



KILLARA CONNECTION

Journal of Killara Uniting Church

'Fiveways' - Corner Arnold Street and Karranga Avenue

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

Issue III October 2026

Inter-gen Service



Beyond Killara



After the Walk



Young and old shared Scripture, photos and stories of unforgettable moments. Together we discovered God's presence in ordinary life, family love, and the questions that help our faith grow.



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From the Editor

The biblical text: 'God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy..' (1 Tim. 6: 17) has been on my mind for a couple of weeks now. At first, I thought these words inappropriate to quote in an issue which mentions the passing of some dearly treasured members of our fellowship.

One cannot deny, however, that the lives of those people have been a blessing, and we still think warmly of them: they have been part of the continuing fellowship of our Church.

We have much for which to be thankful: the natural beauty with which we are surrounded, the enjoyment of our walks together, the fellowship of Book Club and Handicraft Group and our meals and coffee mornings together. Central is our worship on Sundays which binds in one our hearts and souls.

Thanks be to God for the saints we commemorate, and for the joy of our fellowship together. *Killara Connection* celebrates the good things we receive from the hand of God.

Julie Sekhon

From the Minister's Desk.

WHOSE FUTURE IS IT?

Romans 13:11–14

We often speak as though time naturally carries us forward. The new replaces the old; contemporary ideas appear more enlightened than yesterday's; and "progress" can quietly become a measure of truth. Christians, however, have a more demanding understanding of time.



St Paul writes, "You know what time it is ... the night is far gone, the day is near." For Paul, the meaning of the present is determined neither by nostalgia for the past nor by confidence in human progress. **The present receives its meaning from the future God has promised.**

The German theologian Jürgen Moltmann made this central to his theology of hope. Christian faith does not simply imagine ourselves moving towards a better future. God's future comes towards us. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the beginning of that future within our present world. History therefore does not save itself by becoming progressively wiser, more modern or more enlightened. God remains Lord of the future.

This gives Christians an important freedom. We need not assume that something is true merely because it is new or calls itself progressive. Neither should we imagine that faithfulness means returning to an earlier age. **The gospel places both our progressive confidence and our conservative nostalgia under the judgement and promise of God.**

The biblical understanding of time is therefore profoundly unsettling. No political ideology, cultural movement, church program or theological fashion can claim to possess the future. As Paul reminds us, the approaching day is God's day. Our task is not to manufacture that future, but to live faithfully in its light.

This matters for Killara as we discern our future. Tradition may be received gratefully without becoming our prison. Change may be approached courageously without being mistaken for progress. The question is deeper than whether we are moving forwards or backwards:

Are we faithfully open to being led by the future of God?

The night is far gone. The day is near. That is Christian time.

Yangrae Son [Minister of the Word]

[Adapted from the sermon preached at Killara Uniting Church on 6 September 2026.]

Walking Group – exercise, information and views!

The walks organised by Liz and John Giles are always rewarding: John researches the destination, participants come away with the feeling that a good day has been spent: they have had good exercise, are better informed and have enjoyed good company.



Cockatoo Island walk - June



The Cockatoo Island walk was full of historical interest, and John Giles led us through a tunnel and up the hill, pointing out and sharing historical details. On request, he shared again some of these details:

Did you know that Cockatoo Island -

- Is located at the mouth of the Parramatta River
- Was first used a prison for the Norfolk Island convicts in 1839 and later accommodated up to 500 prisoners. These convicts built the prison on top of the island which is still there today
- There are 17 grain silos dug into the sandstone
- In the 1850's the Fitzroy graving dock was started and extended many time to reach its current size in 1880

- The other graving dock, the Sutherland Dock, was started in 1884 and completed in 1928
- In 1869 all prisoners were transferred to Darlinghurst
- In 1871 it became an "industrial school" for girls- (reform school) until 1888 when it reverted to a prison.
- The prison closed in 1908 and all prisoners were transferred to Long Bay and from then onwards it became a dockyard
- The dockyard built 242 ships, and repaired/refitted hundreds including the Australian submarines. One of the more notable ships was "The Empress of Australia". The dockyard made a major contribution to the war effort. WW1 and WW2
- The dockyard was also responsible for many industrial projects including steam turbines
- The dockyard closed in 1991.
- The island is now a historic site with many tourist facilities including glamping.



