



The Journal of Killara Uniting Church Parish

"Fiveways" - Corner Arnold Street and Karranga Avenue

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

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CONNECTION

Kira says farewell



Thank you Kira for over five year service as Office Co-ordinator.

We welcome Danielle, Harris our new Office Co-ordinator.

See page 5 Kira's farewell.



Baptism of Julian and Sophia.

On 19th November, our Minister Yangrae baptised his two grandchildren, Julian and Sophia, both much loved by the congregation.



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From the Editor

The last three months have brought some wonderful celebrations in our Church – as well as some sad partings, dear people whom we honour in this issue.

There are many stages in reaching maturity, and four young people made a public witness to their faith in a Reaffirmation of Baptism service on November 5th. Although none have reached the legal age of adulthood, this is surely an expression of maturity.

Extracts from the witness statements of the four young people are included in this issue. There are, however, some sentences not included which have a particular relevance to us, as people who are part of our local church and perhaps don't see ourselves as contributing anything special. I refer to these words of Zack Winslow: the observant eyes of children are on us all as we worship and live as part of a church family:

I went to creche here, where I was looked after by some lovely church members including Elizabeth Krust, Pam Lange and Robin Blackwell. I was part of Kids Church with Ginie Udy and later with Julie Sekhon. We also had bible studies for teenagers run by June Wait. At Kids Church we were very fortunate to hear some engaging talks from congregation members about their journeys through life. We learnt about their travels around the world, and some charities they worked with, from Keith Smithers, Liz Giles, Ray Hollings, Jan Smith and Doug Everett amongst others – taking us through China, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Ethiopia. We all enjoyed the annual kids church bushwalks organised by John Addley and John Giles as well as many other fun activities. Sadly, some of these people are no longer with us, but they have all left us with a bit of their knowledge and wisdom and more importantly shown me the way of Christ is through serving others.

... We all have a part in the witness of the church.

Then, on 19th November, we witnessed the baptism of Julian and Sophia Son, a sacrament which warmed our hearts. We welcomed these two small people into the fellowship of our Church and undertook the vow which affirms that we all have a part in supporting these little ones in their growth in faith:

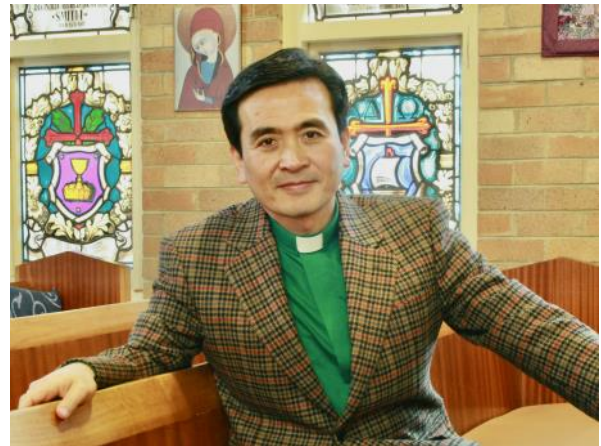
With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Christ, nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, and encouraging one another in service.

Julie Sekhon

From the Minister's Desk.

Since the last *Connection's* September edition, our congregation gratefully experienced the full liturgical circle of life: baptism, confirmation, wedding, and funeral. Our church office received an unusual request from overseas for a marriage service.

The wedding service for a couple working in Spain reassured me how meaningful it is to minister to a local congregation. The groom was baptised in Killara FiveWays congregation, and his parents' baptism and marriage were celebrated in our congregation.



From birth to death, we are connected to each other in the great circle of life, in which the church provides meanings to each stage of life, and shape us as God's people.

Tertullian, the African church father in the third century, said, "Christians are made, not born." Even before Tertullian, the idea of 'making disciples' appeared in the words of Jesus when he commissioned his disciples: "Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, *baptising* them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and *teaching* them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." [Matthew 28:19-20]

For making-disciples, church's traditional pattern was that the first task of Christian formation was to acquire 'right' belief - affirmation of a set of doctrinal foundations. Only after receiving such belief systems, Christians adopted right behaviour to be ready to belong to the church. But the rise of secularisation made it possible for people to appreciate a world without referring to deities. Traditional presuppositions for God's existence are no longer required to make sense of things around the world. Christianity is no longer *the* philosophical and theological norm in a secular society. What does it mean to make disciples in the 21st century?

Some theologians suggest that making-disciples in a secular age requires retrieving an old catechetical pattern: belonging, believing and behaving. Belonging in the act of baptism initiates a life-long process of belonging, through which we learn to believe, and then see how our belonging and belief system moulds our behaviour.

