



Confirmation 2020

CONFIRMATION & BISHOPS VISIT

15th March was a special Sunday. Yes, it was the last church service before services were suspended. But more significantly it was the occasion on which 14 year old Sajeevan Theveseyan confirmed his faith in the Lord Jesus. It was a great encouragement to the other members of St Luke's and Sajeevan's family and friends to see Sajeevan affirm his allegiance to Christ in his own words, and in response to the Bishop's enquiry. Sajeevan has the christian encouragement and example of his father Seyan and brother Stephen. We pray he will, in the words at his baptism long before, "continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant until his life's end".



As well as leading the Confirmation Service, on 15th March Bishop Michael Stead preached from John chapter 4 regarding "The woman at the well". He reminded us of the water Jesus gives that wells up to eternal life. Bishop Michael and his wife Felicity joined with us at morning tea and for a discussion after. Good insights were shared regarding the opportunities and challenges of churches like St Luke's in the Inner West.

Sadly, in light of the pandemic, our next episcopal communication was from the Archbishop suspending services.





FROM THE REGISTERS



WEDDINGS

Michael Stafurik
&

Janet Medina

14th March 2020

RECTOR WRITES...

Greetings friends,

How are you going?

We are living through a period of upheaval that has come 'out of the blue'. After decades of relative plenty and security, we find ourselves at the mercy of a virus. Some now follow the daily progress of "the curve": Is it flattening? It still feels to me like a bad dream.

St Luke's and other churches have an important role to play. St Luke's is a network of friends who have the Lord Jesus in common. Now that we no longer meet in the church building we are reminded of the great Bible truth that church is about people, together under God, wherever.

The fellowship we share is a wonderful asset in our present time. Church members continue to provide one another with mutual encouragement, on the phone or by email etc. Also, let us know if you need any help: phone the office on 9744 7360.

We specially remember on Friday week [Good Friday] that our Good Shepherd laid down his life for us sheep and he walks with us even "through the valley of the shadow of death", as King David put it in Psalm 23.

We also recall some home truths, namely that we are not in control, this world is fragile and cannot be relied on, and that we take heed to store up riches in heaven where there are no "moth" and "rust" and "thieves". We may even wish to repent of our proud independence and return humbly to our great God on whom we depend for "life and breath and everything."

And importantly we go to God in prayer: prayer for ourselves and loved ones, prayer for our leaders and policy makers, prayer for those who are sick or have lost loved ones, prayer for our health workers.

And indeed we pray for the people of our world, because God loves the world "so much that he gave his only Son". As Easter approaches, we remember the world, to whom God gave his Son, includes you and me! Thank God.

Gail joins me in sending prayerful best wishes,



Ken and his new friend Ralph are talking to kids and grown-ups in videos.

Ken Fenton
Rector

TALES FROM SOUTH AMERICA

In January after Sunday Service at morning tea, Lyndel Dunn entertained us with an account of her recent trip to South America. Lyndel is a keen Latin dancer so she, along with her brother, visited Buenos Aires, Havana, Santiago and New York and had a fabulous time. They joined locals in dance lessons and at social venues and danced Tango or Salsa every night.

A highlight of Lyndel's presentation was their visit to Cuba. We saw photos of the colourful local scenes with iconic buildings and cars in the streets. However, Lyndel also gave us a really interesting insight into the darker side of Cuba. For instance, they were constantly being monitored and followed, and a woman in the hotel room next to Lyndel might have been murdered!

People are living very difficult lives there with little opportunity to advance in their careers and businesses as everything is controlled by the Government.

Lyndel says, "The local people seem to uniformly describe their lack of personal freedom, personal property, freedom of speech and freedom of religious expression as simply a "complicated situation". Any criticism of the Government routinely results in an extended jail term."

She brought along some souvenirs showing the ingenuity of the Cubans in making goods to sell to tourists from the little materials they had. There were bracelets made from cutlery, a dress from bandages and artworks painted on the back of old LP records. It is true when they say, "necessity is the mother of invention"!

Thank you to Lyndel for sharing her experience. Listening to stories of people living in other countries not only brings us into their world, but also makes us grateful for how lucky we are to be living in Australia and reminds us that we can always help others in need.

V.L.





The Parish Pump

notes and news from far and near

- Our Carols Service seems a world away. The bushfires (remember the bushfires) had turned the air toxic and the sun was a dark orange. Also, Andrew, our organist, had injured himself and was unable to play!

However, Paul Wormell showed remarkable prowess on the organ, and Ken broke out his guitar. People gathered in good spirits and we all sang and read and prayed about the living God who drew near to us at Bethlehem.

What will our Carols be like next time?!

- Richard Thomas is now seeing everything in a new light since undergoing successful cataract surgery, one in February and the other in March.

- "I've been hit by a car. I'm ok but I have injured my arm". It was words to this effect that initiated the remarkable 3-limbed organist of St Luke's! Poor Andrew Lane, our excellent organist, who always picks good music with biblical words in great hymns, was down to playing one-handed ... and two-footed! Also, a major service on the organ is being done [by John Parker].



