



KINDRED SPIRITS

Magazine of the Glenroy & Pascoe Vale Uniting Churches

DECEMBER 2017



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CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

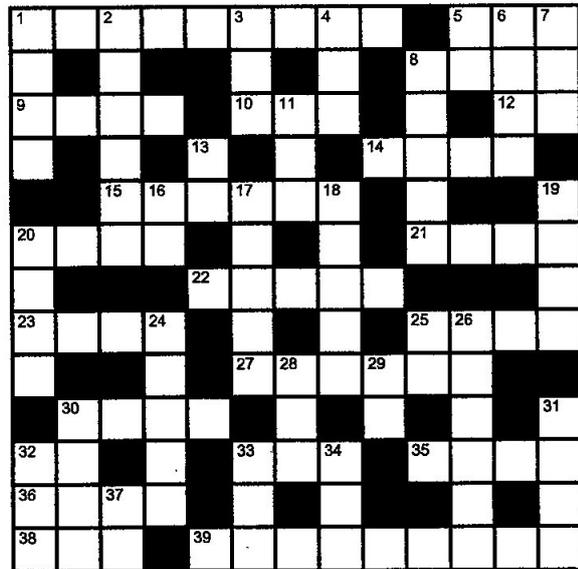
Across

- 1 Jesus' birthplace (9)
- 5 Herod slew the children of this age and under (3)
- 8 Peter quoted his words on the day of Pentecost (4)
- 9 "A ___ shaken with the wind" (4)
- 10 "Ye shall find ___ babe wrapped in swaddling clothes" (3)
- 12 The year from Jesus' birth (2)
- 14 Anna was of this tribe (as recorded in Luke) (4)
- 15 "Behold, a ___ shall be with child" (6)
- 20 "Fruits ___ for repentance" (4)
- 21 The wise men came from here (4)
- 22 "He shall reign of the house of ___ for ever" (5)
- 23 A female ancestor of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 1 (4)
- 25 The amount of manna to be gathered per person (4)
- 27 He multiplied the widow's oil (6)

- 30 "As soon as the voice of thy salvation sounded in mine ___" (4)
- 32 An altar meaning witness (Joshua 22) (2)
- 33 To increase (3)
- 35 Malarial fever (4)
- 36 To guide (4)
- 38 There was no room here (3)
- 39 These men went to see the baby Jesus (9)

Down

- 1 "Mary, of whom was ___ Jesus" (4)
- 2 Jesus' age when he was taken to Jerusalem (6)
- 3 Jesus did not do this in the wilderness (3)
- 4 Adam's wife (3)
- 5 "Mary was espoused ___ Joseph" (2)
- 6 "They that ___ soft clothing are in kings' houses" (4)
- 7 Zacharias said, "I am an ___ man" (3)
- 8 Grandson of 23 (5)
- 11 A place near Bethel (3)
- 13 "A pair of turtledoves ___ two young pigeons" (2)
- 16 "That ___ might be fulfilled" (2)
- 17 "The ___ of God was upon him" (5)
- 18 Mother-in-law of 23 (5)
- 19 This went before the wise men (4)
- 20 The mother of Jesus (4)
- 24 He was king at the time of Jesus' birth (5)
- 25 "___ that one would hear me!" (2)
- 26 Jesus was laid in this (6)
- 28 The spirit did this to Jesus in the wilderness (3)
- 29 Thus (2)
- 30 The first garden (4)
- 31 "Where is he that is born king of the ___?" (4)
- 32 A priest in the time of Samuel (3)
- 33 A tree of the olive family (3)
- 34 To put into water (3)
- 37 "___ angel of the Lord appeareth" (2)



by Colin

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Solution

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Across: 1 Bethlehem, 5 Two, 8 Joel, 9 Reed, 10 The, 12 Ad, 14 Aser, 15 Virgin, 20 Meet, 21 East, 22 Jacob, 23 Ruth, 25 Omer, 27 Elisha, 30 Ears, 32 Ed, 33 Add, 35 Ague, 36 Lead, 38 In, 39 Shepherds.
 Down: 1 Born, 2 Twelve, 3 Eat, 4 Eve, 5 To, 6 Wear, 7 Old, 8 Jesse, 11 Hat, 13 Or, 16 It, 17 Grace, 18 Naomi, 19 Star, 20 Mary, 24 Herod, 25 Oh, 26 Manger, 28 Led, 29 So, 30 Eden, 31 Jews, 32 Eli, 33 Ash, 34 Dip, 37 An.



A MESSAGE FROM REVEREND TINA

BOGGED ON CHRISTMAS EVE

When I was a child of ten I lived at Point Hix, now Cape Everade.

Once a month we'd travel in a Land Rover to Cann River for our groceries. The road was a gravel road and driving on it was a bit like driving on corrugated iron roofing. It shook all the loose bits and pieces out of ordinary cars.



