



From the Rectory Desk...

By the time you read this letter, Advent will have started. A time of waiting and preparation for Christmas. For me the sense of anticipation is admirably caught by John Betjeman's Christmas poem "The bells of waiting Advent ring." (<https://www.poeticous.com/john-betjeman/christmas-the-bells-of-waiting-advent-ring>) Just as the St Luke's bell, Sunday by Sunday, calls us to gather together to praise God, the image I have from Betjeman's poem is of us being called by bells yet again to remember the incarnation and God's promise to bring "Peace, good will among people" (Luke 2:14).



Ringling the St Luke's Bell

A modern poet, Richard Miles, has written another poem that reflects the reality that we find in a world that largely has no concept of Advent and what it anticipates. His poem, which you can read at <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/advent-bells>, opens:

*And is it that the Advent air no longer loudly rings
With any bell of recognition for the King of Kings?
When frazzled Christmas shoppers push in crowd-crushed Oxford
Street
Have they a sentimental inkling they might ever meet
The one whose birth they cheaply celebrate with bargain gifts?
Or do they still deny him thrice, as, crammed into dingy lifts,
They take his name in vain when fellow customers have trod
On them? Is this the only time they breathe the name of God?*



PARISH DIRECTORY – DECEMBER 2021

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Our Mission Statement:

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



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST LUKE'S EKIBIN



O come let us adore Him

Sunday 12th December

6pm Carol Service

Preceded by a community sausage sizzle at 5pm

Christmas Eve, Friday 24th December

7pm Family service

Also streamed on Zoom

11pm Holy Communion by candlelight

Join us to sing carols from 10.30pm

Christmas Day, Saturday 25th December

8am Holy Communion

Also streamed on Zoom

193 Ekibin Road East, Tarragindi 3848 2123 www.stlukesekibin.org.au

These services are subject to any COVID-19 regulations in force at the time. To obtain Zoom details see our website.

Continued from Page 1

I believe that we can respond to this in two ways. We can either bemoan the changes to our culture and retreat into our “Pigeon-haunted classic towers” (again from Betjeman), or we can boldly keep ringing the bell, keep being the church that has always faithfully witnessed to the truth of the gospel in word and action.

As I write we are still awaiting the response from Brisbane City Council to our development application. If this goes ahead, and the prognosis is positive that it will, this will be a way in which we can ring out to our neighbours, and to invite them to come and experience the joy of being in a relationship with the living God.

Betjeman’s poem concludes:

*And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window’s hue,
A Baby in an ox’s stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?*

*No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.*



Yes! Amen!

Rev’d Dr Timothy Nicholson



Sacraments And Rights Of Passage

September, October and November 2021

Baptisms

nil

Confirmations (confirmed by Archbishop Phillip Aspinall)

Daniel Marc James Bannon	28 November 2021
Isaac Alexander William Bannon	28 November 2021
Georgette Hazel Koroma	28 November 2021
Neilmoshe Reithridge Legua	28 November 2021
Eva Katelynn Mitchell	28 November 2021
Hannah Claire Mitchell	28 November 2021
Poppy Rhian South	28 November 2021



Funerals

Gwenda Vivien Williams	17 September 2021
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Memorial Service

nil

Marriage

nil



Confirmation - a Parish Celebration



What a wonderful celebration for the confirmation of Daniel, Isaac, Georgette, Neil, Eva, Hannah and Poppy on Sunday 28th November.

We welcomed The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane, and his wife Christa.

Being confirmed by the Archbishop is particularly special. His message to the candidates and congregation during his sermon was spiritually nourishing and eloquent. He spoke on the purpose of ministry, to reflect Christ's healing and reconciling presence in the world, so that we are reconciled to God and to each other. He also reminded us of the character traits of Christ that as Christians we aspire to:

Humour - Christ was able to challenge the self-righteous and strict rules and mores of the church leadership. He chose disciples who struggled with their faith, including Simon, son of Jonah (or John's son), who he named Peter (the 'rock') and who became the first pope. So, according to the Archbishop the first pope was actually called Rocky Johnson!

Hospitality - being able to welcome one's 'enemy'; to care and show tolerance for those with whom we do not necessarily agree or share the same opinions.

Compassion - to suffer with, walk alongside and support another.

Confrontation - having the strength to offer and suggest an alternative to the way things are, in a respectful manner.

Gratitude and generosity - both being the foundation of stewardship. God's love for us creates gratitude which overflows into generosity for others.

The Archbishop expressed that at baptism we are infused with Christ's character traits, at confirmation we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit to show Christ's character traits, and at the Eucharist we are re-infused with his character traits.

A sermon to pray about and meditate upon.

Alison Lampe

Advent Sunday this year marked an important step in the Christian journey of seven young people, most of whom have grown up in our Parish of St Luke's, as they were confirmed by Archbishop Phillip Aspinall. This was joyously celebrated by their families, friends and parishioners at a wonderful service of Holy Communion.



The children made 'Holy Spirit' kites

With prayer, guitar and organ music, singing, not to mention a cake and lots of goodies afterwards, our parish knows how to celebrate. As Alison mentions separately, we were privileged to hear an inspiring sermon from the Archbishop reminding us of the values we should all be demonstrating in our Christian journey.

