Mary's song as she praises God, and ponders the significance of God becoming flesh and blood. It's all change. "The proud are scattered, the humble raised up. The hungry are fed, and the rich sent away empty-handed.' Our Saviour and Lord is born in a cow shed - who would believe that? He came to his own, but his own received him not. While he is still an infant, his family flees their homeland and become asylum seekers. Hardly a good start.

And yet he comes, and comes again, to change our mindset, to soften our hearts, to inspire our souls, to re-calibrate our ambitions and plans, to walk with us, to accompany us when we come to our own cross, to carry us through, and to rejoice with him in a renewed life, on earth and in heaven.

No wonder we celebrate Christmas, for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He is Immanuel, God with us, God for us, always.

I realise as I write this, and you read it, that it will be much in your minds that Douglas and Alison will be sharing their last Christmas with you in Melbourne, and there will be feelings of sadness, and some uncertainty in the air. But I know that with gratitude, and with your characteristic grace, you will be wishing Douglas God-speed on the next chapter of his ministry; accepting that God has a hand in this, for the Robertsons,

and for Scots' Church. It's all change! That's part of what Advent and Christmas (and Hogmanay and New Year) are about. God is in the changing, though He changes not.

In all things, we put our trust in God, for in Jesus we see him with a human face, and his Spirit will always be with us.

O little child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,

Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.

Joy to the world! Happy Christmas!

With love from David and Maggie Lunan

Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Luke 1: 46-55 (ESV)

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Christmas Greetings from Rev. David and Gwen Currie



of Emily and Aury's wedding, it has nevertheless been very sad to hear of the deaths of a few friends.

What a privilege to be able to keep in regular contact with any group of family or friends; although this inevitably brings that mix of sad news and happy news. So, whilst it's been great to see some visitors from Scots' Church in London once again, and a real highlight to be part

It's at this time of Advent and Christmas that we are reminded of God's promises - "to us a child is born, to us a son is given ..." (Isaiah 9:6). The people had been waiting and waiting for what seemed like a very long time ... and it finally happened! God kept his promise.

With your Senior Minister, Douglas, answering God's call from a church in Inverness you are entering a very important transition period in the life of Scots' Church when one chapter draws to a close, making way for the beginning of a brand new chapter in the life of this wonderful church family. This will be a period where everyone will experience feelings of sadness with a sense of loss, times of doubt and frustration, and yet times of great joy. A time to remember God's promises, and in particular that promise of our Lord Jesus Christ - "I am with you always" Matthew 28:20).

Gwen and I are making plans to be in Melbourne around the end of February/ beginning of March 2020, so we can't wait to be with you again in a few months' time. Until then, may the joy and peace of Christmas be with you all, and may God richly bless you in the New Year.

David and Gwen Currie
(Assistant Minister 2011 - 2016)



The interior of Pond Square Chapel, Highgate, London.



Pond Square Chapel, Highgate, London, where David Currie is minister.

GORDON TAYLOR – 50 YEARS AN ELDER

Our warm congratulations to Gordon Taylor, whose ordination as an elder 50 years ago and continuing service since that time was recognised at the Sunday morning worship service on 20th October 2019. At the service a presentation of a framed certificate acknowledging Gordon's achievement was presented by the Rev. Douglas Robertson.



The Rev. Douglas Robertson with Gordon Taylor on 20th October 2019.

At the service a presentation of a framed certificate acknowledging Gordon's achievement was presented by the Rev. Douglas Robertson.

Gordon was born at Hopetoun Bush Nursing Hospital, in the Mallee region of north western Victoria. He spent his early years at Hopetoun, where his father was minister of the Hopetoun/Beulah/Patchewollock Presbyterian Parish. Born with bilateral talipes, Gordon's parents had to travel to Melbourne with him for regular treatment which included corrective surgery on several occasions. His father was then called to the Oakleigh Presbyterian Church, in suburban Melbourne, where he ministered for 17 years until his death. During this time he spent a period as a chaplain with the Defence Forces, serving in New Guinea during World War II.

Gordon attended St. Andrew's Primary School in East Malvern, then went on to Scotch College for the remaining ten years of his school education. Involved with the church from his early years, Gordon attended Sunday school, the Presbyterian Boys Association (PBA), then the Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia (PFA), in which he became involved at district, State and Commonwealth levels. It was while he was on the State executive that he met Lois, who was also a State member. Originally from Tasmania, Lois had been appointed Camp Convenor for Victoria. Gordon and Lois quickly became friends, and ultimately announced their engagement. There were married at Glenroy Presbyterian Church in 1966 by Lois's father, Rev. Frank Sadler, and Rev. Max Griffiths (now a member at Scots'). Max had been appointed minister at Oakleigh following the death of Gordon's father. Gordon and Lois settled at Humevale within the Whittlesea, Kinglake



Whittlesea Presbyterian Church, where Gordon served faithfully for many years.

West, Mernda and Janefield Parish and became actively involved in the Whittlesea church. When the parish was vacant they hosted the visiting preachers for Sunday lunch quite regularly. The parish was primarily a farming community, mainly dairying, and its finances rose and fell according to the seasonal conditions at the time.



The Sausage Sizzle Team, August 2017, with Gordon fourth from the right. He has been involved from its inception.

Elected and ordained as an elder in 1969, Gordon was soon afterwards appointed session clerk, a position he held until the family transferred their membership to Scots' Church. He was also on the local board of management and the Federal board, and when the parish was a sanctioned charge he was its representative on the Melbourne North Presbytery. Whilst session clerk, Gordon instigated a rural fund whereby local farmers grazed a steer, either donated or bought by the fund, which when fattened was sold at Newmarket free of cost by the head auctioneer of T. Shaw Logan, who was a member of the Mernda congregation. The profit was then paid to the board of management.

One of the features of the Whittlesea congregation was its singing, drawing comments from every visiting minister. From time to time the congregation would bring lunch to church, then sing their way through the hymn book with great enthusiasm!

Gordon and Lois were sad to leave the Whittlesea parish, but moved to Scots' to provide more opportunities for their teenage children to become involved. They were made very welcome at their first visit to Scots' Church, and have been with us ever since. Gordon was elected an elder at Scots' in 1987, and Lois in 1993. Both Gordon and Lois have given consistent and faithful service to the church in many ways over the years, travelling from Humevale regularly to worship services, Kirk Session and Board meetings, and supporting other church activities. They have been involved in the monthly Sausage Sizzle, now a Melbourne institution, from its beginnings, with funds being donated to many worthy causes.

Our best wishes to Gordon as his lifetime of service to the church is recognised.

Reflections on being moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia

John P Wilson

Having handed over the role of moderator to Rev Peter Barnes (minister at Revesby, NSW) last month, after serving the church for three years, I was asked by my own church to prepare a reflection on what it meant to me to be Moderator-General of the PCA. Yes, Moderator-General is its full title to distinguish the role from that of a state moderator.



Speaking at graduation for Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Dehradun, India. Church, Seoul, Korea.

our bit” as a Christian church, but without much help or appreciation these days from community or even from other local churches. So, whenever I appear as moderator the reminder is: “Oh, that’s right, we’re not doing this on our own; we’re connected to other Presbyterian churches throughout the continent.”

