



People News

Alice Burton enjoys family events:

Highlights for me this year have been welcoming my new great grandson Thomas in February and the wedding of my grandson Greg to Mel in August. The wedding was held in the historic Ebenezer Church, chosen by them because it is the oldest Church in Australia. The beautiful sandstone Church was decorated with native flowers with bunches of gum leaves on the end of the pews.

It was a lovely intimate family celebration and we are looking forward to the reception with all their friends in February 2021.



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**From the Editor**

From time to time we hear comments such as "We can write off 2020!" or, "It's a year we'd rather forget!"

2020 is not a lost year. Young men and women have married, babies have been born, kids have learnt to ride bikes, write stories, play an instrument. Young people will sit for exams which will help shape their future and some people are gathering their resources together after the foundations of their lives have been shaken.

All through the pandemic the quiet interaction between people continues: to welcome, to encourage, to cheer. It is a year when we have learnt to value each other more fully. This brings us back to the phrase often repeated in the early days of the pandemic, sometimes submerged under petty complaints and blaming – but – "We're all in this together".

This issue again features 'People News': often just snippets, but bringing others to mind so that none are forgotten. There are also obituaries, because the memory of those who have passed away should not be lost.

Killara Connection is part of keeping in touch until we meet again in person. **Julie Sekhon**



Read about Amelie on page 4

From the Minister's Desk.

Like many church people, I am currently going through a liminal time, resonating with the Hebrews crossing the Red Sea and wandering in the wilderness. It is natural to experience knee-jerk reactions to the unfamiliar 'new normal' induced by the pandemic, just like by the Exodus event.



But I tried to retreat from my fearful and instant reactions, and attempted to discern something new and hopeful on the horizon. When the church was shut down in March and crawled into the 'cave' for hibernation, we were unfamiliar with ways of keeping in touch with each other and online worship services; we were fearful of the safety of our loved ones and uncertain future. Now we are gearing up for the day to come out of the cave. Still there are bewilderment and angst in front of us in moving to the post-COVID era. We, the church, will be different and changed when we come out of the cave.

God, whom we meet in the Bible, is the One who disrupts His people and re-forms them. This year the Pentecost Season's lectionary led us to encounter this disrupting and reforming God through the stories of Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. In the New Testament, God disrupted the lives of Jesus' disciples and Paul, and called them to disrupt and re-form the church and communities. The same God is still disrupting us and His church. In doing so, the living God is reforming the church and transforming the world.



Yangrae with grandson Julian

The hymn 106 serves me as self-criticism of my discipleship and ministry during the pandemic. The hymn, *'Now thank we all our God'*, was written by Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran minister, during a severe plague in 17th century. Rinkart was the only surviving pastor in his area, conducting 4000 funerals in that plague year including that of his wife. When the plague hit the town, many ran out of the town while Christians and church pastors stayed in and nursed people. In that middle of that valley of death. Rinkart praised:

"Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way, with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today."

Yangrae Son [Minister of the Word]

From Joan and Mary Lou Thomson



In this time of solitude I think I've been lucky to have had some training in quiet living. When I was first married and Bill was away at sea for long stretches of time, I realised loneliness was a luxury I just couldn't afford. Then after Bill died and my three children left university they all went overseas for years and I was a "deserted mother". Someone once asked me if deserted mothers got a pension!

Right now we feel we should count our blessings, living in Australia in a lovely area with a wonderful community. In some ways life has improved, becoming much more basic and simpler too, so long as we can stop worrying.

As Mary Lou's business is nearly all based overseas it is mostly "on hold" so she hasn't been away for the last ten months. Luckily she has been invited to do some work here with house renovations and extensions so has been busy but ...

Having her working from home all this time has been great for me really. Of course I have been complaining that as the managing director/telephonist/tea lady of Mary Lou Design my workload has increased enormously, so at last she has promised to treble my salary!!

Seriously though it has been a challenging time with so many problems to be confronted for friends, family and society everywhere. Our prayers have certainly now become very widespread as we hold out hope in a new world.

News from the Drulik family

Covid and the need to find a suitable job means that Claude is at present working in Brisbane and unable to get back to the family as often as he'd like.

