



### Introducing our new Minister.

*At a meeting of the congregation on June 16<sup>th</sup>, a decision, with overwhelming support, was made to call Revd Yangrae Son as our new full-time minister, replacing Revd Ian Pearson. Whilst we look forward to having Yangrae and his family amongst us, he has written a short introduction and sent a photo which only makes us the more eager to meet the Son family! Yangrae will commence on 1st November, 2019.*

My name is Yangrae Son, a Uniting Church Minister of the Word, born in South Korea. Having finished a bachelor's degree in theology in my birth country of South Korea there, my wife [Michelle] and I came to Sydney in 1986 for post-graduate study. During my study, our two sons [Richard and Peter] were born and grew up as members of the United Theological College 'family'. We thank God that we have been embraced into the life of the Uniting Church. We always feel the Uniting Church is family. We trust you, the Killara Uniting Church members, will take the Son family [Michelle & Yangrae, Richard & his wife Sayaka, and Peter, and a beagle Snoopy] as your church family. I thank God for the opportunity to serve Killara Uniting Church as the Minister of **the Word**; I am looking forward to ministering to you with the *Word*. I will be privileged to learn from and carry the Church's tradition of 'academic and thoughtful preachers'. It is my prayer that Killara Uniting Church continues to grow in faith and love as being challenged and guided by the *Word* of God. In doing so, the

church is to bear witness to the world by loving one another as God's family. I remember a major reason how the church defeated the Roman Empire without firing a shot or raising a single group of soldiers was the way it loved, "See how these Christians love one another!"



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**From the Editor**

As I write this, our Church is calling a new full-time minister, foreshadowing a new chapter in the life of our congregation. Yangrae Son will come with our welcome: may we be open to his new insights and gifts. The past months have seen us look back to our time with Ian and Helen Pearson, as we honoured Helen's memory after her untimely death. It was an honour to have Killara Church chosen for this special service and we remember Helen in an article in this issue.

Each minister brings his or her own gifts: for the past nine months we have been spiritually nourished by David Gill's inspiring services. He challenges us to a greater level of worship of our God and Lord.

A message from David is included in this issue.

This issue also commemorates the life of Doug Stewart, a long-time former member and a good and warm-hearted man. Other articles reflect the celebrations of our Church, the many interests of our members, our outreach activities and the work that the Property Committee does in keeping our Church and Hall trim and attractive.

The many contributions help us to know and appreciate better our church family.

**Julie Sekhon**



## From our Minister Rev David Gill



### Rediscovering the Psalms

St Augustine is alleged to have said that whoever sings, prays twice. It's a pity he didn't go on to say that whoever sings the psalms, prays three times.

That bit of the Bible, you see, is special.

The genre, for a start. It is a mix of poetry, prayers and hymns, found nowhere else in the scriptures. What holds that amalgam together is its focus on God as the gravitational centre of life, history and creation.

The contents span five centuries. Though labelled "The Psalms of David," my eminent namesake had nothing to do with most of them.

The collection reached the form we know some time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE (Before the Common Era).

What makes the psalms so appealing – and sometimes, frankly, so appalling -- is their utter humanity. Wherever you may be on your faith journey, there's a psalm that says it for you. Happy or sad, confident or despairing, penitential or proud, bewildered or jingoistic, angry or thankful, the words are there. Not always very commendable words,

admittedly, but then we're not always very commendable people. Inherited from Jewish worship, they have been part of the church's liturgy since its earliest days. Hence, each Sunday morning, we read a psalm as a response to the first lesson.

Reading isn't the only way to immerse ourselves in the psalms.

Killara people are great singers. It would make sense to expand this part of KUC's musical repertoire. So don't be surprised if, one of these Sundays, you find yourself invited to "sing to the Lord a new song" (Ps 149)!

### David Gill







## Helen Pearson 16/1/56-17/5/19

Helen, wife of our previous minister, Ian Pearson, was respected and warmly held by our congregation, and all were shocked and saddened by her sudden death. We knew her as a vital, bright and outward-looking woman, friendly to all and gifted with keen intelligence. To Ian, she was a great support in his work for the church.