One particular Christmas Eve my family set off with the neighbour to buy groceries and Christmas presents. There were three adults in the front and six children in the back. No one worried about seat belts.

The road was twenty eight kilometres but it was slow going and took hours to reach Cann River.

Mum and dad did their shopping while I looked after my siblings. Then we had lunch at the local pub. I'm sure I consumed a dozen bush flies with every mouthful.

We set off for home at about three in the afternoon. It had been raining for days and the road was still muddy. It was no surprise that we got bogged at a marshy area near a river.

Dad tried putting branches under the wheels

But, that only made it worse. Round and round the wheels spun and deeper and deeper into the mud sunk the Land Rover. In the end my dad had to admit defeat. He climbed up the power pole and hooked up the emergency phone, called Cann River and asked for help.

A Land Rover with two men arrived about two hours later. It was getting dark and my siblings and I were getting restless. We'd been slapping mozzies and had eaten all the candy pop corn.

My dad and the two men hooked up a metal chain with a hook and started pulling. It's engine was working over time, it's wheels were spinning and mud was flying everywhere.

I heard a bit of shouting and then - silence. They'd got bogged too.

So my dad climbed up the power pole again, hooked up the phone again and called Cann River again for help. About two hours later another Land Rover arrived with a man and his two sons. They were determined. They pulled out a long metal cable and had the brilliant idea of wrapping it around a tree. The engine started up and went into overdrive, wheels were spinning and mud was flying everywhere. Again, I heard some rather colourful comments. They got bogged too.

Now there were eight adults and six children and it was dark. This time one of the younger men climbed up the power pole and rang Cann River for more help. While we waited we sat around and had a Christmas Eve Feast.

Continued on next page

A MESSAGE FROM REVEREND TINA

BOGGED ON CHRISTMAS EVE— *continued...*

A large four wheel drive tow truck arrived with two more men and they hooked up a winch to the front of our Land Rover. We could hear the heavy duty winch going for about ten minutes.

Suddenly the tow truck started sinking and they were bogged too.

There was only one thing to do. Bring out more food and drinks.

Somehow word got around and Old Bill from a local fishing village heard about a number of vehicles bogged in the middle of nowhere.

He arrived about 11:00 pm in an old Humber which had a front seat and petrol drums beaten down into seats for the passenger side and back seats.

He took us home first and we arrived about midnight, just in time for Santa. Then he went back into the bush and made two more trips to take everyone else home to their families.

I've never forgotten the kindness shown to my family. All the people who came out on Christmas Eve left their families home waiting for them, and Old Bill went the extra mile for all of us. What they did for us taught me about community spirit and kindness.

Rev Tina

Count your blessings

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;

Count on God instead of yourself.

Author Unknown

‘FROM JUDY’S BLOG’

End/Beginnings

Our experience of Advent this year is marked by loss of relationship, one with each other. To be human is to experience loss; it is also very human to fight against loss, to wrestle with and against it, to be overwhelmed at times with the sorrow of it, and to try and evade or deny our feelings. We do not want them. We are tempted to feel abandoned, even by God. Many of the Psalms are expressions of sorrow and loss and much angst over God’s seeming absence.

The writer of the book of Lamentations attributes his troubles to the hand of God: ‘*I am the man who has seen trouble, trouble coming from the lash of GOD’s anger*’ (Lam.3:1 *The Message*). He writes of strong feelings – pitch-black darkness, utter lostness and hitting the bottom. But then, a glimmer of light flickers in the darkness – he remembers that God is a God of steadfast, loyal love, a God of mercy and faithfulness. This calls him to a quiet hope:

*GOD’s loyal love couldn’t have run out,
his merciful love couldn’t have dried up.
They’re created new every morning.
How great your faithfulness!
(Lam.3:22-23 *The Message*)*

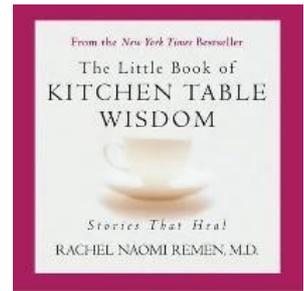
Grief is a process. It is not over after one comforting thought. The writer of Lamentations plunges back into lament after this remembrance of God’s love. So, let us be kind to each other in this period of loss, we will all process it differently and in different ways.

Writer, Rachel Naomi Remen, in her book, *Kitchen Table Wisdom*, suggests that we need another word in our English language at times like these and she proposes the word ‘end/beginnings.’ She explains ‘there is no ending without a beginning ... beginnings and endings are always right up against each other.’

She goes on to illustrate her point by telling the story of a ring she once made. Crafted in silver, the design was technically difficult. When it was finished, it attracted a lot of admiration and she was persuaded to take it to a jeweller who agreed to buy her design, to recast it and sell it to others.