Meanwhile, Amelie is achieving new skills at school. Her teacher reported to Akiko that Amelie is very confident and kind to friends. She is also very good at maths and art.

Akiko has regular classes teaching use of the abacus and Amelie is learning to use it also.

June Wait and Julie Sekhon recently met Akiko for morning coffee.



Ian Pearson reflects :

I was asked to give a short update for my dear friends at Killara on how I am going since my retirement from Killara Church in September 2018.

Let me get the good bits over first because it is a shorter list!

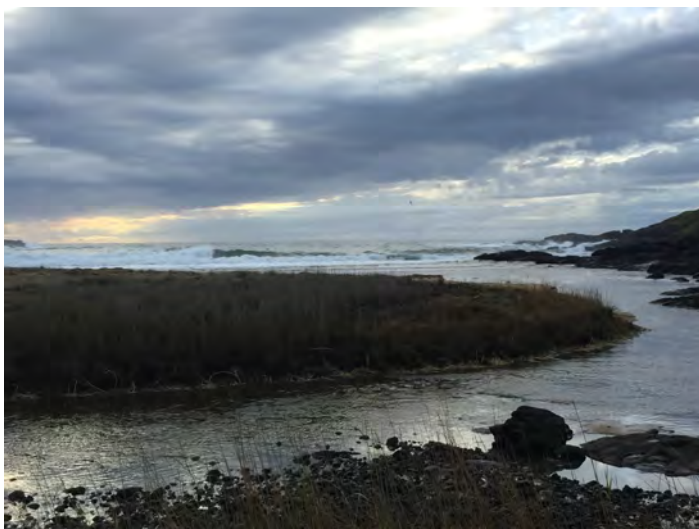
Helen and I were made wonderfully welcome in our home Congregation of Leura. And I've been minding my grandchildren each week on Wonderful Wednesday, school holidays and other sundry times. I have also helped out some clergy mates by leading worship when they have been unavailable. I half fulfilled a dream Helen and I had to lap Australia. Friends and colleagues, including Killara people, have supported me wonderfully through the list that follows.

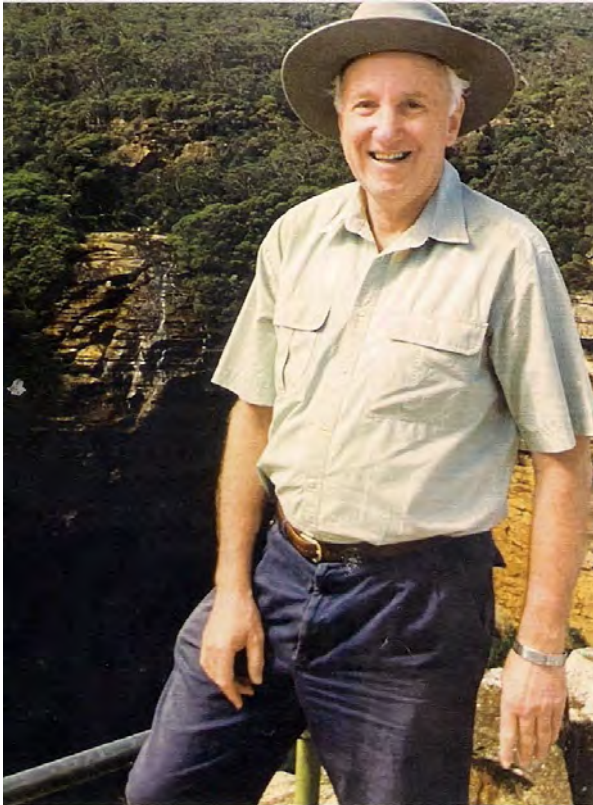
For the rest, it's been an eventful time for me. Very eventful! Uncommonly eventful.

I was principal support for my son-in-law Dave following his successful but concerning double lung transplant a week or so after I retired. Helen and I moved into our home unit 'city pad' in Strathfield and our Katoomba house where I'm so glad she was able to do a lot of nesting before she died suddenly in May 2019. She was about half way through her PhD research and working at the University of NSW when she died.

