



# Morialta Vision

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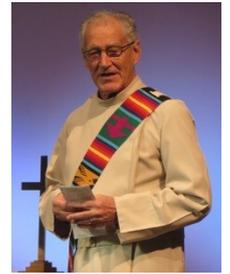
## SO WHERE DOES CHRISTMAS COME FROM?

Some years ago, an Indian couple known to Janeen and me, named their first newborn daughter, Hanukah. We were not sure whether the meaning of the name was known to them for Hanukah is a special Hebrew word meaning *dedication*. It is a name given to one of the Jewish festivals (also called the Festival of Lights), which occurs in mid December. This festival recalls and celebrates the successful freedom struggle of the Jews against the Hellenistic Syrians in the year 165 BCE. But Hanukah had even earlier origins, which predated the Babylonian exile. It was the Zoroastrian festival, which celebrated the victory of good over evil.

Christmas too has its origins in pre-existing festivals. December 25<sup>th</sup> is close to the Winter Solstice, the shortest day in the Northern Hemisphere. After days when the sun seemed to weaken, days then got longer, indicating that the sun was truly stronger than darkness. The Winter Solstice was also the "birthday" of several gods: Attis, Frey, Thor, Dionysus, Osiris, Adonis and Mithra amongst others. The Romans also celebrated "Saturnalia" on December 17<sup>th</sup> honouring Saturn and its promise of the return of a "Golden Age". This celebration included a reverse-holiday, when masters served their slaves. They also exchanged presents, a tradition we are glad to inherit!

At first there was no festivity of Jesus' birth. Easter was the one and only primary identifying celebration for the early church (remembering that each Sunday, the Lord's Day, was meant to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection.) Yet the Bible had such a wonderful collection of birth stories. This led to the idea that it would be good to celebrate

Jesus, birth. Initially this occurred in the Northern Hemisphere's spring. Later others chose January 6<sup>th</sup>, Epiphany. It was not until the 4<sup>th</sup> century, that the Western church set December 25 as the official birth date of Jesus.



But this did not solve the tension between folk traditions and Christian festivities. St. John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople wrote (4<sup>th</sup> century), "The Birth of Christ was lately fixed at Rome in order that while the heathen were busy with their profane ceremonies, the Christians might perform their sacred rites undisturbed." Later, the Puritans in England even attempted to abolish Christmas. In America they went so far as to outlaw it and still in 1870, anyone missing work in Boston on Christmas Day would be fired!

Today we live with an incredible mix of folk and religious symbols, pageants and festivities. Does this matter? I personally do not think so. While I recoil from the over consumerisation of Christmas, I think it is good to distinguish between primary symbols and secondary symbols. Primary symbols hold core meanings such as our affirmation that in the incarnation God identifies with humanity. The Word is made flesh. Secondary symbols may allude to primary symbols such as gift giving. But then again they may not. I see no special significance in reindeer for example.

The name Jesus (Hebrew Joshua) means *liberator*. The birth of the one who brings liberation - now that really is a primary symbol worth celebrating!

Jonathan Barker



Experience Life  
in all its Fullness!

Join us for Christmas worship:

Christmas Eve 7.30pm

Christmas Day 9.30am



## CHAIRPERSON WRITES...

*'Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.'* — Mother Teresa

As we charge towards the end of yet another year it is reasonable to engage in contemplation. What marks of success are evidenced by our achievements this year? Are there things we might have done differently, or not at all?

If you are anything like me then the answer is probably yes. If it isn't, I would love to know your secret!

Advent is a season of hope and expectation. Living this side of the Nativity and Crucifixion we know the Hope of Jesus' birth is impacted by the human condition. Existence, at the time of Jesus' birth, wasn't easy. The romance of the Bethlehem story is tempting, but, lurking behind that romance is injustice and contradiction.

It may be difficult for us to hold to the purpose of Advent. Hope, Love, Peace and Joy are each part of our Advent Prayer, but, looking around, it is sometimes hard to see evidence of this widely prayed for state in the wider community, let alone churches. There is still too much evidence of injustice and contradiction.

However, we shouldn't be tempted to use this as an excuse for ambivalence or inaction. While yesterday is gone, the future is yet to be written. If we use today to live and love as Jesus teaches, who knows what might happen.

As we live in God, just as God lives in us, I wish you an Advent that is filled with Hope, Love, Peace and Joy. Please pray for each other and our congregation as we begin the challenge of 2017, living with the ambiguity that is always part of our Faith Journey.

Bruce Ind



## BEYOND OUR WALLS BEARS FRUIT

*Based on notes from Jan Adcock (Woomelang UCA) and Christine Secombe*

Christine and John Secombe recently received an email from an excited couple who live in Woomelang, Victoria, who had just found the Morialta Uniting Church on YouTube. Well not us exactly – but one of our services.

Woomelang is a small town in the grain growing belt of the Mallee of Victoria with a declining population of less than 200. The town is in the Shire of Yarriambiack and situated on the Sunraysia Highway, 359 km north-west of Melbourne, 183 km south-east of Mildura and 154 kilometres north of Horsham. At the 2011 census, Woomelang and the surrounding area had a population of 191. According to Jan Adcock, they used to have 130 pupils at the local school but in 2016 enrolment is down to twelve. Like many small towns across Australia that are

experiencing similar changes, they are trying to cope and remain positive.

The Woomelang UCA, together with churches in Sea Lake and Berriwillock, forms the Tyrrell Parish. Earlier this year their full time minister, Rev Kevin Bartlett, left and like many other churches in financial decline they see a future without the support of full time ministry. Presently a part time minister visits two Sundays each month, driving for over five hours from Apollo Bay, approximately 435 km away. However, this is expensive and has a limited life.

For some years now a lay team have been planning, preparing and conducting worship when the Minister was absent, but because the group is aging this has become more difficult. So that explains their joy and excitement when they "found Morialta on youtube". In Jan Adcock's words "This has given us hope that we will be able to hold our small group of faithful together here in Woomelang."

Woomelang UCA has also been successful in obtaining a grant from the Uniting Church which will enable them to purchase a Smart TV and a new computer. John Secombe has solved their other problem, which is an intermittent internet connection, by placing our worship services on a stick.

So next time you are driving down the Sunraysia highway on a Sunday morning, stop off at the Uniting Church in Woomelang and enjoy worship with our new friends. You may even see yourself on screen!

## MILPARA

On the first Thursday morning of the month, a group from Morialta Uniting Church facilitates worship for residents at Milpara Aged Care on St. Bernards Road. Our connection with Milpara dates back about 25 years. The half hour service includes hymns, a bible reading, a short message, prayers and Holy Communion. The atmosphere at Milpara is warm and welcoming. Staff and volunteers bring the residents to the service and the numbers have increased so that this year we have had as many as 16 residents plus our



team. The team this year has included Rhonda Amber, Cris Daulby, Christine Garner, Doug Hosking, Alison Lockett, Roger Whibley, Craig Ottmann, Elizabeth

Pleass, Lorraine Powers, Jenny Swanbury, Joan Wagner and Margaret Whibley. Between us we provide music, singing, assistance with reading, a message, helping with communion, and generally supporting residents to participate as fully as they are able. Sometimes after the service we have a coffee at the café on site. Rhonda Amber prepares the roster and if you would like to join us please let her know. It is such a privilege and a blessing to be part of this outreach in Jesus' name.