Belonging is not simply about church membership. It is a covenant relationship anchored on devotion to God and loving relationship among its members: vertical and horizontal relationship. Local congregations are the embodiment of one, holy, catholic and apostolic church, where God's people deepen their covenantal belonging to God and learn to let God's grace shape our life-together. I thank God for allowing me to serve this wonder-full congregation.

Yangrae Son
[Minister of the Word]



Graeme John Lumsden

7th June 1933 – 26 July 2023

We honour the passing of Graeme Lumsden, a loyal member of our Church and a courteous gentleman.

Graeme was born in Caulfield, Victoria but his family moved to Adelaide when he was three. Graeme assumed the responsibilities of adulthood early, with a variety of part-time jobs from Primary



School days, and starting his first full-time job – in the Commonwealth Bank - at the age of 16. It was humdrum work, but there Graeme learned the value of teamwork. It was in these early years that he met Janet, and fell in love: their partnership was to last over 70 years.

When the Bank transferred Graeme to Clare, Graeme travelled each weekend to Adelaide to see Janet – over 140 kilometres each way! One weekend after falling asleep and fortunately not crashing his bike on his way home, he decided that he loved Janet more than the Commonwealth Bank, and took a job in the MLC life insurance company. This proved to be a crucial career step: Graeme became expert in understanding superannuation and rose through various management positions, both in the MLC and in other insurance companies. Those who worked with Graeme spoke warmly of his helpfulness and his willingness to help more junior employees.

Meanwhile, Graeme and Janet had married and raised two sons – Andrew and Michael – for whom Graeme was ‘the ideal father’.

Graeme and Janet met at church and were always keen members of their church. In 1975 they moved to Sydney for Graeme’s work, and our Church has enjoyed their fellowship – first at the Tryon Road Methodist Church and then at Fiveways. Graeme was a quiet worker, but it was he who visited those in need or responded to a request. Those who knew him spoke often of his *decency* – a fundamental Christian virtue. We remember Graeme with affection for such qualities.



Kira says farewell

I have truly loved my time at KUC, and it all boils down to the lovely people who make up the Church.

From Ian Pearson, to David Gill, and now Yangrae Son, I have always felt supported and valued.

I have loved the chats in my office and the friendly correspondence, as well as the "thank you we appreciate you" notes that landed in my inbox or on my desk.

Thank you for showing me that age is truly just a number, and I hope to be as actively involved in Church in my old(er) age 😊

I am looking forward to my upcoming family holiday in Europe with my husband Mike, our four children, and my sister and her family. Christmas will be spent in Zurich, Switzerland, where I grew up. I will then re-evaluate what my 2024 will look like with having the flexibility to work more days now that my daughter is 14!

Many thanks for your friendship and I wish you and your families a very happy & meaningful Christmas.

I know Danielle will look after you beautifully and will go above and beyond to serve you well.

With much fondness,
Kira



Farewell Kira - Welcome Danielle



The Power of Music

We continue to welcome musicians to enhance our worship: both duo Gioconda Augimeri and Rosemary Pryor (24 September) and choral group Cantrice (26th November) have recently given us this pleasure.



Marjorie Elizabeth McEwen (Liz)
 14th February 1936 – 11th November 2023
 a tribute from Ray Hollings

I feel very privileged to have been asked by Douglas and Jenny to say a few words at this celebration of the wonderful life of their mother Liz and the grandmother of five.

At the same time I have to express my surprise, shock and sadness at the sudden unexpected nature of her passing at the Sydney Adventist Hospital last Saturday. The McEwen family came to Australia in 1990 from their homeland in South Africa which was a very dangerous place in those days. Political upheaval, racial divisions, poverty, hunger and discord were the order of the day.



In that sense I share a similar background having arrived in Australia from the land of my birth, China, in 1940, as a refugee from the dangers of the Sino-Japanese war. We first met Mike and Liz at the Gordon Uniting Church 33 years ago. They were living in the very modern St John's Wood complex at the end of St John's Avenue in Gordon. We had then been attending the same church virtually all our lives. [later transferring to Killara Uniting Church].

Liz was a dynamic, outgoing, highly intelligent "people person" with a wide range of interests and skills. She trained as a nurse in a large hospital in Johannesburg and was on duty when terrorists detonated an explosion which killed and injured many. Her medical training and background knowledge helped her in managing the complex health problems that later affected both her and her beloved husband Mike.