I hit a kangaroo in our campervan near Exmouth WA where the van remains still but now fixed, because I had planned to complete The Lap from May this year which has been precluded by COVID 19. In November 2019 I had a 'massive' heart attack, which would have led to serious, even fatal, possibilities had I not been attended to in a timely way. I seem not to have been left debilitated after the stent was put into my LAD artery. A week later I was assaulted out of the blue by a man off his medication which left me with the fetching photo included of my broken hand and dislocated finger. On New Years Eve I broke my left foot in a stumble down some stairs. Like most of the residents of the upper Blue Mountains I had my car permanently packed for nearly three months of anxious time with items I would miss, were the raging fire storms to hit home. In March this year I had a dramatic experience of pericarditis which was much more painful than my heart attack but from which I recovered quickly once diagnosed.

Nothing has fallen off recently so I am tentatively claiming that life is good! Well I remember, last New Year's Eve, looking forward to a 2020 which I hoped and expected could not possibly be worse than 2019.
(Ha ha ha)
Love, Ian





Keith Smithers

30/12/1931—30/7/2020

Many of us will have enduring memories of Keith and his loving presence. He was fond of saying that he had four families: his close, immediate family, his church family, his work family at Andrews Laboratory and his model train family.

He opened his heart to include us all.

Keith was born in the Eastern Suburbs. His family were not committed Christians, but Keith was sent to Sunday School. There, he was greatly influenced by a Sunday School teacher who later would lose his life in a heroic act of self-sacrifice during World War 2.

Over the years, Keith developed a Christ-centred compass which remained throughout his life.

Keith's first job was with NSW Railways, as Audit Inspector, and as such he travelled throughout NSW. At Moree, he met and fell in love with Norma, whom he married. This was the beginning of lovely partnership which in turn blessed many.

Later, in his work as CEO of Andrews Laboratory, Keith's door was always open to his staff, and his ear ready to listen to their concerns. The result was a stable and closely knit staff and shared affection between Keith and the others.

Keith acted where his heart led him. Meeting and making friends with Burnum Burnum and other Aboriginal people on our south coast led to Norma and himself being invited to a granting of Native Title ceremony at which they were the only non-Aboriginals in the audience. The friendship also led to a group of 20 Aboriginal people being accommodated overnight at their 17 Carlyle Road home. A staggering situation for some, but for Norma and Keith, just the right thing to do. Brad, Keith's eldest son, has picked out a number of facets of Keith's life which further round out the picture of Keith's life:

“[the memory of Keith] leaving for work with all of us [kids] lined up for the kiss goodbye, and then us all waving from the top balcony while he loudly tooted the horn on the car as he drove off...”

“...one of the biggest rooms in the house was built especially to accommodate Dad’s HO gauge railway.

The final version was modelled on NSW places, scenes and trains –each of the scenes and models were hand built, so you can imagine the hours and hours of work that went into the final set.”

