



From The Rectory Desk...

I expected by the time I was writing this letter that our redevelopment program would have been complete. However building projects are highly susceptible to delays from supply chain issues and wild weather, of which we have had both in recent months. But the end is in sight.

But this is not an end, but a beginning. We give thanks for work of all those who have brought our project to this stage, as well as to the legacy of our previous one hundred years of service. Now we are on the threshold of a new chapter in God's ongoing mission in Ekibin. The Anglican Early Learning Centre, Little Angels Tarragindi, will open as part of our campus in the next couple of months and bring with it new connections to our local community and a hive of activity. St Luke's Theatre Society will be back, bringing joy to new and old friends alike. It is an exciting time as we explore together being church here in this place.

Last Sunday Bishop John Roundhill dedicated our new Memorial Garden and this, to me, is an illustration of this same idea. Yes, in a Memorial Garden we remember with gratitude those who have gone before us, but we also celebrate the hope of the resurrection – it was, you remember, in a garden that Jesus' resurrection was made manifest. I look forward to lighting the new fire of Easter in our garden next year.

In the book of Revelation, John of Patmos offers a prayer, which is very appropriate for this time as we think of our future hope, grounded in the past:

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PARISH DIRECTORY – JUNE 2025

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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

Sacraments and Rights of Passage

March 2025 – May 2025

Baptisms

Jason Arthur Miller 20/04/2025

Admissions To Communion

Jason Arthur Miller 20/04/2025

Maurice Paul Allan Miller 20/04/2025

Reception Into The Anglican Church

Paulina Elizabeth Lamb 28/03/2025

Funerals

Nil

Deaths

Nil

Memorial Service

Nil

Interment Of Ashes

Nil

Marriage

Nil



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“Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come... and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead... To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (Revelation 1:5-6)

Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson
Rector

A New Light on Lent

Waiting for Cyclone Alfred and hearing the news and advice had made me very anxious. We had planned to go to the Ash Wednesday service at 6.30 pm. Would the weather be terrible? Would it be safe to go out and come home? Had I done enough to protect my home?

I had done as much as I could around the yard and house. What would I do if the power went off or my roof was damaged? I worried about the trees, the wild animals and any unexpected debris flying around. The officials said, "Keep calm – we will get through this." I had to admit that it was all in God's hands, not mine.

There were six people as well as Rev'd Timothy and June who attended. The service began with silence - a very calming opportunity. Then we sang a hymn and after some prayers and Bible readings, the Reverend Timothy gave a homily, which centred on Lent being a positive rather than a negative experience to transform our lives, and give us more hope in Jesus.

The reflection song was a beautiful one - "Dust, remember you are splendour". It proclaimed us being in the image of God and therefore precious and beautiful. As such we are loved and protected, in spite of all our failings. It was very reassuring.

After this the imposition of ashes was marked with the words, "You are dust and to dust you shall return. Repent and believe in the Gospel." This was followed by Holy Communion.

The final hymn was, "Great is your faithfulness." I found this service to be very uplifting. I felt surrounded by God's love, and confident in His goodness and protection for me. My anxieties had completely disappeared!

My feelings proved correct. Throughout the whole weather event, I was kept safe and dry, there was no damage and I still had electricity and a phone. I was grateful that less than two weeks before, some of my trees were trimmed and a rusty roof gutter replaced. Thanks be to God.

Desley Soden

Ecumenical Service



The congregation gathered on Palm Sunday



Rev'd Timothy was joined by other Ministers for prayer

This regular gathering of churches in shared worship was held at St Luke's on the evening of Sunday 13th April, Palm Sunday. The message was "Celebrate Jesus" through prayer and praise. The St Luke's band led the congregational singing and the St Luke's choir sang "Revival", written by Robin Mark. We were joined by the chaplain of Yeronga State Primary School. A shared supper followed.