Her skills at the bridge table, in the kitchen and sewing room, in money management and intellectual involvement in current affairs are part of her intellectual legacy. Socially, we spent a lot of time at each other's homes; dining, bridging and discussing current affairs. This was extended to their holiday unit in Avoca and our holiday home in Blackheath. We enjoyed holidays together in NSW with the National Trust, with Probus on Norfolk Island; on the Oceanic Princess from Darwin to Broome; in Western Australia, Queensland, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and South Africa where Mike and Liz were wonderful tour guides.

Liz's lifelong kidney problems resulted in the need for dialysis for 3 years before her renal transplant where Mike donated one of his kidneys enabling her to lead a much more normal life for many years.

So lovely lady Liz, we bid you "Good-bye". You had no say in it but you passed away on the 11th day of the 11th month, Armistice Day and with all those who died for King and Country, we will remember you.

Goodbye Liz and thank you for being you.

Marjorie Elizabeth McEwen (Liz) Doug McEwen

Mum – Ray reminded me that today was a celebration of her life and so it should be she was a wonderful woman. How best to describe Mum, Nana, Liz or affectionately behind her back, the old bag:-

Strong headed and always right even when she was wrong.

Sent to the best school – a ladies college similar to Abbotsleigh mum was born into one of those upper class families, Dad on the other hand was born in Boksburg, a mining town famous for its 2km deep rich gold veins, a dusty and poor run down suburb on the outskirts of Johannesburg, a place that would make Mt Druit look fantastic on a really bad day.

Somehow fate intervened or someone told Liz what to do and given Mum always did exactly what she wanted – there began what was to be a relationship made in heaven Dad always said he married Mum for her money, but as it turned out it had to be for Love as there was no money. So they started married life together as 22 year olds somehow borrowing enough to buy a really small house in Kensington close to the centre of Johannesburg where Dad worked as an accountant and mum a trained nurse.



Our life was great, Thursday night was special, Dad brought home fish and chips wrapped in old newspapers, bathed in vinegar and tomato sauce and that was our little bit of luxury, I never remember them ever going to a movie or restaurant they just saved whatever they could.

I will tell you something about Liz that defined her character – Kensington wasn't exactly safe and one day Mum was at home and a person knocked on the door, Mum opened it and he tried to attack her, some would flee, not Mum – she literally kicked him in the nuts, he had picked the wrong house, crawling out the front gate mum came out with a glass of water to make sure the poor guy was OK. For all us blokes – a glass of water is not exactly going to make a difference – anyway it was the thought that counted.

Mum was always astute with her homes – buying in the right up and coming areas and transforming something ordinary into her castle. But not risk averse I remember one occasion she sold our family home and proceeded to invest all of it in the stock market – her brother had said buy some gold shares – Fortune favours the brave an oil crunch and a rising stock market helped. Not a recommended diversified portfolio strategy – But you wouldn't be telling Liz what to do.

Mum became a trader and over the course of her life became very knowledgeable about the market. So much so that in later life she would admonish me for having not enough banks or why hadn't I bought those BHP shares. And of course when they went down, Douglas why hadn't you sold those BHP shares. Oh and her best tip for investing – When the market goes down – just don't look at it!

Mum had a unique way of giving back, equipped with her nursing skills she took on voluntary work that would make a difference, helping out in the emergency ward at Baragwanath hospital – a hospital for the local population that was beset by terrible violence, Mum had to deal with gun shot, machete wounds and every imaginable injury on a scale that unfortunately made this hospital infamous, before Jen arrived, mum would bring home kids from the local orphanage for a meal and day out, but the strength of character to work in a mental facility, with very very special needs kids was tough on her.

Mum probably would never have left South Africa, if not for the murder of her dear cousin Robert who had a mushroom farm overlooking the beautiful valley of a thousand hills. The circumstances of his death and the way his body was found tossed over the cliffs, Mum decided she and Dad would give up the life they had and restart in Australia.

Restarting in their early 50's and it must have been so hard at that age to make friends, but they did, Val Stubbing you were so very kind to mum when she arrived, those long walks she had a shoulder to cry on. How often do we get a second chance and Mum was so incredibly grateful of the open arms that she found.

Mum always loved her garden, she was happiest in her own home as long as there was a lot of sun and plants to water.

Mum was so proud of her grandchildren, Jordy with your achievements at university and your job in Canberra, Mikkey, well she wasn't happy with your mountain biking but I did remind her that it was better than playing computer games, and she agreed. Lille, Nana's are not meant to have favourites, but don't ever try telling that to Nana, the last conversation we had was her telling me how you had arrived the day before and cut her nails – you made one little old lady feel very special and very happy. Sean and Courtney you know how Nana felt about you.