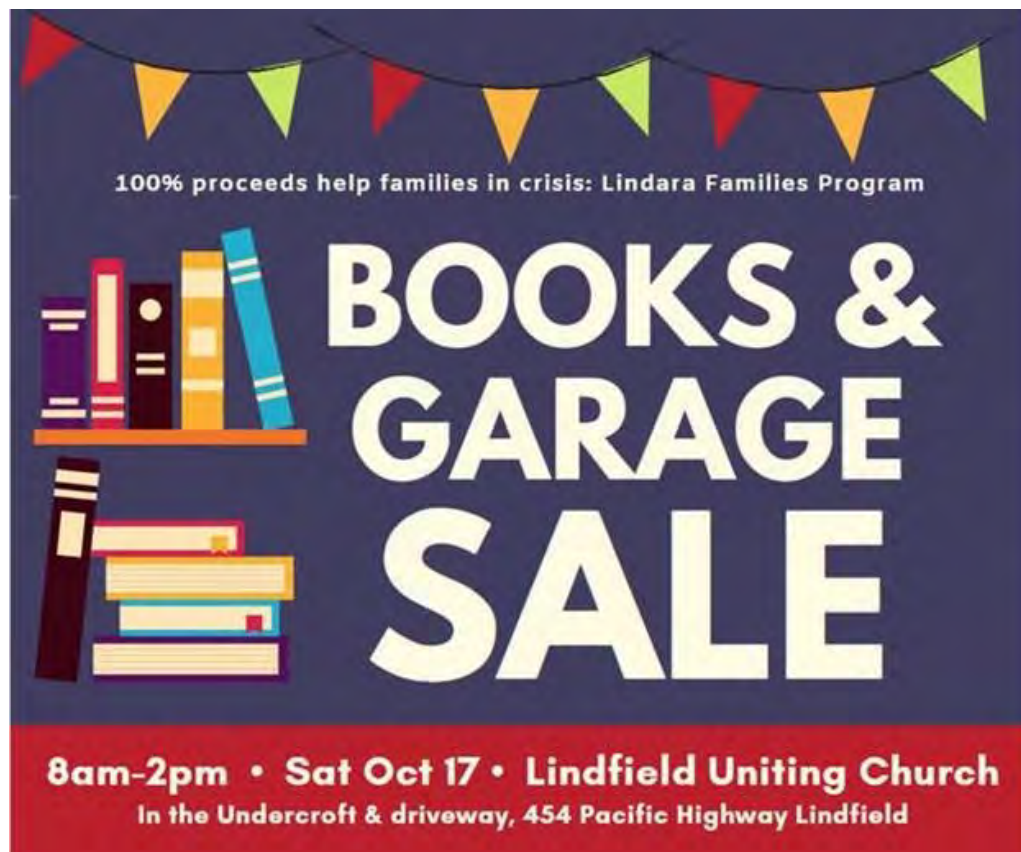
Keith and Norma travelled extensively after Keith’s retirement. Brad says ‘they always went out of their way to understand the locals and their culture.

Another aspect of Keith’s life was his love of Australian nature including its wildlife.

For many years he led bushwalks for church members and their friends, and for 30 years he organised a bushwalking holiday in the Kosciusko National Park.

A glimpse of Keith as the manager of staff comes from Chris Richardson. He says that when Andrews Laboratory closed down, all staff lost their jobs. Staff were not informed by a cold letter left on each desk: no! Keith called them individually into his office, wept with each and hugged them – they were all ‘family’ to him

Keith was a man wholly committed to his Christian faith and accepted everything that came to him as part of his walk with God. He has left a great legacy.





Lorna Stephens

Lorna Stephens died on 30th July, aged 95. She was a faithful Christian all her life, a member of different smaller congregations in Pymble before joining East Killara Uniting Church. She joined Killara Uniting Church when East Killara closed in 2016. Her son, Neil, who lived with her, drove her to Church and one of the Congregation drove her home, until she took ill last year. Neil and her daughter Lorraine looked after her during her illness.

Prior to that, Lorna was at Church each Sunday. She also was still going to the State Library with Lorraine to hear interesting speakers and going for trips to a holiday home at Tuross with her family. For its 200th anniversary in 2015, she visited Bathurst, where her ancestors had had a property in Dunkeld. She belonged to the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society and always enjoyed conversation about history, current affairs and politics. We enjoyed her friendship and fellowship.

Lorna will be remembered with thanksgiving for her faith and faithfulness. Our sympathy is with her family – her son Greg in America, her son Neil and her daughter Lorraine and her family.

Rosalind Hobbes



Victor Alexander (Vic) Cooper



Victor Alexander (Vic) Cooper
20th February 1931 - 17th August 2020

Dad was always so friendly and cheerful. He was also a skilled craftsman, and a Manager in some of the country's largest commercial building companies.

Born in 1931, life was not easy during the Depression, and then when war came Dad's father enlisted. So, at the grand old age of 13 Dad was told he was now "the man of the house". He loved looking after his Mum, John and Beth, so embracing ingenuity started the first of his clever enterprises with the purchasing of day-old chicks he then raised to sell their eggs, delivering them from a box on the handlebars of his bike. He also collected used newspapers, taking them around in his billy cart to sell to shop keepers for wrapping.

After completing his secondary education at Sydney Technical High School, Dad began working for the building company AW Edwards to put himself through uni – studying a Diploma of Building at UNSW attending classes at night. He rowed seriously for many years during this time too.

His Leichhardt crew won several regattas, but missed out on representing Australia in the 1954 Commonwealth Games due to a crew member contracting appendicitis.