During the service the younger children made special 'Holy Spirit' kites, decorated with the fruits of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, kindness, gentleness, peace, patience, faith, self-control, and led the procession at the end of the service with much gentle waving and lots of fun!

Thank you to all who contributed to this joyous day at St Luke's.

Honor Lawler



Fellowship and Fund Raising Report

We were blessed with fine weather for our Car Boot Sale on 2nd October. Many thanks to those who brought merchandise to sell, supplied cakes and craft for our stalls, ran the sausage sizzle and all those who worked on the day. The sale raised a total of \$1,026.25 for parish funds.

On 24th October a concert of music was held in St Luke's church. Music performed by a very talented group of musicians and singers was thoroughly enjoyed by those attending. A time of fellowship followed at afternoon tea in the hall. Gold coin donations raised \$124. A big thank you to all involved.

Our St Luke's Connect mornings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 10.00am in the lower hall. We have enjoyed speakers, community singing, some fun trivia and some played a game of scrabble. Activities are followed by morning tea and time for fellowship. All are welcome.

Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday 19th January 2022. This is early because of Australia Day. Any enquiries, please call Janette on 32778848.

Janette Hagerty

The Money, How Are We Doing

We can report on three full months since the stewardship campaign: August – October. Offerings in this period in 2021 were \$23,048. In 2020 for the same period offerings were \$20,944. This represents an increase of 10%, which is encouraging, and a big thank you to all members who have contributed to this growth. It is hoped that this momentum will be maintained. For the full year-to-date offerings are currently 1.2% ahead of last year. A greater effort will be needed to cover future outgoings.



Everyone is encouraged to remember our stewardship goal of \$5 a day.

Trevor Lunn

Eulogy for Gwen Williams

17 September 2021

I speak on behalf of the Parish of St Luke's. Gwen has been a quiet stalwart of this Parish for decades, participating in worship as a Liturgical Assistant, attending many regular bible studies, including Advent & Lenten studies, and graduating from the four-year Education for Ministry program. She also delivered home communions regularly.



Gwen was a kind, gentle, thoughtful, modest and caring person. She enjoyed visiting all her friends, and always took time to care for sick friends. Gwen met together with other parishioners, Beryl Ricketts, Hazel Park and Loane Lilley for regular bible study and prayer.

I always remember her kindness, she would always ask after me and my family's health, even when she herself suffered much back pain over many years.

Loane Lilley and Noel Mary Quarterman have kindly shared a couple of their special memories of Gwen:

They both knew Gwen when they worshipped at Yeronga Parish in the late 1960s.

Gwen was Sister-in-Charge of a ward at the Royal Brisbane Children's Hospital when Noel Mary was doing her nursing training at the hospital, and often kindly drove Noel Mary home to Yeronga after work.

Gwen would always take particular care of her long-term patients. Loane remembers Gwen taking a little boy who was from a remote property in western Queensland, and had never seen a river, down to see the Brisbane River in a wheelbarrow!

In recent times Noel Mary brought Gwen to afternoon tea with Loane on a regular basis. Their friendship was very precious to them both, with many fond memories exchanged on these occasions.

Only a few weeks ago, we farewelled a dear friend of Gwen's, and another stalwart of our parish, Hazel Park. Gwen wrote a beautiful article about Hazel for our recent church newsletter.

She finished with the words "I was honoured to have been accepted as a friend by Hazel and I miss her."

Gwen and Hazel are now together again!

Honor Lawler

Christian Meditation

Although it has been lesser known or practised in recent centuries, Christianity has had a deep and significant contemplative tradition from its outset. Christian Meditation was previously known as "Contemplative Prayer".

Contemplative prayer, mediation and similar practices are just that - neither rest nor passive waiting - but attentiveness to our inner lives and the presence of the holy spirit. In our busy, driven, ambitious and noisy world - silent, slow or quiet attentiveness to the spirit can feel awkward and challenging. "But I should be doing ..."

And yet, as the Psalmist records (in psalm 46) ... "Be still and know that I am God" - God's command is that we stop. Cease striving. And listen.

Renewing these practices is a path to deepening our own individual spiritual dispositions, as well as group discernment.

Christian Meditation evenings are held every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm.

Our evenings are of modest length (less than 30 mins silence with a short introduction and closing). It is an inclusive practice that anyone at St Luke's or the wider community could participate in, no matter their particular faith, beliefs or experience. All are welcome.

Jen Basham



St Luke's Connect

On Wednesday 29th September we had our second gathering of the St Luke's Connect group.

We were privileged to hear a very interesting presentation by Llyn Crawford about the history of an antique book she purchased in England some years ago. We were filled with admiration for Llyn's dedicated detective work and perseverance at uncovering the history of her book's ex libris, and for the fascinating biographic details of these owners several centuries ago!

We then tucked into some tasty savouries and sweet treats and enjoyed time for chat and connection.