Mum was bright and astute to the end, and was justifiably very proud of the Foundation She and dad had setup and until the last meeting made sure she knew where funds were going and monitoring the Foundations performance – and Douglas why hadn't you bought more of the banks.

Michael, David and Suren, your input into the managing the Foundation is truly appreciated and hopefully by giving back to those in need the McEwen Family will in some small way, repay our gratitude to this wonderful country. For giving us a second chance at rebuilding our lives and in Mum's case access to the medical expertise to allow her to live a lot longer.

One of Mum's unique strengths was her ability to get to know those people of who she was so fond, she was just interested in others and had a unique way of getting people to confide and trust her.

I would like to thank everyone of you here today, I can't mention you all by name but Mum and Dad were so very grateful and humbled to have been able to call Australia home, Ray and Bev, John Saunders, bowls and Probus, all mums friends at Fernbank, the community here at the Church you were so very special to her and part of her extended family especially after Dad died. **Farewell Mum.**

Marjorie Elizabeth McEwen (Liz)

Jenny McEwen

To speak of mum is to speak of her great love and strength given and received. I will miss our chats. I always knew that I was well loved, even when we didn't agree.

Mum was always willing to share her thoughts, and to listen to mine. This was an aspect of mum I think we all knew, and we will miss her, and her love, wisdom, and strength.

My mum was devoted to both Doug and me, until we were teenagers, then we were duly shipped off to boarding school. She reflected in recent times she had no idea how she could have sent us away, but that was mum, willing to make the sacrifice for our better education.

Doug had a dedicated mum to himself for a full decade before I came along. Mum was told not to have another child because of her kidney disease. She took that advice for years but then in her typically determined way, with strength and faith she chose to endure a difficult pregnancy with long bed rest to have me.

My parents' love and support of each other through good and not so good times is a truly beautiful love story. Their love is a defining aspect of my mum's life. Many of you know Dad gave mum one of his kidneys when they were 69. He couldn't bear the thought of living without her. This was quite a medical miracle and gave mum back her quality of life and so many more years. This week I have read dozens of valentine and birthday cards from dad to mum and letters too.

My dad said "I chose her for her strength" and my mum was an incredible and strong woman with such an amazing outlook on life and practical positive approach. Her journey, though marked by the trials of health, was a testament to her resilience and strength. She faced her health challenges with courage and grace.

Mum has been a dedicated grandmother to all her grandchildren and especially helpful to me as a single mother with Jordy. I can thank my mum for allowing me the time to do a cycle trip of 9 days when Jordy was just 2 years old. Only now can I see what a mammoth task this was and at a time when mum's health was declining. Thanks to my mum that is where I met Chris so at least she benefitted with 2 more grandchildren.

Mum was super social: book club, probus, church, bowls back in the day of greater mobility and of course another of her great loves bridge. At which she excelled and had somewhat of a photographic memory. It is no wonder, because if you knew my mum you knew how intelligent she was. Mum was a keen investor in the stock market. Her early successes helped my dad buy out his business partners. If she said buy or don't sell well that's just what I did.

Mum was enthusiastically involved in life and with those she interacted with. As a nurse, an ambulance officer and in the community. Our home was always open to others, especially to the families of Al-Anon - sometimes I found that hard, especially the long phone calls with those in need. She would say to me 'why do people tell me all their deep dark secrets?' And they would, because of her compassion and genuine interest in their lives. Mum made a profound positive difference to so many as witnessed by all of you here today to celebrate her life. Thank you. I think mum's strength was helped by her underlying faith that the universe was unfolding as it should and that all would be well in the end.

It's the end for you mum and all is well. Rest in peace.

Happy Birthday

Celebratory morning teas took place when some of our members achieved their 90th birthday. Congratulations to Joy Hardy, Pat Sinclair and Marjorie Coulsen!



Reaffirmation of Baptism

It was a joy to celebrate the Reaffirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) of four young people on November 5th. Each witnessed to the fact that faith in Christ had become part of their life. Although none had reached the ‘official’ age of adulthood – eighteen – to publicly witness to one’s faith is surely a mark of maturity. Here are some of their witness statements:

Kaylee Zhou

I have been attending this church since I was four. Throughout the years my faith has gone through ups and downs and challenges that ultimately made me grow, and, most importantly, made my faith grow. Jesus to me is someone to look up to as a Saviour, and someone I try to be like in his selflessness, kindness and forgiveness.

Madeleine Winslow

I began my Christian journey in this church when I was baptised here in 2010. I have been part of this wonderful and supportive church community for the past 15 years.