Dad loved building, and in particular woodwork, to him it was all about the workmanship and beautiful material. At the age of 23 he set up Rintoul Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of the Edwards Group, specialising in interior design and construction. He managed it until 1966, before moving onto other commercial building companies. His legacy includes his work in the construction of the yacht the Margaret Rintoul, it won line honours twice in the Sydney to Hobart, but it was the beautiful carvel build, the smooth planked timber hull he was fond of. It was a design of significance and so is represented in the Maritime Museum.

He was adept at negotiating multimillion-dollar projects, and his work is everywhere from Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, to Darwin, Canberra and Tasmania. Dad is responsible for the beautiful joinery in some of the most prestigious commercial interiors of Australia. The list of buildings is long, everything from the Queen Victoria Building, multiple buildings at Macquarie University, panelling in the Opera House, Elizabeth Farm Cottage, the Nan Tien Temple, relocating the Marble Bar to the Hilton Hotel, many high-rise office developments in Sydney and Melbourne, and the High Court and the Senate Chamber of Parliament House in Canberra.

Dad also built his own house. The 3-storey house he built on the cliff in Middle Cove, he did on his own on weekends, from the design and the drafting, to even rigging up systems of pulleys to move bricks from the street all the way down to the first tree line of the valley.

Mum and Dad met at the "Victoria League for Inter-Commonwealth Friendship", each having been taken there by friends. Dad said when he saw "the girl in the green suit" he just had to meet her. Mum and Dad were married for 52 years to the day. They married in the same church Mum's mother and father were married, Lindfield Methodist, and attended East Roseville for some years before joining Lindfield, and then Killara Uniting.

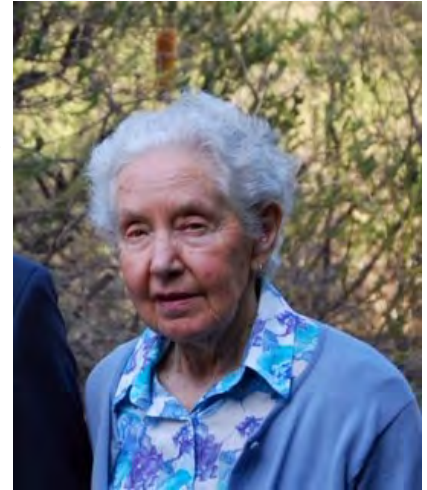
They had me, and then Ben. Late last year they built a granny flat to be next to me and my boys Samuel and Oliver, whom he adored. It is an absolute blessing and a privilege to spend such a special time together.

Marnie Cooper

Enid Edenborough Passed away September 28th, 2020

Born Enid Fenton, Enid had a long association with Lindfield Uniting Church, formerly St David's Presbyterian Church. Long-time friend, Kaylin Simpson Lee first met her in the early 1940s when both moved with their parents to Gordon, living in different streets but walking together to fellowship at St David's Church.

Enid completed her education, gaining a Bachelor of Science and was involved with the Presbyterian Fellowship (PFA) a wonderful source of fellowship and training ground for discipleship. Enid became women's Vice-President, at a time when the men's Vice-President was a young man called Sam Edenborough. Close association flowed into romance, and the wedding of Sam and Enid in the late 1940s was the occasion of great celebration at St David's.



Sam and Enid built their home in Ivey St Lindfield, at first living in the garage whilst the house itself was being built and over the following years raised four children. Both Sam and Enid were amongst the lay leadership of St David's Church for many years. Enid had a keen mind and a strong commitment to the Church. In her motivation to explore the Bible she undertook an in-depth Bible course organised by Revd Aubrey McNaught and Revd Alan Blake.

Over a number of years, Enid taught Science, first at Hornsby Girls' High School and later at Ravenswood.

Later, Enid and Sam moved to Lindfield Gardens Retirement Village. Sam died in 2013 and Enid remained at Lindfield Gardens until earlier this year when her increasing frailty made it advisable to live with her daughter Ruth and son-in-law Dave at Yamba. Enid enjoyed simple pleasures at Yamba amongst the family:

- ◆ The bird song in the stand of high gum trees behind the house and the regular visits of the friendly magpies.
- ◆ Feeding the llamas and alpacas under the pecan tree after a morning tea of homemade pecan pie and scones made by the farmer
- ◆ Walking with Ruth along the flat roads with very friendly locals saying hello.
- ◆ Not having to decide on the menu but having three cooked meals presented for eating every day, no more frozen meals!
- ◆ Eating fresh produce from Dave's garden.
- ◆ Sitting in the lounge most nights with Dave doing the crossword or quiz together Listening to ABC radio and talking books.
- ◆ Family visits.

