



### Lindara Markets and Christmas hampers

We sold 100 tickets in the raffle for the Hamper, all 3 prizes were won by 3 very excited friends, who had spent time at Lindara, on a perfect day, it all went very well.

Sue Mitchell



### Farewell to Ian and Helen

Following Revd Ian Pearson's last service at Killara a wonderful lunch was served to thank him and Helen for their time with us and their contribution over the last 5 years.



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**From the Editor**

The seasons of the church are a precious gift from our ancestors in the faith, infusing times of the year with special meaning. As we enter into Advent, we again experience the sweet -sad yearning of the Advent hymns, whilst the exuberance of summer around us presages the joy of the coming of the Saviour.

At the same time, things are ending: we struggle to tie up all ends before the holiday season so that the new year can start afresh.

We at Killara have seen an ending: the completion of Ian Pearson's ministry and have given to him and to Helen our thanks and good wishes for the future. In turn, we look to a new chapter for our church next year. This issue of Killara Connection remembers a ministry completed and features the luncheon that farewelled Ian and Helen. The past year has also seen a closer relationship with our sister Korean church –members are featured in some of the photos – and we trust the relationship will further develop in the fresh new year.

In the meantime, we have the gift of the season of Advent, and we thank David Gill for being here to lead us through this time and beyond. He has written the minister's letter for this issue.

**Julie Sekhon**





## From our Minister Rev David Gill



### Christmas: The Theft That Never Was

Christmas approaches, and any day now we can expect the usual shock-horror story that someone, somewhere, is intent on stealing it.

A shopping mall has vetoed carol singers? A government department is sending cards that wish people Happy Holiday? A local council has hung up a little less tinsel this year? Whatever the story, some news-starved media outlet will seize on it with delight.

The result? Outrage, especially from those who never go to church anyway. And most of the fury will be aimed, wrongly, at people of other faiths. Scratch the protest and often it's just xenophobia -- a swipe at newcomers that's dressed up as piety.

The argument is usually that we can't do Christmas the way we used to because it will offend other, newly arrived religious groups. This is nonsense.

It won't. In multicultural Australia, all religions are welcome. All their festivals have a place.

Religious leaders have said, again and again, that no faith community in this country wants to suppress Christmas.

On the contrary. We should work at sharing our religious festivals, to make them true community events. So when the inevitable outrage erupts again this year, remind yourself and anyone else who cares to listen that Christmas is not about such trivia as shopping malls, cards or tinsel.

Have a blessed Christmas. And take care to wish the same to your neighbours and friends -- of other faiths and of none!

### David Gill



### Worship with us at Christmas:

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December: 9:30am  
Lessons and Carols service,  
followed by special Christmas  
morning tea.

Christmas Day services:  
8am and 9.30am.



### Remembering Allan Bryant

The Bryant family have made a thoughtful gift to the church in memory of their husband, father and grandfather. The beautifully polished sorting box for those who count the weekly offering is a useful and appropriate gift. It commemorates Allan, who faithfully served as Church Treasurer for many years in various churches, and more recently in a supporting financial role.

A faithful and good man will be remembered in a practical way.



### Stir Up Sunday

'Stir Up Sunday' was once again superbly organised by Judy Gill from Pymble UC. She has been organising this event for many years during which hundreds of Christmas puddings have been made by enthusiastic participants of all ages.



June Wait, Sue Mitchell and Sue's daughter and friend and were among the keen pudding-makers, each taking home a delicious pudding made with much fun, love and laughter and blessed by Rev Steve Aynsley.

**June Wait**



### Planning Ahead for Life's Challenges

On 14<sup>th</sup> November some 65 people, including many who were not familiar faces at Fiveways Uniting Church gathered to hear Jennifer Jackson and Geoff Corderoy from PW Lawyers, Pymble and Kelly Arthurs from HammondCare, Greenwich speak about legal, health and dementia issues connected with planning ahead and preparing for life's challenges such as serious illness, accidents, dementia and the end of life. This was a most worthwhile, informative and friendly evening organized by the congregation's Dementia Group. Jennifer discussed the NSW law concerning wills, power of attorney and enduring guardianship while Geoff outlined the complexities associated with various types of contract pertaining to residential villages. Jennifer outlined the importance of formally appointing a trusted person or persons with appropriate skills to have authority in financial and estate matters if necessary and an **Enduring Guardian** to make decisions about treatment and care should you yourself become unable to give consent.