She left it with him, but that night a huge storm washed a part of the road she had travelled the previous day into the ocean.

'FROM JUDY'S BLOG' - CONTINUED



The jeweller's shop had stood next to the road on the seaside, and it too, was washed away, taking her ring with it. She was left with an empty space on her hand where the ring had been – silent, huge, and filled with loss. She writes of how she learned to value the space, to let it be sacred, and to wait in the space to see what gift would come. Thus, she came to view her experience as an end/beginning.

Similarly, you may feel that impending changes in our relationship will or even has left an empty space – silent, huge, and filled with loss. Try not to be too afraid of that space, to fill it full of other things, or to run from it. It may yet become a sacred space – an end/beginning.

The poet, Noel Davis, agrees. In his poem, *Listen to the Spaces*.

He advises that:

Spaces have their own lives.
Let them speak.
Listen to them with your eyes
in the quiet of your mind.
Give them the time they need
to tell their stories

. . .

Let them be.
Wonder in the beauty of their being

. . .

Listen to their stories
and they will take you
deep into the naked heart of your reality
and there gift you with new sight.

It is my prayer that as we all live with the spaces that will be left behind by loss – we will be able to let them be, to listen to them, and, in time, to receive their gift.

Judy Rigby

THINKING CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS—NO 3

When did the Christmas story begin?

Was it when Mary had a visitation from an angel? Was it when Mary learnt she was pregnant? Was it when Jesus was born? Was it when the shepherds and so called wise men got the message something was happening?

Most would think it was when one of those things occurred. Those events are recorded in Matthew and Luke. Mark and John make scant reference to Jesus' birth.

The birth of Jesus, that is Christmas, was the beginning of the New Testament. However, was the New Testament the beginning of Christmas? The birth of Jesus was just one event in God's plan for His people. We tend to make a lot of Christmas because the coming as a child appeals to our nature. We love little children and babies. We can easily connect joy to that event. From then onwards we can experience love as demonstrated by the life of Jesus.

Let's look back into the torrid and even violent times of the Old Testament, and in the books of the prophets see various prophecies about the coming of one who would save the nation. The people of the time misinterpreted those prophecies. They thought that a mighty warrior would come and rebuild the nation of Israel. They envisaged a series of battles where Israel's might would destroy those hated enemies in a continuation of the realms of war and destruction the nation had experienced for hundreds of years.

God's plan started long before that. Maybe we can't pinpoint when, but there is a hint way back in Genesis 12: 1-3. "Now" the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house, to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse: and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

That blessing came when Jesus came into the earth into the nation of Israel (part of Abraham's family), and the blessing continues today in families all over the earth. God's seemingly impossible promise came true. It took a long time in human terms (42 generations) but God kept his promise. God is still working on it as not all accept it. The world still needs Christmas. The above was inspired by the first part of a series by Andy Stanley "Who needs Christmas?"

Graham Manson



A STORY OF CONTINUING MISSION

Scripture Union is an organisation with offices and staff in 140 countries around the world.

It all started in 1886 when a most respectable man by the name of Josiah Spiers spent his holiday in North Wales where he enjoyed the seaside environment.

As he walked along the beach he watched some children playing, he stopped and talked with them. After a while he suggested they might like to collect pebbles with which to decorate a Bible text he then drew in the sand with his cane.

This action of Josiah Spiers was the forerunner of Scripture Union's Beach Missions which happen around the world.

In Australia during this coming summer there will be Beach Missions and Camps along the coast from Western Australia to Queensland. Beach Missions now go by the name SUFM (Scripture Union Family Missions) and will be held in Victoria at Anglesea, Barwon Heads, Balnarring, Cowes, Inverloch, Lorne, Mallacoota, McCrae, Port Fairy, Portland, Queenscliff, Rosebud, Tidal River and Torquay. Some Victorian volunteers also help at Eden in NSW.

Also under the Scripture Union banner there are camps at 'Coolamatong', a property on the Gippsland Lakes south of Bairnsdale. Some of these are for families and others are for particular age groups of young people.

Another SU activity is 'Theos', this outreach is to teenage beach-goers who are attracted by the music and the friendly people. This summer 'Theos' will be operating at Eden, Lorne, Mallacoota, Rosebud, St Arnaud (not a beach though), Tidal River and Wye River.

You may be wondering how these activities come into being: there is much planning of programs, music, games, etc—and the whole operation is run by volunteers who not only give up their time, and even their holidays, but pay for the privilege! Someone has to pay for all the food, accommodation, stuff for the activities, etc. etc.

Some years ago when the Glenroy Uniting Church was thriving there were as many as 30 young people dedicated at a Church Service before heading off to SU Missions and Camps. And there were even some older folk who volunteered as cooks!!!