Waverton walk

August walk was around the old BP oil terminal at Waverton. The tanks and other industrial remnants have been retained to remind visitors of the site's history. Public walkways and gardens take visitors around the site and there are fabulous views of Sydney harbour. About 11 people joined the walk and enjoyed both the history and the views.

Callan Park walk

September walk was around the gardens and surrounds of the old Callan Park hospital. Built 1878 as a 'Hospital for the Insane', it was set in a park-like setting with gardens, as it was thought the tending of gardens has a therapeutical effect on sufferers of mental illness. Today, the beautiful, though austere sandstone buildings have been well preserved, and are used by public and cultural entities. Six walkers enjoyed the beautiful surrounds and were reminded of the welcome changes that have come to mental health treatment since the 19th century, when the inmates were locked up and society envisaged no future for them.



Handicraft Group spreads more joy

Dorothy Newman, Jan Stanwell and I recently visited the Pantry at North Ryde Uniting Church and met with the dedicated team who make all this possible (seen with us in the photo)



In the photo, the pantry is behind, with tinned goods for people who are in need: they are also offered donated frozen meals.

In front are the rugs, beanies and slippers supplied by our Handicraft Group for disadvantaged folk in their area.

Sarah Roger

...and handicrafts go to the outback

Zara, daughter of our Office Coordinator Danielle, took our Handicraft Group's knitted beanies and jumpers to the outback as part of St Edmund's School's visit. The St Edmund's students were providing help and support to indigenous students in the various towns visited, including literacy, numeracy and sporting activities.

In the photo we see Zara presenting the knitted items, and one child models a beanie.

The young recipients were very grateful for all the hard work the KUC knitting group had put into the beautiful knitted items that were donated to them.



Souls generous in time, effort and expertise

What do members of the Property Committee do when they are not discussing projects?

The answer is 'a lot'. Apart from the big projects, there is a lot of upkeep that goes unseen. Who saw Rob Muir crawling up through dust and spider webs into the Hall ceiling space to check its condition? Or Rob and Peter Gibbs up on ladders cleaning fans? What about all the outside work that Terry does – cleaning gutters, trimming bushes, removing moss etc?



Besides these jobs, they and others take up the time-consuming tasks of ringing tradesfolk, getting quotes, meeting them and checking on work done.

Those on rostered ground maintenance also contribute time and effort and Danielle also often goes beyond the call of duty in her willingness to help the Church.

Thank you, generous and hardworking souls!

The Book Club

The KUC Book Club, started by Bev Hollings about 17 years ago, is still going strong, with members from Killara and Lindfield Uniting Churches augmented by members from the community. Our new members have enlivened our discussions. We meet monthly.

We have read a variety of books from serious biography to light-hearted crime, from imagining what might happen in time travel to reading just what did happen in a small part of 17th century USA.

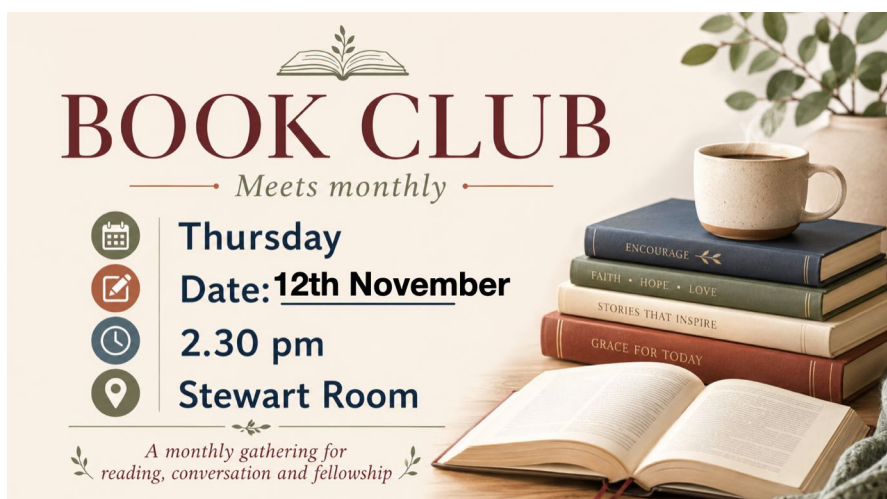
A book which most members rated highly was *The Story of a Heart* by Rachel Clarke.