Sue Vassella

Our March Family Service



Juliet helped the children to build hills and valleys in the sand and search for treasure



Louisa and Naomi assist Rev'd Timothy prepare for communion



Isabella helped Greg to bring up the collection



Jasmine read for us during the service



Singing with Trevor playing the guitar, and Helen assisting too



Rev'd Timothy and June baked the simnel cake to share. The 11 balls of marzipan represent the apostles without Judas.

Children's Ministry



The children enjoy Rev'd Timothy's Children's Message given at the beginning of every 9 am family service.



In preparation for Good Friday, the children helped make hot cross buns for morning tea after the service.



Elton really enjoyed the role of a sheep during June's Children's Message

Easter at St Luke's

The most consequential week of the Christian year is Easter, celebrating the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The week at St Luke's started on Palm Sunday with the blessing of the palms and procession into the church accompanied at the 9am service by the band playing the rousing hymn, "Make Way, Make Way for Christ the King". Serendipitously it was also the day when we welcomed our sister churches in the area for the evening ecumenical service and supper, which was a powerful affirmation of our Christian togetherness, bringing local denominations together.

As the week progressed in the purple liturgical mood preparing for Good Friday, the children's service on Good Friday was especially memorable. Juliet, our formation student, had arranged a table with six large golden eggs on it - Resurrection eggs - each containing a part of the Easter story. The children



were invited to open the eggs in order, one to six. One could see their urgency and anticipation in this very engaging activity, until they got to the very last egg and what did they find? Nothing! It was completely empty to signify the empty tomb. Oh dear, the kids moaned, no chocolate Easter eggs.

Good Friday continued with the all the solemnity and blackness we've come to associate with the day. The previous evening, after the Maundy Thursday service, the sanctuary had been stripped of all linen, candles, vessels and ornaments, and we were left in silence to ponder Christ's crucifixion, death and burial. Personally, it's hard to relate the cruelty and savagery of a Roman crucifixion. The images of Christ crucified in a

loin cloth and showing a crown of thorns and a single wound in his side do little to portray the terrifying pain and agony that Christ must have suffered for us. The brutality of it was far worse than we can possibly imagine.

But then came the first light on the third day, Easter Sunday, to celebrate Christ Jesus' resurrection, and in our case WHAT A LIGHT! Flames shot high – well at least a metre high – from the wood fire outside the church as Juliet hovered perilously close with the taper to light the paschal candle. The service started with the thrice chanted, “The Light of Christ, Thanks be to God” as we processed into the church, now resplendent with flowers and colour. Even more, it was also the baptismal service for Jason and admission to communion for Jason and his son Maurice. The 9.00am family service was one of the rare occasions the choir, who sang, “Hear the bells ringing”, was not dressed in black and white. And the chocolate Easter eggs came tumbling out. It was a glorious day.



Our celebration continued Easter Tuesday with a communion service for the folk at Regis Salisbury. The most memorable part of the service was singing, “Low in the Grave he Lay”, which is a moving Easter song with actions to commemorate Jesus rising from the grave. We all sprung up singing, “Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o’er His foes”. What an amazing end to our Easter week.

Trevor Lunn

Easter Reflections 2025

EASTER DAY: the culmination of all we have been waiting for since Ash Wednesday.

Anticipation has grown with Palm Sunday, then the Celtic morning prayers of Holy Week, the communion service for Maundy Thursday and the devotions of Good Friday, to follow Our Lord's journey.

Then at last, "Christ is risen, alleluia!"

The day began with a dramatic sky of red streaked clouds which developed into blue sky with white cotton clouds - a perfect day. We gathered outside the church for the lighting of the new fire. Slowly the flames caught to a blaze engulfing the twisted sticks which I imagined to be the crown of thorns.

After the procession inside, a small candle, lit from the Pascal Candle, was carried up the aisle to bring the light up to the sanctuary. The vases of colourful flowers added to the festival atmosphere. I had to smile at the typo in the first hymn, which was somehow joyously appropriate. The word "grave" was written as "grace". I looked from the wooden crucifix on one side of the church to the opposite side to the Christus Rex. They told the Easter story in a simple fashion - from human suffering and death, to the divine Christ the King arisen.