Helen trained as a teacher and her first positions were in primary and secondary schools. She was fluent in both French and German and taught these languages both in schools and to adults in in-service courses and at U3A. As her academic interests changed she moved to teaching English as a second language and then to English literacy – in both cases at University level. Her final area was teacher education at the University of NSW. She was currently working towards a PhD. Concurrently with her teaching Helen co-authored a successful series of spelling books (Spelling Rules. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Macmillan 2016)

Helen married Ian, and they enjoyed a supportive partnership over many years, with shared interests. They raised two daughters, Janette and Anna, both now married, and in recent years granddaughters Camilla and Emmeline have brought further joy to Ian and Helen. Helen's family testify to her warm, caring nature and the kind touches of love she showed them.

Our sympathy goes to Ian and to his and Helen's family.



## DOUG STEWART

7TH NOVEMBER 1928 - 10TH MAY 2019



Doug Stewart  
7/11/1928-10/5/2019

Doug and his wife Nancy were long-time members of Killara Uniting Church, although in recent years they had moved to the Northern Beaches area to be near family. He is remembered as a kind and generous man, always courteous, and embodying the concept of always treating others as you would like them to treat oneself. We remember him with warmth and affection.



### *"I Don't Know What to Say"*

We have all experienced visiting friends, family members, colleagues and neighbours who are going through tough times such as illness, a worrying diagnosis, hospital or care home admission, bereavement, loneliness or other daunting life experience and feeling at a loss to know what to say. We will also have experienced the help we have received when some understanding person has reached out to us in similar circumstances.

After church on Sunday 30th July, the KUC Dementia Group is holding an interactive workshop for the congregation to explore the challenges and rewards associated with visiting. The workshop is a general one, not just focused on dementia and is not just for pastoral carers. Everyone is invited. We hope everyone will come to share experience so we can learn from each other how we might enrich our visiting, our conversations and our practical concern for others.



## Turkey in the Steps of Saint Paul and Saint John (Because of them we are...)

We know that St Paul, early in his missionary journeys, travelled over the country which is now Turkey, but is there anything left of Christian Asia Minor except the great church of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul and memories? Well, yes – though we need an expert guide, as I found on my recent trip, guided by Bishop Paul Barnett and his wife Anita.

There are foundations of Christian basilicas in many of the places mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, and in Revelation – Antioch Pisidia, Laodicea, Ephesus, Troas – to mention just a few. Many of these date from the 4<sup>th</sup> century : the date is significant because it was early in that century that Constantine the Great embraced Christianity and it became the religion of the Roman Empire. Suddenly the Christians could openly worship and build their churches. Now we see that during the previous two to three centuries Christian worship had become established and had spread.



**The site of St John's burial, Ephesus**

In Laodicea, a well-built church of medium size is being reconstructed from the ruins left by an earthquake. It has a mosaic floor and baptistery. We remembered the warning to Laodicea in Revelation 'you are neither hot nor cold ... turn from your sins' as we looked towards the hills around. Laodicea's water supply came from the chill hills around Colossae and the thermal area of Hierapolis: in both cases it was lukewarm – neither hot nor cold - by the time it reached Laodicea.



In Hierapolis, we saw the place of the martyrdom of Philip the Evangelist (Acts 21:8), and in Ephesus there is a continuing memory of St John, believed to have returned from Patmos and died in Ephesus. The 6<sup>th</sup> century Basilica of St John marks the place where it is believed he was once interred.

**Antioch Pisidia (I include this because it was freezing! And I think you can tell)**

In all these places we were reaching back to a time when the apostolic era was fresh in people's minds.

The Byzantine Empire, centred on Constantinople, now Istanbul, was a stronghold of Christianity for over 1000 years, until the city was conquered by the Ottomans in 1453. The historian, J.J. Norwich says:

*Were it not for that great oriental bastion of Christendom, what chance would Europe have had against the armies of the King of Persia in the seventh century, or those of the Caliph of Baghdad in the eighth? What language would we be speaking today, and what god would we worship?*

(A Short History of Byzantium p.liv)

Because of them we are Christian.

**Julie Sekhon**



**Laodicea**

## 100th SDN Scholarship



SDN Children's Services were honoured to recently present 100th SDN Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Scholarship. The scholarship program was set up in 2007 to reduce the financial pressure on Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families by sponsoring their child's enrolment at their local SDN Centre for two days a week, for a year.

SDN's CEO Kay Turner presented the scholarship to Tauriel and her mother Evelyn (pictured)



## Special Events: Anzac Service



A special service was held on Anzac Sunday (28<sup>th</sup> April) when local dignitaries, Hon Paul Fletcher (Federal Member for Bradfield), Hon. Jonathan O'Dea (State Member for Davidson) and local government councillors joined us to honour the fallen. Present also were the Kuring-gai Male Voice Choir and their brother choir, the Orange Male Voice Choir as well as a piper and a bugler.