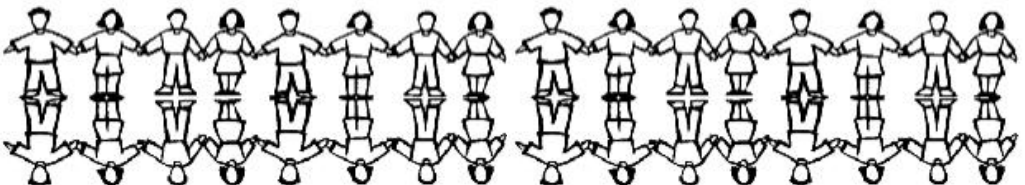
A sing-a-long led by Trevor

We met again on Wednesday 27th October with a game of Trivia led by Janette and a sing-a-long led by Trevor.

On Wednesday 24th November we had a great Christmas Carols sing-a-long, again kindly led by Trevor.

Please come along and join us on the 4th Wednesday each month at 10:00 am.

Alison Lampe





St Francis Day

What a blessing was our celebration of St Francis Day this year on Sunday 3rd October. We had dogs to be blessed by Rev'd Timothy at both services and a delightful Children's Message about animals being part of God's creation. It included the children and others using play dough, previously prepared by June, to make an animal in very quick time!



Philly + Kimba + Play Dough = Fun



Robbie & Ripley Exhausted

During Children's Ministry the dogs were a great joy but also a distraction, as Philly kept a hold of the dog, Kimba, even while she worked with her play dough, and Robbie wore himself and the dog, Ripley, out, caring for this much loved animal. We learnt that all of creation shows us God at work and we must care for His creation to the best of our abilities. "We are stewards and not owners of the world", Rev'd Timothy reminded us.

Honor Lawler



Music in the Afternoon

What a pleasure it was to attend the concert, “Music in the Afternoon”, held in St Luke’s Church on Sunday 24th October 2021!

We were treated to the most beautiful music by many talented musicians and singers in our parish.



Brian Wood playing, “Entree” from Eucharist Suite by Leon Boellman



Daniel Bannon playing Theme from “Jurassic Park” by John Williams

From Brian Wood’s delightful organ pieces to a beautiful song from the musical version of “Little Women” sung by Kate Vassella and Jasmine Taylor, accompanied by Sue Vassella, to community hymn singing, we enjoyed many performances of both classical and popular music.



Our Sunday Trio: Trevor Lunn, Helen Hutchings & Brian Wood - performing “Wonderful, Merciful Saviour” by Dawn Rodgers & Eric Wyse



Elizabeth Lamb accompanied by Brian Wood, performing “The Mission/How Great Thou Art”



St Luke's Choir, accompanied by Brian Wood, singing "You are my Strength" by Dennis Jernigan



Isaac Bannon playing "Autumn Leaves" by Joseph Kosma, Mercer & Prevet



Kate Vassella and Jasmine Taylor, accompanied by Sue Vassella, singing "Some things are meant to be" from "Little Women" the musical, by Jason Howland

Thank you, Brian, and all the performers, for an inspiring and enjoyable afternoon!



Honor Lawler



Acts 1:8 Committee Report

I am sure that I only just finished packing up the Christmas tree. It seems like only yesterday that I sealed the box up and hoovered up those irritating last bits of tinsel off the floor, you know those silly little bits that you cannot be bothered picking up by hand. But now my talking Christmas Advent bear tells me that there are only 33 days until Christmas. I have double checked and he is right as always. Christmas and the end of the year is nigh.

But at our last Acts 1:8 meeting for 2021, we decided that there are still a lot of great opportunities for us St. Lukers (I may have just invented a word) to get involved in wider mission and community support. So grab your diary and a coffee. The year is not over yet and we still have a lot to do!

Friday 3rd December was a great chance to enjoy a meal with St Luke's friends while meeting and chatting to Kelsey who is soon to be serving as a Missionary with CMS. Keep your eye on the pew bulletins for more opportunities to hear about the missions we support.

On Sunday the 5th of December we were visited by Rev'd Luke Collings who is the Senior Minister of Moranbah Anglican Church. Moranbah is a town located on the Peak Downs Highway between Mackay and Clermont in Queensland. It is a coal mining town and at the 2016 census had a population of 8,735. Our spies told us that Rev'd Luke likes to wear Hawaiian shirts and so the committee thought that it might be a nice gesture if we all were to wear a Hawaiian shirt on the day.

St Luke's has a long history of supporting the Inala Pantry. David and Judy Moy will be making the last delivery for 2021. As always all non-perishable foods are welcome and also cash donations. Do not panic if you missed the final collection of donations on 5th December as all donations will be kept safe until next year's first delivery.



Some of you may have noticed a new black plastic basket has appeared at the back of the church. We are again collecting for the Care Kits For Kids. Sunday the 12th of December will be the last collection day as delivery will need to be Monday 13th December. Some



items that we are collecting – hair brushes, toiletries - including deodorants in plastic containers, baby clothes 00 and 0, erasers, highlighter pens, rulers, A5 exercise books, biro, pencils, colouring pencils, crayons, sharpeners, nappies or pullups (all sizes 0 to 4), toothpaste for children under 6 eg. Little Teeth (Aldi, \$2), lip balms, 2-piece summer pyjamas, face washers, small sandwich size clip down lunch boxes, and as always, new child and teen backpacks.

I don't know about you, but I need another coffee and we are only half way done.