Christine Garner

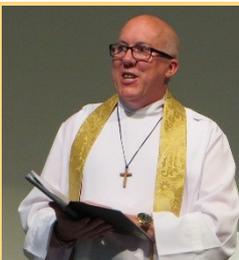
## A SAD FAREWELL

On 18<sup>th</sup> December we close another chapter in the life of Morialta Uniting Church when we say good bye and sincere thanks to Steve Thompson and Lachie White.

Steve and Lachie arrived at Morialta in May 2014 and were immediately accepted into our hearts and our community. Steve's caring and warm personality and his slightly shy smile endeared him to all. However, it was his teaching that shone out like a beacon in a storm. Morialta has been blessed with a series of ministers whose teachings have challenged us and enabled us to grow as individuals, as well as community. But there was something special in the way Steve guided us in worship and in our faith journey on Sundays. In fact several new members of our community decided to join us because they were impressed by what they saw on Youtube.

Those of us who served with Steve on Church Council and the various Ministry teams also came to appreciate his quiet demeanour but very positive and wise council.

Lachie also became a great friend to many during his time with us and several gardens show the benefits of his knowledge and experience. His friendly greetings and ability to make people feel better for having met him enriched our Sunday mornings.



Steve and Lachie will be sorely missed and we will always have a feeling in our hearts of "what might have been".

Our love and blessings go with them and we know they go with God.

*May the feet of God walk with you  
And his hand hold you tight.*

*May the eye of God rest on you  
And his ear hear your cry.*

*May the smile of God be for you  
And his breath give you life.*

*May the Child of God grow in you  
And his love bring you home.*



## Yuletide's Deepest Bell

*Alan Harris from Literary Offerings  
for the Holiday Season – 2002*

A scratch-scratch-scratch  
of Christmas card writing is  
wiggling world kitchen tables.

Tight holiday harmonies  
from the stereos all up  
festooned family rooms.

Annual gladness is  
picking up speed  
as the ringers ring,  
the shoppers shop,  
the bustlers bustle,  
and the hawkers hawk.

Bells remind the weary  
of pulsings in their hearts,  
transforming drone to tone.

Such yearly yuletide waves  
are too magical to be real,  
too real to be magical,  
too just-right to be  
too anything at all.

Yes, talkers overtalk,  
laughers overlaugh,  
givers overgive,  
and eaters overeat, but  
a subtle force is working  
to knit separated threads  
into scarves of good will.

Folks feel an ancient peace  
and join at the heart in joy  
when the Deepest Bell rings  
"One.... One.... One...."



## NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY

Thanks to all who took the time to complete the NCLS recently. We have submitted over 80 completed forms and will await the analysis.

NCLS conducts research in a range of areas, internally as well as in partnership with other researchers and institutions. Their research programs for 2015-2017 are as follows:

- Leadership and organisational effectiveness in Australian local churches and denominations
- Mapping the intersection between church and community
- Psychology of religion and positive psychology in church life
- Who goes to church and tracking trends in church life over time
- Minority populations in church life.

*For more information go to [www.ncls.org.au](http://www.ncls.org.au).*

## Uniting Church turns 40

*Adapted from Assembly Update*

The Uniting Church will celebrate a significant birthday next year. On 22 June 2017 it will be 40 years since our three predecessor churches came together in



u n i o n . In recognition of this milestone the UCA has launched a 40th anniversary logo designed to capture the joyous spirit of the occasion.

It features a diversity starburst/dandelion, which is a firework explosion in earthy colours that reflects celebration and our commitment to covenant with First Peoples who are deeply connected to the land. The dandelion head shape also hints at our Church's spreading God's love around the world like seeds on the wind of the Holy Spirit.

The tagline "**All of this is us**" encourages us to embrace the diversity of our people, councils and agencies.



**MIGHTY MAGILL  
CHRISTMAS MARKET**

A huge THANK YOU to all (not just those caught on camera!) who made our 2016 Market a resounding success. It takes a massive effort from our whole community before, during and after the event to bring this together, but it is a wonderful community event and also brings in significant funds to support our church programs.

Special thanks to Bruce, who carries the big picture in his head and manages to pull us all together, with his energy and humour throughout.

Take a well earned rest and we'll do it again in 2017!



## Poppy Day

My father was a Canadian and he had a second cousin (my third cousin) Alexis Helmer, who studied to become a doctor. When war broke out in 1914 Alexis joined the Canadian Forces and was sent to Ypres to work alongside his teacher, and now commanding officer, Major Dr John McCrae. They had become firm friends.



In the second battle of Ypres in May 1915 a German shell landed directly on Lt Dr Alexis Helmer and blew him to pieces. His friend, John McCrae, was devastated and as he sat in the back of a field ambulance he penned the immortal words 'In Flanders Fields'.

Alexis was buried in a war cemetery known as Essex Farm, with his friend (now Lt Col John McCrae) conducting the funeral service.

'In Flanders Fields' was published in Punch in November 1915.

In 1918 an American woman, Moina Michael, inspired by McCrae's poem, began wearing a poppy in honour of those who had died on the Western Front and handed out poppies to returning soldiers.

In November 1919, King George V declared November 11 Remembrance Day and in 1921, the poppy was adopted in Britain as the symbol of Remembrance Day.

**Remembrance Day is still celebrated annually at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month.**

Brian Corrigan

## In Flanders Field

John McCrae - November 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



## The 12 Days of Christmas

Adapted from "www.whychristmas.com/customs/" and other sources.

We all know the song but do we know what the 12 Days of Christmas celebrate? They commence on Christmas Day and last until the evening of the 5th January - also known as Twelfth Night. They have been celebrated in Europe since before the Middle Ages and each day traditionally celebrates a feast day for a saint, or the life of a special person.

**Day 1** is Christmas Day and celebrates the birth of Jesus.

**Day 2** is also known as Boxing Day in England - celebrates St Stephen the first Christian martyr.

**Day 3** celebrates St John the Apostle, one of Jesus's disciples and friends.

**Day 4** is the Feast of the Holy Innocents - when people remember the baby boys killed by King Herod when he was trying to find and kill the Baby Jesus.

**Day 5** celebrates St Thomas Becket - Archbishop of Canterbury in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. He was murdered on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1170 for challenging the King's authority over the Church.

**Day 6** is for St Egwin, a Benedictine monk who became the third Bishop of Worcester.



**Day 7** is New Year's Eve and is known as 'Hogmanay' in Scotland and 'Silvester' in many other European countries. The day traditionally celebrates Pope Sylvester I who lived in the 4th Century. In England New Year's Eve was a traditional day for 'games' and sporting competitions.

**Day 8** starts the New Year and is the day to celebrate Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

**Day 9** is for St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, two important 4th century Christians. St Basil or Basil of Caesarea was the Greek bishop of Caesarea Mazaca in Cappadocia and was an influential theologian who supported the Nicene Creed. Gregory of Nazianzus was also known as Gregory the Theologian or Gregory Nazianzen, and was a theologian and Archbishop of Constantinople.

**Day 10** is the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus when Jesus was officially 'named' in the Jewish Temple.

**Day 11** celebrated the feast of Saint Simon Stylites (388 - 459) who made himself famous by living on a small platform on the top of a pillar near Aleppo for 47 years. (*Fortunately he is no longer there.*) Nowadays in the US the day is for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American saint, who lived in the 18th and 19th centuries. She established the first Catholic girls' school in the nation in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she also founded the first American congregation of religious sisters, the Sisters of Charity.

