



How we celebrated Christmas!

See Page 8 and 9 for wonderful photos (thank you to Keith Smithers) of the Children's Pageant and the Choir



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ **How we celebrated Christmas**
Cover
- ◆ **From the Editor** *Page 2*
- ◆ **From our Minister:**
Rev David Gill *Page 3*
- ◆ **Financial Appeal**
Pages 4 & 5
- ◆ **Remembering Edwin Burton**
Page 6
- ◆ **The Pastoral Carers**
Page 7
- ◆ **How we celebrated Christmas**
Pages 8 & 9
- ◆ **Praying for our members**
Page 10
- ◆ **Missionvale Thank you**
Page 10
- ◆ **A prayer for turning priorities**
Page 11
- ◆ **Coming Events**
Page 12
- ◆ **Hall Roof Improvements**
Page 12

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**From the Editor**

We are entering the season of Lent, and it always seems to me that our Southern seasonal cycle is in tune with spirit of the times; the exuberance of Christmas is past, and a quieter spirit prevails. There is a slight chill evening and morning, and ever so slowly the evenings draw in a bit earlier each day. With the church world-wide we watch the moon wane and wax again – the same moon that Jesus saw, heralding the Passover that was to be the climax of His earthly career. As we move through this solemn and significant period we are grateful for David Gill's leadership.

Our Church has many busy beavers who work diligently for its welfare. Some have written for this issue, or are otherwise featured: the pastoral carers, the Treasurers, the Property Committee amongst others. The Knitters and Stamp Trimmers are about to get underway again, and we receive regular thanks from Missionvale, South Africa, one of the beneficiaries of the little jumpers they knit.

Reflecting on another side of church life, we remember Edwin Burton, one of our very faithful members over the years. We find aspects of his life which inspire us. We bring this new issue to you hoping that it informs and reminds us of the events of our church.

Julie Sekhon



From our Minister Rev David Gill



Dear Friends

Aberfan is like dozens of other small villages in the mining valleys of Wales. At least it was, until the tragedy. For years, waste from a nearby coal mine had been accumulating on a hillside overlooking the village. The heap grew higher and higher, but nobody thought much about it. Then, after some heavy rain -- disaster. The pile of debris gave way. A torrent of mud and rocks swept down on the village, destroying houses and engulfing the school. Some 140 people, mainly children, lost their lives. Not a family went untouched. A few years later, a rebuilt Aberfan welcomed a group from the World Council of Churches. The guests from churches overseas were received into people's homes and told the stories of the village. Later they were shown around -- including the graveyard, with its 140 headstones all bearing the same date. Then everyone assembled at the village hall. The mayor, decked out in his chains of office, arrived in what looked like a pensioned-off London taxi. After speeches of welcome and thanks, everyone tucked into a communal feast.

Then we went to their little chapel, and the villagers sang to us as only the Welsh can. Songs of the valleys, songs of Wales, songs of faith. And, at the very end, a song they had learned from the suffering of others, to help them cope with their own pain. It had originated with slaves, far away, on the other side of the Atlantic. It was the old spiritual *Nobody knows the trouble I've seen. Nobody knows, but Jesus.*

As the last note died away you could have heard a pin drop. The people of Aberfan had taken us into the depths of their sorrow. But they had led us, too, to the One who been right there, with them, in the depths.

Later I asked their pastor how his people had managed to keep going, after such a shattering experience. "We held close to the cross," he told me. "We held very close to the cross".

May this Lent, Holy Week and Easter help us do the same.

David Gill



FINANCIAL APPEAL TO CONGREGATION MARCH 2019

Property Members

Ian Neilson



Peter Gibbs



Linda Brown

Not pictured:
Jae-Won Choi

Background. It is five (5) years this month since Jennifer and I took over the reins as Joint Treasurers of Killara Five-Ways. This role involves not only paying the bills but also preserving the integrity of the property in our care with the funds available. In effect we are also acting more as Financial Managers.