St Luke's in the past has run a fund raising event as part of its Christmas Carol Service and this year is not different. This year on Sunday the 12th of December as part of our Christmas Carol service, our mission focus will be – “please hand me the envelope” - drum roll – Our mission focus will be Weller's Hill State School Chaplaincy!

The committee decided that this would be a great opportunity to support the work being done by Chaplain Robyn Maxwell at Weller's Hill State School. But the news gets better. Robyn has also accepted our invitation to attend on the night. This is a great opportunity to extend a warm St Luke's welcome to our wider community.

At the time of writing this, Regis is open and able to take visitors. And so make sure that you have your best singing voice tuned up on Tuesday 14th December for our Regis Carol Service and Communion. This will be held at 1:30 pm at Regis Salisbury, 279 Lillian Avenue Salisbury. You will need to have had both Covid-19 vaccinations and have a certificate to attend.

And finally, I know we haven't got there yet, but take a deep breath, I am briefly going to get you to think about – 2022, otherwise known as next year.

Sunday 6th February 2022 will be our first Acts 1:8 meeting of the year. We will meet in the lower hall at 10:15. All are welcome to attend and we would love to see new faces.

But to give you some time to consider, one topic that will be on our agenda is our mission support in 2022. We would like to review everything that we have been supporting this year and ask you, yes you!

What would you like to support in 2022?

Some of our old favourites will be back for example the Bush Ministry stall and the honey, notice I pick the two food ones. But what we would really like to know is, is there an organisation doing God's work that you know of that deserves our support?

This year we supported, Bush Ministry, Hospital Chaplaincy, Defence Chaplaincy, Bush Church Aid, CMS - Beautiful Feet Sunday, Mission to Seafarers, School Chaplaincy, Prison Fellowship, Barnabas Aid Fund, The Archbishop's November Appeal – 150 years of The Coming of the Light. We will be gathering suggestions in the New Year.

Finally, we would also like to thank Sue Vassella. Sue has chaired and led the committee for a number of years. Sue is still and will be a member of the committee but has taken a step back from the role of chair. Sue's hard work, dedication and drive for wider mission should be noted. So thank you Sue.

That is the year that was. And that brings us to the end of the last Act 1:8 report of the year. We would like to thank you for supporting the various mission and charity activities throughout the year. Without your support we would not be able to assist in God's mission in the wider community. God Bless.



Jenny Newsome manning the monthly Bush Ministry Stall

David Frarricciardi

All Saints/All Souls

Throughout October (possibly earlier) the stores have been selling Halloween “essentials”. These shallow symbols, like witches’ hats, grotesque grinning pumpkins, skulls etc, are the complete opposite to what this season is about, i.e. holiness.

The 31st October is All Hallows Eve, the day before All Saints Day, followed by All Souls Day. Both days are holy festivals in the Church.

This year, All Saints Day was celebrated at St Luke’s Sunday services on the 7th November; while All Souls Day was celebrated at a special Evening Prayer on Saturday 6th November. For this latter service, nine people, including the Reverend Timothy and June, attended the church, and six people participated on Zoom. An intimate number for this occasion, which honours with thanksgiving those close to us, who have shaped our lives. It was a very meaningful service, with time allowed for quiet contemplation as the names of those remembered were read out. The congregation was invited to light a candle from the Paschal Candle. This was a reminder of our connection to the Resurrection of Jesus. The Magnificat, and Nunc Dimittis were said, and appropriate hymns were beautifully sung to recorded music.

All Saints Day celebrates the lives of the saints – both well known and not so well known. Those who helped to shape the Church through God’s power and grace. Those whose example we can attempt to follow. Again, the focus was on thanksgiving for their lives and for the Church they encouraged.

The message is we can all be saints – those living being the Church Militant (the many who serve), and the deceased being the Church Triumphant (as in, “When the saints go marching in”).

It’s a far cry from pumpkins and witches’ hats!



Choir Report

After our Covid-imposed hiatus over the winter, the choir re-convened on the last week of September when singing 'without masks' became permissible. Choir practice has been held continually since then on Saturday afternoons at 3.30 p.m.

Our first subsequent contribution to a service occurred on our St Luke's Day at the 7 a.m. service on 17 October. We sang 'You are my Strength' (a song of praise by Dennis Jernigan) as a reflection after Rev. Timothy's sermon.

We followed this the next week with songs for the parish 'Music in the Afternoon' concert on 24 October. The two items we chose were 'You are my Strength' (reasoning that only some of the parishioners had heard it the week before) and 'The Journey' (an arrangement of a classical melody and traditional hymn by Joseph Martin). Both of these songs gave us opportunity for two- or three-part performance. We had sung 'The Journey' two years ago (pre-Covid) and we had enjoyed presenting it then, so we thought we would do it again.

The patron saint of music and musicians is considered to be Saint Cecilia. Our name-sake Roman Catholic church at Buranda has, for some years, put on a concert on the Sunday nearest her feast day (22 November) and invited musical contributions from its neighbouring churches of different faith traditions. We participated again this year in this concert, held at St Luke's Buranda. In a packed programme we again sang 'The Journey' and, in addition, sang a relatively new (only 30 years old), up-beat number by Bob Hurd, 'To You O God I lift up my Soul'. Our accompanist, Brian, also played a number of solos on the church organ and, as well, played the organ for two congregational hymns.