**Day 12** is also known as Epiphany Eve and celebrates the life of St John Neumann (1811 - 1860) who was an American Bishop. He also has a feast day in March in the Czech Republic.

## SCHOOL CHAPLAIN REPORTS

### Daniel Del Pilar – Norwood Morialta High School

Term 3 has been quite the storm both figuratively and literally. Our students worked very hard in finishing their Personal Learning Plans. For some it was a strong encouragement and for others it was an eye-opener. My dual role has opened many doors and opportunities in providing pastoral care to families, staff, and students. I feel that my presence within the school community and my input has been well accepted and appreciated.



Wellbeing within the community is becoming more talked about, and my role within this area is becoming more evident.

#### Activities and Involvements:

##### • Youth Wellbeing Program

We had our last session this term where we reflected on what we learned in term two, which was then followed by a short celebration with snacks.

##### • Year 9 Wellbeing Symposium

During the last week of the term, the school counsellor and I brought ten year 9 students to represent the school in a Wellbeing Symposium hosted by Scotch College. We learned a great deal on different issues relevant to our young people today. We participated in several activities and were able to draft an action plan to help develop the wellbeing of the school community.

##### • Excursions

It has been very encouraging how some teachers that I have had limited contact with are now approaching me for support in helping with excursions. This has been very helpful in developing rapport and having open-ended conversations with many groups of students. Being outside of 'school walls' also gives them the freedom to approach topics and issues where my input and advice has been welcomed.

##### • Pastoral Care

Caring for people continues to be my passion. In these moments, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Romans, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who weep." Many a time, I find myself invited into these stories, and

my heart leaps with joy in their triumphs and my heart mourns with them in moments of heartbreak.

I am looking forward to the things yet to come in term four. Our year 10s will be preparing to transition over into the senior campus and our year 12 students are nearing their graduation. This will be a stressful time for many of them.

#### Please continue to pray for:

- The continued safety of our staff, students, and families
- Compassion and strength
- Establishing stronger connections with the school community

### Katherine Shanahan – Magill Primary School

Term four will see the start of the Kimochis programme, which is an emotional and social wellbeing programme that uses a set of stuffed animals that have different personalities and characteristics associated with feelings. The programme allows for self-awareness and development of emotional self-regulation in a fun and inviting way for young children. The idea of being able to project the feelings onto the characters and see in a light-hearted way how to regulate emotion is something that the School Leaders and I think would be beneficial, particularly for our children that are on, or are suspected to be on, the Autism Spectrum.



A lot more of the extra-curricular activities such as end of year concerts and sports day will also be occurring in term four.

As part of spending time with more of our upper primary classes, I will be attending year 6 & 7 camps by invitation from teachers. I am looking forward to journeying and getting to know the students particularly next year's year 7s. My main focus for this term is to continue to get to know some of the students from the upper primary and continue to support those students that teachers have requested I work with, or who have had the confidence to seek me out themselves - which is a great thing.

Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of our staff, particularly as plans for next year are underway making some of the teachers apprehensive. Pray that they can continue to do the good work of educating our young people that is so important. Also pray for the students that they might be able to enjoy the term and for our year 7s as they experience their final time at Magill. May God continue to walk with them as they continue on in their education and life journey.

## The Mince Pie was not always a humble pie

Adapted from "www.whychristmas.com/customs/" and other sources

Mince pies, like Christmas puddings, were originally filled with meat, such as lamb, rather than a dried fruit mix as they are today. They were also first made in an oval shape to represent the manger that Jesus slept in as a baby, with the top representing his swaddling clothes.

Mince pies were a status symbol at Christmas during the Stuart and Georgian times and very rich people liked to show off by having pies made in different

shapes at their Christmas parties. This showed your friends that you were rich and could afford to employ the best, and most expensive, pastry cooks.

Now they are normally made in a round shape and are eaten hot or cold. (*I like mine with ice-cream! Ed*)

Wisdom from the middle ages suggests that if you eat a mince pie (*preferably with ice-cream, I hope*) on every day from Christmas to Twelfth Night (evening of the 5th January) you will have happiness for the next 12 months!

On Christmas Eve, children often leave mince pies with beer or some similar drink for Father Christmas, and a carrot for the

reindeer. *A custom I always encouraged with my children.*

There is actually a Mince Pie Club in the UK if you care to join!!!

[www.mincepieclub.co.uk/](http://www.mincepieclub.co.uk/)



## Fay Goldsworthy Returns to Port Lincoln Children's Centre



Fay had an exciting week in November when she returned to Port Lincoln for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Port Lincoln Children's Centre (formerly Save the Children Fund - SCF).

SCF started working in Port Lincoln in 1966. Fay Goldsworthy joined them in 1968, at the centre which cared for Aboriginal children aged 3 to 6 years and other needy children.

The initial program grew and provided a weekly Kindy Club for those children who were now at primary school and had been through the centre. School teachers became volunteers at Kindy Club and school holiday camps that were at places such as Fowlers Bay and Renmark, as well as weekend camps at Thuruna Uniting Church camp site near Tumbay Bay.

Mothers and babies met at a special clinic once a fortnight. Support came from many SCF groups throughout South Australia and included money, boxes of fruit and many other things. The program followed that of most pre-schools, but the main difference was that at Christmas there was a visit from an Aboriginal Father Christmas!



Fay with Kenneth in 1970 and 2016!



The highlight of 1975 was when the centre was chosen as the Save the Children Fund venue in Australia for Princess Anne to visit. She is world patron of SCF.

Many of the past centre children have positions as trained teachers, nurses, accountants, carpenters and 14 of them as AFL footballers. One is now the director of the centre in Port Lincoln, fifty years after its inception and she was one of the first students.

### FELLOWSHIP



In November the A.G.M was held and the committee was re-elected to office. President:- Margaret Clogg, Secretary:- Margaret Dix, Treasurer:- Dale Corrigan, Committee members:- Arlene Lomman, Margaret Whibley, Ruth Pitt, Kath Cheel and Joan Wagner.

Following the A.G.M, Christine Garner spoke to us about her very interesting spiritual journey through the ministry. She told us how she managed her studies with a young family, and the various places she was called to including Elizabeth, The Riverland, Westbourne Park and Rosefield.

In December, our fulfilling year concluded with our Christmas break-up. The evening was filled with fun, fellowship and a lovely shared meal.



Uniting Church. **Uniting People.**

### Pastoral/ spiritual care in public hospitals

There are changes happening in how chaplains and their teams will be able to visit people in all public hospitals in SA. In the past, chaplains were notified of a patient's religious affiliation and would then visit them. This year EPAS (enterprise patient administration system) has caused a change.

#### Now, there is a new way to get a chaplain's visit while you are in hospital:

1. On admission: make sure you list Uniting Church as your religious affiliation on your forms.
2. Any time you or your family are on the ward, ask the nurses for a pastoral visit called a "spiritual care consult order".

#### OR

Contact a chaplain directly via the numbers on the back.

*'I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'*

Matthew 25:36 (NRSV)

#### Contact a chaplain:

**Flinders Medical Centre:**  
Leanne Jenski 0409 516 857

**Mental Health Western Area:**  
Mark Boyce 0402 906 780

**Lyell McEwin Hospital:**  
Jeff May 8182 9093

**Mental Health Northern Area:**  
Wendy Prior 8182 9093

**Modbury Hospital:**  
Colleen Brooks 0415 990 419

**Royal Adelaide Hospital:**  
Judy Knowling 8222 5388

**The Queen Elizabeth Hospital:**  
Nicholas Rundle 0406 011 152

**Women's and Childrens Hospital:**  
Carl Aiken 8161 7000



Pastoral/ spiritual care will be offered through a chaplain visiting you and your family. They will walk alongside you and offer compassion in your journey of faith.