Mission. When we came on board, we embarked on an extensive programme of upgrading the buildings to meet both present and future needs. To meet this need we then appealed to the congregation. The funds raised gave the Property Committee the green light to commence work. It also inspired them to apply for and secure several Federal and NSW Government grants and enabled more extensive upgrades to be implemented sooner rather than later.

Church. Their initial focus was the Church. The foundation stone was laid in 1923 so with 96 years of exposure to the elements, one would anticipate some deterioration. In buildings, the biggest contributor to deterioration is moisture. Pelting rain, leaking joints, mould, allergies – are all sources or possible products of moisture. Starting from this premise the focus was to reduce, or if possible, eliminate moisture ingress. Addressing this issue would decrease the rate of deterioration and increase the components life. The focus then was, on the Church vents that are now long-lasting copper instead of limited life galvanized iron. Water ingress in the belfry roofing was also addressed. Long life detailed cures are not often appreciated!

Link. Although completed quite recently, storms have found ways to bypass the drainage system. This repair was also undertaken and fortunately our insurance claim was honoured, and the net financial impact was minimal. Unfortunately, it is still not perfect, and a slight leak still exists – and it is being investigated.

Hall. Well; what a complex situation. The sound attenuation (noise reduction) was simple. It was contracted out and it worked. But it did not end there. We had mould on the ceiling of four [4] rooms including the kitchen. What was the cause – moisture! Small leaks from the flat roof portion of the hall. This was replaced along with repairs to the eaves and gutters. The back of the hall – an embarrassment to our neighbours. Worse still, a seething mass of rotted wood supporting the back end of the hall. All had to be replaced – far more complex than building from scratch. This water damage included replacement of the kindergarten room windows; they now open. Having just finished that job similar rotting was detected further towards the front of the building. For the same reason this was also replaced.

(See page 12 for before and after photos of roof repairs)

Stained Glass Windows. Another blessing on our journey! After completion of extensive paper work a Department of Veterans Affairs Grant was secured and with the support a specific bequest, we are to be blessed with an enlightened visage. Stage by stage we are re-invigorating our memorial.

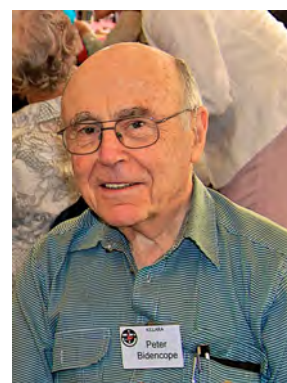
Korean Congregation. Sharing joys. Infusion of youth. Since 1st July our Korean brothers commenced sharing our property expenses and their input is aiding our programme for both to benefit.

Third Party Users. The impact is there for all to see. Usage has Increased, so has the utilization by some of our existing users. Our more welcome facilities are there for the community use and this is proving fruitful.

The Future. We want a future; new minister, renewed congregation. Providing solace/support to young people in dire need of guidance as well as our faithful existing congregation. It's five [5] year since we last appealed. You have heard from Linda Brown in January. I implore you; help us complete the work!

Summary. We are a forward-looking congregation; exploring new horizons. In our spiritual home you have numerous dedicated parishioners working towards protecting your facilities; bashing down nails in the hall, cleaning out cupboards, maintaining the garden etc. If you believe our Property Committee is doing a good job, you would like to see the **near-completed work** finished and, are keen to secure a new Minister in place for the long term, then **please add your financial support to their efforts.**

Suffice to say our reserves are depleted, down some \$66,000 in the 6 months to 31st December. They need replenishing to keep our tremendous community resource a viable entity and; encourage both parishioners, and outsiders, to utilize our facilities. **Ian Neilson**



Peter Bidentope



Claude Drulik

< Property Committee Members

^



Hannah Kim



Ron Leckie



Jan Stanwell



Greg Carmock

Details of how you remit funds is set out below.

<i>Account Name</i>	<i>BSB</i>	<i>Account No.</i>
1. THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA – COLLECTIONS ACCOUNT	032-086	177 056
2. THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA KILLARA UNITING CHURCH	032-086	127 972

1. This account should be used if you desire to keep the details of your contribution private.
2. This is our general operating account.
3. Property Restoration. If you desire the funds to be directed solely towards Property Restoration only, make your cheque out to **Killara Uniting Church – Building Fund**. This ensures it is allocated to the correct section in our accounts.