St Luke's Choir at the St Cecilia's Day Concert



On 28 November the Parish held the confirmation service with Archbishop Aspinall in which seven of our young people were presented. Rev. Timothy had invited the choir to sing a reflection after the sermon. Given the occasion we selected a Getty and Townend song, 'Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God' and were very pleased to make this contribution to the service.

The season of Advent is now upon us and Christmas is looming fast. The choir is hopeful to contribute more extensively to worship during this period and is already practising and working on a repertoire. Merry Christmas to you and yours from all choir members. We thank you for your support and encouragement.

Greg Rodger

St Luke's Picnic

What's needed for a very happy and successful St Luke's picnic? About 21 adults, 4 kids and 2 dogs!!

On Sunday 18th October from about 11am onwards, after our St Luke's Day celebration at church, we gathered at the park in Laura Street to enjoy the beautiful weather and the fellowship of a wonderful group of people. Rev'd Timothy brought our parish banner, so we knew where to find the group. Also, it was a subtle message to our community that we are around. There was a great cross-section from the parish with ages ranging from single digit to our wonderful nineties. Parishioners from both our 7am and 9am services joined together to share conversation, laughter and food. We all loved to see the children enjoying the playground equipment and our doggy friends were the centre of attention.

No planning is needed. Everyone just turns up with a chair, food to enjoy and the makings of a cuppa. The rest flows naturally. Mark your diary when you hear the date of the next picnic. Come for a few minutes or come for a few hours. You know you'll be welcomed by the nicest group of people you could hope to meet.

Chris Bromwich



Joyful Noise



"Maybe we should just let heaven and nature sing."

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing."

Psalms 100

"Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to the Lord with loud songs of joy"

Psalms 47

We are encouraged by scripture to sing in church. Most of us like to sing – some more than others. Some might feel as though they can't hold a tune and should keep quiet, but nowhere in the bible does it say that only those with beautiful voices should sing. Indeed "Make a joyful noise" and "Shout to the Lord" suggests that we should all let it rip.

So, why is it important to sing in Church?

God commands it. There are hundreds of references to singing in worship within the bible. Jesus himself sang songs of praise after the Last Supper.

Christians have sung since the earliest days and throughout history, putting their beliefs to song. It is a powerful way to remember the foundations of our faith.

Songs can teach us Christian theology in memorable ways: "Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia".

It is often said that it is through singing that we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. Songs have the power to lead us to dance and to lead us to tears. Music has the ability to pierce to the deep parts of our souls.

Singing together brings us together as a community of faith. We praise God together with one voice.

So, let us sing together and let it rip... Amen

Trevor Lunn

This article draws heavily on the Anima Centre for Worship and the Arts, Samford University

Family Pizza and Wine Night

Our family had a wonderful time hosting St Luke's most recent Pizza and Wine afternoon. The weather stayed dry so the kids spent the afternoon tearing around the yard. Our ten week old puppy, Murphy was so excited to play with all these new friends (although he was a little bitey at times!).



Murphy ...

It was lovely to catch up with other parents and parishioners and continue building friendships among our children.



... and new Friends

Special thanks to Di for bringing fruit and marshmallow skewers and glow sticks (a huge hit).

Helen, Duncan and Phyllida Hutchings

The Kindness of Strangers

2021 has been a difficult and often unhappy year for many everywhere. To merely survive has taken prayer, courage and fortitude. When I left 2020 behind I was emotionally and physically burnt out.

A series of sad events. By the time this story is printed the hardest part will be over. Lawrie's year's mind on 24th November will have passed by. Grief visits me at unexpected times. Unannounced. I sometimes wonder what I have left to enjoy and then I remember God's promise that he would walk beside me and support me in every way. I gather strength again and walk forward.

Kindness is found in many unexpected places. The young man at the local shop smiles at me across the counter, then offers to take my heavy shopping bag and carry it to my car. I smile and say 'thank you'. His brown eyes light up and he says as he opens the door for me, 'We all get old.' And I wonder if he too has a grandparent who needs his help. At the service station a young woman helps me in the same way. In my heart I call them angels. If I told them that... would they be embarrassed? Or merely pleased?

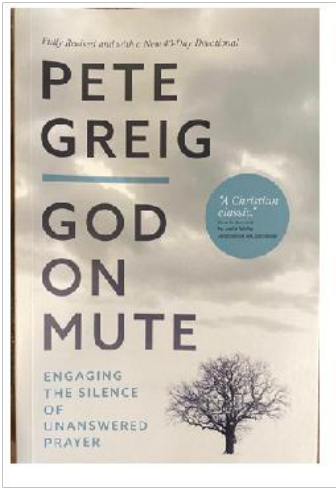
All Saints Day was celebrated at St Luke's this year with a special service. We remembered those we loved who have gone before. This week I heard Mary Sarah Gayford's name. She was always called Molly. A lovely warm woman whom I visited many times in her small Ekibin house. Molly, a school teacher, also taught Sunday school and loved music. My daughter Margaret Kay remembers the felt board covered with small creatures that she used to tell Bible stories to many small children at Sunday school at St Barnabas. Molly left her home to our Parish.

