



Christ Church Chronicle

Number 31

June 2015



Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God, providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God's love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live

The Vicar

WRITES

Dear friends in Christ,

Here we are again, half way through the year. When I think how fast time flies, I remind myself of the importance of keeping the Lord close - after all, Christ is the Lord of time and is eternal life itself. I was reflecting on the wonder and beauty of Easter and the journey through Easter to Pentecost. We all receive such assurance from the Lord by travelling with Him through the church year. No one who relishes joining their life to the life of Christ will feel lacking in gratitude at the many gifts they have received in the blessings that come with a life restored to God.

When we come to church we come into the living presence of Christ - He is there at the altar, in His Word and in our hearts. Our praise, prayer and worship are all for His pleasure, and by pleasing the Lord our hearts become satisfied. It is impossible to fully satisfy the heart except through pleasing God. We are His children, a part of God's very Being and as such our highest duty and supreme self interest is to connect with Him and make our lives one with His life. By accepting the Lord as the all in all we share in all of His gifts, His love and His eternal life.

Living this life without being in union with God is what many people try to do. Every demand on our time seems more important than our eternal welfare. But living a life in forgetfulness of God, serving every need without considering God, is like keeping a bird

in a cage without feeding it. If a person keeps a bird in a cage and only polishes the cage then the bird will suffer and eventually starve. In the same way if we serve the needs of the body and forget God, our soul will starve. God is Spirit and only God can feed the soul. Our deepest needs can only be fulfilled by God, no one else can nourish the soul and draw it into perfect peace, love and joy.

Jesus appeared to reveal the very nature of God as Self-giver and lover of all souls. His forgiveness reigns supreme over our shortcomings. Through His example and teachings Jesus has bestowed the highest good

on humanity by providing an open pathway back to the feet of the Supreme Lord in our eternal home. The eternal world is where our soul is from; this temporary world can never be a sanctuary for our soul. By its very nature this world and everything and everyone in it passes on. This life is a small but important part of the journey of the immortal soul as it is drawn by the Lord Himself into the full and infinite life that centres solely on God and lives only for Him.

Someday we will have to leave the material body, no matter how powerful we think we are. Jesus has come to purify us of our ignorance and fill us with His immortal light. Seeing us as His other self the Lord gives Himself fully to us and asks that we reciprocate

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in our villages, towns & cities

We at Christ Church acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and in particular the Wathaurong people, as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which Christ Church and its buildings now stand; and we acknowledge our gratitude that we share this land today, our sorrow for the costs of that sharing, and our hope that we can move to a place of justice and partnership together.



(Continued from page 1)

in kind. If we do, we gain infinite reward and the blessed assurance that life in God's love is forever. So now we continue our journey through the church year. Remembering that Christ is always with us and within us, we can rejoice always giving thanks for the love of God in Christ Jesus. We can be ever grateful knowing the truth of the blessed assurance that God's grace, forgiveness and mercy are ours for ever more.

The Lord be with you

Fr Russell

THE PARISH WEB PAGE



...Have you looked at the parish Web Page recently? You can find the web address below (or just Google "Christ Church Geelong" and it should come up!). On the web page you can find details of services and celebrations for the present season in the church calendar, links to readings and addresses from our Pastoral team and visiting clergy, and photos, details of parish events, and lots more!

Christ Church Parish Office

Ph 5221 8055

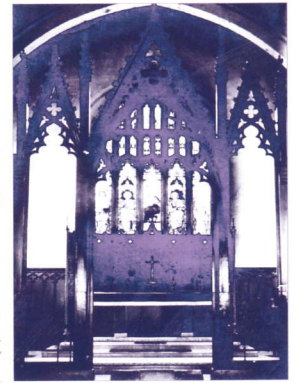
Email chchurch@ncable.net.au

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

The Parish Office is open on **Thursday** mornings

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY !

(see the p3 of March 2015 Chronicle for a full article on this Project).