Someone who strongly inspired my Christian journey was my grandmother, Amma. She played an important role in nurturing my faith before she passed away... Her faith was unshaken throughout her life even in difficult times. She embodied Christian values and gave generously to others. She used to pray with family and would ask us to pray for her. Witnessing her commitment to God and her enthusiasm for life led me to develop my own faith.

God has always been an active presence in my life whether I’m facing tough situations or not... Jesus has filled my life with joy for which I am very thankful. He has blessed me with my wonderful family, friends and church along with many incredible opportunities.

I will strive to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ by continuing to follow God’s words and being compassionate to all.



Heather Zhou

This church has been part of my life for nearly 10 years and has helped me find and build a stronger relationship with God.

Building a relationship with Jesus has helped me through stressful and scary situations in life – and he has helped me become more grateful for the things in life that make me happy. He has helped me open my eyes and appreciate my surroundings, like fun moments with family, friends and the people I love.

Zack Winslow

This Church has been a part of my life from the very beginning: I was baptised here in 2007. We have been very fortunate to have had 3 wonderful ministers during my time – Chris Udy, Ian Pearson and now Yangrae, all of whom have been very supportive and encouraged the spiritual growth of the younger members of the church.

One of my passions is cricket and a lot of my cricket is played on Sundays. I also happen to attend a secular school which means I have missed a fair amount of religious education during my teen years. However, in the past few weeks during our confirmation classes with Yangrae, I have had the opportunity to reflect on my faith and what it means to be a Christian. Jesus for me is someone who is always by my side and is there to help me through difficult times. He is someone I can pray to for guidance and someone I can share anything with. He loves me whether I'm clean or covered in mud, whether I have made mistakes or got things right and whether I have done what I said I would do or not. He is someone who I also thank for all the blessings I have in life. God to me is a teacher and a leader who motivates me to be the best person I can be and I feel safe knowing he is there for me. To grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ, I am going to rely on the power of prayer, and learn more about the bible and how I can apply God's word to my own life.

Killara Uniting Church embodies the values of Christ by looking after the people both within and outside of this congregation. I know you will all continue to guide me through my faith journey and help me walk and grow with Christ.

...and a senior church member speaks of his faith journey:

John Sanders

John did not come from a church-connected family, but spoke of circumstances which brought him into contact with the Christian faith: Baptised in an Anglican church, attending a Presbyterian school, finding friends who invited him to the Methodist Sunday School, and later, the youth study circle – and working closely with Catholics in church furnishings – in fact contact with 5 denominations in all! All this was part of his faith journey until he became a youth leader in Gordon Methodist Church.



Peter Tebbutt and I were allocated to take an evening service on one occasion. We decided to have a discussion with the congregation on 'What does it mean to be a Christian?'. The discussion was built around the text Matthew 7:20, 'Wherefore, by their fruits you shall know them.'

Matthew takes the example of a tree: the tree flourishes, produces good fruit which satisfies the world. This is a simile of how we should act as Christians.

God cannot work up there!... God must work through us down here. The principal message of Christ is love. We follow His teachings: that is the fundamental message of my faith.



More Fun and Games

Our second Fun and Games was on 5th November, with another excellent quiz, thanks to Liz Giles. Some of our youngest participants shone – they knew the answers ! Our game was a paper aeroplane competition (what a brilliant idea!) and this was followed by pizza, quiche and ice cream. A rainy day, but who cared about that – we had fun and fellowship!

...and mark this date in your diaries: March 3rd 2024 for more Fun and Games.



Baptism of Julian and Sophia. More beautiful photos



Killara Uniting Church A short history

Peter Graham

- A. The Christian faith was brought to the land now known as Australia by British settlers in 1788.
- B. The Christian faith in Australia splintered into numerous denominations, including the Church of England, later known as the Anglican Church of Australia, the Congregational Union of Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia, the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the Roman Catholic Church, also known as the Catholic Church in Australia, the Baptist Union, the Salvation Army, the Churches of Christ in Australia and the Greek Orthodox Church of Australia.
- C. In 1977 the Methodist Church and the Congregational Union were dissolved upon the formation of the "Uniting Church in Australia" on 22 June, when the former Methodist and Congregational Churches, together with part of the Presbyterian Church of Australia were combined.
- D. The Basis of Union included the following statement:
"The Uniting Church acknowledges that the faith and unity of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church are built upon the one Lord Jesus Christ. The Church preaches Christ the risen crucified One and confesses him as Lord to the glory of God the Father."
- E. The Uniting Church believes in baptismal services, Christian marriage services and Christian funeral services as well as regular worship services being conducted in its church buildings.