We enjoy connectional strength by the name “Presbyterian”. The Moderator’s presence reminds us that we have 649 sister churches JUST LIKE US across the nation formally joined together in an organisation that we call Presbyterian Church of Australia (PCA).

We remember that there are six states and two territories that make up Australia. Just like we draw strength by being part of the Commonwealth of Australia, so also we draw strength in the church by being part of the PCA: in NSW/ACT there are 345 congregations just like this one; VIC ~140; QLD ~130; TAS ~16; WA ~12; SA ~6; and one in Darwin.

These are all your brothers and sisters in Christ, doing what we’re doing. You may move one day and have to leave us, or just travel on holidays. When you do, always LOOK for your family (PCA).

Then, I was asked: “Could you answer the question, ‘Why do we need moderators?’”

Reflecting on this question led me to see there are at least four reasons why we need a Moderator ...

1. To remind us that we’re not on our own

It’s not easy being a Christian church in 21st century post-Christian Australia.

We can feel alone, or isolated “doing

Of course, even without travel, you can learn more about your family now. Check out our PCA website for relevant and helpful articles on the Christian faith – www.presbyterian.org.au

2. To encourage and strengthen the work of our six state churches

State Presbyterian churches all pre-dated the 1901 formation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Each State of Australia has a state church which is the formal union of all its own Presbyterian churches. For example, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria formed exactly 160 years ago by joining together four separate strands of colonial Presbyterian denominations in 1859.

Although we formed the PCA in 1901, this in no way diminished the role of state churches. They each continue with their own designated function. So part of the reason to have a PCA moderator is to appoint him to visit every state church every year to encourage and strengthen them.

Each state church meets annually in General Assembly, and as Moderator I go to each of them to encourage them, to make each state church more focussed, stronger, and hopefully better. So that's on average 4 or 5 General Assembly meetings each year.



Worshipping with 7,000 fellow Christians in Sarang Presbyterian Church, Seoul, Korea.

The reason we have state churches, rather than just exist on our own as an independent local church, is so that we can do things collectively that a local church like ours couldn't cope with on our own. For example, imagine if, on our own, this church was responsible for training new pastors and deliver our own four-year training program? Or where would we be without PYV running youth

camps for us so that we can send our young people to them to join with other young people from around the state?

3. To strengthen the Christian voice in Australia

When the Prime Minister wants to know "What does the church think about?", who does he ask? He hasn't time to ring Presbyterian pastors, one by one, so he contacts the Moderator. When the government is about to pass new laws on religious freedom, the Attorney-General doesn't have time to visit our churches so, who does he ask?

As Moderator, I have to handle such requests with great care and only respond with comments that are in-line with the teaching of the Presbyterian church, which is of course the teaching of the Westminster Confessions' explanation of Scripture or else is a declaration the PCA has already made in a previous General Assembly. Also, the Moderator has the expert help of a committee on public affairs, the "Church and Nation Committee."

Sometimes the public media wants a quote from the church – who do they ring for comment? This was the most difficult part of the job to handle for me, because I could never tell "Are they serious?" and my dilemma always: "Will it do any good?"

It depends who's asking: eg

- ch 10 The Project?
- Jon Faine on 774? OR ...
- The Australian newspaper?

Who can I trust and also when is silence the best response?

4. To grow in grace alongside partner churches across the world

We're really keen not only to be Aussie, but to be part of the world Presbyterian church. And this is where we can send the Moderator to represent the church on the world stage. Now this may be good for the Moderator's FF points, but more importantly it's very significant for the church on the world stage.

The PCA contributes to the church of Jesus Christ way beyond our shores, and as Moderator I have the privilege of being a world Christian for the PCA. I meet and greet, observe and learn from brothers and sisters living in different cultures but still believing what we believe and practicing what we practice and committed to reformed teaching of the Confession of Faith and reformation principles of worship.

These are some of the most recent General Assemblies attended on your behalf.

- Reformed Presbyterian Church of India
- Presbyterian Church of Japan
- Presbyterian Church in Korea
- Presbyterian Church in America
- Presbyterian churches in Zambia (called CCAP)
- Presbyterian churches in Malawi (called CCAP)

Then, part of being a world Christian is found in that the PCA is a genuine contributor to a global ecumenical organisation: the World Reformed Fellowship, which joins 176 different Presbyterian and Reformed denominations and organisations from around the world in Christian Fellowship.



Preaching for Presbyterian congregation near Blantyre, Malawi.

In conclusion

Most enjoyable?

(4)

Most difficult?

(3)

Most helpful for the church?

(all 4)

Without a doubt, the last three years have been my most enjoyable years in service of Christ and his church. Not for a moment has this added role been a burden. It's been an unexpected and unimaginable privilege to serve Christ in this way. I'm so grateful to the church for electing me as moderator. I loved every minute of it. We pray for Rev Peter Barnes as the new moderator, may the Lord give him every blessing for the next three years.

John P Wilson

October 2019



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM SCOTS' AND ST. STEPHEN'S

Dear Friends,

The Robertson Family approach Christmas this year with mixed feelings. We are sad at leaving Scots' Church and we will miss so many good and wonderful friends; yet we are also excited about a new beginning, which in many ways is what the Christmas story is all about. In Christ, God gives us all the opportunity for a fresh start, and as we follow Christ he will often call us to new places, new people, new positions.

We do wish you every blessing from God, for Christmas and the New Year, and for the next chapter in the history of Scots' Church.

Douglas, Alison, Eilidh & Ben, Mairi and Duncan



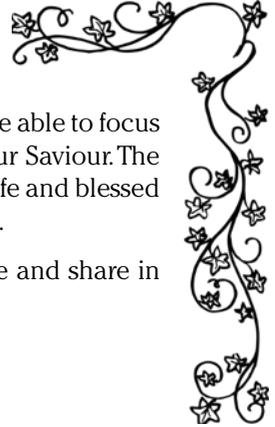
May the blessings of Christ be on you and your family, as we remember the WORTHY ONE, Emmanuel, GOD WITH US, The Word, JESUS, Prince of Peace, LIGHT OF THE WORLD, The Shepherd, THE RISEN ONE.

Richard and Rosemary O'Brien

"Christmas means that, through the grace of God and the incarnation, peace with God is available; and if you make peace with God, then you can go out and make peace with everybody else. And the more people who embrace the gospel and do that, the better off the world is. Christmas, therefore, means the increase of peace—both with God and between people—across the face of the world." (Timothy Keller)

Wishing you a peace-filled and peace-giving season of Christmas as we celebrate the birth of God's only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christian, Milka, Carson, Harmony and Leon (Tirtha Family)



In a world that often feels out of control, it is a blessing to be able to focus on the peace and goodwill that surrounds the birth of our Saviour. The Scots' Church Office staff join in wishing you a peaceful, safe and blessed Christmas. May you be surrounded by His love and peace.

We give thanks that we are able to serve you in His name and share in the joy of this time.

Sebert Ruddock

Have a happy and holy Christmas.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” - Isaiah 9:6

Peter Armstrong

“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Happy Christmas!