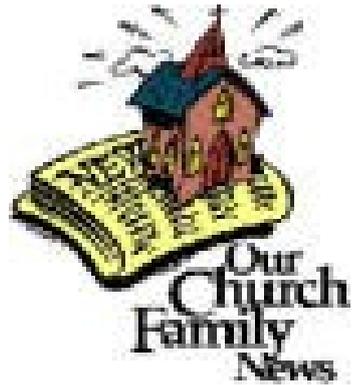
What a ministry!

Ray Averill

29 October 2017



KENT ROAD NEWS



Christmas Blessings to all, may you be filled with love, peace and joy as we celebrate this very special Gift from God at Christmas.

In the new year we would like to welcome more people to our Quirky Place on Thursday mornings, please drop in for a cuppa, chat and/or book, so please tell all your friends that we will be open again from 1 February and would love to see them.

Special thanks to Catherine, who kindly joins Helen and Les on Communion day to allow us to enjoy our beautiful piano. Greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Epa for all her hard work with our Hall and Church bookings, and to all the children from the Manse that are so willing to lend a hand at all times. How blessed are we to have such a great family with us.

The Prayer and Share group enjoyed an Advent study called "Unwrapping JOY" and were greatly blessed by having Rev. Judy leading us. We finished up the year last Monday with a Fish and Chip lunch as part of the study and hopefully finding the JOY we need to find in our daily lives.

Great to welcome Devlin Chung as a Member in Association into our church family.

Our Carols at Kent on Sunday 10th at 6.00 pm was a very moving night, special thanks to Rev Tina, Annette van Wyngaarden and her friends, along with the members of the Jesus Christ our Saviour Church who joined us to celebrate Christmas. Delighted to have such a wonderful get together of our two Churches.

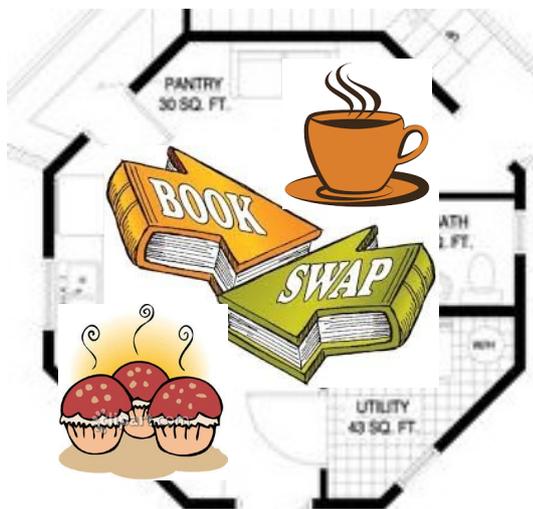
May 2018 be a year full of JOY and happiness and may you be blessed with good health always.

The Quirky Place Drop in Centre Cafe & Book Exchange

Now Closed for Christmas
but opening again in February

THURSDAYS

9.00 am to 12.30 pm



Drop in for a drink, a cake and/or to borrow a book or two.

We would love to see you and your friends.

The Magi

Many churches have the windows similar to that opposite depicting the presentation of gifts by the 3 wise men, kings, or Magi, depending on your view. The visit of the Magi is commemorated by the observance of Epiphany on the 6th January.

But who are these people who have given us such a magnificent example of faith, just imagine what it would take for you to pack up and follow your belief. Think of how long they must have been travelling. Just looking at the map we can see that the distance between from Babylon to Bethlehem is about 600 miles. Such a distance by camel must have taken many months, and that's without any preparation, and pondering on the reason for the star appearing.

Matthew (2:1-12) is the only writer that tells us of the visit of the Magi, although he doesn't tell how many they were, we assume the number three from the gifts. The Magi are popularly referred to as *wise men* and *kings*. The word *Magi* is a Latinization of the plural of the Greek word *magos* (μαγος pl. μαγοι), itself from Old Persian *maguš* from the Avestan *magâunô*, i.e. the priestly caste of Zoroastrianism. As part of their religion, these priests paid particular attention to the stars, and gained an international reputation for astrology, which was at that time highly regarded as a science. Their religious practices and use of astrology caused derivatives of the term *Magi* to be applied to the occult in general and led to the English term *magic*. The King James Version of the Bible names them as *wise men*. Their identification as kings is often linked to the Old Testament prophecies such as that in Isaiah 60:3, which describe the Messiah being worshipped by kings



Traditions identify a variety of different names for the Magi. We commonly know them as Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar, from the carol. These names are apparently derived from a Greek manuscript probably composed in Alexandria around 500 A.D. But what of those strange gifts also so explicitly identified in Matthew: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. As you may expect there are many different theories of the meaning and symbolism of these gifts. Probably gold is the easiest to accept and explain, frankincense, and particularly myrrh, are much more obscure.

