



The **Prescription** *of St Luke*



SO HOW ARE THINGS GOING AT ST LUKE'S IN THESE UNUSUAL TIMES?

Applying Government Health Orders

We have registered as a CovidSafe “business” as required. This requires us to have a CovidSafe Plan in which we undertake to arrange for:

- # physical distancing [1.5m],
- # attendance records,
- # hand sanitiser,
- # cleaning of pews and high touch surfaces before and after each meeting,
- # “the 4 square metre rule”,
- and now
- # the wearing of masks is recommended.



Two bank robbers (Mary and David) counting the collection

Church services have adapted

No congregational singing is allowed but we can have a lead singer at 3 metres. Paul Wormell & Margaret Lawther have been our Sunday song leaders.



We have developed an individual way of enjoying Holy Communion by using individual cups and wafers served on 'crystal' dishes.

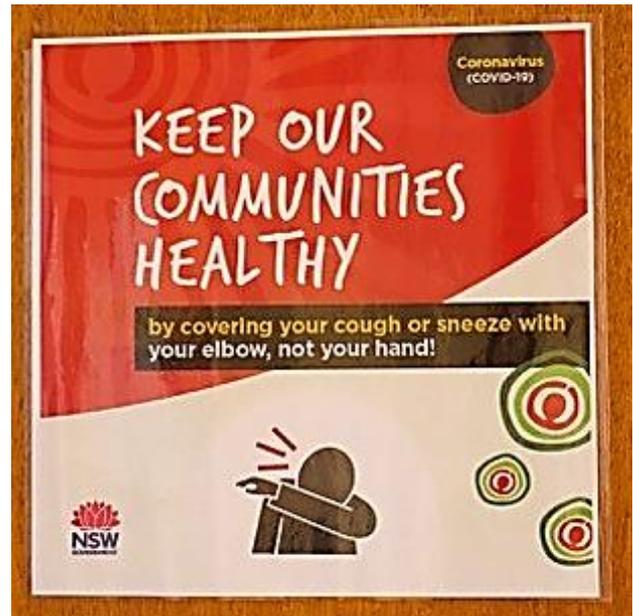
Sunday morning tea in the hall requires gloved servers, individually wrapped biscuits and social distancing. Wednesday morning tea is no longer served in the hall, but some go to the cafe after.