From all of us at St Stephen's Flemington

What a joy it is, Sunday by Sunday to sing and play wonderful music from the last 500 years or so. The choir loves what it does. We consider it a great privilege to sing for this congregation and, through Big Hymn Sings and concerts, to the wider community. Now, as the words of the hymn go, 'Joy to the world', the season of Advent and Christmas is upon us. We will hope to see you all at Messiah and at the Service of Nine Lessons with Carols. I, Ria and the choir wish you all a very Merry Christmas and blessings without number.

Douglas Lawrence



Victorian Presbyterian Churches Past and Present Sassafras – From Log Cabin to Kennon Memorial Church

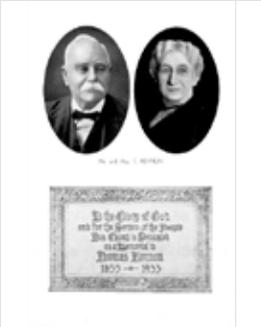
Until 1937, when the Kennon Memorial Presbyterian Church (now Uniting) opened for worship in Sassafras, the congregation met for 12 years in a log cabin located in a recreation reserve, and was known as The Log Cabin Congregation, Sassafras.

Situated in the Dandenong Ranges between Olinda and Ferny Creek, Sassafras is 35 kilometres east of Melbourne. Originally called Sassafras Gully, it was descriptive of the damp ferny gullies in which sassafras trees grow in the area. Although the region was opened for selection in 1893, only a small township was established. Weekenders, larger residences and guest houses were built and, by 1918, thirteen guest houses made Sassafras a leading resort in the Dandenong Ranges. It remains an attractive area for day visitors to the present time.

Presbyterian services began on the verandah of the home of Dr. and Mrs. Cowen, serving the resident and visiting population of Sassafras, Ferny Creek and Sherbrooke. The Rev. D. A. Cameron, Director of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, conducted the first service on 19th October 1924, followed by a number of visiting ministers. The Log Cabin was built in the recreation reserve on Sherbrooke Road in 1925 as a memorial to Mr. G. H. Doery, the first chairman of the reserve, and was rented for the fortnightly services. The Rev. J. E. Higginbotham, Chairman of the Church Extension Committee, recommended the formation of a local committee to move arrangements forward at a meeting held on 1st February 1925. The first committee was formed, including Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kennon, and Dr. and Mrs. Cowen, together with several other people. Various ministers from Melbourne helped out with services, and the Rev. J. Caldwell was engaged for three months. In February 1927 the Home Missions Committee took over the arranging of services and a month later the Rev. R. W. Macaulay conducted the first Communion service. Two years later the Log Cabin and Belgrave Congregations linked up, with Mr. Esmond Walter New, later ordained in 1934, being appointed as the home missionary.



The newly built Kennon Memorial Church in 1937. Credit: "The Story of the Log Cabin Presbyterian Congregation, Sassafras, Victoria", Author unknown, 1937. State Library of Victoria.



Mr and Mrs. T. Kennon. Credit: "The Story of the Log Cabin Presbyterian Congregation, Sassafras, Victoria," Author unknown, 1937. State Library of Victoria.

At a service conducted by the Moderator, the Rev. John Sinclair in February 1930, he announced that Mr. and Mrs. Kennon had generously donated land close by as the site for a new church building. Two months later, there were 32 communicants at a service conducted by the Rev. J. K. Robertson. Mr. New left to continue his studies for the ministry at Ormond College in July 1931. He had endeared himself to young and old with his special children's addresses. The Rev. J. A. Pawson continued the charge as a home mission station and a year later was called as minister to the joint charge of Tecoma, Sassafras and Cockatoo.

Services in the Log Cabin were well maintained and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. A visitor to an afternoon service in January 1932, Miss May

Sugden, wrote in appreciation, part of which reads:

"I saw no wonderful Temple, or white robed priests, no altar of sacrifice, no surging throng, only a little Log Cabin in the heart of the bush.

"No paved courts surrounded it, for it no golden gate of access, nor glittering roof to catch the sunshine and reflect its glory, just gum trees encircling it, great tall giants of the forest, standing in quiet strength, breathing out the indefinable peace of Nature's silent witness....

"A homely gathering in the Father's House where in winter a bright fire burns in the open fire place, and where all the year round flowers adorn the mantel shelf in their fragrant beauty....

"In this Bush Hut the bush fold gather for worship. Here in the peace and quietness, 'God seems to lay His hand on the quiet heart and brain,' and if the grandeur of architectural beauty is missing, there is an atmosphere of simple home-like sincerity within the Cabin walls which once felt, will never be forgotten."

Mr. and Mrs. Kennon, of 'Kenloch', Olinda, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1933. Sadly Mr. Kennon died some six months later, but left a bequest of £250 (equivalent to thousands of dollars today) to build a



The Kennon Memorial Church in 2019.



Another view of the present-day church.



The Log Cabin still stands in the Ferry Creek Recreation Reserve today.

new church. This was supplemented a year later by another generous gift by Mrs. Kennon, enabling the building to be opened free of debt. The congregation's express desire was that the building be called 'The Thomas Kennon Memorial Church'.

As the new church building took shape close by in Clarkmont Road, Sassafras, the congregation followed its progress with great interest. The building was opened and dedicated by the Moderator, the Right Rev. A. Irving Davidson on 30th January 1937. The Kennon Memorial Church (now Uniting) is listed on the Victorian Heritage Database as being of high local significance as a memorial to Thomas Kennon and as an example of a timber church of the 1930s.

The building was designed by architects Messrs. Scarborough, Robertson and Love, and erected by Mr. F. H. Weeks. It is a simple timber church with a gable end roof steeply pitched and with terracotta tiles. There is an arched triple window which includes stained glass. The church was built to accommodate 100 people, and included a hall at the rear with a kitchen and vestry.

Parents of our Scots' Church members Jim Nuske and Mary Cooper were members of the Sassafras Church for many years. Mr Norman Nuske was given the responsibility for the management of the construction and fit out of the church hall and kitchen. Mrs. Jessie Nuske was secretary of the PWMU branch, and impressed the members by taking the minutes in shorthand! Both John and Mary Cooper (nee Nuske), and Jim and Sue Nuske (nee Dowling) were married in this lovely church.

The Kennon Memorial Church continued to serve the community through the following decades, with the congregation voting to become Uniting in 1977. There were services held in the church until the end of 2018, but it is not used at present. The Log Cabin can still be found in the Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve, located close to the children's playground and courts. It is used by various groups, including displays for the Ferny Creek Flower Show.

References:

The Story of the Log Cabin Presbyterian Congregation, Sassafras, Victoria. Author unknown, 1937, Ramsay Publishing Pty. Ltd, 129 King Street, Melbourne. Held in the State Library of Victoria.

Victorian Heritage Database: Kennon Memorial Uniting Church, Sassafras, Yarra Ranges Shire. http://vh.d.heritage.vic.gov.au/yarraranges/result_details/115432

Victorian Places: Sassafras. <https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/sassafras>



A sketch of the Log Cabin by May Sugden in "The Story of the Log Cabin Presbyterian Congregation, Sassafras, Victoria"; Author unknown, 1937. State Library of Victoria



Howard and Josephine Grey.