The Story of a Heart is the story of a small boy, Max, whose heart was irreparably damaged by an infection and, now, was barely living; and a little girl, Keira, tragically killed in a road accident, whose heart was donated to save Max. It is a story of dedication, expertise and self-giving from the medical staff, and a story of trauma and of

compassion and humanity in response. It left us with profound respect for all involved in the procedure.

The transplant was successful, and

we learn that Max greeted his new heart in mornings, 'Hello, Heart!', and with exuberance raced down the hospital corridor. A true story and a wonderful one.



Helping Hands

A couple of years ago, I took on a walking challenge in aid of Hands Across The Water, which many of you generously supported.

Hands Across The Water is an Australian charity founded in response to the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami, initially supporting children in Thailand who had been left without families or homes. Today, the charity runs 3 homes across Thailand, housing over 170 disadvantaged children and providing them with support and the opportunity to learn and grow.

Oli and Sarah got to spend a few days visiting one of the homes in Thailand, experiencing firsthand the amazing work and impact Hands is making. The outcomes for some of the children Hands has helped are really moving.

In January, I'm embarking on an 800KM fundraising ride across Thailand in aid of Hands.

If you'd like to support my fundraising effort, it's easy to do so at <https://www.handsacrossthewater.org.au/fundraisers/chrishare/rtp-2027>

I'd really appreciate any amount, large or small — every Aussie dollar raised goes directly to supporting Hands projects.

A short video about Hands is available at <https://youtu.be/U0q-bumPTak>

Many thanks,

Chris Hare



Families join us in Worship and in Games



On August 29th families joined in worship, considering special occasions in their lives, and reflected that Moses also had a special occasion long ago -nothing less than an encounter with God. Special encounters can change our lives.

It was great pleasure to welcome members of the Roger and Harris families, who, together with regulars Oli and Nathan. contributed to the readings and reflections.



Following the service all enjoyed pitting their wits against each other in Liz Giles' quiz, then these intriguing suggestions put to us by Games leader Chris Hare were effective icebreakers:



Would You Rather

- Would you rather live somewhere with no winter, or somewhere with no summer?
- Would you rather time travel to the past, or to the future?
- Would you rather live in a treehouse, or live on a houseboat?
- Would you rather have a pet that could talk, or be able to fly for one hour a day?

...and a warm and satisfying lunch followed.



The Mercy We Receive, the Mercy We Learn to Give

*“Forgive us our sins, **as** we forgive those who sin against us.”*

If God’s forgiveness is freely given, why does Jesus connect it with our forgiveness of others? Does the word “as” mean that we must first forgive before God will forgive us?

I am grateful to Peter Graham whose thoughtful question about this puzzle prompted this year’s series, *The Lord’s Prayer: The Prayer That Forms the Church*. The sermon on 13 September returned to this question.

Jesus’ parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21–35) illuminates the relationship between receiving and extending mercy. A servant owes his king a debt far beyond his ability to repay. He requests more time, but the king cancels it entirely. His release rests wholly upon the king’s compassion. Mercy comes first.

Yet the forgiven servant imprisons a fellow servant over a much smaller debt. That debt is real; Jesus does not dismiss the wrongs we suffer. The contradiction lies in accepting mercy while refusing to extend it. The king’s judgement reveals the seriousness of that refusal: freely received grace calls for a merciful response.



The word “as” therefore holds together God’s forgiveness and our responsibility towards others. Our forgiveness does not earn His mercy, but we cannot sincerely seek it while deliberately refusing to forgive our neighbour. Like a marriage promise, this prayer commits us to a way of life that we must continually learn to practise, seeking God’s help.

A crucial distinction remains between refusing forgiveness and struggling towards it. Recurring pain does not necessarily indicate an unforgiving heart. We may sincerely desire to forgive while still carrying sorrow or anger. Such wounds can themselves become part of our prayer for help.

Forgiveness neither excuses wrongdoing nor removes every consequence. It does not require a return to danger; renewed trust needs truthfulness and changed behaviour. Forgiveness may begin with surrendering the desire for revenge, a surrender repeatedly renewed in prayer.

Our hope rests in Christ, who teaches this prayer and gives His life for our forgiveness. His mercy precedes our response and sustains our learning.

That mercy also forms the Church. As Paul reminds the Romans, we welcome one another because God has welcomed us. Each time we pray this petition, we bring before our Father both the hurt we have caused and the hurt we have received, asking that His mercy shape our common life.