Sharing communion — at a distance

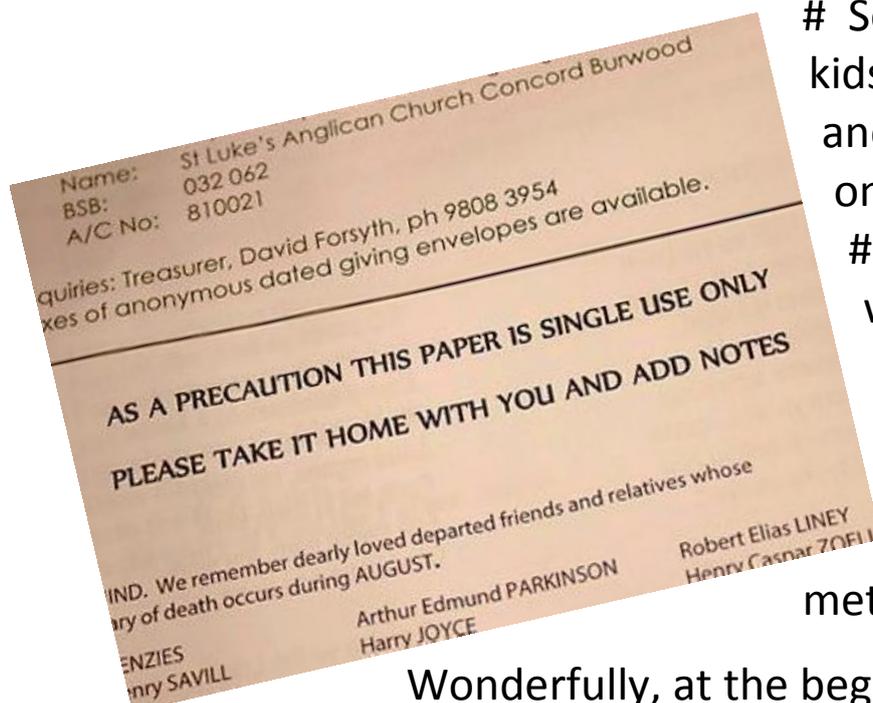
THE COVID JOURNEY

Sunday 15th March was a great morning. Bishop Michael Stead was our guest speaker and his wife was our guest as well. It was the occasion of the Confirmation of Sajeevan Thevaseyan and there was a sense of celebration. But that was to be our last church service, physically gathered for 10 weeks!



No longer able to gather, we needed to go online. Sharon in the Office worked out how to get our own Youtube Channel and we resurrected our Facebook page. A Who's Who was produced so everyone knew how to phone or email others at St Luke's so that contact could be maintained. Our lay reader Paul Wormell continued to read Evening Prayer each day.

And so began 10 remarkable weeks in "lockdown":



Sermons, services and kids talks were recorded and made available online.

Hard copy mail-outs were sent each week for many who were not electronically connected.

Parish Council met on Zoom!

Wonderfully, at the beginning of June, we had opportunity to meet physically once again. On Sunday June 7 we

cautiously held our first service, Morning Prayer, the health protocols of Communion had yet to be considered. It was marvellous to be back.

We have now met for 3 months on both Sundays and Wednesdays. We consider ourselves very privileged to be a small congregation in a good sized building: we can meet the health distancing requirements. Many churches are still not able to meet as we do.

At all times we have made health and safety the priority. Our Archbishop Glenn and Bishop Michael have provided ongoing and invaluable guidelines from the Public Health Officer. Sharon has been tireless in monitoring our practice and informing us regarding Covidsafe requirements.

We thank our God that both our Sundays and Wednesdays are well-attended once again and are proving to be a great encouragement for each one of us in these uncertain times.

K.F.



RUNNING AWAY TO HOSPITAL - TO AVOID "THE VIRUS"

One of the disadvantages of being "old" and "living alone" is that other people think you can't *look after yourself*. Of course that time may come, but my experience is that a bit of planning is the thing. Back in March when I slipped on a very familiar step, I was glad I had signed up for Vital Call. I found I couldn't get up, so I pressed my pendant button and "Lo and behold"



along came the cavalry as promised. On my feet, I seemed fine, but not surprisingly, the 2 to 1 consensus was that Concord Hospital should "check me out." There to my surprise I found I had broken three small bones in my right foot.

I would have to stay in hospital for at least six weeks !!! What about "Hamish McRae" my beautiful golden tabby cat?? Don't be silly Elaine; you know you can book a lovely Vet Nurse who will come every day, if you ask. You also know you are blessed with nieces and a nephew who will come to the rescue.

However I found that Concord Hospital, having diagnosed me and put my right leg into a amazing BOOT, wanted me out of their care and into a rehabilitation situation. So it was off to Sydney Private Hospital in Ashfield, where, for a while, our Fay Thompson, who lives next door in the Cardinal Freeman Village, was able to visit me until the rules changed. Thank you so much, Fay.

By week two, I was only allowed one visitor, who had to sign in and be medically checked. My dear youngest niece, brought me clean underwear and books. Ah those books! I had a big basket of them and my niece replenished the supply regularly. They caused considerable comment from staff and they filled the time magnificently.

Rehabilitation exercises began immediately – at first a staff member came down to my room twice a day and later I walked down the hall

to the gym- first with a walking frame and later with just a stick. The six weeks turned into three months. I had several sets of X-rays that finally showed I could take *THE BOOT* off. For about an hour, my right ankle said “*you are joking mate!* and then agreed, “Well OK.” So I came home! And some Sundays I’m fit to get back for 9.00am service. The first day was magnificent! I knew I couldn’t hug any one and I didn’t expect Communion. SO: There were the lovely familiar faces, plus hand sanitisers and marked places to sit. Paul asked me to *Read* and I was delighted, but very shaky, somewhat to my surprise. I found the limitations on singing quite odd, but at least we did have Andrew and the organ and Paul’s fine voice.