At Christmas time we are reminded that the kindness of strangers gave Mary and Joseph shelter in a stable to prepare for the birth of the Christ child. Babies always bring new joy. My first great-granddaughter will be born in December to join little William, my first great-grandson who has given us all new joy since his birth in April.

Thank you to all the strangers who have now become friends and to those I will meet along the road as I journey onwards. Thank you also for the uplifting parish prayers and the loving support of my parish family.

Jocelyn Hawes

God on Mute. Unanswered prayer



How often do we wonder why God doesn't answer our prayers? Our loved ones get sick and die in spite of our prayers. Terrible things happen. In this world we are surrounded by pain and anguish, and there are many things that we hold up to God in prayer.

But, so much of the time, He seems not to be listening.

At the Tuesday morning and Thursday evening Bible study sessions a small group has been wrestling with this apparent conundrum. Through faith we believe that prayer will be answered, but as the group (Thursday evening) worked through Peter

Greig's series called God On Mute, it became apparent that there are many views as to when and where this may occur – and not necessarily a lot of agreement. But it can be refreshing to have the foundations of belief challenged – to “kick the tyres”.

Peter Greig, himself, tells of his own personal journey fraught with unanswered prayer, and it is through this and the long struggle with his wife's brain tumour, that he wrote his book “God on Mute”. He offers insights rather than answers, and ways to navigate the deep and mysterious channels of prayer.

In a nutshell:

- It is a sign of faith, not doubt, to wrestle with unanswered prayer
- Find a purpose in pain, and a purpose in spite of pain, when you can't
- Miracles are the exception rather than the rule in this infinitely complicated world (but still pray for them nonetheless)
- God's will not our will be done
- The will of God is darker and more painful than we can imagine for reasons we can't understand.



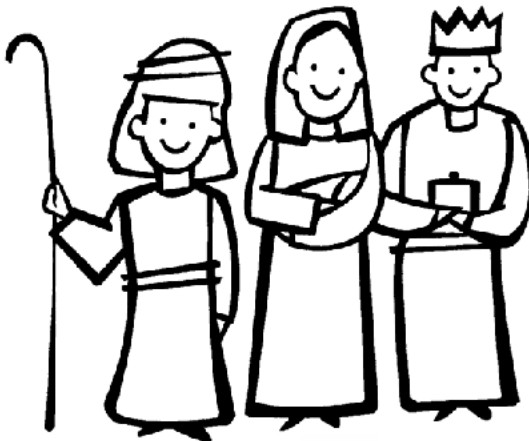
A prayer:

O Christ Jesus,
When all is darkness
And we feel our weakness and helplessness,
Give us the sense of your presence,
Your love and your strength
Help us to have perfect trust
In Your protecting love
And strengthening power
So that nothing may frighten or worry us,
Living close to you we shall see your hand,
Your purpose, Your will through all things.

(Taken from God on Mute ch. 4)

(God on Mute is available from Koorong online for \$17.79)

Trevor Lunn



A Short History of the Book

When communities first invented writing, they had to find something locally on which to store it – leaves, bark, ceramics, stone etc., none of which were very suitable.

The Egyptians in BC3000 had invented papyrus, by slicing thin lengths of reeds which grow in the river Nile, aligning them, then pasting a layer on top at right angles. This made a suitable surface for writing with a brush, but it could not be folded as it split, so it had to be rolled. The Romans called the rolls ‘volumina’ which is where we get ‘volumes’. The great disadvantage with a roll is that you have to completely unroll it to find anything in the middle.

About that time, in AD105 the Chinese had made the world’s first paper from mulberry bark broken into fine fibres and the Europeans were using animal skins – parchment (sheep and goats) and vellum – calves and still-born lambs. These were not tanned, just dried and scraped to remove the hair and fat layers.

Vellum was very popular as it could be written on with a pen and ink and folded into sections which were then sewn together. This is the forerunner of the book as we know it.

Why are books rectangular?

All books were written by hand, copied from one to another, mostly by monks in monasteries, so they were very expensive and probably not very accurate.

In 1455, Johannes Gutenberg of Mainz, a jeweller, invented moveable type by casting a lead alloy into a mould of the letter he had made. He wanted to produce cheap Bibles printed on vellum – very difficult. The type he made was a copy of handwritten Gothic letters used by the monks, and is familiar today to anyone who reads the Courier Mail!

It took 170 skins to produce the vellum for one book and the pages of type had to be pressed into the vellum with a modified wine press. The book was sewn and the boards were covered with leather.



Shortly afterwards, paper made from macerated linen and cotton, stiffened with gelatine proved much more successful.

Printing then became so easy that lots of other people tried it, so the number of books outstripped the number of people who could read, and many printers went broke.

Several printers had survived the slump and continued producing books which were sewn on cords and covered with leather. Decoration was made by pressing metal tools into the dampened leather cover. However, leather was expensive, so to reduce the cost, it was only used on spines and corners to prevent wear, and the rest of the boards were covered with decorative paper. These were called 'half-bound' books.

The Arabs had invented gold leaf tooling for decorating leather and this quickly took on with much artistry involved in the 17th and 18th centuries.