Fiveways

- F. Worship at "Fiveways", located at 29A Arnold Street Killara commenced in 1902 upon the consecration of a Congregational church at that site.
- G. 29A Arnold Street formed part of a marriage grant of 160 acres made to Jane Bradley upon her marriage in 1830 to James McGillivray. It was later acquired by J.G. Edwards who subdivided those parts near to the railway line running between Milson's Point and Hornsby, which opened in 1893 and became electrified in 1928.
- H. In 1897 the Congregational Church acquired the Fiveways land from J.G. Edwards and on 19 July 1902 a wooden church opened on that site.
- I. In about the same time, a Methodist church was built in Springdale Road, Killara about 200 metres removed from Fiveways. It closed about 50 years ago.
- J. In 1909 the Church of England also purchased land in Arnold Street, Killara, c.200 metres from Fiveways, on which it built its church, dedicated in 1911.
- K. In about 1970 a new church was erected at 23 Fairbairn Avenue Killara, which in 1977 became known as the East Killara Uniting Church. It closed on 31 December 2016, whereupon some of the East Killara Congregation relocated to Fiveways.
- L. In 1923-4 the current church building was erected on the Fiveways land in recognition of the grace and favour of Almighty God as a memorial to the human service and sacrifice in the Great War (1914-1918) of 25 young members of the congregation, 8 of whom were killed.
- M. The foundation stone was laid on Anzac Day 1923 and the building was consecrated in 1924. The four memorial buttress stones, each marked with a cross, were set in position by the mothers of six of the fallen.
- N. The Church has six painted and stained glass windows dedicated to the memory of young members of the congregation who gave their lives in the service of their country in the Great War and in World War II (1939-45). Lest we forget.
- O. The second major building on the Fiveways land is the Killara Uniting Church Memorial Hall, erected to the glory of God and in grateful remembrance of the sacrificial service in World War II of 84 members of the congregation, 12 of whom were killed.

- P. The foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia on 21 July 1951, and the building was declared open by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales on 18 October 1952.
- Q. The Memorial Church building and the Memorial Hall are testimony to the witness of Christians worshipping in Killara for over 120 years. The Killara Uniting Church's Church Council is responsible for the management and administration of the Fiveways land and buildings, now held by the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust of the Synod of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory for the use of the Killara Uniting Church congregation, and also responsible for the financial affairs and the management of all funds related to the property.
- R. More recently, a link building has been constructed by the Killara Uniting Church congregation to provide an enlarged entrance vestibule and connection between the Memorial Church and the Memorial Hall.
- S. Fiveways has provided a home for the Killara Community Service Club which for many years served underprivileged young people of New South Wales whom it brought from country areas to see the sea for the first time and experience a life away from their bush environment.
- T. Killara uniting Church was one of the four founding churches of the Lindara (*Lindfield/Killara*) Family Program established to tackle homelessness and its congregation continues to support this program. This program brought together the congregations of four Uniting Churches – the former Lindfield Methodist Church in Tryon Road (now a Korean Church), the former St David's Presbyterian Church, now the Lindfield Uniting Church, the Killara Uniting Church and the East Killara Uniting Church, now closed. For a time Killara Uniting Church provided an office for the Lindara Family Care worker.
- U. Fiveways congregation has been enriched by members of the Tryon Road (former Methodist) Church. However, at the (more recent) time when the Tryon Road Church became a Korean Church, the then congregation united with the Lindfield Uniting (former St David's) Church at their site.
- V. The Killara Uniting Church is a loyal and committed congregation guided by its settled Minister, Reverend Yangrae Son, an ordained Minister of the Word of the Uniting Church in Australia.
- W. The Killara uniting Church congregation is rooted in Fiveways, which has provided a spiritual home for its members, past and present and their families for over 120 years. In many cases for generations. The pipe organ was installed in the church in 1929, the piano, Bibles, hymn books, pulpit, reading lectern, communion plates and trays, collection plates and church bell, to name but a few, have all been gifts of loyal members of the Fiveways congregation over the years.
- X. Community activities taking many forms, including public interest lectures are and have been held in the Memorial Hall in addition to children's and youth activities, craft groups and fellowship groups. The Hall is also used by the wider community.



Annual General Meeting held
24 September, 2023

Killara Uniting Church acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we worship and live.