## THANK YOU FROM THE MISSION PROJECTS TEAM!



Averil Nash, Margaret Dix, Doug Hosking and Beverley Tredrea would like to thank you all for the support and generosity you have given for 2016. A total of \$3660 has been raised and now forwarded to the Synod office to be distributed to the three projects we have supported: Irisan Project in the Philippines; Sturt Parkin Patrol (Frontier Services); and Women's Leadership in the Pacific.

A particular thank you to the Morialta Netball Club, who raised a best ever total of \$1210. We so much appreciate this wonderful service you offer to Mission Projects each year.

Our suggestion for Morialta's support for 2017 is a project to support a response to climate change in Tuvalu, (the highest point on this island is only 4 metres above sea level and 80% of housing is only 1.5 to 2 metres above sea level). Sea wall construction is one of the projects Uniting World is contemplating. A program in Gutsa & Epworth in Zimbabwe for village support to care for orphans and vulnerable children with livelihood initiatives, and finally support for UAICC (Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress).

We offer these as our suggestions and will be pleased to hear if you wish to express other options for our consideration.

Again, our grateful thanks and our promise to keep to the task of providing support for the church outside of our own community.

*Beverley Tredrea  
(Convenor)*

## Morialta Community

Each month we bring you interviews with members of the Morialta Community, old and new.



### Margaret Pittman

*Interviewed by Alison Lockett*

At just 15 months old, Margaret and big brother Brian were packed up along with the family chattels to move from the 'big smoke' to Yorke Peninsula. Her father was sales rep. for the Vacuum Oil Company, and, after an initial period at Port Vincent, the family settled in Maitland.

The towering presence in Margaret's life for the next 8 years was the family pooch Barney. In truth, at least from the perspective of a little girl, Barney was nearer in size to a horse, being a motley grey/black staghound. Indeed Barney became a notorious identity in the town, for he liked nothing better than to take a long midday kip in the middle of the main street. In the adaptable way of country folk, drivers would negotiate their way around him. Even the local bus manoeuvred its lumbering chassis to avoid the blissfully sleeping hound.

In another escapade, despite Brian being forbidden to do any such thing, Barney was taken rabbiting. Alas Barney ripped his belly open on a barbed-wire fence, and in the absence of a local vet, he was taken to the local chemist, who duly sewed him back together again!

This was the era of 'long drops,' built suitably away from the house. Indeed the Pittman facility was so distant it was situated in the adjoining block. Despite this, it was quite the edifice, with the adult throne room alongside a separate scaled down version for the children, the whole draped by an over-arching willow tree. As the block was leased for the local milkman's cows, and the aforementioned Barney loved an afternoon siesta within the cooling ambience of the children's lavatory, it could be quite an adventure just to make it!

Younger sister Janet was born during this time, but just before she reached school age, the family returned to live in Alexandra Avenue, Rose Park. This was 1942, and Margaret vividly recalls the safety trenches dug down the middle of the Avenue, to which all the children from the nearby Rose Park Primary School had to repair at the end of each day's lessons. Margaret herself was spared this, as her family had a cellar in which to take refuge - not that they ever did. Despite the looming threat of war, Margaret remembers those street trenches as an absolutely wonderful playground.

When Margaret resumed schooling in Grade 4 at Rose Park, she faced a certain Miss Johnson who remains indelibly etched in Margaret's mind. She thought of her as irritable, old and scratchy, even if in hindsight she was probably not yet thirty. The following year her teacher had a fetish for marching, left-right, left-right, as if this was the one and only skill to be mastered for the year. Little wonder Margaret's happiest memories of school are the extended lunch hours afforded when the teachers had a staff meeting.

After 3 years at Methodist Ladies' College, Margaret attended Miss Mann's Business College for a further year. Imagine the luxury when, on graduation, she was handed a list of nine firms seeking a junior shorthand/typist. A short

stroll along Pirie Street and Margaret had in quick succession three interviews, before taking the plunge with Queensland Insurance Company. Thirteen years later, Margaret left, as secretary to the Manager, to travel overseas.

Despite feeling 'desolate and scared stiff' as she and a friend stood in searing heat on the deck of the Himalaya to wave goodbye to scores of well-wishers, Margaret's first overseas adventure planted in her a love of travel. On arrival in the UK, Margaret had an interview at Australia House, and was offered a position for 6 months promoting Australian KY tinned fruits in Scotland. Glad to escape the bustle of London, Margaret was based in Glasgow, and loved the opportunity to travel all over Scotland, and further afield as she was able during what turned into a 17 month working holiday. Her travelling spirit has eventually taken her to such diverse places as Rhodesia, Norway, Spain and Portugal, the USA, Fiji and Samoa, South Africa, Eastern Europe, Malaysia, Canada and Hong Kong, not to mention several return trips to the UK.

In her subsequent working life, Margaret very much enjoyed her employment with the Congregational Homes for the Aged, interviewing and selecting prospective residents, before the age of trained social workers, she notes ruefully! Alongside this she subsequently also filled the role of secretary to the Rev Michael Sawyer. Similar roles within the Uniting Church Synod ensued following Union in 1977.

Margaret by her own observation, loves people, and it shows. Socially adept in any setting, her natural gregariousness has allowed her to thrive in whatever situation life has presented her. Even now, as a member of the redoubtable 'OBE' brigade at Morialta, she continues to exercise her special people skills. And as for her fabulous Lemon Delicious, that still sells out in an instant every time it appears on the menu at 'Lunch on Chapel!'

## Choices Bus Trip to North Haven and Beyond

A great time was had by thirteen passengers on our recent trip to North Haven, Tech Port, Semaphore and Glenelg. This was our second outing as a day trip on a bus, with the first trip in August to Hahndorf.



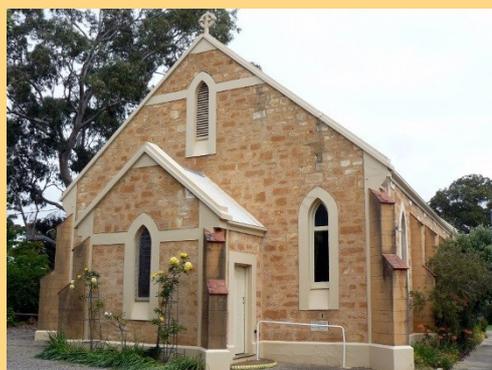
Travelling to North Haven, we passed the Air Warfare Destroyer and submarine building sites then Pelican Point power station before heading for Semaphore for lunch. We then continued on through Largs Bay, Henley Square and West Beach on our way to Glenelg.

The Mega Adventure Park at West Beach was an eye opener, however no-one was adventurous enough to take up the challenge.

Our next trip will be in a couple of months time, so watch out for further details as seats will obviously be snapped up very quickly.

*John Powers*





## KENSINGTON GARDENS UNITING CHURCH

The final service at Kensington Gardens Uniting Church was held at the beginning of December.

It was a sad occasion but also celebrated the faith and fellowship that has been a part of the church on this site since 1914.