With the introduction of the Industrial Age, populations and literacy had increased enormously, so that there was a great demand for cheap books of all kinds.

In 1823 publisher, Archibald Leighton, introduced starch filled cloth for covering books, which eventually was produced in a wide range of colours and textures, some imitating various forms of leather that we are familiar with today.

Today, commercial books are machine printed, sewn and bound – 'untouched by human hand'.

I will not even mention paperbacks and plastic.

June McNicol



Christianity in Ethiopia

The present population of Ethiopia is thought to include 32-36 million Orthodox and nearly 14 million Protestants, and is therefore nominally considered the largest mainly Christian country in Africa. The Province of Tigray in the North is where Christianity first arrived in Ethiopia, then known as the Kingdom of Aksum. Aksum was a major trading country at that time, mentioned in the ancient Periplus of the Erythraean (Red) Sea, written in the 1st century AD.

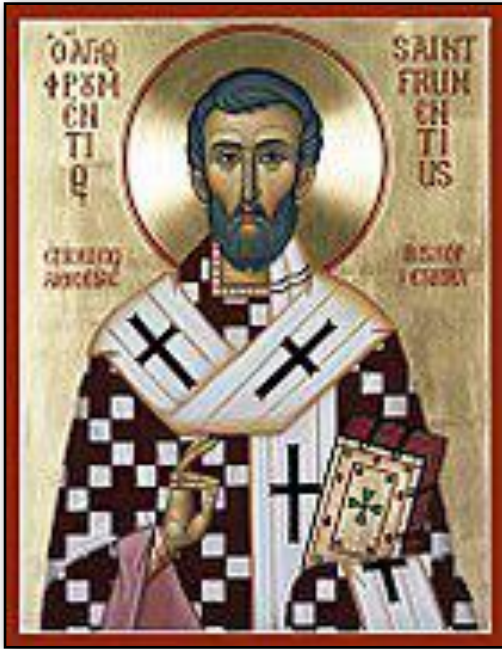


Not much is known of early Ethiopian religion but there is some evidence of complex spiritual beliefs, involving Ashtar (Venus), the sea god Behr, and the earth god Medr. The sun was a female deity, Zat-Badar.

Early Ethiopian literature was based on the tradition that the Ethiopians were the heirs of the Hebrews. As early as 1480 scholars from the West to the Holy Land confirmed this and in 1622 Father Pedro Piaz wrote that Ethiopian culture while Christian, was of Jewish origin.

The Ethiopian Christian Churches claim descent from Saint Philip the Evangelist and the Biblical story is told in the Book of Acts (Acts 8:26-39). It describes Philip guided by an angel, answering the questions of an Ethiopian sitting in a chariot on the Judean Road from Jerusalem to Gaza. The man was an official from the Treasury of the Queen of Ethiopia, reading from his own copy of the Book of Isaiah. Afterwards, he asked Philip to baptise him. As he was in Judea and had a copy of Isaiah

at the time of this event when the only existing Bible was the Jewish Bible, one must assume the official was reading from the scripture Jesus knew, the Jewish Torah, which could well explain that there was a Jewish influence already in Ethiopia.

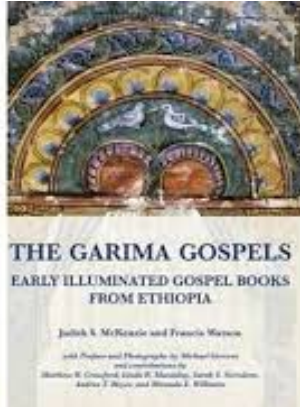


The Ethiopian Orthodox Church was formed in the first half of the 4th century AD after two young Carthaginian Christian boys, Frumentius and his brother Edesius, became slaves to the King of Aksum in Ethiopia. They were asked to educate the King's son, Ezana, and began to teach their religion at the court. They were later freed, and Frumentius travelled to Alexandria to ask Athanasius, the Patriarch of the Egyptian Coptic Church there, to send a bishop and missionaries to Ethiopia. He was appointed to be bishop himself and founded the first monastery in Ethiopia,

and today is the patron saint of the Anglican Seminary, St Frumentius Theological College, in the Gambela region of Eastern Ethiopia.

One of the missionaries established a monastery known as Abba Garima near the site where the buried rock churches at Lalibela in Tigray, are found. This monastery holds the oldest known complete books of the Gospels, the Garima Gospels. Garima 2, the earlier of the two, is believed to be the earliest surviving complete illuminated Christian manuscript in the world. Recent radiocarbon analysis and dating of samples from Garima 2 revealed a date of c. 390–570 AD, while samples from Garima 1 proposed a date of c. 530–660 AD.





This beautifully illustrated manuscript is still kept there housed in a special building. It is written on vellum in a Semitic Script called Ge-ez, and has a cover of tooled silver and gilt, and is still used by the Ethiopian Church. It consists of the four

Gospels, with illuminated paintings including each of the four Evangelists. The book has never left the monastery and is being carefully conserved on-site by a British charity.