Though Bible historians over the years have presented many theories they appear to fall into two groups: The first is that all three of the gifts are ordinary offerings and gifts given to a king. Myrrh being commonly used as anointing oil, frankincense as a perfume, and gold as a valuable. However alternative theories give the three gifts a more spiritual meaning: gold is stated as a symbol of kingship on earth, frankincense (which is incense) as a symbol of priestship, and myrrh (embalming oil) as a symbol of death. An alternative eluded to in the carol "We Three Kings" in which the magi describe their gifts, is that gold symbolises virtue, frankincense symbolises prayer, and myrrh symbolises suffering.

Matthew tells us that they came from the East, traditionally the view is that they were Babylonian or Persians or Jews from Yemen, The majority belief was they were from Babylon, which was the centre of Zurvanism, and hence astrology, at the time.

Matthew tells us that they found Jesus by following his star, the Star of Bethlehem. As you may expect there are a number of theories as to the nature of this star. Johannes Kepler (imperial astronomer for Rudolph II of Germany), appears to be the first to speculate, just before Christmas 1603 he observed a pairing of Jupiter with Saturn from his observatory in Prague, and speculated that this or a supernova could have happened at the time of Jesus' birth. Mark Kidger an astronomer at Spain's Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, in the Canary Islands agrees and put forward a scenario some years ago that the Star, which the Magi first saw in the *east* at dawn, would have risen an hour earlier every two weeks until it was almost exactly due *south* at dawn. So when the Magi set out for Bethlehem, travelling south from Jerusalem, they would have once again seen the Star before them, appearing like it "hovered" right above Jesus' birthplace, and by the time the Magi reached there the nova might have started to fade.

We can only marvel at the Magi's faith and at the sight that they travelled so far to see. May we see that faith this Christmas.

George Jevons

SOUTHERN SNIPPETS

It seems no time at all since writing something for the last magazine—but, as always, the months have passed quickly and busily.

Nearly all of our appointed leaders, attended the Safe Church Training held at Kent Road on Sunday 29 October led by Rev Judy with pastoral support by Rev Tina. We thank both ministers for their work on this and making a long day of combined worship followed by lunch (many thanks to Kent Road for a marvellous spread), even longer for them...

In November we tried to have a late UCAF Annual Church Service led by Rev Deacon Jenny Preston. This was scheduled a month later than usual as Jenny and her husband, John, were on an extended overseas trip to the UK in October—but on the day of the service Jenny was unwell and unable to attend (many thanks to our elders who worked through the detailed order of service that Jenny had provided). Jenny instead came and led our worship on Sunday 11 December, serving Communion and dedicating our outside Nativity Scene.

We held our Annual Congregation Meeting after church on Sunday 3 December—many thanks to Sylvia Palmington for her summation of the year—and all elders, church councillors and other position holders were reaffirmed for yet another year of service in 2018.

Our Countdown to Christmas program for kinder and primary aged children was held after school on Mondays 4 and 11 December. The OAC Ministries team were unable to assist us this year and our ministers assisted by Heather Bridges very kindly stepped in to help. The numbers attending were lower than we'd hoped for (compared to not that many years ago) but a great and informative time was had by all—many thanks to everyone who helped.

Our regular monthly Communion service at Dorothy Impey Home continues and we held carol singing at the BUPA Home in Coburg on 14 December—many thanks to Rev Judy for all her work that enables us to continue this outreach to the elderly in our community.

Westgate Flicks has now wrapped up for the 2017 year with a marathon afternoon of carol singing with the Stars of Hollywood followed by a screening of 'It's a Wonderful Life'. The Flicks will be closed in January but open again from February 2018—starting with 'The Quiet Man' starring John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald on Wednesday 21 February (1.30 pm for a 2.00 pm start). **Please note: we have decided to move the Flicks to the 3rd Wednesday of each month in 2018** to avoid having too many activities all occurring in the 2nd week of the month.

Rev Judy led a thoughtful and gracious Blue Christmas / Remembrance service on Thursday 14 December at PVS which was undoubtedly a great comfort to those attending.

Please everyone, have a safe and happy time over the Christmas and new year period.



Jean T

UCAF FELLOWSHIP GROUP.....



President: Jean Kyte
 Secretary: Marj Sproat

Our fellowship meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1.00 pm, with speakers from 1.30 pm, at the Pascoe Vale South Church. New members and visitors are always welcome.

At our September meeting Heather Bridges showed a DVD about whales that was recorded in Queensland. In October, 12 of us enjoyed the Luncheon Day Out—dining at the Pascoe Vale RSL. In November we held our Annual

Meeting—and we enjoyed a BYO lunch in early December whilst we made plans for our 2018 syllabus.

We don't meet in January but will be back together again in February, and will be starting the year off with a Dedication Service at the PVS Church at 11.00 am on Tuesday 13 February.

Marj Sproat

What's in a smile?