The decision to close was made due to the aging of the congregation and the limited leadership available, after much effort to find alternative solutions.

Members from the Kensington Gardens congregation have been joining us in worship at Morialta recently and we hope they feel welcome as they join our community.



## Resolution passed by South Australia Synod of the Uniting Church

Saturday 5th November 2016

"The Uniting Church in South Australia responds to the grace proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who himself was a refugee.

We are called to work with all our hearts and minds to love this God, who is revealed in Jesus Christ.

We are called to express love and generosity of spirit to the world for whom Christ died, including the most marginalized people.

We seek to love the neighbour who is different and welcome the stranger in our midst.

We implore civic leaders to reflect the deep values of South Australians, shaped by different nations and cultures, who seek to live in a world characterized by peace and goodwill.

We therefore ask those leaders to embrace a spirit of compassion and concern for human dignity in their considerations with regards to Refugee and Asylum-seeker policy development."

Synod also requested the Moderator to make representations to the Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and South Australian members of Federal Parliament (both in the House of Representatives and Senate), on behalf of the SA Presbytery and Synod, expressing grave concern that the proposal (announced by the Prime Minister on 30th October, 2016) to ban refugees and asylum seekers on Manus Island and Nauru from ever coming to Australia and banning any refugee and asylum seeker arriving by boat to ever be granted an Australian visa, will result in:

- Increased likelihood of *refoulement* (return to place of danger and risk),
- Increased psychological stress on those refugee and asylum seekers currently awaiting processing and assessment of status,

- Increased distress to migrant communities in Australia, including members of the Uniting Church in South Australia, recovering from refugee experiences and associated trauma,
- Australia breaching Article 31 of the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and subsequent recommendations by the UNHCR,
- Further punishment of victims of persecution and oppression.

Synod also affirmed the Uniting Justice document, "Shelter from the Storm" and commended it to Congregations and Mission Networks for further study and reflection.

### The rationale for these statements was based on the following:

The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly and the Presbytery and Synod of South Australia have long expressed their concern at policies which do not protect the human rights or asylum seekers. The UCSA Refugee Advisory Group has affirmed the need for a more compassionate approach to those we deal with in SA who have faced the trauma associated with seeking refuge. In particular, we are aware that at least a dozen of our congregations have members who are being adversely impacted by the way the current public debate has been taking place. Ministry leaders working among culturally and linguistically diverse people have reported that the hard line talk is having a detrimental impact on pastoral wellbeing in numerous places. We believe this is contrary to the call to offer the hospitality of God, where all nations are present before Christ's throne and the hospitality of God is offered with the compassion of the Christ, who himself suffered violent persecution and rejection.

The political discourse concerning the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees has continued to deteriorate requiring urgent and drastic policy change. For a full account of the federal policy requests from the Uniting Church in Australia, Assembly we refer to the "Shelter from the Storm" document which can be found among the UCA statements on Refugees at [www.unitingjustice.org.au/](http://www.unitingjustice.org.au/)

## Further to our Discussion....

I was very interested to read in the October Vision, how the JNC would be formed and the process needed to call a minister to Morialta. This got me to thinking about how different it was when we decided to go to England to serve for a couple of years in the Methodist Church.

“Further to our discussion” were the opening words in a letter which was to give us a clue that we would be heading off to a new appointment in England! We had heard about a shortage of ministers and decided to write to the Chairman of the London North West District, Garth Rogers, whom we had met in Adelaide, and he invited me to write expressing our interest. We subsequently found ourselves being invited to Aylesbury. As you might imagine, we were both excited about such an adventure, but also anxious about leaving family and friends for two years to what was unknown territory. I had to supply a letter to the Methodist Church of Great Britain from the Synod that affirmed I was a minister in good standing. I also needed some references and an application to the Immigration and Nationality Department at the Home Office, for an Entry Certificate. This was to be for two years. (Later, we had to apply for an extension for a further year).

After quite a few emails to and fro, I received this letter from Rev Fred Ireland who was currently the Superintendent Minister in Aylesbury.

*“Dear David, I am sorry that I have not been in touch with you for some time - things have been rather hectic here over the last few weeks. I do hope that you and Judith had a good Christmas and New Year.*

*I was having a conversation recently with Peter Green (Circuit Steward) who mentioned that in an e-mail you had sent him you were anxious to receive confirmation of your appointment to the Aylesbury Circuit. I immediately contacted Garth Rogers, District Chairman, for advice. He confirmed what I had suspected was the case, that your appointment to the Aylesbury Circuit and indeed my appointment to Fairford Leys cannot be confirmed until Methodist Conference Stationing Committee gives their approval in June 2000.*

*I understand your anxiety to have something in writing and this will follow later in the year, but Garth asked me to write to you to say that we are confident that Conference will offer its enthusiastic support and that this is largely a procedural issue and that the Circuit and the District, as far as they can, want to assure you that the appointment will commence in January 2001, subject only to consent of Conference.*

*I hope that this will be sufficient for you to feel assured that we are heading in the right direction; indeed Brian Latham (our Circuit Treasurer) has asked me to ask you if you could begin to investigate the likely cost of flights for you and Judith and also of any personal belongings that you may wish to freight over in advance. He is beginning to put a budget together for 2001/02 and wondered whether you could supply this information, via me, when convenient.* “

As you can see, there was some nervous waiting time as well as looking forward to a new adventure.

The following letter was written by the Circuit Treasurer to the Circuit Steward.

*“Further to our discussion, I confirm that for the 2000/01, 2001/02 and 2002/03 circuit budgets we have sufficient funds to meet the stipend and expenses*

*connected with David's ministry in our circuit.*

*David will have use of the King Edward Avenue manse and we will be providing a leased car.* “



The Manse in Aylesbury and our lease car.

So in January, 2001, we left Adelaide heat to arrive at Heathrow to 8<sup>o</sup> to a great adventure.

That was then. But for now, all the best to the JNC as they work to bring about the settlement of a new minister for Morialta.



The back garden at the manse, which was covered with snow a few weeks after our arrival.

David Purling

## Fair Trade and Cocoa Life Sustainability Program

Adapted from UC e-news

Fairtrade is well known at Morialta. Its logo guarantees that products meet strict working condition and payment standards, ensuring fair terms of trade for farmers and other workers in developing countries. Once it was hard to find chocolates with the Fairtrade logo, but nowadays even some of Cadbury's most well-loved chocolate treats carry the logo.

Hence, many were stunned when Cadbury announced they would withdraw from the Fairtrade scheme in favour of their own Cocoa Life sustainability program. However, it is not really bad news. While the Fairtrade logo will be

replaced on the front of Cadbury products, the Fairtrade logo will continue to appear on the back. This is being done to indicate the new partnership between Fairtrade and Cocoa Life.

Fairtrade hopes to drive greater scale and impact for cocoa farmers and their communities through this partnership, and the plan is for all Cadbury products to be marked with the Cocoa Life brand by 2019. Australia will begin to see these changes in 2018.

Stop the Traffik, a group dedicated to working against human trafficking and slavery, also supports the change. The Cocoa Life program uses one of Fairtrade's Assessment companies – Flocert – to third party certify that Cocoa Life meets the certification standards

demand by Fairtrade. While Cocoa Life does not pay the premium that Fairtrade pays to Farmer Co-ops, it provides extra support through community development and educational resources which deliver communities more than the Fairtrade premiums.