There is also a belief that one of the carved rock churches holds the Jewish Ark of the Covenant brought there for safekeeping by a son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

At first, Christianity was confined to the Royal family, but with the coming of the missionaries, by the 5th century was spreading across the country to all surrounding citizens. Interestingly, the remaining (now ransacked) early Royal Tombs of the 3rd and 4th century AD period have monolithic stelae placed on top of them. They look like skyscrapers and have many windows carved into them. The largest of the tombs, the one of King Ezana (321-360 AD) whom Frumentius tutored, is 29 metres high and weighs 160 tons. I have no evidence, but could these



perhaps represent the teaching of Jesus, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?" (John 14.2)?

There were no skyscrapers that time!

As a child all I knew of Ethiopia was that it was a country where children were constantly starving, and I was told I should eat all the food on my plate while contemplating this tragedy. Sadly, war drought and famine did plague Ethiopia and still do today.

Tigray Province is now the centre of a spreading civil war. After an election that ended the 27-year-old one-party rule of the TPLF (Tigray Peoples Liberation Front), the new christian Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, invited all groups to merge in a Prosperity Party, which the TPFL refused. Chaos has reigned and civil war broke out on 3rd November, 2020 with a build-up of Eritrean and Amharan forces on Tigray's border. The TPLF was declared a terrorist organisation by the government but other ethnic groups, with amazing acronyms, have joined both sides. Thousands of people have been killed, thousands more detained and millions displaced in Tigray and the Amhara region. All sides blame each other and the TPLF has threatened to march on Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. According to news reports, doctors in hospitals and university researchers in the region have found that 29% of children in Tigray are acutely malnourished.

Please pray for the people of Ethiopia.

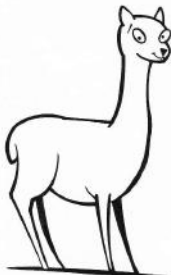
Llyn Crawford





Animal Facts

On the sixth day God created the animals of the earth of every kind (Gen 1:24-26).

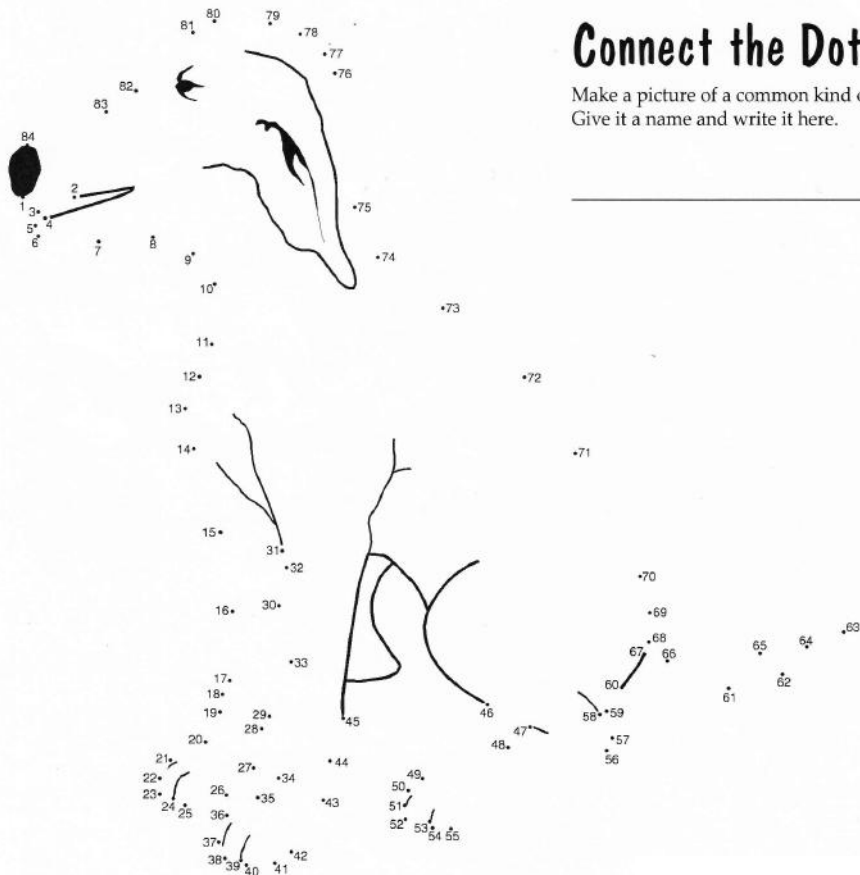


Draw a line to match the fact to the animal.

1. I'm green and live in and out of water.
2. I catch lots of insects with a trap I make.
3. I can fly up, down, sideways, forward, backward and hover.
4. I'm the largest creature on earth.
5. I can hang by my tail and I play dead.
6. I live near the North Pole and my babies are born in a snow drift.
7. I can stand on my front legs and spray a terrible scent.
8. I have a bill, four webbed feet, and live mostly under water.
9. I can fly, but I have skin, not feathers.

- a. bat
- b. skunk
- c. platypus
- d. spider
- e. frog
- f. blue whale
- g. polar bear
- h. opossum
- i. humming bird

Answers: 1.e, 2.c, 3.f, 4.g, 5.h, 6.f, 7.b, 8.d, 9.a



Connect the Dots

Make a picture of a common kind of pet. Give it a name and write it here.