Interview

Howard and Josephine Grey

Howard Grey grew up in Box Hill, although he was born in Horsham, the family moving to Melbourne when he was young. As a child he attended Box Hill Baptist Church with his family and made a firm decision to follow Christ at the Billy Graham Crusade in Melbourne in

1959. After completing his secondary education at Box Hill Boys' high School he went on to study medicine at Monash University, graduating in December 1970.

Born in Port Pirie, South Australia, Josephine and her family moved to the Melbourne suburb of Canterbury when she was nine years old. Her education was at Strathcona Baptist Girls' Grammar School, and she attended Canterbury Baptist Church. Josephine went on to complete a course in infant teaching at Toorak Teachers' College. Howard's family had moved from Box Hill to Canterbury Baptist Church, which is where he and Josephine met. They were married at the beginning of 1970. They had four children: Philip was born in 1973; Martin two years later; Leanne in 1977 and Elizabeth in 1980.

Howard's first year as a resident doctor was at Launceston General Hospital, Tasmania, followed by a year at Fremantle, Western Australia. After a round trip as a ship's doctor, Howard worked for a time with the Royal Flying Doctor Service at Meekatharra. Josephine's first year of teaching was at North Carlton, followed by a position at Forest Hill. She later moved to South Melbourne after she and Howard married, and subsequently held teaching positions in Launceston and Perth before she and Howard travelled to England.

When the couple returned from England in 1973, Howard became a partner in a multi-disciplinary group general practice in Horsham, Victoria. Howard took up flying at this time, and gained his unrestricted private pilot's licence in 1979. In 1979 he spent some time at the Baptist Mission Hospital at Joyramkura, in the northern part of Bangladesh, close to the border with India.

On Howard's return to Australia from Bangladesh the family moved to Warracknabeal, where there was a need for a solo general practitioner. At this time he was on call 24 hours a day and had little time to himself. His work included surgery, obstetrics and



The E model Piper Aztec, in which Howard flew solo around the world. Credit: Dr. J. Howard Gre

anaesthetics as well as general practice. The family lived on a farm on the outskirts of the town, where Howard was able to have his own airstrip. It was then that he purchased his first aeroplane, a Piper Cherokee 6; he then moved to a Piper Lance, followed by a Piper Aztec. In 1990 Howard flew solo around the world in an E model Piper Aztec, over a period of 13 weeks. Josephine accompanied him as far as London, then returned to Australia because school holidays were commencing.

Following the 'round the world' trip, Howard gained his commercial licence and his own air operator's certificate. The whole trip was flown under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR). Howard's last plane was a 602 pressurised Aerostar.

During the time the family lived in Horsham, Josephine was secretary of the local group of Christian Women's Convention International (CWCI) and was also a study leader in the 'Know Your Bible' (KYB) Group. When they moved to Warracknabeal Josephine was the leader of KYB and the Area Supervisor and she continued in both these positions when she moved to Melbourne. Howard was a deacon and elder in the Warracknabeal Baptist Church (and formerly a deacon in the Horsham Church of Christ). Josephine was also a deacon in the Warracknabeal Baptist Church.

In 1996 the family moved to Melbourne, when Howard was appointed the medical director of a group practice in Karingal, remaining there for almost eight years. Howard spent one month working in the American Mission Hospital in Manama, Bahrain, before his next move, in 2003, to Shanghai, China, as Medical Director of a joint-venture between an American health care provider from Los Angeles and the East Shanghai Hospital in Pudong. This was a most interesting position and during his time there he was also Acting Chief Executive Officer for 18 months. The clinic and hospital provided a wide range of medical services to the very large ex-pat community, as well as many Chinese patients. They remained in Shanghai for a little over seven years.

Howard and Josephine's eldest child, Philip, was married before they left for China, with the weddings of the three other children all taking place while they were away, so they returned home for each occasion.

On returning to Australia, Howard took on locum emergency medicine positions in

regional and remote areas of Australia. In 8½ years he has undertaken 106 locums, the latest being at Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria, where he works alternate weeks with another doctor. This involves 180 hours of work, 24 hours a day, so it is very busy. There is provision for only one doctor in this isolated post. Josephine has accompanied Howard to some of the places he has worked.

Over the years, Howard and Josephine have travelled extensively both in Australia and overseas, visiting over 110 countries. They continue to enjoy overseas trips several times each year. Howard's interests include a passion for classical and baroque music, especially Johann Sebastian Bach. Howard also has an interest in boat fishing and 4WD exploring. Both he and Josephine enjoy holidays in their caravan. Time spent with their grandchildren in Cheltenham, Launceston and Eindhoven (Netherlands) is very precious.

Howard and Josephine enjoy all aspects of worship at Scots' Church on Sunday mornings. Although they have had some association with Scots' over many years, it is in recent times that they have worshipped with us regularly. Howard has made an enormous contribution to the health and well-being of Australians, in urban, regional and remote areas through his medical career. He acknowledges his gratitude to God that he is able to travel and to enjoy His wonderful creation. He sees every day of life as a blessing from God, as we live in sure and certain hope of life everlasting with Christ when this life is over.

We are delighted to have Howard and Josephine at Scots' and thank them for their major contribution to church and community over a lifetime of commitment.

Mornington Island

Mornington Island, where Dr. Howard Grey undertakes a locum on alternate weeks, is located in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland. The largest of 22 islands of the Wellesley Group, it is generally flat with a maximum elevation of 150 metres. The mangrove forests and estuaries that fringe the island are in near pristine condition. The area of the island is 1,002 square kilometres (387 square miles).

The population of the island was an estimated 1,143 in 2016, with the majority of the islanders being Aboriginal. Most of its citizens live in the largest town, Gununa.

Reference: Wikipedia: Mornington Island. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mornington_Island



Nativity Scenes – A Christmas Tradition

The first nativity scene recorded in history was created by St. Francis of Assisi at Greccio, Italy, in 1223, following a visit to the Holy Land, where he had seen the traditional birthplace of Jesus at Bethlehem. He was trying to place the emphasis of Christmas on the worship of Christ rather than upon secular materialism and the giving of presents. His nativity scene was a living one, staged in a cave near Greccio, with humans and animals cast in the Biblical roles. The Pope of the time, Honorius III, gave his blessing to the nativity scene. These rapidly became popular, spreading throughout Christendom, and within one hundred years every church in Italy was expected to have a Christmas nativity scene. As time passed, statues replaced human and animal participants, and static scenes grew to elaborate affairs with richly robed figures placed in intricate landscape settings.

By the mid-15th century, nativity scenes began to appear in the homes of wealthy Italian citizens, although these were smaller than those found in churches. Nativity scenes spread to other countries, to churches of both Catholic and Protestant traditions. A tradition that grew up in England involved the baking of a mince pie in the shape of a manger to hold the infant Jesus until dinner time, when the pie was eaten. When the Puritans banned Christmas celebrations in the 17th century, they also passed specific legislation to outlaw such pies, calling them "Idolaterie in crust".

The accounts of the birth of Jesus found in the gospels of Matthew and Luke form the basis of nativity scenes. Luke writes of an angel announcing the birth of Jesus to shepherds who visit him where he lies in a manger. Matthew's account tells of the 'wise men' who follow the star to the house where Jesus dwells, possibly indicating that the visit took place some time later, rather than on the day of Jesus' birth. The nativity scene may not accurately reflect events as written in the gospels. For example, the shepherds, the Magi and the ox and ass may all be displayed together around the manger.