Stop the Traffik Australia will release more information in March 2017 to allow us all make ethical choices when purchasing chocolates for Easter. If you want to know more visit the Stop the Traffik.



## Don't let this Laudato Si' Moment Pass

Eco-theologian Fr. Sean McDonagh\*  
– based on notes by the Editor



On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November I joined Catholics and non-Catholics at a presentation by Eco-theologian Fr. Sean McDonagh at “The Monastery” in Adelaide. He focused on his new book *On Care for Our Common Home* (published by Orbis Books), which takes the encyclical’s full text and adds McDonagh’s reflections on its various themes: among them, climate change, biodiversity, water scarcity, threats to the oceans, and the food

crisis. In addition, McDonagh recaps the development of Catholic theology on creation over the past half-century, and offers ideas on how to transform Francis’ vision in *Laudato Si’* into meaningful action and a central piece of Catholic theology. In his own words the Encyclical marks “an exciting moment for the church. If someone asked me, “Look could you give me a book on how to be a Christian in the 21st century?” I’d say, “Take this book, and you can have the Bible as well.”

McDonagh points out that God calls us several times in the Old Testament (before the birth of Christ) to care for the environment with passages such as “*You shall not pollute the land in which you live,.....You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell...(Numbers 35:33-34)*”. But along the way the Christian church seems to have stopped listening. McDonagh believes the doctrine of Original Sin and the Reformation were major forces in redirecting our responsibility to care for our ‘common home’ to a more anthropocentric focus.

According to McDonagh we all need to explore this new teaching and find ways to put it into the practice of our faith. “It’s new for a lot of us. Most of the people who go to seminaries and study theology don’t actually deal with any of these issues.” Although The Archbishop of Constantinople (and Ecumenical Patriarch) Bartholomew frequently talks about “sins

against creation”, be it human-caused climate change or the loss of biodiversity due to pollution and deforestation, “none of us has believed these are sins”.

Father Sean suggests a 3 year process for the Catholic Church, to embed the message from the Encyclical into their lives. However it could also serve as a model for other churches and lends itself to using the kitchen roundtable model presented by Bob Douglas. The first year would start in local parishes and dioceses, and ask people how they come to know the natural world, how they experience it, and how they see their proper place within it. We may have to invite non-church people in to help us understand the science and learn how the world works. But that would be good. Year two would shift to the national level, examining practices in each country, from energy usage – to consumption – to treatment of the oceans. During this process the church would begin creating prayers and liturgies that support this new engagement, this new spirituality and this new ethical relationship with creation. The third year would take those efforts internationally.

“The church would be providing a catalyst, because whether we like it or not, we’ve got to take these issues seriously. If we don’t take them seriously, they don’t stop; they will continue, and we become less ready to deal with them into the future.”

“We need to work with the scientific community, to work with other religious traditions, we can’t do it alone. But we will also need very good rituals, very good prayers, very good concerns for our moral life.”

“Pope Francis’ encyclical offers the church an opportunity to become facilitators in the larger discussion of protecting the environment, the climate, the common earthly home..... This is potentially an extraordinary moment for the church”. McDonagh’s last words were: “Do we take up the challenge or do we go back into our burrows?” Father Sean hopes that we take up the challenge.

**\*Father Sean McDonagh was one of a number of writers assembled by the Vatican to write the first draft of Laudato Si’.**

## Why do we Exchange Gifts at Christmas when it is not our Birthday?

Adapted from “Whychristmas” and other sources

The custom of giving and receiving presents at Christmas is thought to be based on the example of the Wise Men, who brought Frankincense, Gold and Myrrh to the newborn infant.

Frankincense is a perfume used in Jewish worship. Gold is associated with kings and many believe that Jesus is the King of Kings. Myrrh is a perfume that was put on dead bodies to make them smell nice. Some say that this was to foretell that Jesus would suffer and die.

While families and friends across the world give presents to each other, most children believe in a Christmas gift bringer. In many countries the bringer is called St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus or Father Christmas. However in Germany it is the Christkind (Christ child), in Spain it is the Wise Men and in Italy it is an old lady called Befana.

Santa Claus and his colleagues tend to leave gifts in different places in different countries. Across Europe, the presents are often left in shoes or boots put out by the children. In Italy, the UK, Australia and the USA presents are left in stockings, often left hanging by a fire place, or placed under the Christmas tree. In some countries children wait and open their presents with their family on Christmas morning. But many children sneak out of bed before dawn to investigate what is in their stocking.

The custom of hanging stockings is believed to come from a story about St. Nicholas. One version goes that there was a poor man who had three very beautiful daughters, but he was too poor to get his daughters married. Saint Nicholas happened to be passing through the village when he heard the local people talking about the girls. St. Nicholas wanted to help, but knew that the old man wouldn’t accept charity. So he decided to help in secret. After dark he threw three bags of gold through an open window and they landed directly into three stockings hanging by the fireplace to dry. When the girls and their father woke the next morning they found the bags of gold and were overjoyed. Naturally the girls married and lived happily ever after.

However, not all people wait until Christmas Day. The earliest date for opening gifts is on St. Nicholas’ Eve (December 5<sup>th</sup>), when children in Holland receive their presents. Children in neighbouring Belgium are more patient and wait until St. Nicholas’ Day itself. The latest presents are opened is on January 6<sup>th</sup> (a month later). This is known as Epiphany and is mainly celebrated in Catholic countries such Spain and Mexico.

Groups such as clubs, school classes and workplaces often exchange gifts by having a ‘Secret Santa’ or ‘Kris Kringle’. Everyone’s name is put in a “hat” and each person pulls out the name of a colleague, for whom they buy a present. People receive their gifts at a Christmas social gathering, but the giver often remains a secret!

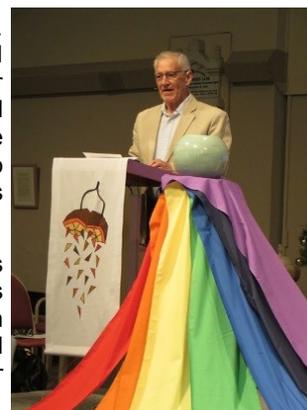


## URBAN MISSION NETWORK GATHERING AT MORIALTA

At the gathering at Morialta in November the theme was "Ministry on the Edges: Mental Health". Guest presenters Rev Wendy Prior and Rev Mark Boyce talked about how people with mental illnesses are often marginalized in a way not done to those affected by other forms of illness. Fear of it creates a wall of silence around people with mental illness and leaves them isolated, with feelings of possible rejection and discrimination, and with little or no help. To overcome the fear, education on mental health is important.



People who have experienced mental health problems talked about what worked, what didn't, how faith was important in their recovery, and what might assist in recovery. The evening included worship, themed around the colours of the rainbow, a meal, and a time for congregation representatives to meet, relax and share.



### Wreathed in Flesh

Wendy M. Wright, "Wreathed in Flesh and Warm":  
*Upper Rooms, 1988*

A novice master when asked about a life lived in Christian authenticity responded that to be a Christian was not to know the answers but to begin to live in the part of the self where the question is born....He was speaking of an attitude of listening, of awareness of presence, of an openness to mystery."

### Listening to Christmas

Alan Harris - *Literary Offerings for the Holiday Season 2002*

Have you ever heard snow?  
Not the howling wind of a blizzard,  
not the crackling of snow underfoot,  
but the actual falling of snow?