Geoff stressed the advisability of anyone who may be contemplating moving into a retirement village to seek early legal advice before verbally or actually signing a contract. These contracts, he said, are usually very complex and lengthy documents with varied shorter and longer term financial implications. Kelly Arthurs who has had long experience in palliative care and dementia care spoke about the need to talk with family members and close friends, so they will understand what you wish for yourself concerning future health and care decisions should there come a time when you lack the capacity to make such decisions or let your wishes be known. Engaging in **advance care planning** by talking openly about it, identifying a guardian and formally appointing them by signing an advance care directive, sometimes called a living will can bring peace of mind in the present.

All speakers stressed it is all too easy to postpone or avoid attending to these important issues but the completed wills, power of attorney and enduring guardianship forms may be thought of as gifts you can give to your friends and family now which will avert uncertainty, avoid possible family conflicts and assist clinicians. Copies of materials made available at the meeting are available in the foyer and relevant websites are given below:

Advance Care Planning Australia [www.advancecareplanning.org.au](http://www.advancecareplanning.org.au)

Fair Trading NSW website contains a number of very useful publications including a prospective resident checklist and information on buying, selling, renting, renovating and strata living - [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/strata-and-community-living/retirement-villages](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/strata-and-community-living/retirement-villages)

Retirement Village Residents Association – [www.rvra.org.au](http://www.rvra.org.au)

Seniors Rights Service – [seniorsrightsservice.org.au](http://seniorsrightsservice.org.au)

Dementia Australia Helpline 1800 100 500 or [www.dementia.org.au](http://www.dementia.org.au)

Faith Gibson, on behalf of the Dementia Group November 2018



## An Overdue Recognition



From time to time, Killara Connection features members of our congregation who, through notable contribution to the community or nation, have received official recognition. There are some, however, whose week-by-week contribution is unseen, and doesn't reach the headlines.

It has been felt by some, and the sentiment is widely shared, - that Peter Bidencope should be recognized for his quiet work in repairing, replacing, monitoring and serving the church in practical ways – frequently when no-one else is there to see him.

Thank you, Peter!



## Armistice Day 2018

November 11<sup>th</sup> marked 100 years since the signing of the Armistice which marked the end of World War 1, and this significant date was commemorated by a remembrance

component of our service on that Sunday. John Middleton led this remembrance and Ron Leckie – a returned Air Force serviceman from World War 2 - laid a wreath at the Communion Table, which then served as a cenotaph.





## Building Progress



Dean Bennett from Bennett Leadlight installed the next series of completed windows and took the next panels away to restore. This is a slow and laborious process and it is lovely to see each stage completed.



## Hall Repairs

Richard McGregor of RJM Building has needed to do extra work on the hall roof. It's only when you get up close you can see the poor state of things. Richard and his apprentice Scott have been working hard to get all work completed and scaffolding removed before Christmas.





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## Farewell to Ian and Helen

Following Revd Ian Pearson's last service at Killara a wonderful lunch was served to thank him and Helen for their time with us and their contribution over the last 5 years. Our generous Korean friends contributed tributes to Ian and provided fruit for the meal. We wish Ian a happy and fulfilling retirement and joy for both Ian and Helen in setting up their new home at Katoomba.

Ian's last service was a Closure of Ministry service and Revd Graham Perry attended on behalf of the Presbytery. Members of Ian and Helen's family attended both the service and the luncheon afterwards.

As part of the proceedings, the long awaited 'Memorandum of Understanding' between Sydney Seoul Church and Killara Uniting Church was signed. This memorandum sets out the terms in which the two churches share the Church building and Hall. In an atmosphere of cordiality, Revd Ian Pearson and Dr Peter Williamson signed on behalf of Killara Uniting Church, and Pastor Tae Hyun Kim and Mr Greg Carmock signed on behalf of Sydney Seoul Church.

The accompanying photos show scenes from the lunch and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.









## The Memorandum of Understanding

On 30<sup>th</sup> September, at the luncheon honouring Ian and Helen Pearson, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by representatives of Killara Uniting Church and of the Sydney Seoul Church. The churches have undertaken to share the use and costs of the Church and Hall in an amicable spirit using their best endeavours to communicate with each other as issues arise concerning the property.

