



Kairos



News in and around Camberwell Uniting Church

Volume 12 Number 2

Minister's Musings

Warmest greetings to all.

I promised to write about the way we care for each other in this congregation. Pastoral care is an important subject and one that's close to my heart. Jesus call for us to love one another, to be characterised as a community by the quality of our love for each other is basic to our understanding of church. But before I get to the subject as an internal one for Camberwell Uniting Church, I want to share some broader reflections on how we care for our neighbours more widely.

I've just returned from 6 days at a UCA Presidents conference in Fiji and the main subject was care for our neighbours and all creation, through the lenses of climate change and justice. So some of the 'big picture' first.

More than 60 of us from all over Australia gathered in Nadi. The location provided the opportunity to better understand the impacts of climate change, particularly in the Pacific region where communities are at the forefront of both the most devastating effects and the push for an urgent response.

Throughout the Conference, there was time spent in conversation and in worship with our brothers and sisters from the Methodist Church in Fiji. Head of the Fiji Council of Churches, Rev. Dr Tevita Bainivanua, encouraged us to consider all of God's creation as our neighbour and deserving of our love and care. He shared the challenge for Christians, in a world that values people by their material wealth and has a "more is better" philosophy, to confront greed and it's effects.

We heard about the close links between land and sea, to culture and identity in the Pacific. For all people to be regarded as part of God's family or clan, and deserving of love and justice, especially for the poor and marginalised.



We were challenged by the stance of Tuvalu's Prime Minister, who sees migration as the last resort, only when all other options have been exhausted.

Rev. James Bhagwan spoke about the need for an ecological conversion - to move away from a throw-away culture and to restore a right relationship with the ocean. Many are now speaking of the Pacific nations as a 'liquid continent', connected by currents and winds, rather than as separate small island nations.

He shared the example of how the Methodist Church in Fiji has sought to go back to old ways and wisdom, for a more sustainable way of living. We heard some insight into forced relocation for communities in the Pacific, due to climate change happening now. Then, what it means to offer radical hospitality to those who must leave behind the land and sea which is sacred to them and their identity.

We heard from the UN Human Rights Commission for the Pacific Dr Chitralekha Massey about her work. She emphasised the important partnership with Church Leaders in the protection and promotion of the rights of all.

In parting words, James blessed us, "We have honoured you and made you part of us, not just for Fiji but the Pacific. When you go, take your place on the mat with you and offer that mat for others to sit as well."

The question of 'what is our place in the community?' is a good one to reflect on. How we live, the global warming and other pollution we contribute to, does effect others. It may be that our pastoral responsibility is part of a much wider web of interconnection than we usually

consider. At the end of the conference we wrote a statement, it's a good place to start some further reflection about this wider picture. A link to the statement and more resources:

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/3043-statement-for-the-whole-creation>

And then, back home, in our church community, it is of course our responsibility together, as the whole people of God to love one another and care for each other. We have some structures and patterns to help us with this. There is a wonderful pastoral team, led by Fiona Ensor and each with a list of members to keep in touch with and care for. Some of these are elected Elders, some volunteers. As minister in placement, I have responsibility here too. Is any system perfect though? We do our best and that works best when we all take some responsibility to be the community of love and care that Jesus calls us to be. And we can only respond when we know about the need. The church where only the minister does pastoral care will be a fragmented and inadequate community. If only elders do this, the result is the same. It's true that we are all in this together, just as we are all citizens of the one planet and what one does effects us all. It's good to be reminded and encouraged, so some words of inspiration from the letter to the Colossian church to conclude:

“In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free (visitor, elder, minister); but Christ is all and in all! As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

God's grace and peace be with us all in this time and always!

Ian.

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BIG NEWS – OUR WEBSITE IS ACTIVE!

Go to:

www.ucacamberwell.net

Thanks Margery for all the hours of work you have given to the planning, preparation and launch of the new website.

From the editor

Hello, and welcome to the winter edition of Kairos for 2019.

I believe we have something of a top-drawer edition for your intended reading pleasure and reflection this time around, featuring several of our flock, each of whom, in their own unique way, have made a special contribution to our lives and world.