We heard it one night quite unexpectedly  
while walking up a hill toward our cabin in the woods,  
a soft whisper between footsteps.  
We stopped, switched off our flashlights, and just listened  
All around us in the darkness we heard the gentle fall  
of snow on snow.  
No wind, no sound but the snow.

Have you ever heard Christmas?  
Not the traffic noises in the city,  
not the bells and hymns and carols,  
beautiful as they are,  
not even the laughter of your children  
as they open their presents—  
but Christmas itself?

Have you been by yourself  
and just sat and listened to the silence within, patiently,  
without letting the mind race to the next Christmas chore?  
Perhaps if you have, you felt the pulse of all humanity  
beating in your own heart.

Perhaps you noticed an outflowing of love  
for all your brothers and sisters on the earth,  
a soft sense of Oneness with all that lives.

In the silence of a snowy night,  
listen intently, holding your breath,  
and you may hear snow on snow.

Serene, alone, undisturbed by thought,  
listen to the silence in your heart,  
and you may hear Christmas.

### PAWS FOR THOUGHT...

Hello again! Since our last chat I have celebrated a birthday. As I get older I find it a little more difficult to keep up. Luckily, Anne and Bruce are pretty good. They leave me to rest at home a fair bit. I like to go for a walk, but not too far! I also like to help around the church at special events like the market!

There is a fair bit of preparation leading up to the day. Fortunately, Anne and Bruce leave me home on the Saturday these days. It is pretty busy at the start and it's a long time to stand on my feet.

But, I think I am a big help on the days leading up to Saturday. It's funny that so much stuff appears each year I think some people brought back some of the stuff they got last year!

One of the really important things I do is to keep Wallace under control. I also help them decide where to display the items for sale.

Anyway, I hope that you all have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Keely



W: How long do I have to stay here?

K: Just be quiet. You've only just laid down.

W: Well, there's a lot to do. You know they need my help.

K: If you get up I have to get up too. Just rest for a little while.

W: Hey, is that a bone on the table over there?

K: Just relax will you. Can't you think of anything but your stomach?

# Morialta Magpie



Thank you to Joan Wagner as she retires as Pastoral Care Team Leader.



Happy 80th Birthday to Margaret Dix.



Matthew Mackenzie and Victoria Stevens announced their engagement.



Brian and Dale Corrigan celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary.



Pauline and Peter Norman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.



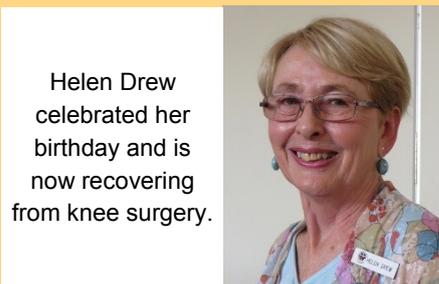
Christine Garner was thanked as she completes her term as Minister in Association.



John Prosser was presented with a Morialta quilt.



Ruth Wise's son Peter got engaged to Kelly Singer in Canada.



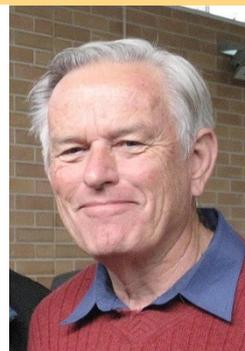
Helen Drew celebrated her birthday and is now recovering from knee surgery.



Kenny Xu was one of over 40 children involved in a concert at Morialta for 55 Chinese families, organised by his music teacher.



In March 2017 Rob Webbe will be installed as Vice President of the Probus Club of Morialta.



# Merry Christmas!



## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NEEDED

*Library Fund Raising Group*

Who doesn't like a jar of homemade jam, marmalade or chutney? There can be very few of us, and at Morialta we are served well by the faithful band of workers who continue to produce these goodies as a **fund-raiser for the library** – come rain or shine.

Unfortunately the products used; - oranges, lemons, cumquats, grapefruit, onions, apples, apricots etc, are becoming scarce as some members move away from the homes where these products were originally freely available in the garden.

The production of these preserves has always been a solitary business done within individual homes, but there is a high degree of labour involved with their manufacture. Some of our 'jam makers' have great knowledge concerning this craft but are finding the preparation (cutting, peeling, stirring etc)

increasingly arduous and considering their future options. It would be a terrible loss if we could no longer see the result of their efforts on display, or be able to enjoy the healthy treats, whose purchase considerably **aids the library's funds**.

It has occurred to me that interested people, both men and women, could form a group to meet regularly in our church kitchen to create some of these goodies under the guidance of our experienced producers. This would mean that we could gather for a time of shared enjoyment, where the less experienced could do the preparation for the more skilled and perhaps learn quite a lot in the process!

If anyone is interested in forming a "jam or chutney" working bee, rather than continuing to produce the goods in their own home, please let me know so that we can explore the possibility of occasionally 'taking over' the kitchen when it's not used for other things.

On some occasions other members of the congregation generously bring along some of their own garden produce, which is surplus to their requirements, and this is made available to everyone here in the church.

It would be wonderful if some of that spare produce could be offered specifically to the jam and chutney makers who are producing a considerable amount of these conserves from their own funds.

If someone with an abundance of garden produce could be put in touch with one of our jam makers they will find that very good use is made of what might otherwise be considered 'excess to need'.

## New Beatitudes – Pope Francis

Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.

Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized and show them their closeness.

Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover him.

Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.

Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.

Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians."

All these are messengers of God's mercy and tenderness, Pope Francis said.

Surely they will receive from him their merited reward.

<http://www.americamagazine.org/.../pope-francis-offers-new-beatitudes>

*Book Review:*

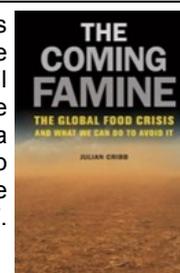
## The Coming Famine – The Global Food Crisis and what we can do to avoid it.

*Julian Cribb, published by CSIRO Publishing (2010)*

Julian Cribb is a well-respected author, journalist, editor and science communicator. He has written widely on the environment and his latest book "Surviving the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" was one of two books recommended by Prof Bob Douglas when he spoke at Morialta in October. The other was Pope Francis's "Laudato Si', Care for Our Common Home". However, Cribb's earlier book on the global food crisis is also worth reading as it paints a vivid picture of the likely world food shortage that will face our children in mid-21<sup>st</sup> century. Cribb writes with a crisp and easy to understand style as he explains how "the food system" will interact with the environment as we face shortages of water, land, energy, technology and knowledge. The book opens with a clear outline of the food crisis and ends with a plea for a fair deal for farmers and what needs to be done to secure food security for the future.

Unlike many authors, Cribb not only outlines the problems and attributes some of the blame; he also makes practical recommendations on how to resolve the problems. In fact each chapter ends with a series of dot points entitled "What can I do about it". A good example can be found at the end of a chapter on "The climate hammer". His suggestions are:

- Rebalance your diet to reduce your "carbon footprint" by eating more fruit and vegetables.
- Consume meat, oils, sugars and dairy products more sparingly.
- Favour foods that are seasonal and grown locally and with low-energy inputs.
- Support Government policies that promote "carbon farming" and recycling organic wastes.
- Do not waste food personally, but recycle and compost anything left over – return it to the soil.



# Welcome to the Morialta Uniting Church Community Library

## FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Another year is nearly at its end and we look forward now to 2017.