We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

Hymns from the 19th Century, which were included in the Morning Service on Sunday, 5th November 2023

These hymns, *Give, Said the Little Stream*, and, *To God be the Glory*, were written by Fanny Crosby and Frances Van Alstyne respectively. However, they were one, and the same person. Crosby was Frances' family name, and Van Alstyne her married name. She was an extraordinarily prolific American author of hymns and poems, who lived near, and in, New York City for most of her life. It is estimated that her compositions numbered between nine and ten thousand, though the majority of them were never published. She used these surnames, and many other pseudonyms, as she reasoned that no publisher would issue a hymn book with forty, or more, hymns written by the same author.

Other remarkable facts about this lady were that she was blind from soon after birth, and that she lived for ninety-five years (1820-1915). A lengthy biography of her is published in Wikipedia, where it is recorded that from the age of sixty her greatest interest was in city missions and she wanted to be seen primarily as a rescue mission worker.

“At the end of her life, Fanny's concept of her vocation was not that of a celebrated gospel songwriter, but that of a city mission worker. In an interview that was published in the March 24, 1908, issue of the New Haven Register, Fanny said that her chief occupation was working in missions.”

After she reached eighty years, she wrote very few hymns.

Many of the best composers of hymn music in the USA wanted to use her poems. William Bradbury composed and harmonised *Give Said*, and, possibly encouraged her to include the refrain, which was a necessary help for memorisation by pre-literate children.

William H Doane composed the music for *To God be the Glory* in 1870. Doane's biography is a further surprise. He was a manufacturer and inventor of patented wood-milling machinery. He was a very rich man (multi millions in current US dollars), and, yet, found time to superintend a Sunday School, and was awarded a Doctorate in Music for the quality of his compositions.

It is common practice by hymnodists to give relevant Biblical justification for their works. The original publication of *Give Said*... cites Deuteronomy 16:17 and Acts 20:35. The Companion Book to *Together in Song* (by Wesley Milgate and D'Arcy Wood) has multiple Scriptural References for *To God be the Glory* - Ps 126:2-3, John 3:16-17, Rom 5:8-11, Matt 7:13-14, Rev 21:25-27, 1 John 2:1-2, 1 Cor 6:20, 7:23, 13:12, 2 Cor 1:20, 1 John 9, 1 Peter 1:8. In the early 20th Century, this hymn was almost forgotten in the USA, but it was revived by the Dr Billy Graham Crusades, and retains its popularity there, and in Britain and Australia.

Ian Martin



Lunch in October

OAM for Jeff Newman



Congratulations to Jeff Newman on his OAM awarded in recognition of his service to philately.



The following prayer sent by Alison Scott, came from Mull in Scotland:

Compassionate God
In our minds we pray among the rubble
The unholy mess of demolitions
In the land that we call Holy.

In our hearts we hold
families who have lost their homes
children who have seen their schools destroyed
Communities which no longer have a clinic

We pray for them
as they weep for all that's lost
We pray that they will not lose hope



*Donald Mackay Wellington Mounted Rifles NZEF
His grave at Khan Yunis 23 Feb 1917 WWI
Donald was Linda Brown's great uncle who was born in Scotland.*

(Let us also pray for those whose loved ones have been killed or held hostage. All who are suffering. ed.)



Lindara Family Program



Welcome to a Spring edition of the Lindara newsletter.

Earlier this year, the children of Gordon Pymble Uniting Church Friday Fun Connections community group for young families decided to acknowledge volunteers within our local community. The children designed, crafted and wrapped individual packaged gifts as a way of saying: Thank You. Thank you for the - often many years of - service; for the compassion and effort in caring for and supporting others; for the example provided. Is that not an example in and of itself? We gratefully recognise and appreciate all supporters of the Lindara Family Program - members of our congregations and community who have volunteered their time for the benefit and welfare of local families in crisis.

For a moment of reflection, the impact of volunteer service on the lives of those in need dates back to gatherings and decisions in 1987, establishing the Lindara Markets in 1989 and by 1992 operating the Lindara Family Program in an early form of the services provided today. August 2024 will mark 35 years of volunteering commitment by the Lindara Markets. Remarkable! If you have time, take a look at the history of the Lindara Markets and Lindara on the Killara Uniting Church website. May I especially commend the service of Malcolm and Noella Allerding for continuing the Markets for so many recent years.

In the year to 30 June 2023, 29 families, including 52 children, were supported by the Lindara Family Program; (26 families, 50 children in prior year to 30 June 2022). The slight increase reveals that the impact of COVID, which constrained access to social services throughout, lessened in the months after September 2022. The number of families supported in the first half of the year numbered between 13 and 14 each quarter; whereas, in the second half of the year, the number increased to between 18 and 20 each quarter. Bearing out that the Lindara Family Support workers persevered, throughout COVID and afterwards, until each family in their care was ready for independence. Cases and families were not rushed. Instead, care was extended until each family was ready to leave the program. As access to social services returned to pre-COVID levels, the duration of cases declined; from an average of over 10 months, to less than 7 months. Whilst not back to pre-COVID levels of less than 6 months, the trend by year end was promising.