Many of us will enjoy setting up a nativity scene in our home, perhaps bringing out much loved figures that have been a part of the Christmas celebration for many years. Most home nativity scenes are carefully packed away soon after Christmas, but nativity scenes in churches usually remain on display until the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus, on the first Sunday after 6th January each year.

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Dorothy Low.

Interview

Dorothy Low

Dorothy Low, who has worshipped at Scots' Church, Melbourne for some years, has had a lifelong association with the Presbyterian Church. She also had links with Scots' Church much earlier in her life, the first as a young child, and later when the Rev. Ray Russell served as interim moderator of the Chinese United Church, Melbourne (Presbyterian and Methodist) for a period of five years in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Born in Kowloon, Hong Kong, a few years before the war with Japan began, Dorothy's name was Lau Gooy, with Lau being the family surname, and Gooy her grandfather's given name, as he was the ninth son. The Lau Gooy's connection with Scots' Church dated back to the 1880s, and two (or perhaps three) generations of the family were married there. Dorothy's mother was born in Canton, China and became a Christian due to the influence of her Christian sisters-in-law from Australia. Sadly her mother died in 1943, during the years of the war with Japan, when Dorothy was a small child. Her grandmother became the legal guardian of Dorothy and two older sisters. Dorothy's grandmother had come to Australia at a young age in the care of a Christian family, and her aunts and uncles were all born in Australia. At the time of Dorothy's birth, the family had been visiting Hong Kong.

After the family returned to Melbourne in 1946, following the end of the Japanese war, Dorothy went to Rathdowne Street Primary School, then to Princes Hill Central School and on to University High School to complete her secondary education. All Dorothy's aunts and uncles had attended the Chinese Mission School in the city, begun by Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU) missionaries in 1892. This school continued until 1931-32, when the children were allowed to attend State schools.



This building in Little Bourke Street was at one time the Chinese Mission Church.



The Rev. Esmond New officiated at Dorothy's marriage at Scots' Church.

During her school years Dorothy attended the Chinese Presbyterian Church and Sunday school in Little Bourke Street, Melbourne. In 1947, soon after Dorothy had come to Melbourne, the Sunday school was invited to take part in a service at Scots' Church; this was her first introduction to Scots'. As well as regular services, the 'Firefly' group met one night each week, when the children played games, cleaned stamps for the missions, sang choruses,

and listened to a short message. The highlights of the year were the Sunday school anniversary and annual picnic, and the celebration of Christmas. Choral items, plays, and scripture recitations were followed by refreshments.

Later Dorothy became a member of the Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia (PFA), with weekly Bible studies, song services following the evening service twice a month, and monthly visits to retirement homes. Located in Little Bourke Street at that time, the Chinese church had a very close relationship with Scots' Church as they were without a minister for some time. Scots' Church ministers officiated at services of Holy Communion and were assisted in the dispensing of the elements by elders from Scots' Church. The Rev. Esmond New, who was at the time Victorian foreign mission secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, officiated at Dorothy's marriage at Scots' Church. He also had links with the Chinese Presbyterian Church.



Children of the Chinese Mission School, circa 1926.

After several relocations within the city together with some challenging years, the Chinese Presbyterian congregation moved to Malvern Presbyterian Church, where the minister had offered the use of Sunday school facilities for their worship services. The first service in the new location was held on New Year's Day, 1984. Dorothy's children Diane, Anita and Jonathan all attended Sunday school until it was disbanded due to lack of children in the early 1990s.

Over time they became an extension of the Malvern congregation and, by about 2000, the Chinese congregation was integrated with the congregation of the Malvern Presbyterian Church.

Some years ago Dorothy made a decision to move to Scots' Church, together with Carol Harper, also from Malvern, and they have worshipped regularly with us since that time. Dorothy is always ready to help in any way she can, and has been a most generous and consistent supporter of the Outreach Committee monthly cake stall since first coming to Scots', baking batches of many varieties of delicious cookies each time. She and Carol are also most supportive of the midweek service, and serve regularly on the welcome desk.

We thank Dorothy for a lifetime of commitment to the Chinese Presbyterian Church and, more recently, to Scots' Church, where she is a valued member of the Scots' Church family.



From left, the Rev. Douglas Robertson, Pastor Mark Purser, and Robert Lowe.

2019 Scots' Church Grand Final Service

Scots' Church Grand Final Mid-Week Service held on Wednesday 25th September was a very special day in the life of the congregation. The service was conducted by the Rev. Douglas Robertson with Pastor Mark Purser, Chaplain of the Essendon Football Club as guest preacher.

The Rev Peter Waterhouse, Chaplain to Hume Anglican Grammar, led the congregation in prayer and the New Testament lesson from Mark 5:25-34 was read by Larissa Newnham, Victorian Coordinator, Sports Chaplaincy Australia.



The Sausage Sizzle was enjoyed by many prior to the Grand Final Service, including (from left) Rick Holt, Robert Lowe, Bill Griffiths and the Rev. Douglas Robertson.

had heard reports about Jesus. She came up behind him in a crowd that had gathered to hear him speak and touched his garment. Immediately she felt the flow of blood dry up and her disease was healed. The courage of the woman to approach Jesus was shown by his response to her, saying: "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." (Mark 5:34 ESV). What a wonderful message this passage has for us all, said Mark.

AFL players are also courageous, said Mark, each time they play a game of football. Although they are well rewarded and living their dream they have high expectations placed on them from their supporters and team mates each time they play. Injuries, together with a loss of form, can lead to a crisis of confidence in their ability to perform each week leading, in some cases, to players experiencing mental illness. As Mark explained, as a chaplain he is there to provide comfort and support to the players in their need. In conclusion he said the message of Jesus is that he is here for all of us whatever we do in our lives. The congregation was well pleased to hear the Word of God preached by Mark.

The church was decorated with the balloons of the team colours of the two Grand Final sides, Richmond and Greater Western Sydney. Once again Scots' was very fortunate to have a number of hard working members cooking sausages and providing tea, coffee and cakes for sale to the public in Collins Street. Through their hard work they raised \$850 for Sports Chaplaincy Australia. Thank you to Dennis Conradi, Lois and Gordon Taylor, Judith and Barry Kilmartin, Margaret E. Lowe, Ian and Eileen Marshall, Barbara Noisette, Roslyn Lowe and Margaret Lowe.

We look forward to another Grand Final Service in 2020.

Robert Lowe

The music was provided by organist Douglas Lawrence OAM and trumpeter Robert Mattess with the congregation singing two well-loved hymns: Immortal, invisible, God only wise and Thine be the Glory.