Edwin Robert Burton
 4th June 1929- 23rd December 2018
 (From Roger Burton 's obituary)

Edwin Burton was a faithful member of our congregation over many years. Worship with the people of God was important to him, and over the years he has lent his keen mind and ability in serving the church.

The only child of William Edwin Burton and Grace Lee Burton, Edwin trained as an accountant, working with various companies –in particular Australian Chemical Industries and Northern Engineering Industries – rising to take on managerial responsibilities. He married Alice early in his working life and she became his life's companion over 65 years.

His career received a severe blow, when – at the height of his capabilities – he was diagnosed with macular degeneration, and his sight deteriorated. Not one to give up easily, Edwin devised a mode of coping: he had his secretary read out figures to him and he memorised them. His Managing Director knew the situation, as did his secretary, but no one else. Edwin finally retired in 1989.

After retirement, Edwin increased his involvement in lawn bowls, winning State championship events for blind bowlers. He also became a coach and umpire. His son Roger writes:

So how did Edwin, while vision impaired, manage to pass the examinations for Umpire and Coaching accreditation, and be able then to teach and examine others?

Edwin's solution was the same solution he used when working –memorise the texts. With unbelievable patience, Alice would read the text to him, and re-read over and over until Edwin could recite the texts verbatim.

Edwin was involved with the church throughout his life, becoming deacon of Chatswood Congregational (later Uniting) Church as a young adult, and their Treasurer and Church Secretary at various times. He was elder of Killara Uniting Church for some years from 1984.

The words of *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*, sung at Edwin's memorial service, are an indication of Edwin's abiding faith:

*Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer
 Be thou still my strength and shield...*

*Death or death and hell's destruction
 Land me safe on Jordan's side –
 Songs and praises ... I will ever give to Thee.*



The Pastoral Carers – a treasure of our Church!

Jan Smith is co-ordinating the Pastoral Care Team in the period before a new minister is appointed, and is grateful for the support of David Gill and the other Pastoral Carers. The Team meets monthly to plan, share information and support each other. It is very conscious of the need for discretion: no information is shared unless you have given permission.

Jan writes:

We believe that the Pastoral Care Team is one of the many strengths of this church community with its 85 families and a total of 150 on its lists. In the past year, several members of the Pastoral Care Team have retired and have been replaced by new carers. We have been delighted to welcome new members to our congregation and have taken the opportunity to redistribute members with carers. If you do not know who your Pastoral Carer is, please contact me, so that this can be put right.

We have redefined the role: a Pastoral Carer is someone who is there to support you spiritually and emotionally at all times, but particularly in times of need. Our role is not to offer physical support or replace the role of family or medical adviser. This relationship works best as two-way. It would be helpful if sometimes you contact your carer, instead of waiting to hear from them.

Plans for the future:

This year, we are hoping to initiate some social activities as a way of getting together on an informal basis.

We have been able, with the help of AV people and the Office, to make available recordings of some funeral services on USB sticks or tapes. We hope that the weekly sermons will soon be made available for people unable to attend church.

Until a new minister is appointed, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Praying for each other

June Wait writes:

A small group of Pastoral Carers has taken on the responsibility of writing Prayer Points each month, for the weekly news sheet.

Prayer Points seeks to include both specific and general matters of concern, to either individuals or the congregation as a whole. As the news sheet is put on the Church's website it is a public document and therefore names cannot be mentioned.

Each individual's prayer regime is different, and 'Prayer Points' does not seek to be prescriptive. We hope its inclusion is helpful to you.



How we celebrated Christmas!



Christmas brought a string of delights – the kids' Christmas pageant, the Lessons and Carols, which moved us to the point that we didn't want to move from our seats.



David Gill pulled the service together into an inspiring completeness.

The Christmas pageant featured a cast of interesting characters – a tired donkey, a hard working ox, a twinkling star, Mary, Joseph, angel, Innkeeper and shepherds, who each charmed us with their pieces.