We celebrate firstly Elizabeth McKay, now known among family and friends as “Mrs. OAM”, for her well-deserved and universally applauded Queen's Birthday Honour in June this year. Well done Elizabeth.

Sadly, in May, we said ‘goodbye’ to a stalwart and equally much-loved member of our congregation, Bob Strickland, after a long and brave battle. Tributes for Bob all featured the words integrity, honesty, generous, giving and wonderful family man. He is much missed by all connected to Camberwell. For those who were unable to attend Bob's funeral, or merely wish to read again of Bob's life, June has kindly allowed us to reprint his eulogies.

Thirdly, just over 75 years after one of the most famous raids of World War 11, we celebrate the life of Dambuster Les Knight, born in Bowen Street, and long term member of the then Camberwell Methodist Church. Les gave his life not only for the cause of right and good, and not only after all other members of his aircraft crew had baled safely out of his stricken plane, but only after he had managed to divert his plane from crashing into an unsuspecting Dutch village below him. I hope you will be moved by reverence and respect paid to the 22 year old Australian hero by the small Dutch village of Den Ham late in 2018.

On a slightly different note, we also have some poetry in this edition. Poetry can sometimes be an acquired taste, however the words composed by one of the newer members of our congregation, Alleeta French, are real and raw and from the heart, and I am grateful to Eric McKay, who has been a support to her and encouraged Alleeta to share her feelings as well as her talents with us.

I would like to conclude with two quotes which I have come across in my recent readings. The first is a quote prefacing a book of historical fiction written by the late Philip Kerr:

“A nation without a religion – that is like a man without breath.”

I thought it could be a good quote for a group to “please discuss”. This quote turned out to be in a novel written in about 1924, when the author of

the novel (not Kerr) was studying for the priesthood. The novel is about a disillusioned male who strives to formulate a religio-political vision that could reinvigorate his country. The male writes a book, and at the end concludes that the quest for God ... is something the people need for their well-being, as it is essential for the life of the nation. Hence the quote above....

Not bad, that is until my research revealed the author of the novel, and the above quote, to be Joseph Goebbels. It is a pity he did not stick at his original career choice. And maybe it's a quote not worth discussing at all.

The other is allegedly from a tombstone in a cemetery in Thurmont, Maryland, which says:

Here lies an Atheist
All dressed up
And no place to go.

I like that – short and sweet (and true?). No clue as to the author.

As always, I would like to say a special 'thank you' all the contributors to this edition of Kairos. You have made this edition a joy to put together, and the quality of the articles I am hopeful will entertain and inform our readership. I am indebted to you all.

I trust you enjoy this edition.

Ed

Robert John (Bob) Strickland

15 September 1938 - 13 May 2019



After a long period of illness, our friend Bob Strickland died peacefully on Monday 13 May. A funeral service was subsequently held on Wednesday 22 May.

and the Camberwell Uniting Church was filled with a congregation estimated at over 160 family, friends, neighbours, former work colleagues, and fellow members of the Camberwell Church congregation.

The funeral service was compassionately led by the Reverend Ian Brown, who, in his Reflection, stated that, the words of Psalm 23...

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me, your rod and your staff - they comfort me."*

...as read by Bob's daughter Belinda, were "appropriate for a man of faith who lived out his

convictions, and who got on with the business of life with little fuss and much grace."

Rev Brown followed up with a brief summary of some key features of Bob's life. Bob was described as a man who "has been a loved and respected member of the church family at Camberwell Uniting – he served here as treasurer, a gracious and a faithful contributor, with his time and talents, a generous man with a firm faith.

He has given significant service to the community and been a trusted friend. His experience of life has not been all smooth sailing, there has been loss and sadness, stroke and rehab, more setbacks and some remarkable recovery - and years of brave managing at home and then in Tanderra. Bob bore these and continued on with a calm grace – more than most of us could manage.

The family described Bob in the newspaper notice of his passing as "*Kind and generous always. Remembered as a gentleman to all.*" These are sentiments that all at Camberwell Uniting would heartily agree upon.