Traditionally Easter Day was a day for baptisms and so the baptism of Jason Arthur Miller took place, along with the Admission to Communion of Jason and Maurice. Jason's family assisted in the service - a significant event for family and church community alike. I felt important and very moved as I read the prayers and the renewal of vows was said. It was beautiful that a bird sang just at that moment. At the chancel, a simple ritual admitted Jason and Maurice to



The baptism of Jason Miller

Communion. They were presented with bibles appropriate to their ages and applauded by the congregation.

Following the service a convivial breakfast was provided of croissants, cake and fruit, and of course Easter eggs.

The sombre tone of Holy Week gave way to a real highlight on Easter Day.

Our thanks must go to The Rev'd Timothy and June for their tireless work in the planning, preparation and presentation of twenty services in eight days over the Easter period.



Desley Soden

Monday Night Bible Study

Our book for discussion is “How to Hear God- a simple guide for normal people” by Pete Greig.

The blurb reads : *I need guidance..... I need my prayers to be answered.....I need the Bible to speak more powerfully into my life....This is a book to make faith come alive by turning prayer into a real conversational relationship with the God who speaks - more than you know.*

So far we have been investigating God’s Word- vox externa and God’s Whisper- vox interna. In laypersons terms, these words seem to suggest “slowing down” and “tuning in” to draw deeply both from the Bible and Holy Spirit’s leading today.

We have lots of delving and discussion. We meet fortnightly at the home of Honor Lawler. New faces are always welcome. If you are interested, please speak to Honor, Judy, Elizabeth or me.

Sue Vassella

Anzac Remembrance Service



David Newsome
read the Ode

Father Denis told the story of Simpson's donkey helping to rescue the wounded at Gallipoli. Juliet was Simpson's donkey helping children to bring up the wounded for medical attention.



Simpson's donkey



Distributing hearts

The children helped to distribute hearts prepared by them to the congregation. Inside the hearts were the words "Jesus loves you".

St Luke's Theatre Society

2025 started well with a very funny production of "The Haunted Through Lounge and Recessed Dining Nook at Farndale Castle", directed by Sharon White. Audience numbers were unfortunately down for this play, due to a combination of several issues, most of which were outside our control. The biggest one being Cyclone Alfred where we had to remove signage, and there was uncertainty around the weather for people to attend. Also, due to the works happening at St Luke's, our normal sign unfortunately had to be removed more than a month out from the opening night. It is important to note however, that those who did see the production loved it and provided excellent feedback.

As everyone knows we had planned for Play 2, "My Brilliant Career" directed by Nigel Munro Wallis, to be performed as the first show back at St Luke's. Unfortunately, due to circumstances well beyond anyone's control (including a cyclone), we had to make the decision to stage this show at Christ Church. At last estimate, St Luke's would not be finished (car park and grounds) until the end of May. This did not give us enough time to prepare in the new space for this show. We were all very disappointed, but appreciate both Rev'd Timothy's ongoing support and understanding, along with Christ Church for allowing us to extend our current lease.

FAB Interpreting are back with us this year, providing Auslan Interpreters for a show during each of our productions at no cost to St Luke's Theatre Society. Community Theatre, by its very name, should be accessible to everyone who wishes to come along, and these wonderful interpreters and audience members have made it more so with this service. It is an honour and a blessing that they have chosen us.

We will be organising clean ups and moving/working bees in the coming weeks to prepare for our move back to St Luke's, so thank you in advance to all those who will help.

Last, but not least, I want to say thank you to Rev'd Timothy and our committee members for their unwavering support, dedication and hard work. The past few months have had some challenges, and this team has worked tirelessly to keep things running smoothly.

Karen Neale - President

P.S. Don't forget to book for My Brilliant Career!