Our guest preacher, Pastor Mark Purser, spoke in his sermon of a woman reaching out to Jesus in desperation to cure her disease. The woman had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years and

DAKOTA'S UPDATE ON THE MERCY SHIP, SENEGAL



*Dakota (right) with young patients enjoying some relaxing moments as they recover from surgery.
Credit: Copyright 2019, Mercy Ships – Catrice Kpeglo.*



*Another photo of young patients as they recover.
Credit: Copyright 2019, Mercy Ships – Lara Arkininstall.*

The Outreach Committee, together with some individual donations, is supporting Dakota Sykes, a registered nurse who is serving on the Africa Mercy Ship in Senegal from September to December 2019. In the October issue of The Leaflet, Dakota provided a first-hand account of her first week on board. She has now been on board for some weeks, and writes:

‘Things are going really well on the ship at the moment. We’ve finished the first round of plastic surgery on many, many thankful patients. The last of them are healing up and heading out back to their communities. The plastic surgeon here, Dr Tertius, will come back again in a couple months to do more surgery. I’ve gotten to know him over the last few weeks and he has an amazing testimony. He has dedicated the last 10 to 12 years of his life on Mercy Ships. He is away from home for 9-10 months of every

year doing free surgery all over the world. What an amazing guy.

Next up on board we are doing paediatric orthopaedic surgery. This round will be full of kids that were born or developed legs that bow or are windswept. To fix these, the surgeons literally break their bones and reset them to heal straight. It’s pretty nasty sounding but the results are astounding. I’m excited to see more and more lives changed.

I’m officially over my halfway mark here now and have many memories that I’ll hold close to my heart forever. It is hard to put into words how magical this place is. And how beautiful all our patients are.

I’ve included a few pictures of myself and some other friends I’ve made (patients and nurses that is). These are moments on the wards and up on Deck 7 (which is the deck we can take the patients to so they can have some time outside whilst still on board).

Dakota’

PLANTS OF THE BIBLE

Walnut



A mature walnut tree. Credit: The supermat, 2007. Creative Commons.



Unripe walnuts on the tree. The structure of the leaves can be seen. Credit: George Chernilevsky, 2007. Public Domain.

The walnut, referred to a 'nut' in the Old Testament book, Song of Solomon, Chapter 6:11, is mentioned only once in the Bible. The Hebrew word 'egoz' used in this verse is accepted unequivocally by scholars as meaning the walnut. The nut orchard in which the tree grew included vines and pomegranates.

The walnut, *Juglans regia*, known as the common, Persian or English walnut, is a large deciduous tree of the family Juglandaceae. It is also the name for the nuts of the trees and for their hardwood. The tree grows to a height of 25 to 35 metres with a trunk up to six metres in diameter. It needs full sun to grow well. The bark is smooth and has broad fissures with a rougher texture. The dark green leaves consist of two to five pairs of large leaflets. The trees have male flowers in catkins, and clusters of two to five female flowers that are pollinated by the wind. The fruit ripens in autumn to a brown corrugated nut with a large edible seed in a relatively thin shell.

This species of walnut is native to the mountain regions of central and west Asian countries. It was probably introduced into Canaan from Persia or Turkey in ancient times. Walnut trees still grow in all parts of Israel; there is even a place called the 'Valley

of Walnuts' in eastern Jerusalem.

The husks of walnuts were used in the past to make ink for writing and drawing and was thought to have been used by artists including Leonardo da Vinci and Rembrandt. The husks have also been used to produce a brown dye for fabric and, in classical Rome and medieval Europe, the dye was used as a hair colouring agent.



A walnut shell in its husk. Credit: Böhringer Friedrich, 2007. Creative Commons

Widely grown and harvested today, the major producers of walnuts are China, the United States of America, Iran and Turkey. In 2017 the world production of walnuts in the shell was 3.8 million tonnes. Walnuts are available both in the shells and already shelled. They may be eaten as they come, but are often incorporated into other foods such as muesli or baked goods. They also contain walnut oil, sometimes used in salad dressings.

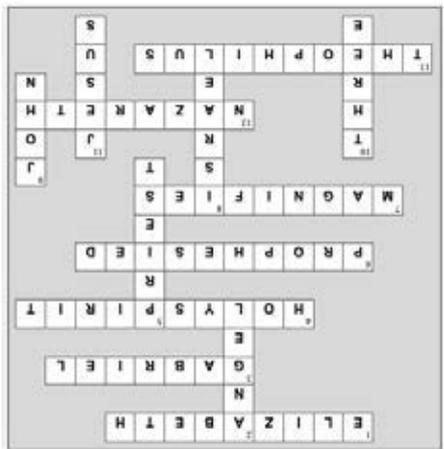
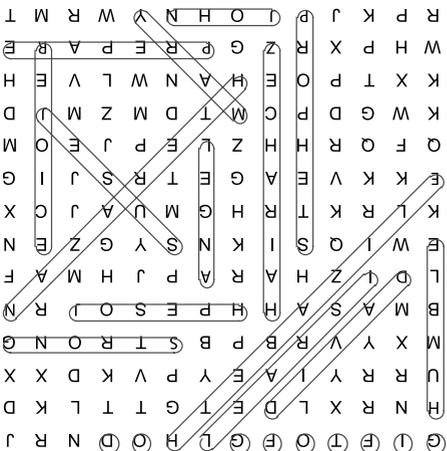
Walnuts have nutritional value as a source of polyunsaturated fats as well as several dietary minerals and B vitamins. Research

indicates that a small serve of walnuts daily may contribute to a reduced risk of coronary heart disease.

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Secret Message: Gift of God



Word search

Luke Chapter 1

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 line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

(Solution on page 31)



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

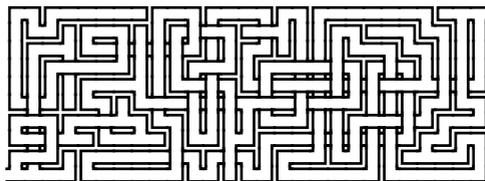
The words to find ...

- Angel
- David
- Elizabeth
- Humble
- Israel
- Jesus
- John
- Joseph
- Mary
- Nazareth
- Prepare
- Prophets
- Rejoice
- Strong
- Zechariah

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Amazing Maze

Help the shepherd find the way to Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.



In Memoriam

Denise Hillhouse

22nd October 1945 – 13th August 2019



You may remember a beautiful fair-haired lady with her husband, Blair Hillhouse, often referred to as 'the little couple' by their friends and family, sitting near the back of the church on the right hand side.

Denise was born to Ruth and Lionel Colhoun in Mayfield West, Newcastle, New South Wales. They also had a daughter, Yvonne (who died at seven years of age) and a younger daughter Dianne. At a very young age Denise decided that she would be helpful to her parents and sister, feeling that she was responsible and dedicated to that task. She worked at developing her artistic ability, firstly in

the fashion industry, where she studied to be a tracer in a drafting department, which required very accurate and precise drawings. She later worked in an architect's office.

After Denise married, she continued to show her many skills; she repaired cars, painted her home inside and out, hauled ladders and created gardens. Denise had twin boys, Gilbert and James, but when they were in their early teens she divorced, moved back to Mayfield, and raised her boys alone with help from her mother.

Over time Denise showed many and diverse talents; she owned an antique shop, was a volunteer with the RSPCA, and at weekends volunteered to take orphaned children on trips and picnics. She later worked as a nurse assisting brain damaged people young and old, giving of herself to also take these people on outings. In her last job she shared nursing duties and home care for an elderly lady living in Sydney. Denise also devoted many hours to her mother; they helped each other in their ventures, both being skilful with artistic work.