### Will the library be open for Summer Reading borrowing?

Yes! The Library will be open on all Sundays during December and January. The Library is also open for "After Hours Borrowing" during office hours but please note that the Church Office will close on Friday 16 December and reopen on Monday 30 January. **Just fill in the "After Hours Borrowing Book"**

So – make your selection for holiday reading in good time and when there is opportunity!

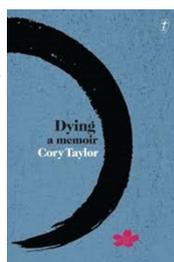
A **Summer Reading Guide** has been prepared for you by the eager members of the Library Committee to help you with your selections. It is available on the website or on paper in the library.

On behalf of the Library Committee and Library Helpers I extend to you joyous Christmas Greetings, Happy Holiday Reading and a Happy New Year.

## Book Reviews

### DYING a memoir by Cory Taylor

Cory Taylor, one of Australia's celebrated novelists, is dying of melanoma-related brain cancer. Her illness is no longer treatable. As she tells us in her remarkable book, *Dying: A Memoir*, she now weighs less than her neighbour's retriever.

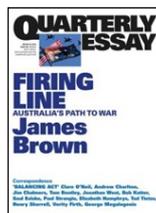


A precise and moving memoir about the randomness of family, and an admirable intellectual response to the randomness of life and death. We should all hope for as vivid a looking-back, and as cogent a looking-forward, when we reach the end ourselves.

### FIRING LINE Australia's path to war

#### QUARTERLY ESSAY by James Brown

James Brown has excellent credentials for producing this essay on a critical topic, since he served as an Australian Army officer in Iraq and Afghanistan and is an associate professor in the US Studies Centre, University of Sydney. Subjects include the effects of

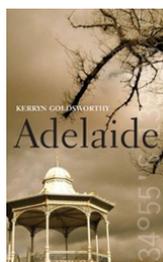


the Iraq War on Australian policy, relationships with the US military, the powers of our Prime Ministers and the need for Australia to systematically study how best to react to possible situations and keep the public informed: e.g. "What is it that we are willing to fight for?" A bonus with this Quarterly Essay volume is a number of informed commentaries on a previous essay, a political discussion, "Balancing Act", by George Megalogenis.

Reviewed by Bryan Forbes

### ADELAIDE by Kerryn Goldsworthy

This book combines social history from colonial days up to the present, with some personal reminiscences and new slants on some very South Australian quirks.



Kerryn Goldsworthy was born here; went away, and then returned to see Adelaide in a clearer, and perhaps more affectionate and appreciative light, to produce this buoyant and erudite volume.

Written with perceptive knowledge in an entertaining fashion, this is a delightful easy read. It's the kind of book that can be either browsed through for some tantalizing tit-bits of information or enjoyed at length, but whatever fashion of reading is employed it will not be wasted study.

It's a wonderful tome to keep on the bookshelf for personal reference, but would make a great buy for a visitor. And I'm sure Adelaideans living elsewhere would love to find it among their Christmas gifts.

Reviewed by Jan Thornton

### WONDER by R J Palacio



Just occasionally a book comes along to squeeze your heart, exposing you to every emotion imaginable from anguish to elation. R J Palacio has produced such a book, telling the tale of a boy enduring facial deformity, with all its additional problems, but at the same time managing to show that we all have problems, though often the vulnerability is not visible. I'm not sure what age group the author intended this for but I loved it and intend to buy it for my eleven year old granddaughter who will, I hope, find within its pages some lessons on how to deal with others and life in general.

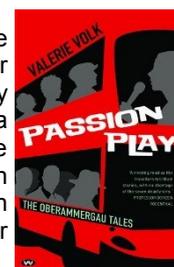
A perceptive teacher within this story gave his class a different precept to consider each month and came up with some nuggets of wisdom, among them, "What is beautiful is good, and who is good will soon be beautiful." And my personal favourite being, "When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind."

A great teacher, and what a great little book this is. I couldn't praise it more.

Reviewed by Jan Thornton

### PASSION PLAY: THE OBERAMMERGAU TALES by Valerie Volk

This tells in readable verse form the inner thoughts of a motley group of travellers on a bus tour to the Oberammergau passion play which has been staged every tenth year since 1634.



The format is made to resemble that of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales". There are twenty tales with Chaucerian titles such as 'The Knight's Tale' – about a certain Douglas, worried about his illicit relationship with a married woman, 'The Prioress's Tale' – about Elinor, a school principal meditating on her career and marriage, and 'the Parson's Tale' about Adam, a parish priest bewailing his supposed failings. A narrator, Caroline, with newspaper experience, provides a helpful connection between the very varied tales and incidentally useful tourist guidance between Sydney, Munich, and Oberammergau.

Reviewed by Bryan Forbes

## New DVDs in the library

**The Theory of Everything** – The extraordinary story of Jane and Stephen Hawking.

**The Lord of the Rings – The Two Towers**

**The Lord of the Rings – The Return of the King**

**Wonders of the Universe and Wonders of Life** – Presented by Professor Brian Cox

**LangLang live in Versailles** playing Chopin and Tchaikovsky

**The Secret Life of Elephants** – A compelling series featuring the emotional, dramatic and heart-warming personal stories of wild elephants in Northern Kenya.

**The Doris Day Classic Collection**

**WHEN THE REAL WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS**

*Howard Thurman (1899 – 1981)*

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the shepherds  
have found their way home,  
The work of Christmas is begun!*

To find the lost and lonely one,  
To heal that broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children  
with warmth and good food,  
To feel the earth below the sky above!

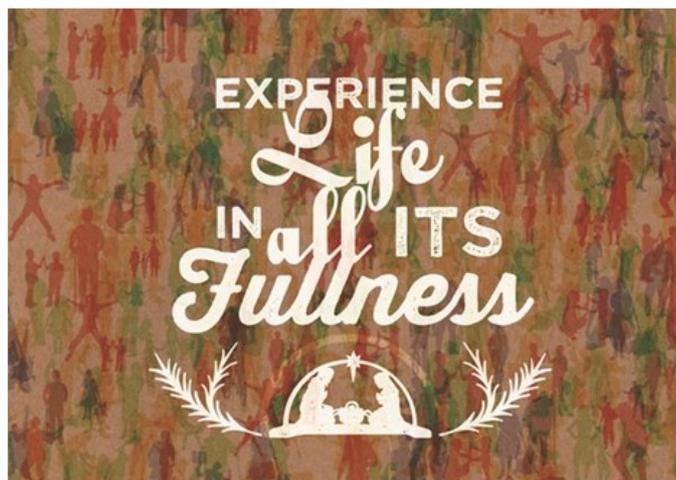
To free the prisoner from his chains,  
To make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations  
with strength and goodwill,  
To call a man your brother everywhere.

To bring hope to every task you do,  
To dance at a baby's new birth,  
To make music in an old man's heart,  
And sing to the colours of the earth!

*I am the Light of the World  
You people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love,  
you'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.*

**Diary Dates**

Saturday 24 December 7.30pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship
Sunday 25 December 9.30am	Christmas Day Worship
Wednesday 25 January between 9am and noon	Annual Kitchen Cleanup
Monday 30 January	School restarts
Wednesday 1 February 12noon	Lunch on Chapel restarts



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**Living Streams ~ Giving Life**



**Deadline  
for the next Edition  
1 February 2017**

To discuss ideas for Vision articles contact the editor, Colin Cargill