However, pain and physical frailty were still present, and Enid had no fear of death. She passed away peacefully in the afternoon of September 28th, with her daughter Ruth and son-in-law Dave beside her.





People News

Pat and Russ Lesslie

Pat and Russ continue to be their warm and welcoming selves. They are always glad to see old friends at their retirement facility in Canberra. Russ, at 95, has his good days, and not-so-good days, but Pat is always ready to have a telephone chat with their friends back in Sydney. Janet Lumsden keeps in contact with them.



The Dhillon family greets us:



Nicky Dhillon is seen here with his wife, Elise and children Justin and Samantha. Nicky is an IT professional. Justin is in year 10 at the Conservatorium High School. His instruments are tuba and piano. Samantha is in year 8 at Hornsby Girls High School: she loves ballet more than piano. The photos of the young people were taken at Woy Woy.

Not shown is grandmother Patrice whose musical skills are alive in the younger generation!
And mother Patrice whose musical skills are alive in the younger generation!



Emily Dong has written a story for us: Our “Normal” Summer Holiday Trips

‘Okay, pack your stuff we’re going around the coast of the whole country!’ My father says this casually like we are going for a walk around the oval.

What?! Around the whole country?! That’s going to be so expensive. We’ll have to drive for like seven hours a day.

‘Dad, are we there yet?’ I say for the millionth time, knowing we were not even one hour in.

‘No, only five more motels to go though, and four more hours until we stop at a petrol station!’ he says this like he is excited.

Ugh... five more motels? He got to be joking.

We finally get to a stop when there’s a sign, Welcome to Northern Territory, it says, and on the other side it says Welcome to South Australia. But I thought, wait, I can’t see any Uluru or Kata Tjuta anywhere. We learnt at school that Uluru is at the border of South Australia and the Northern Territory!

When we got onto the ride for the last motel, dad says, ‘The road’s closed because of a bushfire.’...

Emily Dong



Summer holiday at Uluru



Emily Dong

Watercolour paintings Restored

Linda Brown

My great uncle David Brown returned from service in WW1 with two water colour paintings bought from the Italian artist Conrad H R Corelli. His son Mick Brown asked if I could contact an art restorer (Strand Art Conservation) and you can see the brilliant results of the fragile works which are over 100 years old below. Most of the foxing and mould was removed.

BEFORE 'JERUSALEM'



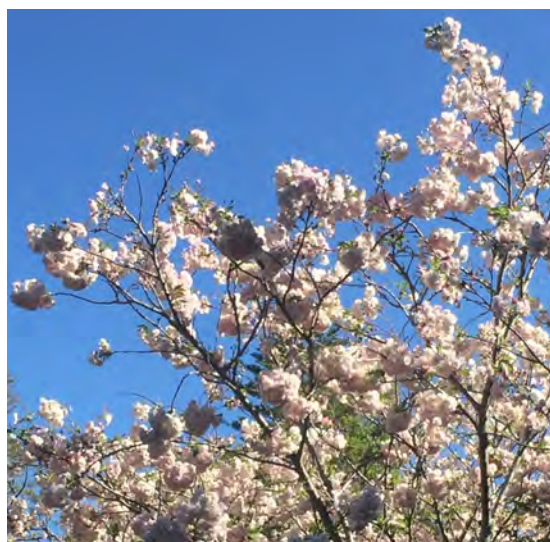
AFTER



BEFORE 'WESTMINSTER'



AFTER





KUC Book Club

The Killara Uniting Church (KUC) Book Club meets every second Thursday. Come join us. You're warmly invited!