Denise and Blair, who both had carer duties, met by chance on a bus tour of the South Island of New Zealand in December 2000. Blair thought Denise was a very special lady on the first day, and afterwards continued to write and phone her. Eventually they visited each other at home, Denise in Newcastle and Blair in Brunswick, not so easy

due to distance. They travelled back and forth until, in early 2008, they decided to marry. Denise and Blair were married at Scots' Church, Melbourne on 18th October 2008 – a big surprise for many people 'At their Age'! They attended marriage classes with the Rev. Richard O'Brien and were married by the Rev. Douglas Robertson. Denise's boys are married: Gilbert to Hillary, with three children, Noah, Isla and Audrey; and James to Rini, with a son Max.

Marriage for almost 11 years was a wonderful time for Denise and Blair, who enjoyed each other's company and didn't mix in big groups. There were many highlights – a trip to Paris and Venice was a life-long dream for Denise. There were also many trips to and from Newcastle with overnight stays in different towns.

In 2013 they decided to experience country life in Kyneton in a beautiful Italianate Victorian home surrounded by one and a quarter acres of land with a formal garden of lawns, a pond, irises, shrubs and roses, another project for Denise. The improvement and beauty was worth the effort, although wearing on her. The abundance of rose blooms usually enhanced the two nursing homes in Kyneton. Denise was enthusiastic, caring, loving, creative, and touched so many people in her special helping way, without fuss. Not many people were aware of all she did.

After three months in Epworth Freemasons Hospital with acute leukaemia, there was some improvement but many side effects of the chemotherapy. Sadly Denise passed away on 13th August 2019. A beautiful memorial service for Denise was conducted by the Rev. Richard O'Brien at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Gisborne, on 19th August, assisted by the Rev. Douglas Robertson, followed by a burial at the Gisborne Cemetery. Denise and Blair often worshipped at Scots' church, as well as St. Andrew's, Gisborne.

To the clergy and members of both churches, Denise's family together with Blair, thank those who prayed, enquired, sent cards and supported us all – thank you.

Denise was an angel to so many. Now in God's care. In Blair's words – UNFORGETTABLE.

Blair Hillhouse.

Our sincere condolences are offered to Blair, the family and their many friends.

No man is an Island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main; ... any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.

John Donne, Meditation XVII. English clergyman & poet (1572 - 1631)

In Memoriam

Jennifer Mary Young

14th February 1947 – 12th September 2019



Jenny Young was born and grew up in Port Fairy, South Western Victoria, living in the home built by her grandfather in 1898. Her primary and secondary education were undertaken in Port Fairy, where the school she attended reflected the rural environment with the subjects offered.

After completing school, Jenny worked as a receptionist for the local veterinary practice for several years. During this time she undertook a secretarial course by correspondence with Stott's Business College in Melbourne. Her mother came from Sandringham and the family used to visit relatives in Melbourne from time to time. Jenny finally decided to 'spread her wings' and come to the 'bright lights' of the city, initially living at Murrumbena where she attended St. Giles' Presbyterian Church. She gained a position with the City of Melbourne, working as a stenographer in the Town Clerk's Department. She moved from Murrumbena to East Melbourne to reduce her travelling time to work, and at this time began to attend Scots' Church. Scots' had an active and enthusiastic Presbyterian Fellowship Association, with a membership largely consisting of young people from country Victoria and interstate, either studying or working in Melbourne. It was there that Jenny met Wallace Young; they were subsequently married at Scots' in August, 1969. Jenny continued to work for five years, first with a shipping agent in Collins Street, Melbourne, and later with a firm of consulting engineers close to where she and Wallace were living at the time, in East Hawthorn. They built their home in Lower Templestowe in 1972, where they brought up their children – Felicity, Carolyn and Myles.

Jenny's parents were very active in the life of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Port Fairy, where her mother was an organist, and also a member of the Guild and the PWMU. Her mother was the first female member of the Board of Management at Port Fairy after the changes in the Presbyterian Church allowed the inclusion of women, and later became the first female elder there.

During her primary school years, Jenny developed an appreciation of music through

the ABC's music programs for schools, and especially from a visiting music teacher, who travelled to the schools in the Warnambool district to encourage children to sing. As she moved into secondary school, Jenny sang in the school choir, and also joined the church choir as a soprano at the age of 12, singing there until she moved to Melbourne some years later. She had five years of piano lessons as a child, and later sometimes played the organ for church services.

Jenny continued attending Scots' and taught Sunday school for three years before she joined the choir in August, 1981, when the organist at the time, Peter Nicholls, issued an invitation for new members. She was thrilled to be in the choir for the service attended by Her Majesty the Queen that September. Soon afterwards, Bill Martin was appointed organist, followed by Douglas Lawrence in April 1984.

Jenny remained a choir member for 38 years until her death. Over that period there were significant changes. When she first joined, the choir sang at both morning and evening services, singing two anthems – one early in the service, and the other during the offering. Douglas Lawrence introduced an introit and a choral psalm to the services. During Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard's ministry, the hymns chosen began to reflect a much greater appreciation of the liturgical year, as did the anthems chosen by Douglas. Her elder daughter Felicity also sings in the choir.

For three years from 2005, Jenny enjoyed an additional musical diversion, when she joined the Savoy Opera Company, performing in the chorus for five Gilbert and Sullivan productions. She also volunteered as 'front-of-house' for Savoy and The Australian Chamber Choir.

Jenny's three grandsons and three granddaughters gave her much pleasure. Her other love was train travel, sparked by her father's keen interest in trains. She and Wallace crisscrossed the continent from coast-to-coast in both directions on The Ghan, The Indian Pacific and The Overland.

About eighteen months ago Jenny became seriously ill and her health deteriorated steadily in spite of treatment. She was wonderfully supported by Wallace and her family throughout her illness. Jenny continued to sing in the choir until early 2019, and still attended worship services with Wallace following this time whenever possible. After an extended period in hospital Jenny died peacefully at home on 12th September. A beautiful service of thanksgiving for Jenny's life was held at Scots' Church on 21st September.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Wallace, Felicity and Carolyn and their families, and to their many friends.

In Memoriam

Maxwell Leonard Harlock

27th December 1930 – 6th October 2019



Max was born to Len and Erica Harlock at Camperdown, Victoria on 27th December 1930. He had an older sister, June. Educated at Camperdown Primary School and Camperdown Higher Elementary, Max always had fond memories of growing up there.

The family moved to Melbourne in 1946 in order to give the children the best opportunities for the future. After living in different suburbs as they found their feet, the family settled in East Malvern in 1950. At this time Max was working for Glen Iris Motors, first servicing cars and pumping petrol, and later running the office and keeping the

books. A suggestion by a client that he should consider working in insurance saw Max moving to the Royal Insurance Company, and later to Bowring's Insurance Brokers.

About this time Max began to attend Armadale Presbyterian Church. Already a regular church-goer he offered to take on a Sunday school class and was given the 10 to 12 year old boys to look after. Following some early challenges he gained the wholehearted respect of the boys and was a great role model, keeping them interested in church, sporting activities and community service.

In early 1955, when Max had become the Sunday school superintendent, Coral Park, a Melbourne University student boarding at Frank Tate House close by, offered to teach a class. Coral captured Max's heart. However she was on a scholarship and not able to marry until she has completed her four-year teaching course and one year of teaching. Max and Coral were finally married on 5th March 1960, moving into their dream home at Mount Waverley. They had two children, Ross and Robyn.