When families are initially allocated to the Lindara Family Program, the emphasis on restoring a sense of self-determination begins, among other things, with a self description of their story and circumstances which led them to the Lindara Family Program. In 2022/2023 the reasons for seeking support presented as: Domestic & Family violence (29%), Housing Affordability / Suitability (26%), Medical & Mental Health (24%), Financial (14%), Legal (7%). Of course, each family identifies more than one reason for their circumstances and their need for help.

The following stories typify the many challenges and circumstances met with heart and grace every day. Family and individual identities are kept anonymous within CatholicCare. *'Janelle'* self-referred having suffered domestic violence and relocated; couch surfing with her four young children. Janelle and her children were initially provided with transitional accommodation in a CatholicCare unit. Later they received Rentstart support to move into private rental accommodation. Children were enrolled in school, pre-school and play groups. The family joined the Wesley Mission Escaping Domestic Violence program; and were referred to Victim Services for counselling and financial support; as well as to CatholicCare family counselling. AGL provided utilities; G&G furniture; Mummies Paying it Forward financial support for household, clothing and grocery supplies.

'Elizabeth' and her two infant children experienced escalating physical, verbal and financial abuse from her partner. Both children suffered developmental challenges. One child diagnosed with autism. Elizabeth

did not feel safe at home. Mother and children were placed into a women's shelter and soon afterwards relocated to a unit within CatholicCare's transitional accommodation. Working with a housing service, the family was offered a free-standing home. Victim Services provided funds for moving, furniture, utilities and homewares. The children were enrolled in day-care near their accommodation. Specialist support for the children was obtained through NDIS.



'Winnie' fled domestic violence with five children. The family was referred by Hornsby Hospital. CatholicCare and Wentworth housing provided initial support and temporary accommodation was arranged whilst awaiting suitable permanent accommodation; which was secured 6 weeks later. Children were enrolled in a local school. 'Vinnies' sourced furniture and AGL provided their community assist package. Winnie received additional support to relocate as well as a mobile phone and access to local family services.

The Lindara Family Support worker guided, advocated and accompanied each family through the program; providing practical and emotional support to ensure their needs were identified and met. What empathy, knowledge, intellect, temperament, courage and strength would be required to bear the responsibility, to navigate and provide for the future of a family in crisis? In the Lindara Family Support worker, one finds a compassionate and capable specialist who identifies and leverages appropriate resources and connections with diligence and care.

Very early in the year, after intense and sustained service as the Lindara Family Support worker throughout the COVID era, Radhe Davies accepted an opportunity to pursue a new challenge in a broader role within CatholicCare. Gesse Le-Serv, who directly supervised and guided Radhe, stepped away from direct involvement with the Lindara Family Program to focus on the evening Emergency Response Team for families in crisis 'after-hours'. As we gratefully thanked and wished Radhe and Gesse both well, we welcomed Zara Apro as the new Lindara Family Support worker and Raquel Caputo as her supervisor. Since that time, Zara has continued to provide Lindara Family Program families with care and support tailored to each family's needs.

As some will remember, Zara presented the Lindara Family Program to combined congregations at Gordon Pymble Uniting Church, Killara and Lindfield Uniting Churches for the Bi-Annual Lindara Commitment Service and introduced the Lindara Family Program directly to three Mass services at the Lindfield Killara Catholic Parish church at Lindfield. Many members of that church have been long term volunteers and supporters of the Lindara Markets and the opportunity to speak during early and late morning and evening Mass was instigated by those volunteers and enabled by invitation of Rev. Father Colin Blayney. We appreciate every opportunity to bring word of the Lindara Family Program helping families in crisis to safety, accommodation and independence with renewed hope. As in years past, financial support is needed to provide funds for the program to continue.

Anyone who feels inspired to help; please visit the [Killara Uniting Church](#) website. *Lindara remains registered with the [Australian Charities & Not-For-Profits Commission](#) and [granted DGR status](#) to ensure donations above \$2 are tax deductible.*

Philip Crawford
Chair Lindara

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The Walking Group

The Walking Group enjoyed a spring walk through Swain Gardens in September, and in October roamed through the Lane Cove National Park spotting basking water dragons and even a very shy echidna. Afterwards, walkers adjourned to Jan Smith's new home, where they celebrated her birthday.



More walks planned for 2024