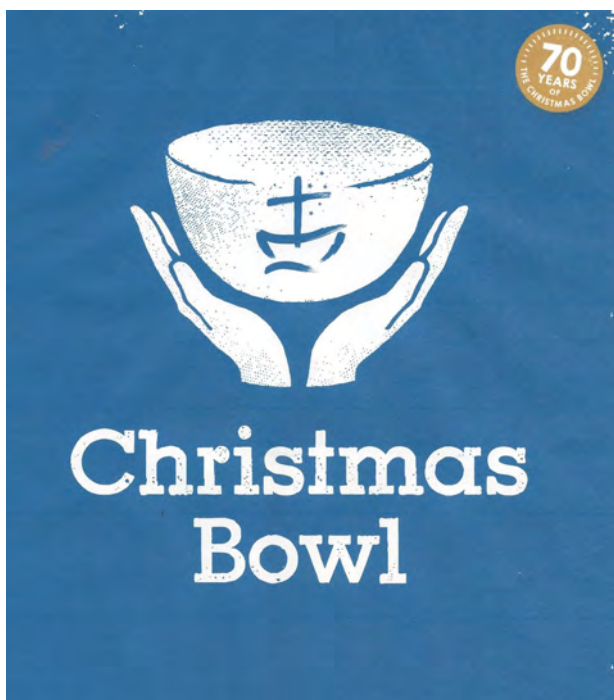
Time: 3pm (to about 4:15pm)

Where: Stewart Room

NEXT MEETING:

Date:

November 12



The Christmas Bowl: Andy Corkill writes:

COVID has affected us all, but not equally. All of the Act for Peace staff have been working from home since March, this is hard at times, but it is nothing compared to what people face when they are living in refugee camps. They are trying to protect themselves from the virus with limited sanitation, medical care and food insecurity

As a result of the virus, we've had to redesign some of our projects and how we do the Christmas Bowl. This year, the resources will look very different. None of our staff has been able to travel to visit projects, gather stories or photos. We've had to do adapt given the circumstances.

Please continue to pray for the work of the Christmas Bowl, and if you are in a position to support financially there will be plenty of opportunities to do so during the advent season.

Update from Andy Corkill

Over the last year I've been participating in a process called formation for ministry as a Minister of the Word. Formation is not primarily about academic study, (there is a small part of that for me, but I've already completed most of the requirements) but rather, it is a process that engages the mind and heart in disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, reflection, ministry practice and worship.

During this formation period, I am mentored by wise people in the faith as part of the weekly program at theological college. In addition, to the weekly program, I have been participating in field education under the oversight of Rev. Martin Levine, the minister at Beecroft - Pennant Hills Uniting Church. This field education has involves a lot of preaching (especially on tricky passages), prayers, pastoral calls, coffee mornings, far too many zoom meetings and a community development project.

Next month, I'll be meeting with my formation panel who will be doing a formal assessment of my progress toward ordination. I am feeling relatively confident, but there is still a long way to go, I'd really appreciate your prayers.

In addition to the formation and the subjects I've been taking studying the Old Testament, and I've continued my work, in a part time capacity at Act for Peace and the Christmas Bowl.

On the family front, both Felicity and Jacquie are doing very well. Felicity has returned to work at the State Library part time, and I really love my Thursdays which is a dedicated daddy daughter day. Jacquie's first birthday in July was a very small affair, and since then she's become much more confident on her feet, and her vocabulary is growing quite quickly.

(Andy is a member of Lindfield Uniting Church)



June Wait and Julie Sekhon recently met Akiko for morning coffee. See Article page 4

People News



More creative knitting.
Linda Brown has finished another knitted creature. An ammonite



Vietnam stills stirs the hearts of Doug and Carolyn...

Doug and I have been married for over fifty years: we have two sons, two daughters-in-law, six grandchildren, and (since August!) one granddaughter-in-law.

We have lived and worked in Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and Bangladesh. Since 2006 we have been closely connected with Blue Dragon Children's Foundation - (www.bluedragon.org) - an Australian-based company working with disadvantaged children throughout Vietnam. Doug works closely with the Finance team in Hanoi, and is in daily contact by email and Skype, and I am a Board member. We have both visited Hanoi many times, and we are very proud to be associated with this fine organisation. The photo with both of us shows two of the Finance staff, who took us to an excellent Vietnamese restaurant for lunch. The other photo was taken when Doug was out walking one day: this little family just came and asked if they could have a photo with him. This often happens in Vietnam!