Thanks go to Paul Wait for his expertise and the enormous amount of energy he put into it.



Praying for our members –from June Wait

Prayer Points

Starting in November last year we agreed that each month a section entitled 'Prayer Points' would be included in the church news sheet. These are written by a small group of Pastoral Carers.

'Prayer Points' seeks to include both specific and general matters of concern, to either individuals or our congregation as a whole, for those who would like to include them in their prayer times.

Of course, individuals' names cannot be mentioned in the church newsletter as it is part of the church website and is therefore a public document.

We trust that 'Prayer Points' is valuable to you.

Missionvale thank you

June Wait (on behalf of the Knitters) has received the following letter from Ann Beck, who co-ordinates the Australian donations to Missionvale.

Dear June

Thank you so very much for the bag of gorgeous jumpers you knitted for the orphaned and vulnerable children of Missionvale (given to me by Janet Lumsden).

Janet asked me to send you some information about Missionvale. Have attached our newsletter from earlier in the year as well as a photo of some of the children wearing their Aussie jumpers – yours will be going with me in February when I am volunteering for 2 weeks at Missionvale

Thanks again so very much, I can assure you they will be put to very good use

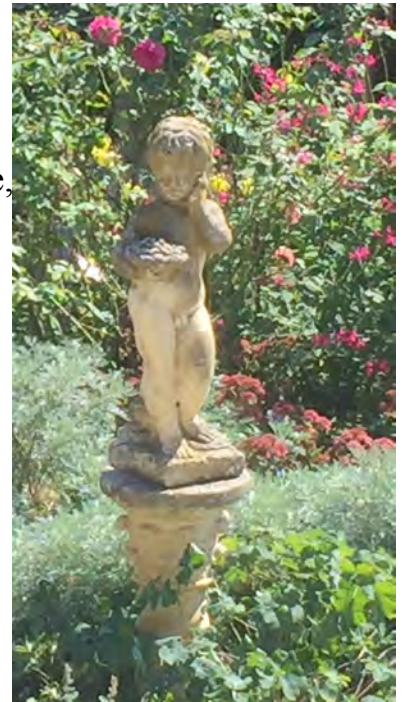
Ann



A prayer for turning our priorities upside down:

Lord when I am hungry, give me someone to feed
 When I am thirsty, give me someone whose thirst I may ease,
 and when I am cold, someone to warm.
 When I am sad, give me someone to cheer,
 When I need understanding, send me someone who needs mine,
 When my burden is heavy, give me also those of others,
 and when I need love, may others ask for mine.
 When I think only of myself, draw my thoughts to another.
 May your will be my food,
 Your grace my strength
 And your love my rest.
 May my whole life be a gift perpetually offered to you,
 O Father,
 until the day when you are pleased to receive it back again.

Author unknown. Quoted by David Gill in his sermon
 of 23rd December 2018.



*Opportunity may knock once,
 but temptation bangs on the front door forever.*

*Many folks want to serve God,
 but only as advisers.*

Don't let your worries get the best of you;

*Remember Moses started out as
 a basket case.*



Coming Events:

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March 26th 7.45 pm

R-L-K Interchurch Lenten Service at Lindfield Uniting Church.
Preacher, Father Colin Blayney.

April 9th 7.45 pm

R-L-K Interchurch Lenten Service at Killara Uniting Church.
Preacher, Revd David Gill.

April 18th

Tenebrae service at Lindfield Uniting Church.
A simple Middle Eastern meal
and quiet reflective service
led by Revd Neil Ericksson and Revd David Gill.
Time to be announced.

April 19th 9.30 am

Good Friday service led by Revd David Gill

April 21st 9.30 am

Easter Day service led by Revd David Gill

April 28th 9.30 am

Anzac remembrance service with local dignitaries.

June 9th 11.30 am

Pentecost celebration. Combined service with Korean Church.

June 16th 2.30 pm

Kuring-gai Male Choir to present concert in our church.
Proceeds to StreetWork.

Before and After Hall Roof Improvements