The MOU recognises that, although we come from different cultural and theological backgrounds, we have much to learn from each other. It states:

**This MOU is to be for a period of three (3) years, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2018. It is hoped that, during this period, the two congregations may move into a closer relationship. Our two congregations are to become pilgrim partners on a mutual journey of discovery and deeper understanding of the Christian faith.**





## News from Andrew and Kate Blackwell

(at present home on furlough from Bulgaria).

As we head toward the end of our first term here in Bulgaria, it seems appropriate that we look back and see where God has brought us; the things He has shown us, the things He has taught us, and how we see these things enabling us as we move forward with ministry.

First and foremost we want to say "God is good...all the time". During our 3 ½ years here, there have been joys and successes. Life, as a whole however, has been hard, even traumatic at times, but at no time did God stop being good.



We are all broken people, perhaps the Roma are in some ways more broken than some, as society after society has crushed, oppressed and even tried to eliminate them. We are all a work in progress but both the promises of God, and the evidence of His faithfulness in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus mean that there is hope for us.

### Andrew and Kate list some points for prayer::

During our Home Assignment, please pray for:

- Our time together as a family of six, after not having seen Tom (19) for a year, and Ellie (18) for four months.
- Good time of reconnecting with wider family over December and January. . Good, restful holiday time, particularly in January.

There are laws before parliament in Bulgaria which, if enacted, will significantly impact on religious freedom in this country. Bulgaria is primarily Eastern Orthodox, and around 10% Muslim. Officially, the target of these laws is to limit religious extremism, but in fact they will have significant negative impact on all minority religions (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish etc) due to limitations on foreign education and funding of religious activity, restriction on buildings which can be used for religious services, and limitations on activities of foreigners in churches...

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## The Committee

Oh give me your pity, I'm on the Committee,  
Which plainly explains that from morning to night  
We attend and amend and contend and defend  
With not a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur  
And re-iterate all of our thoughts.  
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda  
And consider a load of reports.

(Anonymous)

We propose and compose, we suppose and oppose  
And points of procedure are fun,  
Though various notions are brought up as motions  
There's terribly little gets done.

We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve  
As there's so much more to be done.  
What a shattering pity to end our Committee.  
Where else could we have so much fun?

Quoted in ADFAS Ku-ring-gai Communiqué November 2018.

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## Honouring past members

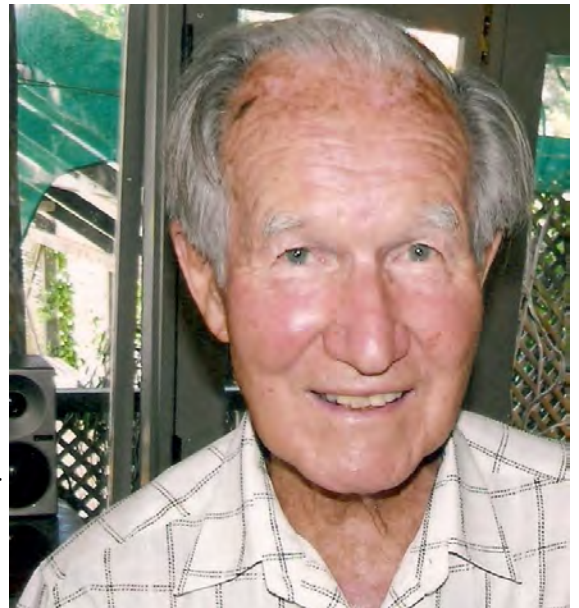
Recent months have seen the loss of several of our church members:

**Peter Breden**, in the past has contributed to our church as chair of the Property Committee, and was also, with his late wife Margaret, a champion for Streetwork, one of our church's charities,

**Esther Johnston**, who died in her late 90s, was a member of Killara Uniting Church (and its earlier life as Killara Congregational Church) – from her youth. Her childhood home was 'Inverness' 33 Marian St Killara, a house designed by Walter Burley Griffin. In her married life, also, she lived in Killara and then moved to Lourdes Retirement Village. She regularly attended church at Killara whilst health allowed.

**Peter Williams**, and his wife Judith, have been familiar faces at Five Ways in recent years, and we send our sympathy to Judith on the loss of her life's partner, and a courteous gentleman to us all.

**Peter Williams**>



## Rock of Ages



Sometimes natural landscapes can be awe-inspiring. Whilst tramping through the Grand Canyon in The Grampians, Linda noticed the similarity between the grey, blocked stone on the canyon and our own Killara Uniting Church. Does anyone else see the similarity?