Adapted from Rev Yangrae Son’s sermon delivered on 13 September 2026, part of our five-session series, *The Lord’s Prayer: The Prayer That Forms the Church*.



Our Father: Learning the Prayer That Forms the Church

The Lord's Prayer Series 2026
Five Sessions

July - Sept 2026

Farewell to Sue Mitchell

Sue Mitchell, who has been a valued member of our Church, has now moved to Orange but returned so that we could express our affection and appreciation in a special way. Always friendly and supportive, Sue has brought enthusiasm and her bright presence to our Church events. Her organisation of the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea has been exceptional in the time and energy she devoted to this cause, the funds raised for the Cancer Council (over \$165,000 in 16 years), and the impact she has made in increasing awareness of the advances in cancer research. We all enjoyed being part of these events.

On Sunday, September 20th our Minister Yangrae Son thanked God for the gifts Sue has given to our Church and led a blessing on this new chapter of Sue's life. The Pastoral Carers joined in the blessing, and Sue was given a framed photograph of our congregation as a gift and memento of her time with us.



Celebrating Special Birthdays

Beverly Harpur & Jennifer Neilson



AM to Andrew Wines

Dr Andrew Wines was awarded Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day honours. His citation stated that the award was recognition for “significant service to orthopaedic surgery and to the community”.

‘Andrew performs reconstructive, arthroscopic, minimally invasive and traumatic surgery of the foot and ankle in adults and children’.*



He also serves or has served on many boards, has published book chapters and journal articles and undertakes philanthropic work.

The investiture took place in May, which is when these photos were taken.

(Sydney Adventist Hospital website report)



Eleanor Margaret Harvey

11 June 1930 - 19 May 2026



Margaret and William Harvey were important people in the life of Killara Uniting Church in the late decades of last century. Dr William (Bill) Harvey, was Church Secretary and Margaret supported Bill unstintingly, frequently inviting church members or visitors to meals and always showing warm hospitality. Bill died in 2017.

Margaret was gentle, warm and friendly, but also had a strength of character and maintained a faith that was unwavering. This was evident as she lived through crises during her life. Their fifth child, Andrew, was killed in a road accident when not quite four years' old. This tragedy remained with Margaret and Bill throughout their lives. Then, in her early 60s, Margaret suffered a stroke. This was a blow, as suddenly, all the activities which meant much to her were denied. Over this time she worked through what this meant to her Christian life, saying that at that time her place was not 'doing, but 'being'. She wrote many poems as she came to terms with this and found small pleasures in life. Gradually, Margaret regained strength and mobility and the ability to paint and do her cherished craftwork.

Later, other health issues brought Margaret to an Aged Care facility and limited her options for creativity. Even then she found pleasure and meaning in small activities and did not complain.

Margaret was very creative. She had drawn and painted from childhood and painted exquisite flowers, trees, still life and landscapes. She also loved crafts – spun and died wool, knitted and enjoyed her garden. All she made was pleasing and attractive.

Margaret was well loved and respected. For a period she served on the Church Council, where her contribution to the discussions was appreciated. One innovation she introduced was a 'prayer chain', to pray for those in need.

One of Margaret's sayings was 'gratitude is the way to survive hardship' and the hymns and readings at her funeral reflected her steadfast faith.

Faith Gibson

3 February 1931- 27 June 2026

Faith Gibson



BORN 3RD FEBRUARY 1931
CALLED TO REST 27TH JUNE 2026



Faith was born to a loving family in rural Victoria and had two older siblings. The family had limited resources, and Faith was only enabled to go to university by having received a New South Wales

Public Service cadetship. She completed an Arts degree and a Diploma in Social Work from the University of Sydney, graduating in 1951. Then followed jobs in social work in New South Wales and Queensland.

In Kathrynn's words:

From Brisbane, always considered a temporary stop, she obtained an American Association of University Women's scholarship and a Fulbright travel grant and in 1958 she left for the University of Chicago. Here she was intent on pursuing her academic career and after her first year Masters course obtained a scholarship to complete a PhD. However, it was then she met Norman, an Irish economist, who after a whirlwind few weeks, proposed and was accepted. Their marriage in New York was the start of an almost 55-year happy partnership and Faith, with no regrets, returned her scholarship and embarked on the next phase of her life which was mostly to be lived in Northern Ireland.