Nevertheless with pipes missing, and an arm "missing", the music still sounds as great as always. We thank the Lord, Andrew, for your remarkable gift.

- Elaine Peterson sends her greetings from Sydney Private Hospital, where she is recovering from a fall in which she broke three bones in her right foot. They are healing nicely but slowly. Elaine may not be

back with us until after Easter. Her thanks to Ken for his visits and for bringing her Holy communion, and to Fay who came to see her from her home at Cardinal Freeman Village, next door to the hospital.

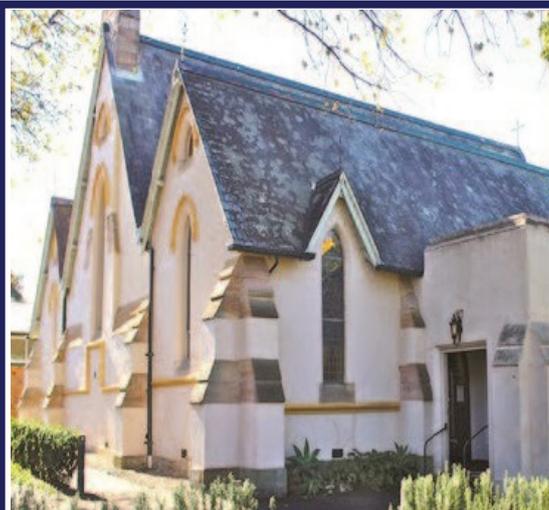
- After 11 years Vivienne Lee has retired as Communications Coordinator with the Anglican Board of Mission. Viv has had a remarkable experience engaging with all sorts of churches across various cultures, both in Australia and in other countries. (A future Prescription may speak more about this). Viv is a valued member of St Luke's, often called on to assist in the parish with photography and online communications. Thank you Viv for your service at St Luke's and we celebrate with you the years of serving the gospel through the ministries of ABM. Prayerful best wishes in this time of change.



Vivienne and Yuki.



ABM Staff wearing black for Thursday in Black for rape and violence against women.



As you can imagine, our finances will be greatly challenged in coming weeks. Please continue your generous and intentional giving. If you don't already do so, please consider giving electronically.

Name: St Luke's Anglican Church Concord-Burwood
 BSB: 032 062
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 Info: Treasurer David Forsyth ph. 9808 3954

ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT

The meeting opened with prayer. Mary Myerscough was appointed to take the minutes.

The Rector, Rev Ken Fenton outlined his report.

Appreciation: He thanked many people for their service in the life of the parish.

Nursing Home ministry is run by a great team [Glenda, Larry, Brian, Graham, Barbara & Ken] monthly at St Mary's and Redleaf Manor, with occasional services at Rhodes.

St Luke's Playgroup, 10am Tuesdays, has completed its first calendar year of ministry. Playgroup provides support for young families and provides simple news of Jesus for children and adults. Gail and I run Playgroup with the assistance of Anglicare volunteer, Anita, who travels from Crows Nest to assist. A young ministry family is needed to energise this, and potential ministries, in the future.

Other significant events included: Alpha classes ahead of our 160th celebrations: "The Life of Christ" videos, Hymn Singing afternoons led by Andrew each quarter, Mosaic Group run by Margaret, English as a Second Language run by Gail.

The church floor tiling was completed [March], we farewelled longstanding member, Irene Davidson [March], Easter for kids [April], dedication of Playspace, kitchenette and multi-purpose Memorial area [May], banners erected in hall [May], pre-polling site [May], Back to St Luke's Day [May], Mission Month supported ABM projects [June], special meeting of parish council re site development [August], 160th Celebrations [October] with Bishop, local politicians and past members, Remembrance Day [November], Carols [December], OneWorld Fair [December] and Christmas Services, including 5pm Christmas Eve for Children [December].

Thanks: The rector thanked the Parish Council & Wardens, and Sharon in the parish office.

Looking ahead, the Rector outlined the need for an outreach worker to assist us among our growing community. Our Tuesday Playgroup continues to connect with a wonderful range of people who know little about Jesus. We tell and model the love of Christ. A generous donation was received that can pay a part-time outreach worker for the Playgroup families, and someone is being sought.

Development: In November 2017 Augusta Advisors were commissioned to report on the “highest and best use” of our land. We received their report in May 2018. There was much discussion in Parish Council. Misgivings about the development prevailed and it was determined that we do not proceed with the recommendations of the Augusta Report at this stage.

Church restoration: We are blessed to have our Church Restoration Fund. This bequest is solely for the restoration of the church [the Hillis bequest] and stands at a little over \$500,000. Further bequests and donations to this fund are invited to bolster this important resource.

Giving: We are also blessed to have intentional weekly givers. The wonderful financial response before Christmas to our call to maintain our status as a full parish was most encouraging.

However our General account continues in deficit each year. At the end of 2017 our general reserves stood at over \$160,000. But by the end of 2019 they were less than \$120,000.

Thank you: In his final remarks, Ken acknowledged Gail, always the source of perceptive advice, and ever ready to engage people in the life of the congregation.

The wardens’ report for 2019 was delivered by Brian Higginson.