Performances: Friday & Saturday evenings with a matinee on Saturdays from Friday 6 June 2025 - Saturday 21 June 2025 Book and pay online at www.stluketheatre.asn.au/ or call 0493 778 379

Choir Report

March 2025 to May 2025

With Ash Wednesday on the 5th of March, the choir looked to present an appropriate Lenten song for its contributions to the services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Brian selected, 'Light of the World', a relatively new song by Tim Hughes. It is a very reverential song and the choir practised it for singing in unison. Unfortunately Cyclone Alfred disrupted rehearsals and availability of choristers for the 9am service on the 9th of March and the choir did not participate in that service. It did, however, contribute this song to the 7am service on the 23rd of March.

April was a big month for singing. The 2nd Sunday in April was the 13th. The choir was back on schedule to participate in the 9am service. This was also Palm Sunday. The choir



Palm Sunday contribution from the choir

presented the song, 'Prepare the Royal Highway' as a 'reflection' item after the Sermon, sung mostly in unison. This song is a Swedish Lutheran hymn for Advent, but with a clear link to Palm Sunday.

On the evening of Palm Sunday, St Luke's hosted an ecumenical worship service with participation by congregations of neighbouring Christian denominations. The choir made a late decision to present an item at this service. With limited rehearsal, it reprised 'Revival', an up-beat anthem with words and music by Robin Mark, which it had previously presented in church towards the end of last year.

On Good Friday - 18th April, the choir contributed two songs in different parts of the afternoon service. The first was, 'The Lord is My Shepherd', composed by Jill Gallina (it is not, however, another variant of the 23rd

Psalm). The choir presented it as a 2-part arrangement, with separate choruses for sopranos and altos, with the men joining in with the altos. The second was, 'Jesus Remember Me', by Jacques Berthier, which is based on biblical verse Luke 23.42. The choir presented it in a 3-part harmony arrangement.

On Easter Day, at our 9am service, the choir contributed with the upbeat Easter song, 'Hear the Bells Ringing' by Anne Herring. The choir has sung this item regularly at Easter and sang it with appropriate gusto, with some 2-part harmony in the refrain.

The following Tuesday 22nd April, a number of choristers were able to attend with Rev'd Timothy at Regis Residential Care at Salisbury for an 'Easter' themed service. Choir members led the congregational singing and also contributed the song, 'See, what a



The choir singing on Good Shepherd Sunday 18th May 2025

Morning' by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, which the composers have sub-titled as a victorious resurrection hymn. All the singing was accompanied by Trevor on guitar.

The 4th Sunday in April came two days after Anzac Day. The 7am service on the day was given a 'Services' theme by Rev'd Timothy. The choir contributed the hymn, 'Abide with Me', by William Monk, as a reflection item following the sermon. It was presented in 3-part harmony and added a soprano descant by Helen in the final verse.

After all the special services in April, the choir continued with its usual schedule in May. Brian selected the song, 'The Light of Christ' by Donald Fishel, to an arrangement by Betty Pulkingham. It was sung with alternating voices for the verses and a 2-part 'round' for the refrain. The choir contributed it as the 'reflection' item after the sermon at the 9am and 7am services on the 11th and 25th of May respectively.

Greg Rodger

Libby and Bruce – 33 Years of Dedicated Service

Libby and Bruce have been CMS link missionaries with St Luke's from the start of their ministry in Nepal. Libby goes much further back as she worshipped and grew with our parish with her parents, Barbara and Alan Johnson and her siblings, since she was a child. St Luke's has been a nurturing church for numerous CMS missionaries, and we've been privileged to love and know them all.

During their time of overseas ministry, Libby and Bruce enjoyed many joys and blessings in a country where their children flourished. They experienced the warmth of friendships and faith journeys with local country friends; scenery and walks that inspire; colleagues with whom they



Libby & Bruce with Rev'd Timothy at their farewell visit to St Luke's in February 2025

shared the journey; and the celebration of special moments in their work life. We also know that behind the requests for prayer was tough stuff which was real, difficult and not to be diminished. There were times of illness or worry with family at a distance; challenges with work situations; feeling stretched and out of their depth professionally; and times where they couldn't clearly see the way forward, but they always knew things were in control, because, although things were tough, they weren't doing it alone. They carried the assurance of faith, that in our weakness, God is strong (2 Cor 12:9-10).