And then we had Communion! I was gobsmacked. The last thing I expected! Is any other parish doing anything so creatively appropriate? I felt so grateful to Ken and our team.

As life outside the home seems oddly limited we have managed to keep a lot of the dear familiarity. The waving and grins at the *Peace* are not as good as handshakes or hugs and kisses, but St Luke’s family is definitely together. Even morning tea! And I hear the Wednesday Group is thriving as usual.

As we struggle with new and unfamiliar challenges, I give thanks that my dear parish church was there to welcome me home. E.P.



Sir Marcus Loane, Archbishop of Sydney lays the foundation stone of the new Parish Hall.

**Celebrate
50 years since the
Hall Foundation Stone
was laid.**

**St Luke’s Day
Sunday 18th October
2020**

**Bring your mask,
Keep your distance.**



The Parish Pump

notes and news from far and near

- Birthday Congratulations to our amazing duo Betty Robertson & Carmen Manston, both have celebrated their 94th birthday this year. Betty on the 5th June and Carmen on the 31st August.
- There was much joy when Juliana Neves was born late last year. Plans were made for her baptism on Easter Sunday and then, as we know, the world changed. So we still look forward to Juliana's baptism and the celebration of the gift of this little girl to Pamela, Marcelo, Miguel and Ricardo.



Can you see
3 "people"
in this
photo?



They are Leonie, our de-fib trainer and her dummy!
After Wednesday Church on 29th July, we learnt how to use St Luke's new defibrillator [kindly donated]. It seems that St Luke's is a great church for all of us who have a heart! The defibrillator is mounted, ready for use, in the hall foyer.

REPORT FROM THE WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP SERVICE

During the weeks of lockdown due to Covid-19, while services were not possible, the loving and caring for one another continued with phone calls, cards and prayers.

Services have resumed, with hand sanitisers, masks and distancing. No singing is allowed so we enjoy listening to Brian Higginson's selection of favourite hymns.

A chat and news catch-up takes place while still seated in the church as morning teas have been put on hold. Contact has been kept with a number of people who have been unwell and even hospitalised.

Rejoicing continues for good news. Recently there was celebration when Fay Thompson, at age 85, passed her driving test, which is mandatory at that age. Well done Fay!

Birthdays are still observed and a cake is received, although *saying* the words of "Happy Birthday to you" is not quite the same as *singing* them!