Smiling is infectious
 You catch it like the flu
 When someone smiled at me today
 I started smiling too
 I walked around the corner
 And someone saw me grin
 When he smiled I realised
 I had passed it on to him
 I thought about the smile
 And then realised its worth
 A single smile like mine
 Could travel round the earth
 So if you feel a smile begin
 Don't leave it undetected
 Start an epidemic
 And get the world infected.

Author Unknown



JOAN'S JOTTINGS

The Coburg West State School celebrated their one hundredth anniversary with an open day in November. I attended there from 1935 until 1942. I went to the open day—but only met up with one person from my era.

There is a saying that 'old habits die hard'. I think I would have to agree. I parked the car in Reynards Street just beyond the school. I only had to drive to Melville Road to come home—but no, I turned my car around and found myself heading towards Hawthorn Street. I had gone home from school each day walking to Hawthorn Street so that was the way to go home from school (silly me).

Most people know I like my mug of coffee. I was nearly put off the drink after reading a story. The book was actually a mystery book. It involved two men looking for the best coffee in the world. This was found to be in three countries, Thailand, The Maldives and in Abu Dhabi. The best coffee was from Northern Thailand and near the coffee plantation were lots of elephants. The elephants used to eat the coffee beans (or cherries as they were called) and these passed through their digestive system at a slow rate fermenting for up to seventy hours. This made the coffee sweeter and other ingredients in the elephant's stomach added interest and made for a unique flavour! For seventy two pounds in weight of the raw cherries, to two pounds in weight of digested cherries was the best ratio. The cost of this coffee in the USA would be \$50 per cup.

Anyone for coffee? I will stick to Nescafe.

I have a book called "Live and Learn and Pass it on". There are 388 pages in the book. Three or four quotes on each page and they all start with "I've learned that". It doesn't say who wrote them, just the age of the writer.

- I've learned that change is a challenge for the courageous, an opportunity for the alert, and a threat to the insecure. Aged 87
- I've learned that when my desk is clean and organised I can't find a thing. Aged 20 (I think this also applies to someone aged 88)
- I've learned that a creative mess is preferable to idle neatness. Aged 85

And from a book called "Heavenly Humour"

It's not what you do once in a while, it's what you do day in and day out that makes the difference.

A short story (again about me).

The other day I stopped the car in Derby Street as I wanted to post a letter. I've found this is the best letterbox in the area for me to get to from the car. As usual I was sitting in the car with my feet out on the ground thinking about standing up. I know it is going to hurt whether I sit in the car for two seconds or five minutes, so why not get straight up? As I sat there thinking a car pulled up in front of me. A middle-aged lady got out on the passenger side. I thought she was going to post a letter—but no, she came to me, took the letter and posted it and got back into her car and they drove off. I hardly time to thank her. A deed of kindness.

Joan T

WORDSEARCH

Books of the New Testament

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

MATTHEW
 ROMANS
 COLOSSIANS
 HEBREWS
 MARK
 CORINTHIANS
 THESSALONIANS
 JAMES
 LUKE
 GALATIONS
 EPHESIANS
 TITUS
 JUDE
 ACTS
 PHILEMON
 REVELATION



' New career low — I gave out a page of Ulysses to my students and they thought it was a Wordsearch... '

PRESBYTERS OF PASCOE VALE

Establishing a Presbyterian congregation and a place for worship in the outer suburb of West Brunswick and rural Pascoe Vale during the early years of last century is a story of toil and sacrifice against the back drops of WW1, the Great Depression and WW2.

The early 1900s was a time of increased migration of settlers to Australia particularly from Britain. Net migration to Australia peaked at 74,379 in 1911 and 91,892 in 1912 but ceased between 1914 and 1917. Increasing population forced State governments to invest in infrastructure such as housing, schools, roads, etc. In our local area at that time, housing development began to spread out to the north and north west of the West Coburg school. Accordingly, the Education Department purchased a Chinese market garden on the corner of Cumberland Road and Norfolk Street (today called Gaffney Street) in order to build a State school. In 1910 the Public Works Department let tenders for two rooms, each 26' 6" x 24' x 13', a cloak room and an entrance porch at a cost of £650.00. The school building was completed in April 1911 but classes did not commence until August. Now there existed in that rural community a public building not in use on Sundays and in the words of Mr George Hossack, a member of the Coburg church:-

“Mr Alec Stewart of Essendon asked me to make application for use of the school for a Presbyterian service, which I did, and it started with less than two dozen people. The Coburg church donated us one dozen hymn books and good wishes, a collection plate—so we started.”

Services commenced with the unanimous support of the Home Mission Director the Rev D. Cameron, Session and student Home Missionaries. Now the presbyters of Pascoe Vale had a place to bear witness in their local community.