There were two family members who reflected on aspects of Bob's life: his younger sister Kristin, and his oldest son, Michael.

Kristin spoke of Bob's early family life in New Zealand, up until he 'crossed the ditch' to Australia in pursuit of June.

In Kristin's words, "*when I think of Bob, I recall a really good-natured person – as a big brother to me he was only ever kind and obliging – even to the extent of letting (sister) Annesley, here today from Wellington – and me, tackle him at the same time. He would let us think we had him pinned down, then, with a deft twist we were flung off with a laugh and he had got away.*

For most of you, he would only be known as an adult, an urban chap who commuted to the city in a suit, but I always associate him with camping and tramping and the Great Outdoors. To me, he always seemed to have the smell of woodsmoke!

As a boy, Bob was a keen scout – which is why he developed that love of camping. In his teens, he joined the Tararua Tramping Club for more serious adventures - the Tararuas are just north of Wellington – they are a pretty high, wind-swept range where the unwary still collapse from exposure.

The Clubs built their own huts in the early days, lugging in all the timber (whereas now the Department of Conservation maintains them at taxpayers' expense). Bob and his mates had to carry everything with them in the way of

provisions, so getting containers that were light and waterproof was a challenge in the days before plastic. Luckily, a relative of our mother was a pharmacist so she provided aluminium containers which were ideal.

One of my jobs as a little sister was to pick all the stones out of the soles of Bob's tramping boots and to clean them with Dubbin. And some of you may recall the oilskin jackets and bulky sleeping-bags, not to mention the heavy canvas and leather packs of those days – it really was tough work compared to today's streamlined, lightweight gear with all its thermal properties.

The Tararua Tramping Club also had a hut on Mount Ruapehu, some 250 miles north of Wellington in the middle of our North Island. Keen members would clamber into a comfortless van, leave town on a Friday evening, then grind their way up the North Island to get them to the slopes by about midnight. This meant that they were able to ski all Saturday then half of Sunday before making the long return journey home to Wellington.

But Bob was not only a back-country lover. I remember our mother helping us to improve our ballroom dancing skills around the sitting room. Bob was a first-rate dancer – which was a great help when he went to the many local dances which were usually in church halls around the neighbouring suburbs.

I remember also that Bob had been the first of us Strickland children to travel – on his own – at the age of 12 – on the overnight train to Hamilton (some 400 miles north of Wellington) to stay with our cousins who lived there. One of those cousins, Glenn, has come from Tauranga with her son, Kelly, so as to be here today....

(it was a tradition in our two families to exchange visits when each child 'came of age' – Glenn, of course, came to us in her turn and has kept in touch with the Stricklands over the years – especially when her son, Nicholas and his wife, Katherine, were living here in Melbourne for a number of years with their daughter, Georgia).

Glenn remembers going to one of those local dances with Bob, dressed in a borrowed frock, and getting plenty of partners at the dance....

Bob's 21st birthday party was a social highlight where our basement was painted and titivated especially for the crowd. Bob and his mates also got together to play cards – mainly 500, but they thought they could play Bridge as well.

During summer holidays Bob would go off with friends to the 'hot spots' like the Mount (near where Glenn lives now), and it was on one of these trips where it turned out that the magic of

the Marlborough Sounds proved to be hottest spot of all – for it was there that he met June, who was travelling in New Zealand with friends from Melbourne.

As a result, along with Pharlap and the pavlova, dear brother Bob has been one of our prime exports.

Michael then picked up Bob's life history, and shared his memories of his father, on behalf of his mother June, brother Andrew and sister Belinda. Michael has also been kind enough to provide me with a copy of "some memories and stories about my dad (Bob), (to be shared) with you, then some reflections on the man that he was.

First up the story of how mum and dad met. In 1960, June was on a working holiday in New Zealand with a group of girlfriends. During the Easter break mum and dad met at St. Omer, a remote guesthouse in the Marlborough Sounds on the South Island.

Dad was with his mates and mum with her girlfriends. Not a lot happened at the time, however, the girls mentioned to the boys that they had bought an old Essex car and were trying to sell it, because it was useless. It turned out that the girls were living in the suburb next to the boys in Wellington, and when they returned, one of dad's friends saw the car. So the boys caught up with the girls, and instead of buying the car offered to take the girls to the movies. Bob had to drive the Essex, and had great trouble trying to get out of first gear. That was the night their romance began.

Dad followed mum back to Australia in 1961 and they were married in 1962.

Dad initially worked for an insurance company and studied Accountancy at night school. After he received his qualification he worked at Imperial Metal Industry (IMI), Grace Brothers (a large American company), and his last permanent job was at The Age, after which he did contract work for a few years. After he retired, he was right into the stock market, and I'm pretty sure for a while he made more money with shares than he did when he was working.

Dad was very community-minded, and was involved with a number of voluntary organisations. He was a member of the Apex Club. Later, as an accountant, he ended up as honorary treasurer for a wide range of organisations including the Camberwell Uniting Church, Camcare, Probus, the Bowls Club, Heartbeat Epworth, Friends of Back Creek and the Australian Shareholders Association.

Dad enjoyed sailing, lawn bowls, playing bridge, and bush walks with the Walking Club.

Andrew and I were particularly grateful one day when the family was visiting Tidbinbilla near Canberra. We were 8 and 10 years old. Andrew and I had wandered away from the others when we were suddenly set upon by this enormous emu. We were pretty terrified and ran for our lives with this emu running after us trying to peck us. We managed to run back to dad who shaped up to this emu, which reared up to be taller than Dad. He punched it in the guts and the emu took off. Dad was definitely our hero that day.

The family had summer holidays at Safety beach, where we had an on-site caravan. I remember spending many hours with dad in our little Mirror dinghy, and also fishing out in the bay in our tinnie catching flathead.

Dad loved being a grandfather to Adam, Nicki and Belén. A story I enjoy is when Adam was about 3 or 4 years old and was in the car with mum and dad on Riversdale Road, and he asked dad if they were on the freeway. Dad said 'no', then Adam asked why he was driving so fast...

Dad was quite sick for the last eight and half years of his life. During this time mum was an inspiration, giving him fantastic care and support.

Dad and mum have instilled in me the values which I have tried to live my life by. These include honesty, trust, compassion, giving to others, strong work ethic, community mindedness, and devotion to family.

He always loved and was devoted to mum. I think it is the one thing that kept him going all this time. I want to acknowledge and thank my mother for all her love and care for dad.

Goodbye dad, rest in peace."

At the conclusion of his Reflection on Bob's life, Rev Brown stated that "We need to be reminded of faith. And today, as we give thanks to God for Bob's life we remember he had this determination, an echo of these words, lived in his life;

"He leads me to green pastures, besides still waters, he restores my soul, I shall dwell in the house of the lord forever."



This is the faith into which we are baptized, the faith in which finally we find our rest.

Today, I believe, we celebrate a generous, gracious and giving life and we claim Bob in

our hearts as a fine new member of the communion of saints. Amen."

We continue to offer prayerful support to Bob's wife June, his children Michael, Andrew and Belinda, their partners Sandy, Mei Ling and Derrick, and grandchildren Adam, Nicki and Belén.

For diaries!



Elizabeth McKay, OAM

Nearly a thousand Australians were honoured in The Queen's Birthday announcements around the country in June this year.

For the statistically minded, women were awarded 393 of the 933 honours, a record high of 40%. The oldest recipient this year is 99 years old, while the youngest is 18.

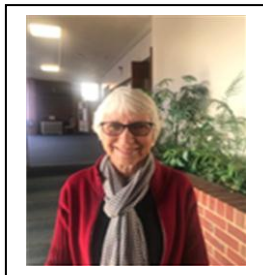
The Governor-General said that "some names on today's list are well known. Many more are known only to those they serve and help day in, day out. They are all wonderful people and are all worthy of recognition and celebration."

In an article a couple of days later in the Herald Sun newspaper, former Premier Jeff Kennett said that he was often asked to give his opinion on some of those under consideration, and he said that he did not think it was appropriate that a person should be recognised for just doing their job. He saluted those who gave back to the community voluntarily.

He went on to say that "there are innumerable Australians who generously and voluntarily give their time to various aspects of life and they are the people who should be recognised at the highest level.....The impact of their work on their communities is often more profound, and lasts

much longer, than the contribution of, say, a well-known politician or athlete.”

And how true that statement is, for if you had the persistence to move carefully through the list of recipients, you will be rewarded with seeing a name that exactly fits Mr. Kennett's criteria above – “Mrs. Elizabeth Jean McKay, Camberwell, Vic. For service to the community of Camberwell”.



As readers would no doubt appreciate, these Awards are not given out lightly. A huge amount of time and effort goes into preparation of a submission to the Secretariat for consideration, let alone the

deliberations of that body to reach their final decisions.

However, with Elizabeth's permission, we have the pleasure of being able to reproduce an excerpt from the submission made to the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat which formed the basis of her Award “for service to the community of Camberwell”.

Congratulations Elizabeth!!

“Elizabeth Jean McKay (nee Dunn) was born in Toowoomba, Queensland. She is an outstanding example of a person who has enriched the lives of those around her. She has carried out, and continues to carry out the roles of daughter, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother in her immediate family. A wide circle of people has benefitted from Elizabeth's skills as teacher, museum guide, musician and friend.

Elizabeth as an educator

Elizabeth qualified as a teacher at Queensland University and then undertook a range of teaching appointments during her many years of professional activity. These appointments began at Sarina High School teaching English, History and Geography, followed by a period at North Mackay High School, both in Queensland. In 1984, now living in Victoria, Elizabeth was appointed to Holmesglen TAFE to teach Communications and English to vocational students.

In 1988 she took up an appointment at Strathcona to teach English and History. She was valued very highly as a teacher. At her farewell, the Principal, Ruth E. Bunyan said “for thirteen years Elizabeth McKay has given wise and gentle counsel, most recently as Head of History. Her Community Aid involvement and

commitment to social justice have influenced many students.”

Elizabeth was creative in her presentation of material, employing a range of teaching methods which included dramatised performances of historical events which were showcased in school assemblies and on large public occasions such as School Presentation Nights in Hamer Hall, Melbourne.

After retirement from school teaching in 2001, Elizabeth volunteered to be a tutor with the Australian Migrant Education Service. Her contribution was valued highly because of her warm and caring concern for the students with whom she interacted, and because of her availability for continuing advice and practical help.

Another voluntary role in her retirement has been as a Melbourne Museum guide. In that capacity, begun in 2001, Elizabeth has impressed as an engaging and informative guide to local, interstate and international visitors. David Paddock, Volunteer Program Officer at the Melbourne Museum, pays tribute to her reliability, competence and enthusiasm, and to her involvement in the various training and event opportunities the Museum offers to its volunteers.

Elizabeth as a community worker

In the early seventies, as a mother at home with young children herself, Elizabeth became aware of the isolation experienced by many mothers at home caring for small children. She participated in the formation of the second playgroup in Sydney, as well as several others in the Sutherland Shire, as part of the quickly evolving Playgroup Movement.

As her children grew up, Elizabeth shifted her efforts to working as a classroom helper and member of Mothers' Clubs (she was President of the Camberwell Primary School Mothers' Club for two years), besides leading a Camberwell Brownie Group.

In 2001, Elizabeth became involved in the Camberwell Music Society, serving first of all on the committee and then becoming Secretary in 2005. In that role she and her husband Eric, the Society's Treasurer, have handled subscriptions, sponsorships, the smooth staging of concerts, and the catering. An additional contribution has been the hosting of monthly musical morning teas at the Camberwell Uniting Church as part of the Society's community focus.

While living in Sydney, Elizabeth became involved in the local Community Aid Abroad (now OXFAM) Group. In 1976, now living in

Melbourne, she joined the Canterbury Group of Community Aid Abroad. She participated in the annual book fairs which raised thousands of dollars. She also did voluntary administration at the Victorian Office. While at Strathcona she formed a student group of Community Aid Abroad. It was a lively committed group engaged in discussion and in a range of activities including publicising of, and participation in, the fundraising “Walk Against Want.”