From 1967 onwards, she restarted her professional life, having temporarily postponed it to look after Michael, Patrick and [Kathryn]. After some years working at the McGee Campus of Ulster University, she was appointed Professor of Social Work at Ulster University, Coleraine. It is impossible to summarise here, her commitment to academic social work and to training generations of social workers. In later years her early focus on children and adolescents shifted to an interest in gerontology and the care of older people, particularly those living with dementia. Her *“Teaching older dogs new tricks”* project begun in 1991 deliberately selected the most frail and disabled residents of a particular nursing home who over twenty 2-hour sessions learned enough word processing skills on Mac computers to be able to write their own life stories. Her pioneering research on Reminiscence therapy for older adults, particularly those living with dementia and her immense service to society was ultimately recognised in 1985 with an OBE awarded for services to social work. Despite all of her academic prowess and achievements for Mum, her greatest joy was her family. She was a deeply loving mother to Michael in England, Patrick here in Australia, and myself [Kathryn]...

When our father, Norman, sadly passed away from dementia in 2014, Mum showed her characteristic resilience. After more than half a century away, she decided to make the long journey back home to Australia but before she left, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Sterling and so, she finally did get that PhD.

Even in her 80s, Mum did not stop building community. She joined the Killara Uniting Church, where her steadfast Christian faith—the anchor of her entire life—found a warm, welcoming home. True to form, she immediately made a wonderful circle of new friends, adding to the many she maintained across the globe...

She embraced every part of life here. She adored her grandchildren: Rebecca, James, Ben, and Robert. And she was blessed to welcome her two great-grandchildren, Henry and Abigail.

...We take immense comfort knowing she will always be with us in our hearts.

I am indebted to Faith's daughter Kathryn, whose eulogy is reflected in the bulk of this article. Ed.

Robin Ann Blackwell

11 May 1939 - 4 September 2026

Robin Blackwell was a loved and much respected member of our congregation, supporting our Church with committed pastoral care.



She had the misfortune of losing her father at the age of 10, but grew up in the company of her Mother and siblings. On leaving school, she chose to become an occupational therapist, which suited her compassionate nature, - evident then, and especially later as pastoral carer. Family and friends testify to Robin's genuine interest in others, the way she would give them her entire attention and interest. In recent years, Robin suffered physical difficulties and frailty, but her spirit and willpower to give to others was undiminished.

Robin married David Blackwell and had four children:

Jenny, Andrew, Nicholas and Suzie, and in time the family grew with many grandchildren. Here again, Robin was self-giving to the children, discarding dignity to build fun with the children. It is no wonder that they loved her. She was proud of her family.

Robin supported David in his work for Kyds Youth Development Service, and he commented that she should share the OAM award given for his work.

We honour Robin for the wonderful service she has given to her Lord and to our Church as Pastoral Carer and for the blessing she has been to us and to her family.

Elizabeth Ann Cameron

Died 4th August, aged 95

Elizabeth, who died in August, was a vital, committed member of our Church and played an active role in the women's Evening Fellowship in earlier years.

She was President of the Fellowship for many years, during which the Fellowship had an active part in charitable work. Our Church joined with St David's Church (now Lindfield Uniting), Tryon Road Uniting Church and Holy Family Catholic Church to provide Meals on Wheels to the community. Elaine Morell and Elizabeth were part of those who provided this service and their Meals on Wheels service continued for 42 years!

Elizabeth's family generally stayed at their holiday home at Whale Beach on Sundays, which limited her attendance at Sunday services, but those who knew Elizabeth will remember her hospitality and friendship.