How long the Pascoe Vale congregation worshipped at the school remains unknown to me but moves by the Coburg church to re-locate from Sydney Road may have caused the Pascoe Vale parishioners to gravitate to West Coburg? During the late 1920s the Coburg church was endeavouring to expand to both the east and the west of Sydney Road. The population of Coburg had increased rapidly from 18,144 to 40,000 between 1922 and 1930 making it the third most populous suburb after Caulfield and Camberwell. In the west, the Rev C. R. Andrews, minister of the Coburg parish, and two elders met with six presbyters in the West Coburg primary school on 17 April 1929 to explore the possibility of establishing an evening service and Sunday school.

A provisional committee was formed comprising Mr and Mrs Pollock of Gordon Street, Mr Toull of Greenwood Street, Mrs Hurrell of Gordon Street, Mrs H. Ashton of Munro Street and Mrs Cannon of Gordon Street. By July that year a room in the West Coburg school had been hired at 1/6d per night for evening services with the use of the piano and 1/- for the Sunday school. By December that year a Board of Management was formed comprising Messrs McNeill, Wilk, Taylor, Pollock, Drummond and Govers. The fledgling congregation received wide support:- the Briagalong church donated a pulpit, St Peter's Dramatic Society offered to donate concert proceeds to the church Building Fund and a substantial donation of £50-5-00 was received. West Coburg/Pascoe Vale were away.

There always was a determination to have a church building. It is claimed in the archives that the West Coburg presbyters had secured a block of land in Royal Parade although I find no conclusive evidence that this was the case. However, it is clear the new West Coburg Board of Management

Continued on next page

PRESBYTERS OF PASCOE VALE—*continued*

decided to recommend to the congregation, the purchase from Mr George Hossack of a block of land located on the corner of Wills Street and Bell Street, Pascoe Vale. This site was deemed central for both the Pascoe Vale and West Coburg presbyters. The first congregational meeting held on 3 March 1930 approved the purchase, however at a congregational meeting held on 8 April 1930 the Rev Nairn outlined the requirements expected of a church built at Bell Street West which included the expectation that if blocks were purchased, the Presbyterian Church Extension Board would:-

- (a) advance, free of interest for one year, the cost of the land
- (b) Pay removal costs of a portable church from Thornbury which would remain on site for two years.

Now in order to meet the requirements of the Extension Board the congregation had to purchase at least two blocks of land on the Wills/Bell Street site as well as pay for fencing and sewerage connections. An immediate start was made on raising funds for the church. It was moved by Mr Bairstow and seconded by Mrs McNeill that:-

“we support the Bell St/Wills St site for the church and commence work immediately.”

This was an act of faith at a time when the effects of the Great Depression began to impact severely upon the lives of many families. The Brunswick and Coburg Gazette of 17 May 1929 reported acute unemployment in Coburg:-

“over 200 unemployed citizens of Coburg—some with wives and children congregated outside the Town Hall on 15 May. Council could not hope to help all the local unemployed—now estimated to be over 1,000 in Coburg. Many people were starving and some expectant mothers in the district had not had a good meal in 2 days.”

On 21 June 1929 that same paper reported the Salvation Army was using a ticketing system which entitled desperate families to a billy of soup and a loaf of bread each day except weekends. The Headmaster of Brunswick State School was given 100 such tickets to distribute among needy students.

Despite the privations imposed by increasingly depressed economic conditions, the presbyters of rural Pascoe Vale and West Coburg were determined to establish a permanent place of worship on the corner of Wills and Bell Street. Three months after the congregation approved the purchase of the land the portable church from Thornbury was installed and the Bell Street West Presbyterian Church was opened on 7 June 1930. But it was realised quite early that one block was insufficient for a church and a manse. In the meantime the adjoining block had been sold by George Hossack to the Pascoe Vale Soldier's Progress Association. The presbyters of Pascoe Vale and West Coburg were stymied. Again George Hossack, elder at St Andrew's Coburg since 1915, solved the dilemma of the fledgling congregation by donating to the Presbyterian Church land with a frontage of 100' to Cumberland Road and 207' 8" along Westgate Street. All that future generations of presbyters needed to accomplish was the building of a permanent brick church and manse.

R.M.

References:- Records in the Uniting Church Archives, ie Minutes of Session and Board meetings
 Records in the Presbyterian Church Archives “ “ “ “ “ “
 Public Works Department records held in the Public Records Office
 Brunswick and Coburg Gazette 1929
 Mr George Hossack's hand written note discovered in the archives

DIDI BAHINI SAMAJ

On Sunday recently, Didi Bahini Samaj thanked the people of Glenroy Uniting for their kindness and support with an appreciation lunch.

They are a group of Nepalese women led by Jamuna Parajuli who provide support to women in the Nepalese community and offer forums, wellbeing programs and other activities that improve women's lives and they are truly inspiring

The congregation at Glenroy have formed a partnership with Didi Bahini Samaj. At the appreciation lunch Church Council Chair, Bev Bellchambers, Members of Church Council, Catherine Schmidt, members of the congregation of Glenroy, and myself were thanked. Pascoe Vale Uniting Church Council was also thanked for their donation to Didi Bahini Samaj.