Revd David Gill reminded us that, although the horrors of war are always with us, we should know that the light of Christ still shines.

David Eastwood led a time of reflection and honouring past sacrifice.

During morning tea afterwards, Paul Fletcher spoke, in recognition of the fact that our church had been the beneficiary of a Department of Veteran's Affairs grant to repair our stained glass windows.





## **Dr Albert Himmelhoch remembered**

The Hornsby Hospital GP Training Unit was featured in an article in the Northern Sydney Local Health District News (March 2019) and its staff honoured. It has been an award winning unit, operating over 45 years in giving Junior Medical Officers training through rotation in various aspects of general practitioner medicine. In its text, the article states:

*The Hornsby GP Unit was established in 1973 for the purpose of providing prevocational and vocational training in general practice by the late Dr Albert Himmelhoch.*

Albert Himmelhoch was then the wise and innovative Registrar of Hornsby Hospital. This Church knew him also as a gracious and caring member of this Church and the husband of Jean.

**How good that such a legacy continues from the work of a humane and forward looking man!**



## **My Experience as an Exchange Student**

Emma Floyd

I recently returned from student exchange to Michigan in the USA from August 2018 until January 2019. It was a very rewarding experience and I made lots of memorable friendships which I will forever remember. I had an amazing host mum and I really enjoyed the experience of going to an American high school. I got to eat lunch each day in the school cafeteria. I tried out lots of new activities including Cheerleading for the high school football team and acting in the school production which was a murder mystery. I went to Homecoming (a school dance) and I celebrated both Halloween and Thanksgiving in truly authentic American style. I even celebrated my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday there. Before I left, I went on a road trip and travelled across multiple states including Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky and both North and South Carolina. It was an amazing experience and I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to travel to America and live like a local high school student.

## Pentecost Celebration



The Sydney Seoul Uniting Church joined with Killara Uniting Church to celebrate Pentecost on 9<sup>th</sup> June. The service was jointly led by Revd David Gill and Revd Tae Hyun Kim. The contribution of the Korean church choir was much appreciated, and the soloist, Rina Oh gave a moving rendition of the Lord's Prayer was a special part of the service. The church was decorated with lovely red and white flower arrangements, provided by Hannah Kim. After the service all joined for lunch in the Hall, where we enjoyed a happy time of fellowship.



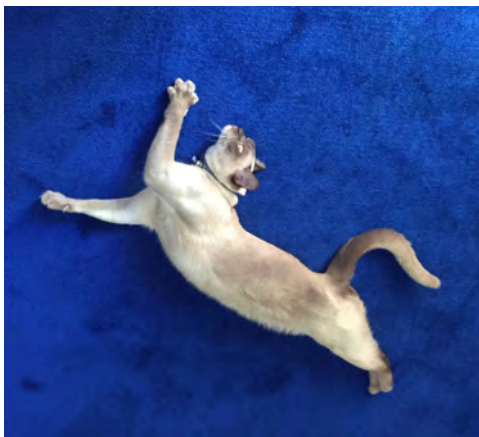


## Keeping our Property in Good Nick

Over past months we have noticed pleasing changes or restoration carried out by our hardworking Property Committee. Below are some photos of – before and after renovation of the Music Room (formerly the Lindara Room) in the Hall, and progress in the restoration of our stained glass windows. As you will see, there was an unexpected visitor during the working period, who made himself (herself?) very comfortable on the carpet!



Linda thinks the cat may have previously attended the yoga or ballet group?





## A Trip to Israel

Annette Harman

In May 2019 I travelled to Israel to attend Eurovision for the first time in Tel Aviv – both Semi Finals and the Grand Final, Australia came 9<sup>th</sup>, Italy 2<sup>nd</sup> and The Netherlands 1<sup>st</sup> place. I have followed Eurovision since 2004 through SBS live broadcasts and I belong to ESCFAN.

I spent time in Jerusalem and then joined a 4 day tour from Jerusalem to Caesarea, Acco, Haifa, Nazareth, the Lake of Galilee, Capernaum and North Israel including The Golan Heights. My favourite places were Jerusalem, Nazareth, Capernaum where Jesus ministered and Jaffa in Tel Aviv.



Via Dolorosa



The old city of Jerusalem



Nazareth – where Jesus grew up



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre.