



The Journal of Killara Uniting Church Parish

"Fiveways" - Corner Arnold Street and Karranga Avenue

<https://killara.uca.org.au>

Issue 98 March 2023

Jean Himmelhoch's Birthday



Towards the end of 2022, Jean Himmelhoch celebrated her birthday.



Another special birthday celebrated. See Christmas at Killara

CONNECTION



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ **Birthdays**
Jean Himmelhoch
Cover
- ◆ **From the Editor**
Page 2
- ◆ **From the Minister's Desk**
Page 3
- ◆ **Church Bell Ringing**
Page 4
- ◆ **Letter from Ian Neilson**
Page 5
- ◆ **Celebrating Christmas**
Pages 6 - 8
- ◆ **Lindara Market 25 March**
Page 9
- ◆ **Mahbobas Promise**
Page 10
- ◆ **Norma Smithers**
Page 11
- ◆ **Salt and Light**
Pages 12—13
- ◆ **Knitting Group**
Page 13
- ◆ **Prayer for Ukraine**
Page 14
- ◆ **Fellowship & Worship**
Page 15
- ◆ **Roses in Heaven**
Page 16
- ◆ **Property Matters**
Page 16

Editor:

Julie Sekhon
Mob: 0400 631 739



margaret_sekhon@bigpond.com

Connection layout:

Linda Brown



gibbsbrown@optusnet.com.au

From the Editor

This March issue has plenty of variety – reviewing times of joyful celebration at Christmas, and special meetings, remembrances and meals over the last quarter. There is also an article sharing a particular interest that leads us to know better the writer, and there are calls for participation and giving.

For some years we have included obituaries: there are some people for whom we can say that theirs was a life well lived, and one that makes us assess our own priorities. Norma Smithers' life was such. Lent is in fact a time for self-reflection, and we can measure oneself against the call to be “salt” and “light” in the world. Ian Martin has given substance to this metaphor in his article on these two elements.

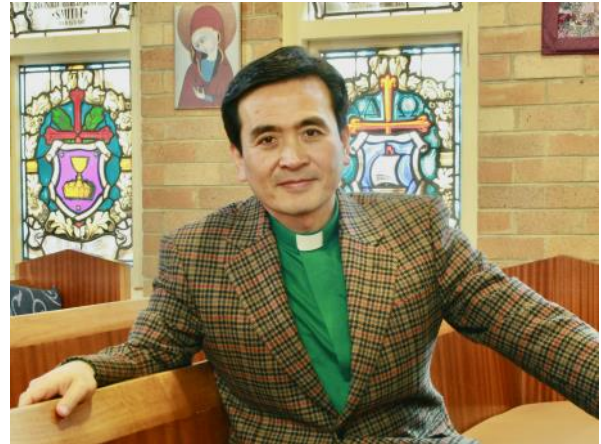
Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue. May the shared experiences and shared challenges increase our bonds of fellowship.

Julie Sekhon

From the Minister's Desk.

You are the salt of the earth. ... You are the light of the world. [Matthew 5:13-15]

In the parables Jesus took insignificant and ordinary things - such as seeds, coins and sheep - and reconstructed their meanings. He called his followers 'salt of the earth' and 'light of the world' as he commissioned them to be his ministry agents in this world.



Using metaphors in communication is a double-edged sword. Metaphors may enrich the meanings that Jesus intends to convey while they require the recipients of the parables to exercise sensitive interpretation of the metaphors and discern Jesus' intention in them. The first hearers of Jesus' teaching perhaps immediately understood what he wanted to say. However, there is an enormous chasm - of time and space - between Jesus' contemporaries and us. Hence, when Jesus mentioned about salt and light, metaphorically, his understanding of salt and light is culturally different to ours and should be interpreted with a pinch of salt.

Jesus knew the importance of salt for increasing foods' tastiness. His contemporaries were aware of the scarcity and cost of salt. The Romans recognised that salt was crucial to their soldiers' diet and built 'salt roads' to exploit reliable sources of salt both inland and on seashores. But in our grocery shops salt is a cheap item and an easily accessible one.

When my wife and I travelled through Austria, we visited Salzburg, literally translated as *Salt Fortress*. It was built by the Prince-Archbishops of Salzburg. Its castle, cathedral, was built on a high hill because the church leaders needed to keep them safe away from their angry peasants. Salt was an expensive and important item of trade at that time. The church had a monopolistic control of salt, and oppressed the poor with such controlling power. I remember the tour guide's explanation of the etymology of the word *Salt*.

The word salt became roots of other words such as *salary*. In the Roman Empire, soldiers were paid with sacks of salt. The word salt is related to the word *salvation*, too. Salt has an incredibly long ranging etymology.

I imagine that there were a small number of people. Most of them were the poor and under-privileged, marginalised people, squatting in the dust, listening as Jesus told them. He was saying, "I am going to take over the whole world **with you**. The revolution begins today, and **you** are the special forces, with which I'm going to dismantle the Roman Empire and defeat the Roman army."

Yes, we are Jesus' special and precious forces. We, Killara Five Ways people, are salt and light in this world.



Yangrae Son [Minister of the Word]

Church Bell Ringing



Many of you will have heard how enthusiastically our Church Bell is rung when I am on Greeting Duty, this is because I am a Church Bell Ringer.

I learnt to ring at St Jude's Randwick when I was seventeen years old. I met Graham my husband in St Jude's Belfry and we were married in 1987 with handbells rung at our wedding and Church bells pealed at St Andrew's Cathedral.

We ring in the English style, our feet do not leave the floor unless we have lost control of our bell and are about to be damaged. The Continental style of ringing is where you see ringers swinging their bell and themselves.

The English style of ringing began in the 1600s and bells are still used to call the congregation to worship, announce national events, weddings and funerals. We are change ringers this means one ringer per bell making a handstroke and backstroke change (as the wheel that the bell is mounted on swings first clockwise, and then anticlockwise), controlling a bell rope attached to a bell wheel, inside a bell frame. The bell at Five Ways is hung in a similar way – it's not a fixed bell: carillon bells

are fixed and struck with a hammer. At Five Ways the bell moves, and hits the steady clapper. Bells may weigh from 100 kilograms to some tonnes each. An average sized ring of bells is a six or eight. They are tuned in a diatonic octave – like the white notes on a piano. Each bell has to be in tune with the others, and itself in tune. The main note is called the “strike note” – this reflects the diameter of the bell where the bell meets the clapper.

Change ringing involves methods. A method is a pre-determined pattern of changing the order in which the 6 or 8 bells are rung.. My favourite method is called Stedman (a corruption of the name “St Edmund”), notoriously difficult to ring and musically sublime.

A band of ringers has a conductor who rings and calls the method, after rounds, (each bellringer has learnt the method and begins at a different interlocking position). The conductor adds calls which change your bell place and you may ring a Quarter Peal. A peal is 5,040 different orders of the bells, with none repeated. That takes 3 hours to ring which is a bit impractical. A quarter peal is exactly that – 1,260 different “changes”, that takes 45 minutes. For the Quarter Peal to be true, all changes in the 45 minutes are different, are rung without stopping and they have to return to the starting position, which is ringing down the scale in “rounds”. If you have read this far and meet other bellringers in the future, please remember to ask “how was ringing?” not “how was bellplaying?” because you now know that we don't play bells, we ring them.

Annette Harman.

7 March 2023

Dear fellow parishioners

I am writing to you to bring to your attention several matters, mainly financial, of which you need to be aware.

I would firstly like to thank the many parishioners who responded to our October Appeal with increased regular donations. This makes us a step closer to meeting our ongoing financial commitments. In addition to these commitments, we have received donations for special projects of which I will describe later in more detail. However, a 10% weekly or monthly increase by each parishioner is all we need to balance our basic income/ expense requirements.

Current maintenance – hall mould. One particular issue of immediate concern is the mould induced in the hall storeroom ceiling. Months of wet weather, exaggerated shading from neighbour's trees and shrubs, leaf accumulation in adjacent gutters, and failure of the storeroom ventilation fans; have induced severe mould infestation of the hall storeroom ceilings and walls. These circumstances have also impacted adjacent rooms with mould in the kitchen and all three 3 toilets and now also the hall ***that present a severe health concern*** to many parishioners.

Be assured! The poor ventilation has been addressed, the foliage has been pruned and the gutters cleaned. A special thanks to Terry Lee who executed many of these tasks. Furthermore, the mould removal, suppression and painting contract has been awarded to be executed to fit in with the timetable of our property lessees.

Special Projects. We are a vibrant congregation. We want to both invite, and stimulate the interest of, newcomers. We have two major projects on the horizon. Each is related to our ongoing mission.

To enhance our participation and welcome new members.

Audio and Visual System. Our current combined system is about 12 years old. We have been alerted that it has a finite life. Should it fail, we have nothing, silence, blank screen. No audio, no video - with several weeks to find a replacement. Our intention is to also enlarge the screen to enhance the visual quality of presentations.

Church Signage. The present static system is **vintage, last century!** We need a **dynamic electronic system** that delivers today's current messages to passers-by. Individuals are unlikely to join our congregation when we can't even extend them an ongoing vibrant message and invitation.

Both these projects are designed to invigorate our Church by attracting new members and ensuring their retention by embellishing our scriptural message. Our bonus is a longer life for our beautiful and heritage listed Church.

In addition to the expenses for our Killara Five Ways, we have responsibilities to give financial support to other church councils beyond our congregation: a Levy of \$6,128 per year to the Presbytery, and to the Synod 'Seeds of Growth' an amount of \$9,196 per year which the Treasurers are making a request to consider reducing the amount.

We recognise your existing practical and financial ongoing support but also look forward to your participation in our vision to maintain our Killara Five Ways Church where we may continue to nurture our faith, and from which Christian fellowship may be extended to the communities.

Ian Neilson, *Joint Treasurer & Chairman Property committee*

Celebrating Christmas at Killara:



At Christmas we saw travellers following the star ...

There was Caspar, ... and Melchior ...and Balthasar

There was a star which was about to appear!

Then there was a young girl who asked questions ...and another who said what was happening

There was King Herod, magnificent in his gown but with a scheming heart

And - at journey's end: Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus

And at Christmas, the Chorale sang ...and our hearts were lifted.

The age-old announcements of the coming child thrilled us And diverse voices combined to welcome the joyous celebration.





Celebrating Christmas at Killara:

And at Christmas, the Chorale sang ...and our hearts were lifted. A BIG thank you to the choirmaster!



Lindara Market, Saturday 25th March



At: Lindfield Uniting Church Undercroft and driveway area 454 Pacific Highway, Lindfield. Come and enjoy meeting people, browsing, picking up a bargain.

8am-1pm



Mahboba Rawi from Mahbobas Promise

Hi All,

I thought you may be interested to know that Mahboba Rawi from Mahbobas Promise has won a Human Rights Award for 2022. Nawid Cina is her son.

Thank you for your support, both past and present, of Mahbobas Promise.

Liz Giles



An Australian not-for-profit organisation Mahboba's Promise has won the prestigious Human Rights Medal in the 2022 Human Rights Awards.

Mahboba Rawi and Nawid Cina received the accolade at a ceremony hosted by the Australian Human Rights Commission Friday, 9 December. Other awards went to Caroline Cecile Fletcher (Young People's Award), Scientia Professor Jane McAdam (Law Award), and Hotel Etico (Community Award).

Commission President, Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM said: "All of the award recipients have done exceptional work in making the world a fairer, safer and more equitable place. "Mahboba and Nawid have worked with determination to promote the rights of women and children, and to support people fleeing the Taliban in Afghanistan – especially those who are within our communities."

Mahboba said she was honoured to receive the award alongside her son: "What drives me to do the work that I do is the suffering of Afghan women.

"I dream for Afghan women to be free and choose what they want to do, to go out without permission, to run their life the way they want, to work equally, to study, go for further education."

Norma Smithers

28th September 1938 - 25th January 2023

Norma was a giving person – always ready to give of her time and concern to others. She placed little importance on her own person and needs but delighted in her friends and family. In our Church she was a wonderful pastoral contact and those people who knew her well will miss her greatly.

Norma grew up at Biniguy, about 40 kilometres east of Moree, the youngest of eight children of Gertie and Gwydir Maidens. After leaving school she worked at the Moree telephone exchange, and it was whilst she was there that she met Keith Smithers, then working in Moree. After a ‘whirlwind romance’ they were married in 1957 and a few years later, moved to Sydney, where their four children: Brad, Greg, Beth and Paul were born. Norma’s eldest son, Brad, reflects on the challenges Norma must have faced:



We believe our early years were tough on Mum as she had four children under the age of 5 and was on her own looking after us as Dad was often away for work during the week. On top of this, as she had moved from the country, Mum had no support network in the city and not much help.

Despite this, Norma was always a loyal support to Keith and a strength for her children. She shared Keith’s love of the Australian countryside and of bushwalking, and with him made friends and supported First Nations folk. Norma was the ideal partner to Keith and together they enjoyed travel both within Australia and overseas. They were ‘aware’ tourists, always mindful of the people amongst whom they visited.

Norma had a special bond with each of her children and grandchildren and in recent years it has given her great pleasure to spend time with them. Melinda, Brad’s daughter, writes:

she was always coming from a place of empathy and understanding. It didn’t take much to make her happy; a phone call, a cuddle, and some quality time with the people she loved. She was always interested and inquisitive about what was going on in our lives, and this warmth and curiosity would be extended to partners or friends we would bring along to events as well.

Her friends also were special – Norma enjoyed friendships and gave affection unstintingly. Brad writes that Norma gained immense pleasure out of helping other people. As a pastoral contact in our Church, Norma was expressing the qualities grown in her by life and her own values.

Norma was aware of her physical condition which could suddenly end her life, but lived each day with cheerfulness, thankful for every gift that the day brought, whether sunshine, a lovely garden, or a special meal. She accepted all good things from the hand of God. She is now with Him.

Contemporary Experiences of Salt and Light

Ian Martin (Edited version of a talk given 9th February 2020)

Both of my stories come from the Territory of Papua-New Guinea. Both illustrate Jesus' injunction for followers to the 'salt' and 'light' in the world and his instructions about helping others. (Matthew 5 vv13-15)

SALT

Salt was an important item of trade around, and beyond, the Mediterranean Region two millennia ago. The Romans knew that salt was an important element of a soldier's diet and built 'salt roads' to exploit reliable sources of salt both inland and on seashores. Jesus knew of the importance of the use of salt to increase the palatability of meals. He would also have been aware of its relative scarcity and cost. In contrast, salt is one of the cheapest, and most widely-used, food additives available to-day. Many varieties of it are sold in every supermarket. Currently, it is strongly recommended that we should not use too much.

Until 1930, it was believed that the centre of New Guinea was unpopulated, until Mick Leahy, a gold prospector, disproved this and, in 1932-3, discovered the large, but isolated, population in the Waghi Valley. Later archaeological research showed that these tribes had been living in isolation there for, probably, fifty thousand years!

In 1970 I met Dr John Gunther (later Sir John), then Vice Chancellor of the University of Papua-New Guinea. Dr Gunther told me that medical patrols of these difficult-to-reach highlands were started in the early 1960s. Goitre was found to be very common in this fertile region of the highlands and was associated with a high incidence of cretinism (*infantile iodine deficiency disorders*) in children. The cause was quickly traced to the lack of salt in the diet of the indigenes and, especially, the very low content of iodides in the local water, and in the vegetables, which constituted most of their food.

The Stone-Age people trusted the strangers/intruders and took the iodised salt, and other iodinated compounds, which the Medical Officers gave them. Within a year, goitres in adults shrank, or even disappeared, and in the years following, the birth of cretins became very rare. We can take such an outcome either as a triumph in population medicine, or, the result of the imperative to care for others, or both.



LIGHT

In 2018, I was told about the *SolarBuddy*, which is the name given to a small photovoltaic panel, linked to a rechargeable battery, and an array of light emitting diodes – similar to many hand-held torches. But this one differs in two ways from the ubiquitous torch or *flashlight* sold here in Australia. First, the array is housed in a special waterproof case. Secondly, it is not offered for retail sale. It was designed for, and is, a gift for a very well-defined purpose! The designer lives in Queensland and he has registered the company as a charity.

The lights are given to children attending school in regions with no electricity supply in third-world, or emerging countries, particularly in tropical regions. They are specifically designed for primary school students to practise reading and do homework. The charity has a number of supporters among business corporations, and another growing source of funding is from Australian schools. Typically, a school will raise funds to buy a parcel of *SolarBuddies*. Students then do the final assembly of the units and test them to ensure that they are working. Then, before packing them for despatch, each student is asked to write a short letter to the boy or girl who will be given the light, and this is wrapped around the *Buddy*.

In third-world rural areas, it is usual for children to have duties in and around the home, which must be completed in the daylight. In Papua-New Guinea, away from town centres, the usual light-source in homes is a kerosene lamp. This is not a safe arrangement, the yellow, flickering light is not good for reading or writing. Additionally, they are smelly and the fumes from them cause coughs, or worse.

The feedback from students and teachers in New Guinea has been very encouraging. Students bring their *Buddies* to school and leave them outside in the sun to charge. It doesn't matter if there is a tropical downpour – thorough waterproofing is part of the design. Then, when they are taken home in the afternoon, they will give bright light for at least four hours. Teachers were quick to report that more homework was completed, and gains in reading skills were great.

This has further social value. Families soon discovered that meals can be served and eaten at night in comfortably lit conditions. Literate, and semi-literate parents quite commonly use them to read at night for information, pleasure or to read stories to entertain their family.

The annual report for 2022 of the *SolarBuddy* charity states that over 20,000 lights were given to children living in energy poverty around the world last year.



The Knitting Group

enjoys fellowship for a good cause, and produces attractive rugs, beanies and soft toys. Members get much pleasure in knitting for particular projects – watch for news of the next proposed recipient!

A Prayer for Ukraine

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,

Grant to us

Peace in our time
to all peoples: peace
Peace – surely based upon your will,
Peace that shall build a glad new world
and make for life's increase

Instill in all mankind, we pray

respect for the lives of others
respect for the property of others

Mindful of the loss of life and property of the
people of Ukraine over the last 12 months, may
we show genuine compassion

for all who have lost their loved ones
those who have been cruelly injured
those who have lost their homes
those who are living in states of despair
and for those children who have lost a parent,
or both their parents.

Guide us to respond to their needs in a tangible way, with plentiful gifts and expressions
of love.

May we seek to maintain justice and do that which is right in your sight, and may we re-
prove those who have offended against your laws.

We give thanks for the courage of those who pursue righteousness and stand firm in their
resolve to maintain that which is good and pleasing in your sight.

May we be strong and of good courage, and act in the firm knowledge that you are with
us,

for we ask it in the name of Him who said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you'.

Amen



Fellowship and Worship over the months

In January, our Pastoral Contacts organised Coffee Catch-ups, a time to enjoy a chat when life moves a little slower, and in February our regular monthly lunches at Killara Bowling Club resumed – popular with both Killara and Lindfield congregations.



Our Book Club meets monthly, and after they have exhausted their ‘masterly’ dissection of the latest book, there is time for afternoon tea. See cover for photos of the December birthday celebration for Jean Himmelhoch.





IF ROSES GROW IN HEAVEN

DOLORES M. GARCIA

If roses grow in heaven,
 Lord please pick a bunch for me,
 Place them in my Mother’s arms
 and tell her they’re from me.

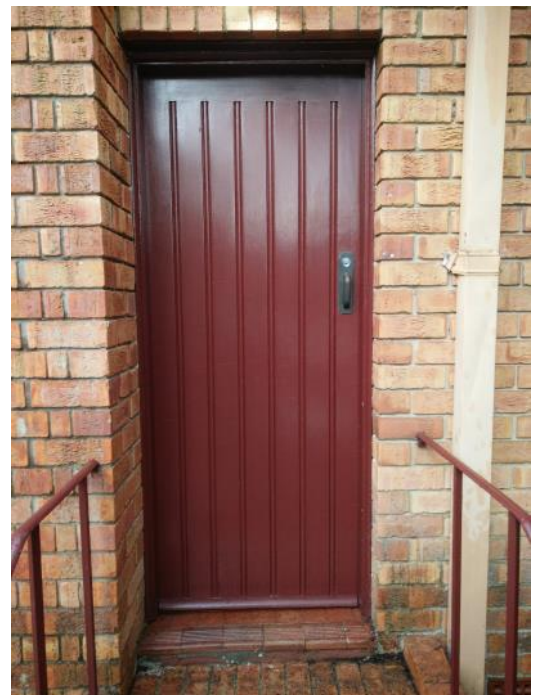
Tell her I love her and miss her,
 and when she turns to smile,
 place a kiss upon her cheek
 and hold her for awhile.

Because remembering her is easy,
 I do it every day,
 but there’s an ache within my heart
 that will never go away.

Roses were blooming outside Elizabeth Brown’s Villa in Canberra. Linda’s mum passed away in February. Linda thanks the Congregation for their support during a difficult month.

Property Matters

There has been a huge improvement in ventilation in the Hall. New ceiling vents were installed 2 December, 2022 . These work on a timer and two of the original fans didn't have any contents.



A professional painter has been scheduled to paint ceilings and walls in the Hall. This will be done in the April and July school holidays.