Rev. Ken Fenton completed his third year as Rector. He and Gail make a great team.

We thank Rev David Warner as Honorary Minister, Lay Readers, Paul Wormell & Andrew Lane [organist], and servers Brian Higginson & Graham Parsons.

Finance: The Hillis Memorial Fund is for restoration of the church: the total in all Hillis accounts at 31st Dec, 2019 was \$508,380.23.

Offertories are used to pay the Rector’s stipend and the Diocesan Parish Cost Recoveries.

At 31st December 2019, we had one term deposit of \$125,000.00.

Office Staff: Sharon Bogg continued as Parish Secretary with extended hours. David Forsyth continued as Financial Controller/Treasurer. Both are efficient and a pleasure.

Hospitality: Thanks go to all who provide morning teas on Sundays.

Parish Paper: We had four issues of “Prescription”. The 150th issue was updated for a 160th edition, which was a highlight: thanks go to those who made it possible.

Wednesday Friendship Group is led by Glenda Bolitho, and all assist with the service and morning tea. There is recorded music, monthly Communion, about 18 attend.

Hall hire: The hall was leased to: Yaralla RSL Day Group, Seek Dogs Australia, K9 Fun, Kumon tutoring, Indoor Archery, Strictly Linedance, Methodist Church of Tonga, Double Dragon Academy, New Life in Christ Fellowship (Tonga), Sydney Glory Church (Korean), Bread of Life Church, (Chinese).

Maintenance, etc: Sharon Bogg tends the gardens, oak tree pruned & fertilised. A new bar fridge was donated in the kitchenette. Two exterior doors in the church will be replaced, largely assisted by a govt grant. Tiling of the floors in the church was completed [1/3 from govt grant]. Restoring the organ will continue into 2020, covered by Hills account. The western timber fence was replaced (cost shared). Repairs included the hall amplifier, a church speaker, the church bell, the replacement of the carpark edging.

Metro: The parish will have to address in the future the underground metro station planned under Parramatta Road on the corner of Burwood Road.

160th celebration: The Parish celebrated its 160th anniversary in October. A thanksgiving service was held followed by a special morning tea in the hall. There was an archives display, a photo gallery of Rectors, and a slide show of past and present parishioners, soccer and cricket teams, CEBS members and improvements to the property over the past 10 years. Thanks to all who worked to make this event a success.

Finances long term: The finances have been held stable due to increase of the users of the property, however the parish is slowly eating away its money reserve.

Parish Council: The outgoing members of the Parish Council were thanked for their services with particular mention of Jan Edwards who is taking a break.

Office bearers: It was determined that the Parish Council should have up to six members.

The new Parish Council, elected unopposed, are:

WARDENS

Brian Higginson, Andrew Lane, Mary Myerscough.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Lyndel Dunn, Stephanie Forsyth, Margaret Lawther, Leonie Murray, Desalee Sheridan.

NOMINATORS

Stephanie Forsyth, Chris Kirkby, Andrew Lane, Margaret Lawther, Paul Wormell.

FINANCE

David Forsyth continues as Financial Controller/Treasurer and David Wheatley is to be invited to be the Honorary Auditor for 2019.

SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

Gail Fenton. Margaret Lawther and the Rector.

In general business, Rev David Warner suggested that we should make overtures to have the new metro station called St Luke's Station.

Alice Thomas.

CHRISTMAS EVE FOR KIDS

Of our three Christmas services it was the 5pm Christmas Eve service that was best attended. This is an experimental service, aimed at children and their families, and all. It is just a couple of years old. This year the service was held an hour earlier, at 5pm. The "Let's-join-in-nativity" approach was used: different congregation members came forward, children and adults, to read the Bible nativity passages. The attendance and level of participation was a real encouragement. It was a pleasure to then enjoy the 9pm and 9am Christmas Communions.

ONE WORLD FAIR

This year was our third occasion to embrace fair trade [fair pay for fair produce]. Ros Jamison was our facilitator again with a remarkable range of handiwork made in needy parts of the world. Also we enjoyed food from several nations and our Korean church friends joined with us. The amount of purchases from One World Fair totalled \$1,753. A wonderful result, that goes directly to those who crafted the many beautiful items. Proceeds from lunch went to TEAR. Thank you to those who helped on the day to make it all happen so well.

PS This year we are planning the Fair to coincide with the Carols ... God willing!

WHO'S WHO AT ST LUKE'S

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WARDENS: Mr Andrew Lane
Mr Brian Higginson
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PARISH COUNCIL:

The Wardens and Lyndel Dunn, Stephanie Forsyth, Leonie Kirkby, Margaret Lawther, and Desalee Sheridan.

ORGANIST: Andrew Lane

SERVERS: Brian Higginson (Senior Server),
Graham Parsons.

PARISH SECRETARY: Sharon Bogg
Office Hours: Mon 9-2pm, Wed & Thurs 9-1pm

FINANCE CONTROLLER: David Forsyth
email: finance@stlukesconcord.org.au

SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES;
Margaret Lawther, Gail Fenton and the Rector

EDITOR/ARCHIVIST:
Elaine Peterson



Remember your loved ones

**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.**