Alice Thomas

FROM THE REGISTERS



WEDDINGS

Nigel Coutts
&
Stellina Sim

3 July 2020

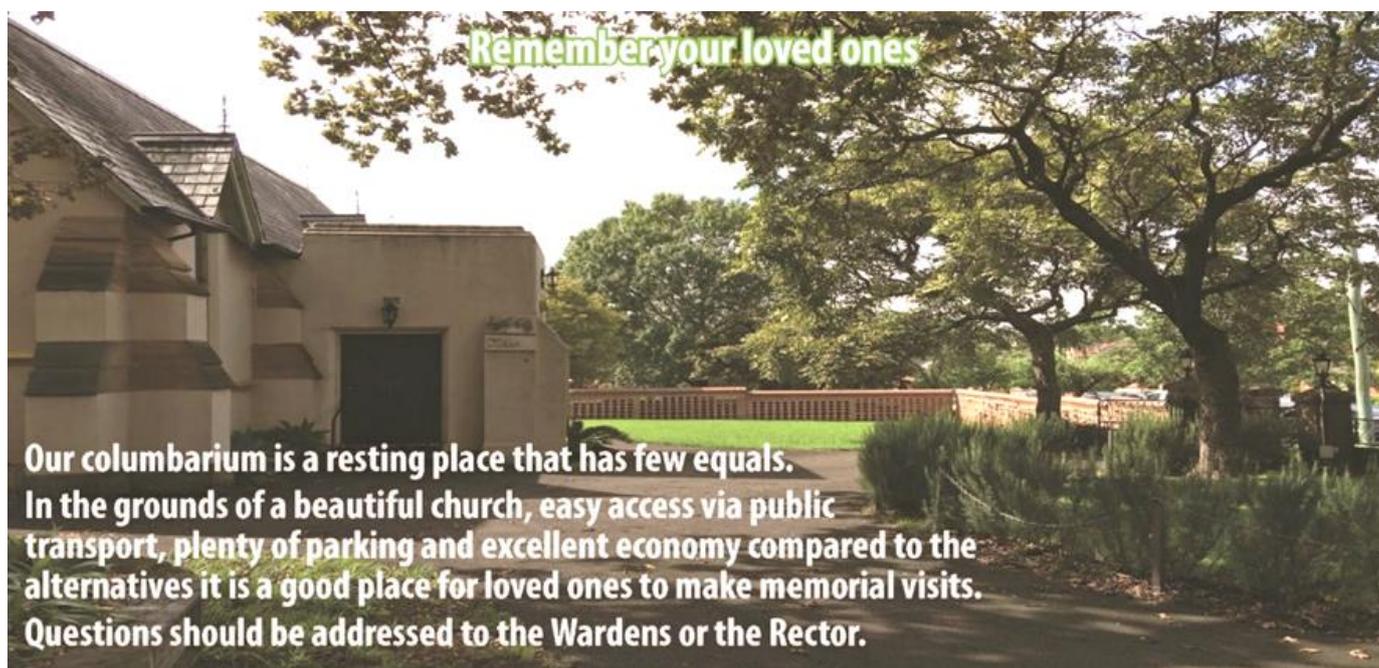
FUNERALS

Stephen John Eslake

24 July 2020

Margaret Dinah
Woolsey

31 August 2020



Our columbarium is a resting place that has few equals. In the grounds of a beautiful church, easy access via public transport, plenty of parking and excellent economy compared to the alternatives it is a good place for loved ones to make memorial visits. Questions should be addressed to the Wardens or the Rector.

THE RECTOR WRITES

I'm not sure how you would describe our present times, but "bewildering" might come close.

So much has changed so quickly. It is bewildering. Where is God in all this?

Long ago there was bewilderment when Nebuchadnezzar deported many of the people of Judah to Babylon.

Genuine prophets like Jeremiah were given God's insight into their circumstances. He writes to them saying: *"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"*.

Jeremiah 29:11

This was fulfilled after 70 years when they returned under Cyrus.

But there was a greater fulfilment that awaited with the coming of Jesus. Jesus is the one who truly gives us a hope and a future.

The last two Sundays at St Luke's we have been reminded from Jesus feeding 5000 people, and Jesus walking on water, that Jesus is both strong and kind. Jesus can be relied on to fulfil the words *"I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"*.

Our world today is uncertain, as it was in the days of Jeremiah. God remains the same: his plans will prevail for all who trust in his messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

My prayer is that in these somewhat bewildering times, you will remain close to the Lord Jesus, and that the Lord's plans for you will displace bewilderment and replace it with encouragement.

Prayerful best wishes,



Ken Fenton
Rector



It's been a long winter but God's spring is coming.

LIFE GOES ON... JUST DOWN THE ROAD

Things are changing down the end of Burton Street.



Just 200 metres from the church Concord Oval is being redeveloped.

The Virus may have changed a lot of things but it hasn't stopped "progress". For months, heavy equipment of all sorts has been grinding and banging and rumbling and hammering.

The stadiums are gone.

All that is left are piles of rubble, and in the midst, remarkably untouched, is the playing field. Surrounding the playing field will be a new fitness complex with shops and gyms and plaza.

Just as the virus has prompted St Luke's to adapt, so our developing suburb will also prompt us to continue our prayerful planning for the future.



Dangerous daffodils??

K.F.

WHO'S WHO AT ST LUKE'S

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Andrew Lane, M.A., B.Ed., M.Div.

Mr Andrew Lane

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WARDENS:

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Ms Mary Myerscough

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0412 383 935

PARISH COUNCIL: The Wardens and Lyndel Dunn, Stephanie Forsyth, Margaret Lawther, Leonie Murray, and Desalee Sheridan.

SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES: Gail Fenton, Margaret Lawther and the Rector

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Graham Parsons.

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