Elizabeth’s current position is President of OXFAM Australia, Canterbury Group. As President, she motivates and encourages others, is friendly and welcoming, especially to new members, encouraging their input to the organisation. A special contribution to that group has been the presentation by Elizabeth and Eric of illustrated travelogues of their several overseas trips. These have been very effective fundraisers for the Canterbury OXFAM.

Elizabeth’s early education included a large component of music. She completed her A.Mus.A. at the Queensland Conservatorium and studied pipe organ at the Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane. She has shared her musical gifts by playing monthly for residents at two nursing homes. She is a member of the Box Hill Chorale.

Elizabeth as a parishioner

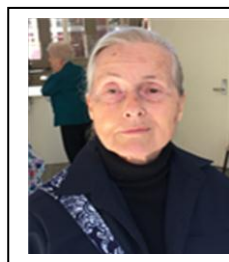
At the Camberwell Uniting Church, Elizabeth is a key member. She participates in leading worship through membership of the choir, and contributing to other aspects of the service such as prayers and readings. She plays a pastoral role in caring for those in need. An outstanding extension of her pastoral role is her support of the Camberwell Refugee Support Group; she and her husband Eric gave full-time hospitality for several months to a young asylum seeker.

Elizabeth’s personal qualities are outstanding. She is sensitive, compassionate, creative and unassuming. Everything she undertakes is done with all her might and she follows every project through to its conclusion. In addition, the McKay’s hospitality is well known. They host meetings of various church groups and the Music Society Committee.

Elizabeth is a very worthy recipient of an Order of Australia honour.

Ed

After One Year



Alleeta French moved into Regis Shenley Manor Aged Care, Camberwell Road, Camberwell in about March 2018.

She relocated to Melbourne from Canberra at the

insistence of her son who lives in Melbourne, out of his concern for her after a health scare left her somewhat vulnerable living on her own, a long way from immediate family and support.

Like most people in similar situations, it has not been an easy transition for her to make, as you will see below.

But Alleeta is made of strong stuff, and despite some feelings of displacement and loss of independence, she has started to re-build her life in a new State. Part of that process has involved her seeking out and finding comfort and support as part of our church community, and you will see her at most Sunday services basking in the reflected light from our fine stained glass memorial windows.

She was also kind enough to allow me to share some of her life journey with you.

Alleeta grew up in a small town on the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia. There was no fresh water supply, therefore no gardens to speak of because rainfall was so minimal. There was also no electricity until she was into her teenage years.

She left her local school for Adelaide after completing her Leaving Certificate (now Year 11), on the back of becoming Dux of her State in English Literature. On the strength of that, Alleeta subsequently went on to obtain a Classics Degree at University.

On the way to achieving her degree, she met, married and had two children with a man whom her parents did not like, and who unfortunately did not treat her well and left her very unhappy, until a friend “rescued” her from the relationship.

She picked herself up and proceeded to undertake theological studies, learning Hebrew on the way to being qualified as a preacher. During her studies, she met an older ‘Classics’ academic, whom she described as ‘a wonderful man’, and whom she married and remained very, very happily so for about twenty years. While Alleeta’s religious convictions were strong and she did regular preaching, her husband was less so, and was more of a humanist. However he came to church every week to hear her

sermons and offer moral support and appreciation of her work.

Some after the death of her husband, Alleeta married a third time, and was again in a very happy relationship, but sadly he died after only a couple of years. All three of her husbands were academics!

Alleeta found herself once more on her own, but with a fiercely independent streak, and her activities centred around reading, writing and her garden, she was sure of her own abilities to continue on in a self sufficient capacity.

However, sometime later she was to suffer a health scare which she describes as minor, but which she says affects her memory of some things some of the time. Her doctor wanted to try a new drug on her, about which was not sure about, and her family ultimately convinced her that perhaps it was in her best interests to move to a safer, more secure environment with professional care and assistance and family close at hand. Hence her move to Shenley in 2018.

But the move to, or adjustment to life in an Aged Care facility has not been without its issues, as many people who have been associated with it, or experienced it themselves, can find.