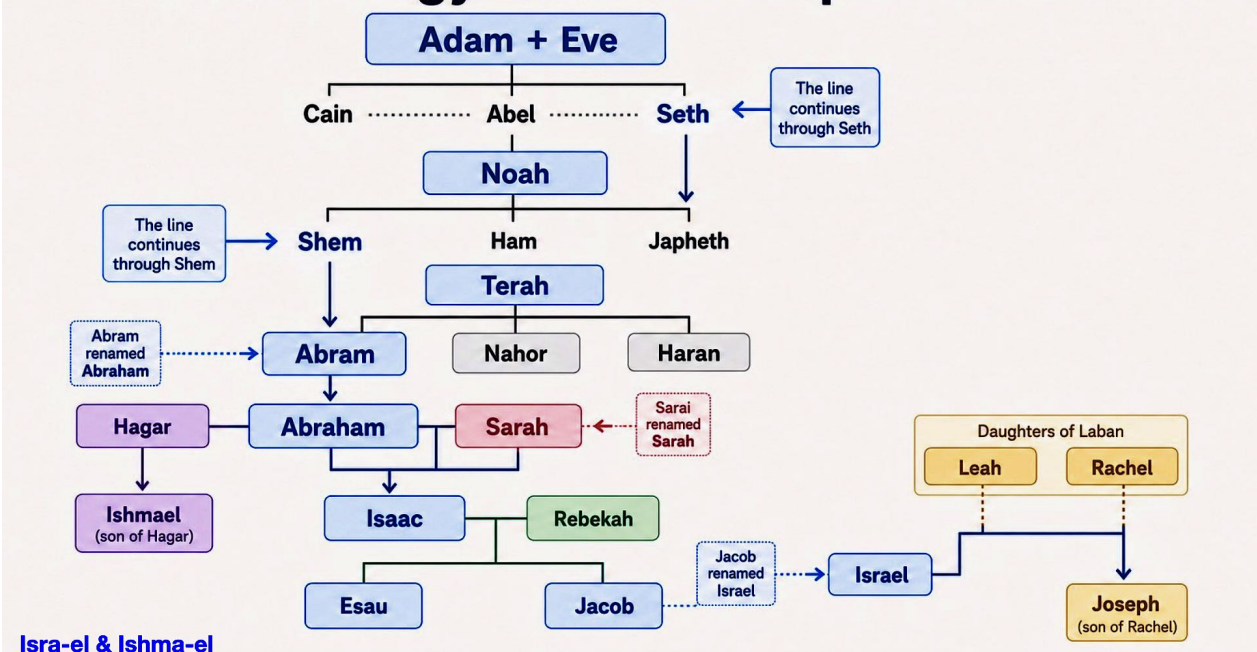
In recent years, Elizabeth has been a resident of the Pathways Aged Care facility.

Music that Enriches Our Worship



Our Journey through Genesis and the Lord's Prayer

Genealogy of God's People: Israel



Our Father: Learning the Prayer That Forms the Church

The Lord's Prayer Series 2026
Five Sessions

July - Sept 2026

Week	Date	Session Focus	The Lord's Prayer Focus / Relevant Lectionary Readings
Week 1	12 July 2026 (Pentecost 7)	Prayer begins with relationship, not technique	<i>Our Father in heaven</i> Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Week 2	26 July 2026 (Pentecost 9)	God's name, God's reign, God's hidden treasure	<i>Hallowed be your name; your kingdom come</i> Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Week 3	16 August 2026 (Pentecost 12)	Dependence, mercy, and the table of grace	<i>Give us this day our daily bread</i> Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28
Week 4	13 September 2026 (Pentecost 16)	The grace of forgiveness and the calling to forgive	<i>Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us</i> Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
Week 5	27 September 2026 (Pentecost 18)	Faithfulness in testing; prayer becoming obedience	<i>Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil - Amen</i> Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Regular Church Activities

Church Services: 9.30am-10.30am followed by morning tea. You are always welcome. Make friends and be uplifted by praise to God.

Book Club. 2nd Thursday of the month. Held in Stewart Room (Room off main Church Hall), 2.30-4pm, Book kit borrowed from local library and given out to be discussed at next meeting. Afternoon tea provided. No charge. Contact Julie Sekhon (margaret_sekhon@bigpond.com)

Coffee. Final Friday Coffee morning at East Killara Coffee shop, Koola Avenue. Last Friday of the month 10 am. Coffee at own expense.

Handicraft Group. 4th Thursday of the month. Held in Stewart Room (Room off main Church Hall) 10am- 12 noon. Bring along your own craft to work on, or knit for charity (wool provided) Contact Sarah Roger bumbleb1@bigpond.com Includes morning tea. No charge

Lunch at Killara Bowling Club. Every two months, usually 2nd Sunday of the month at 12 noon. Cost \$25. A roast dinner, meat varies –they can cater for diets. Please contact ahead of the Sunday: Margaret Middleton 0488908844 or margmid@gmail.com

Walking Group. Generally once a month. . You can ask to be put on the email mailing list to be notified of next walk. Contact John and Liz Giles elizzieg51@gmail.com Free

Lindara Market. Conducted three times a year at Lindfield Uniting Church. 8am to 1pm. Next market 21 November.