Over the years, we've been grateful for their commitment to keep us informed through their regular "BLURB" newsletters (Bruce and Libby Undertaking to wRite Back). In addition to their personal and family updates, they gave us news of Nepal as well as prayer and praise points. This has enabled us to participate in mission "beside them". Did you

know, that our CMS branch regularly prays for US, the prayer partners of missionaries?

Libby and Bruce's formal overseas ministry with CMS concluded with a Thanksgiving Service on 10th May at St Stephen's Anglican Church Coorparoo. Thanks were offered to them, and more importantly, to our great God who has watched over them and their service throughout their time in Nepal. They were well supported at the service by numerous St Luke's parishioners as well as many from other link churches, family and friends. We



Farewell for Bruce & Libby with two of their daughters

We heard from two of their children about their life overseas and the blessings of being a missionary kid. They also thanked CMS for the support provided to them, after they returned to Australia for further study. Libby and Bruce spoke about their life of missionary service giving thanks to God for all he has done and how, often through the barriers and difficulties, new opportunities arose.

At their Thanksgiving Service, Mark Fairhurst, CMS Branch Director for Queensland and Northern New South Wales, reminded us of the importance of us continuing to pray for Nepal, their country of ministry in South Asia as well as for Bruce and Libby as they continue in their new role. Having finished their overseas service, they are now looking forward to mentoring and preparing missionaries in training for cross cultural service at St Andrew's Hall in Melbourne. What a wealth of wisdom and experience they have to share.

We are grateful for their faithfulness and example to us all.

Chris Bromwich

Dedication of the Memorial Garden



The new memorial garden behind the church.

On Sunday 1st June 2025, the congregation of St Luke's joined with many of the families who had laid their loved ones' ashes in the Memorial Garden, in a service of evening prayer to mark the dedication of the new Memorial Garden by the Rt Rev'd John Roundhill, Bishop of the Southern Region.



The choir sang at the service prior to moving outside for the dedication.

This service was a beautiful celebration of the new Garden, but also was a sombre, respectful recognition of the loss and grief suffered by so many families present.

During the service, we gave “thanks for the lives of all those who have died in the faith of Jesus Christ and who are remembered in this place”. The music and the words of the hymns, the Magnificat, the Nunc Dimittis, and the choir’s version of “The Lord is my Shepherd” raised our spirits to worship and give thanks for those who have gone before us. Bishop John reassured us that despite the short time we have on the earth, faith in Jesus gives us the assurance of eternal life with God.



The dedication of the memorial garden by Bishop John.

The congregation then followed the cross, Rev’d Timothy, and Bishop John outside to the beautiful memorial garden for the final words of dedication and the blessing.

Those involved in the careful planning, the hard physical work of respectfully removing the ashes from the old Garden, storing them, and reinterring them in this beautifully designed space, right next to the church, deserve our grateful thanks.

Honor Lawler

Come out of the kitchen, Martha

Come out of the kitchen, Martha – Listen

But Lord, much needs attention
And there are no hands but mine.

Come out of the kitchen, Martha – Look

I will Lord, only let me finish.

It is all for You.

I see Your needs Lord

And am busy

Come out of the kitchen, Martha – Sit

I cannot sit Lord

My work is here.

Women should serve.

I know my place Lord and I am content.

Mary, who lingers at your feet, I love

‘Tho I must work alone.

Forgoing all her help.

To leave her listening Lord.

We all have our station.

It seems, it’s hers to sit.

And mine to serve Lord.

Are You thirsty now? Or hungry?

I will meet Your need. If it is food.

I’ll hurry and bring it through.

Come out of the kitchen, Martha – Learn

Come out of the kitchen, Martha – I have need of you



Source unknown