In this regard, Alleeta's response to these issues has been to write down her experiences, as a form of (very successful) self-help therapy. And she is very articulate, eloquent and expressive in using a few words to convey her true feelings and emotions.

I have Eric McKay to thank for helping Alleeta to settle in to her new home and for encouraging her to share her private thoughts. Below are her experiences, written down in March 2019, One Year After moving into her new home in Camberwell Road. I hope it touches a chord.

There's rain – even hail,
But then a whole rainbow, across the sky...
Some white birds come, screaming and fighting,
In trees right outside my balcony; and I
Watch them with delight...

I lose my glasses case,
But think of a substitute quite soon...

I get yelled at by a new staff member:
A smaller staff member helps with my TV...

Valda and I have a lovely walk together,
In the cool of the morning...

A girl interviews me "about the food". But really

we talk about a lot of other things.
She says very new research about dementia
Shows I've got it because I'm bright;

August 2019

And I'm doing all the right things!...

Paul says he thinks the creeper I dug up
(behind a building) is a passionfruit,
And it will be beautiful.
It all feels good.

Welcome to Camberwell, Alleeta.

PS. Out of curiosity I asked the origin of her first name. She told me her father had once visited Hungary as part of a World Scout Jamboree, and heard it there, and liked it so much he so named his youngest daughter.

According to the website "Seven Reflections", the name Alleeta means "powerful and complete. You are good intellectually and require several outlets for your energies. You are bold, independent, inquisitive and interested in research. You know what you want and why you want it.

You have passion for justice and belong to the position of authority. You have an inherent courage and endurance to accomplish "The Impossible Dream". You are philosophical and mature, determined and intense with a desire to endure, often religious." Pretty much nailed her in one.

Ed

Poster found in a Church in France.

(translated)

When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God'.

However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile.

Thank you for turning off your phone.

If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.

Thanks to Margaret Bexley for these undeniable words of wisdom.

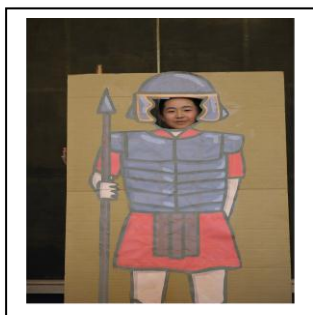


Messy Easter 2019 was celebrated on Sunday 31 March.

This is such a significant series of events, as Earth's saddest day and gladdest day were just three days apart. And we set out to identify and represent each component part.

For our Gathering Activity, the children had to find parts of the Easter story and have their photo taken with it. The key parts of the story were when: (i) The crowd shouted “Hosanna” and waved palm branches as Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem; (ii) Jesus was angry and turned over the tables in the Temple; (iii) the Last Supper - “Remember me when you break bread together” - our kids had Hot Cross Buns; (iv) Jesus prayed on the Mount of Olives when Temple guards came with swords and arrested him; (v) “Crucify Him”- we acted as Temple guards ready to nail Jesus to the cross; (vi) .“Where is He?” where Mary ran to the tomb and finding it empty, she meets a gardener and she asks where Jesus’ body was? Then he speaks to her and the gardener is Jesus!!!! Mary weeps for joy!

In the hall the children made happy and sad face Mary on plastic eggs. They then made “Gardens” in egg carton bases with plastic grass and artificial flowers. They went on to make crosses out of five cent pieces (30 of them, as Judas sold out Jesus for 30 pieces of silver). They were joined together with plastic “joints”. They finished by painting pages with spots and then peeling off the tape in middle of the page to reveal a cross. They had a chocolate egg (for the empty tomb) on a biscuit to decorate.



For the Celebration, Fiona read the story of the empty tomb, “Run Mary Run”, songs were sung, and Ian told that the Easter Story is very long, starting with Palm Sunday, but Friday with Jesus on the cross “is not the end”.



Dinner was fish fingers and salad with boiled eggs and bread, fruit and birthday cake (for those with birthdays in March), for ten children and eighteen adults.