It's wonderful to have formed friendships with Jamuna and their members and an honour to be on their advisory committee.

Rev Tina



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

John Wright sent me these. According to the blurb they were collected in Manchester, England but whether they are true or not they make you laugh out loud.

Sign on a toilet door:

TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW

In a laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT

In a department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN

In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD

Outside a second hand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING – BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

In health food shop window:

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

Spotted in a safari park: (I certainly hope so)

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR

Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES

Message on a leaflet:

IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS LEAFLET WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET LESSONS

On a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD – THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

And these newspaper headlines indicate that proofreading is a dying art.

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

Miners Refuse to Work after Death

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

War Dims Hope for Peace

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Murder

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors

And the winner is...

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead



**GLENROY & PASCOE VALE
UNITING CHURCHES
WORSHIP LOCATIONS**

**70 WHEATSHEAF RD
GLENROY**

**CNR OF KENT RD &
CORNWALL RD,
PASCOE VALE**

**CNR OF CUMBERLAND RD &
WESTGATE ST,
PASCOE VALE STH**

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:

**WWW.GLENROYPASCOEVALE
UNITINGCHURCHES.COM.AU/**

Ministers:

**Rev Tina Lyndon
0423 715 590**

**Rev Judy Rigby
0402 473 976**

REGULAR (WKLY) ACTIVITIES:

Prayer & Share—Mondays 1.00 pm at
June Bowen's home excl
School Holidays

Multicultural Art, Craft & Sewing Group
—Wednesdays 2.00 pm at
Kent Road excl School Holidays

The Quirky Place—Thursdays 9.00 am to
12.30 pm at Kent Road excl
School Holidays

English Conversation Group—Thursdays
1.00 pm at Glenroy excl School
Holidays

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Mon 25 Dec **Christmas Day Services** will be held at **Glenroy** led by Rev Judy Rigby and **Cumberland Road** Led by Rev Tina Lyndon—**both services commence at 9.00 am**
- Sun 31 Dec **Combined Glenroy/KentRd/PVS** service led by Rev Judy Rigby **held at PVS at 10.00 am**
- Sun 7 Jan Glenroy service at 9.00 am led by Rev Judy Rigby
Combined KRd/PVS service **at KRd at 10.00 am** led by Rev Tina Lyndon with Communion & lunch
- Sun 14 Jan Glenroy service at 9.00 am led by Rev Bev Bellchambers
Combined KRd/PVS service **at PVS at 10.00 am** at PVS led by Rev Judy Rigby with Communion
- Sun 21 Jan Glenroy service at 9.00 am led by Rev Tina Lyndon with Communion
Combined KRd/PVS service **at KRd at 10.00 am** led by Rev Judy Rigby
- Tue 23 Jan Pascoe Vale Church Council Annual Meeting at Kent Road **at 7.30 pm**
- Fri 26 Jan Australia Day Public Holiday
- Sun 28 Jan Glenroy service at 9.00 am led by Rev Barbara Gayler
Combined KRd/PVS service **at PVS at 10.00 am** led by Rev Tina Lyndon
- Mon 29 Jan School resumes
- Tue 6 Feb Men's Dinner at PVale RSL—contact Robert Norris
- Sun 11 Feb Service of Release for Rev Tina Lyndon & Rev Judy Rigby — this is a combined service for all three congregations being held at Glenroy at 10.00 am (there will be NO services at Kent Road and Cumberland Road on this day)
- Tue 13 Feb UCAF Dedication Service at PVS at 11.00 am followed by lunch
- Wed 21 Feb Westgate Flicks screening The Quiet Man at 1.30 pm (for a 2.00 pm start)
- Tue 14 Mar UCAF Meeting at PVS at 1.00 pm (Network Easter Service)
- Wed 21 Mar Westgate Flicks screening South Pacific at 1.30 pm (for a 2.00 pm start)

NOTE—EASTER WEEKEND IN 2018 IS FROM FRIDAY 30 MARCH UNTIL MONDAY 2 APRIL (WITH SCHOOL HOLIDAYS BEING THE 2 WEEKS AFTER EASTER)

STANDARD WORSHIP TIMES & SERVICES

Glenroy

Sundays at 9.00 am—Contact Faye Woods on 9306 6104

Kent Road

**Sundays at 9.15 am (10.00 am on 1st Sunday of the month)
Messy Church at 6.00 pm (1st Friday of Feb, May, Aug & Nov)
Contact Shirley Foster on 9355 7988**

Pascoe Vale South (PVS)

Sundays at 10.30 am—Contact Jean Taylor on 9354 6689