In 1968 Max decided to start out on his own, and founded M.L. Harlock and Associates, Insurance Brokers. Coral went back to teaching when the children were of school age, and Max gradually built up the business. He developed ties with Lloyds of London, with a life-long friendship being established with David Springbett and his family and

the Harlocks. The business flourished as Max grew the client base and merged with another company, until it became the biggest wholly Australian owned insurance broking business in the country, with branches in each state, and even in Vancouver, Canada. In 1983 Max sold off his share, although he did not benefit greatly from this.

Over the years the family moved to different suburbs, finally settling in Glen Waverley, where they have lived for the last 30 years. At various times they owned a share in a farm at Bamgannie near Meredith and later a houseboat on Lake Eildon. These ventures offered the family experiences that were most beneficial in developing life skills.

Along the way, Ross and Pam married, with children Jackie and Liz, and Robyn married Chris Geake, with children Katherine and Lachlan. Max loved all his grandchildren dearly, and was delighted with great-grandchildren Mitchell and Harrison.

A solid man of the church throughout his life, Max's faith sustained him, as did Coral and his extended family. He never lost his faith, optimism or generosity towards others. Over the years he was a member and elder of Armadale Presbyterian Church and St. Mark's Chadstone. He later became a member of Scots' Church, where he and Coral attended regularly until no longer able to do so. He relished his visits from Scots' Church people, none more so than from Helen Holman, his visiting elder.

In later years as his health deteriorated, Max wished to remain at home. With the care, attention and hard work of Coral, his medical staff and carers from 'Home Instead' he was able to achieve this. Max died peacefully on 16th October 2019.

A service of thanksgiving for Max's life was held at Le Pine's Funerals, Camberwell on 24th October.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Coral, Ross and Robyn and their families, and to their many friends.

Psalm 121: My Help Comes from the LORD

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

² My help comes from the LORD,

who made heaven and earth.

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Bible Places Babylon



A view of part of the ruins of ancient Babylon. Credit: Arlo K. Abrahamson. U. S. Navy, 2003. Public Domain.

Babylon was a city in ancient Mesopotamia. Its ruins are located on the Euphrates River in present-day Iraq, about 95 kilometres southwest of Baghdad. Founded more than 4,000 years ago as a small settlement on the Euphrates, it later grew into one of the largest cities in the ancient world. Although its origins go back to at least 2,300 BC, the ruins of this early period are inaccessible due to the rising water level in the region.

In the 19th century BC the town became part of a small city-state when the first Babylonian dynasty came into being. An obscure Amorite king, Hammurabi, who ruled Babylon from 1792 to 1750 BC, built it up to a major military power. He conquered neighbouring city-states and turned Babylon into a rich and powerful city. He also created one of the earliest and most complete written legal codes, the Code of Hammurabi. However the empire gradually reverted back to a small kingdom after his death, remaining so for several centuries as it was dominated by other rulers in the region.

A new line of kings saw the establishment of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, although it lasted less than 100 years, from 626 to 539 BC. Following the defeat of the Assyrians



A reconstruction of the Ishtar Gate of Babylon in the Pergamon Berlin Museum. Credit: Rictor Norton (undated). Creative Commons.

at Nineveh in 612 BC, it became the most powerful state in the world. It was a period of cultural renaissance in the Near East, and the Babylonians constructed many beautiful buildings and preserved earlier artifacts during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar II. It was during his reign that the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were said to have been constructed and the famous Ishtar Gate built. After the Babylonian conquest of the Kingdom of Judah in the 6th century BC, thousands of Jews were taken from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar and held captive in Babylon for more than 50 years. Although the Neo-Babylonian Empire continued after Nebuchadnezzar's death, it fell to the Persians under Cyrus in 539 BC. Some Jews returned to Jerusalem after Cyrus took over Babylon, but many stayed and a Jewish community remained established there for many centuries.

Babylon flourished as a centre of art and education under Persian rule. The city continued to survive after the Persian Empire fell to Alexander the Great in 331 BC. However successive rulers fought over the city which steadily declined so that, by 141 BC it was deserted and forgotten. In 650 AD the remnants of Babylon were swept away in the Muslim conquest of the land, and the ruins were gradually buried beneath the sand. It was not until the 17th and 18th centuries that European travellers began to explore the region and uncover



The ancient city of Babylon in December 2016. Credit: Mohammad Huzam, 2016. Creative Commons.

artifacts from the ancient city. The interest in the region increased and scientific excavation of the site began in the late 19th century, continuing ever since that time.

There are many biblical references to Babylon in the Old Testament. In the book of Genesis, Chapter 11, Babylon is the site of the Tower of Babel. It also appears in the books of Daniel, Jeremiah and Isaiah, amongst others. In the New Testament, there are references to Babylon in Matthew and Acts, and evidently symbolic references to the city in the book of Revelation.

Babylon was listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site on 5th July 2019. It consists of a massive complex of ten square kilometres, of which only 18 percent has so far been excavated. It is hoped that World Heritage status will ensure the preservation of this ancient city.

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Biblical Crossword

Acts Chapter 10 & 11

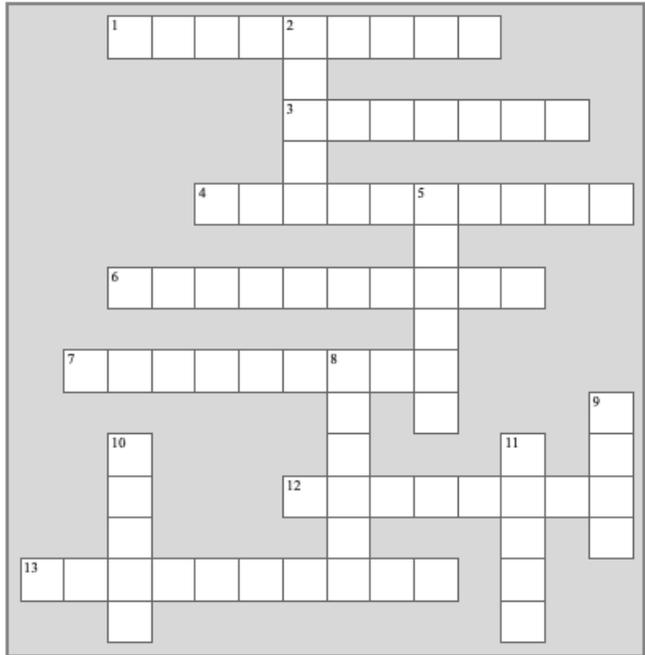
Solution on page 31.

Across

1. Who was the wife of Zechariah?
3. The angel _____ was sent to Joseph, betrothed to Mary.
4. Mary was filled with the _____. (2 words)
6. Zechariah _____ that John would prepare the way of the Lord.
7. Mary sang: 'My soul _____ the Lord.'
12. Where did Joseph live?
13. To whom was the Gospel of Luke dedicated?

Down

2. Who appeared to Zechariah in a dream?
5. Zechariah served God as a _____.
8. John stayed in the wilderness until his appearance in _____.
9. The child born to Zechariah and his wife was to be called _____.
10. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for _____ months.
11. Mary was to bear a son called _____.



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