On 5 May, we showed our Messy Team Spirit by celebrating The Body of Christ (as defined in 1 Corinthians 12: 1 26). 1 Corinthians 12 is

the twelfth chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians in the New Testament of the Bible. In this chapter, Paul the Apostle writes about spiritual gifts and the unity of the members of Christ in one body.

For our Gathering Activity, the children looked at different parts of the body and thought how they fitted into the whole.

In the hall: the children blew up a red balloon with a pump and tied it to a stick - it turned out to be a heart!! They then had to sew an eye made of felt, and sew the 2 circles together with needle and thread, not forgetting to fill it before finishing sewing. A black circle was stuck on the felt for the pupil.

The next tasks were to make a hand using long strips of cotton wool which were wound around pipe cleaners, inserting these inside each finger of a latex glove made a very life like hand; a nose was used to smell cloves amongst other smells; ears were used to hear the different sounds from shaking different bags; for a brain they made a “brain hat”, showing all the different parts of the brain; into a thong shaped key-ring, a piece of instant clay was moulded and there you had a foot; potatoes were decorated with all sorts of vegetables e.g. a piece of cauliflower for hair, and mushrooms pieces for ears.

Food craft required a biscuit to be cut in half, icing spread on both halves and mini-marshmallows wedged in between for teeth!!



For the Celebration they sang two songs, and everyone had instruments to accompany the singing. They did a play about a body that gradually lost its hands, feet, eyes etc, and ended up on the ground in a heap and waving its legs in the air. Ian told us we are all important parts of a whole.

Dinner was baked potatoes with sour cream, cheese, ham and salad. Birthday cake to follow - rainbow layers with gorgeous decorations, for those with birthdays this month. All for twelve children and seventeen adults.



On 23 June, we celebrated the story of Pentecost.

In the New Testament, this is the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of

Jesus. Pentecost is the Greek name for Shavuot, the spring harvest festival of the Israelites, which was going on when the Holy Spirit came.

The disciples were celebrating this festival when the Holy Spirit descended on them. It sounded like a very strong wind, and it looked like tongues of fire. The apostles then found themselves speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is a time for Christians to celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples shortly after Christ ascended into heaven (Acts 1:8-9; 2:1-47).

Our gathering activity involved decorating red tea light candles in holders which were then placed on a table at the front of the church. In the hall a red card head dress could be made - showing a tongue of red and gold, representing the tongues of flame that appeared on the disciples heads but not burning their heads. Party blowers were written on to show tongues of fire with words of hope and good news.

Streamer ribbons were attached to a rod and words of our thanks to God for what we have, were written on the ribbon. Paper chain figures were coloured and decorated to represent the disciples gathered together at the Jewish festival of Pentecost. Then a pipe cleaner was fashioned into a flame shape for each head. The disciples were then able to be understood in different languages. A rocket was made with a balloon on a stick with "fins"-the balloon when blown up and released could use the air (wind) to fly.

Food craft was TicToc biscuits with a marshmallow on top with a raspberry, to signify candle flame.

For the Celebration two songs were sung, and candles were lit to show flames. There were also fans on each side of the church blowing red and orange streamers hanging from wires above in the church. Ian showed a kids video clip

telling the Pentecost story in Acts 2.

Ian told about the disciples gathered together becoming able to speak in different tongues so all the many different cultures gathered in Jerusalem at that time could understand the message Jesus asked to share with the world - Gods love for all and the peace He gives us.



Dinner was Spaghetti Bolognese and salad then birthdays cakes for those with birthdays in June and for the Uniting Church in Australia's 42nd birthday. All for 16 children and 24 adults.

Thanks to Ian, Margery, Ruth Crawley and the kitchen team and all those who came and helped.

Fiona Ensor

'Sammy Stamp' Update



In the last edition of Kairos, we reported on the money raised by the UCAF Stamp Fund over the past 41 years, as well as where grants from those sales have been allocated.

In the May edition of Network UCAF magazine, Allan Clark reported that "as of April 4, 2019, Sammy Stamp has provisionally raised one million dollars since 1977".

Please note that the collection box for your stamps is located on the far side of the narthex, and all contributions are welcomed and go 100% to worthy causes.

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