Parishioners will recall that in 2013 on Foundation Day it was announced that there would be a 5 year project to extend the written history of Christ Church and publish a book in 2018. This Project is continuing - those interested in being involved or contributing to the written history that is being prepared should contact -

Margaret Tembo at m.tembo@bigpond.com
or Ph 5221 5130

PARISH COUNCIL

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL - 2014-2015

The 2014-15 Council (as elected at the 2014 AGM) is -

Vicar's Warden - Ruth Christian

Wardens - David Peek, Gai Scully

Vestry Members - John Aldridge, Evelyn Twaddell, Peter Dohnt, Pat Peacock, Mary Lewis,, David Osborne, Jan McGowan & Sue Wong (together with Fr Russell as Vicar)



Diary dates and reminders...

some dates for 2015

Monday 15th June -7.30pm Volunteers Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 29th June - the National Servicemen of Australia - Geelong branch will join the 9.30am service

.Film Nites - watch the Parish Press for details, but the dates are

29 June -	} Watch the
10 August -	} Parish Press for details
14 September -	} of the films!!

.and watch the Parish Press for details of other celebrations and Parish events, but including

4th June - Blue Illusion (Pakington Street) - fashion parade and sale

11th July - Trivia Night and raffle

29th August - Tango Afternoon Tea





THE SECRET OF FORGIVENESS

When we remember Lord Jesus Christ we have to consider His forgiveness - Jesus is compassion personified, He is like a great fire that gives warmth to whoever comes near. In one sense the forgiveness of Christ is His greatest miracle, for it is by that forgiveness that numberless souls are healed. This incredible ability to forgive was especially displayed by Jesus when he was on the cross. With every right to curse and condemn His betrayer, and others who had wrongly judged Him, and with all the power at his command to condemn His enemies, Jesus did not use that power, nor did He feel any enmity. Rather, Jesus showed the world the divine way to conquer evil.

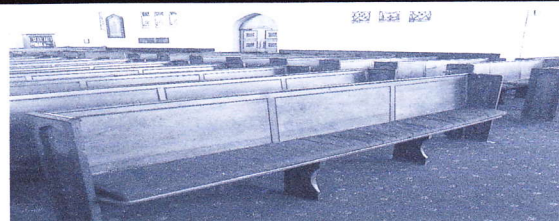
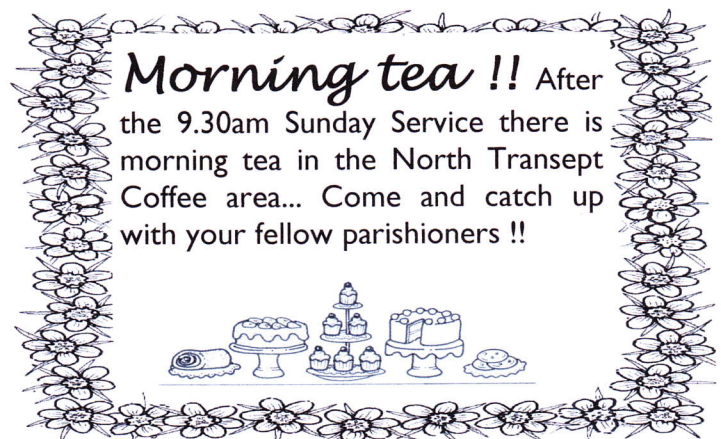
The way of Christ is the only way a human being may resurrect their soul from the darkness of ignorance into the light of eternal wisdom, into eternal communion with God. That way was immortalized in Christ's simple words of love, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do". This is an extremely important message for all of us today, with the daily news reports bringing so many sad tidings of violence and atrocities carried out all over the world - news that can inspire hatred and ignorance and a desire for revenge that robs one of peace and compassion.

The message Jesus spoke on the cross is the healing herb for our day to day living. It is a message of forgiveness that, if we applied it, would keep the light of divine love burning in our hearts and spread into the hearts of those with whom we deal. It is essential to rid the heart and mind of all bitterness and resentment; such feelings poison our heart and mind. When someone has acted unkindly against us, why do we feel that we have to do something about it? Why can't we just leave it in God's hands, knowing full well that the divine law, the divine love, will solve that problem for us? In countless ways servants of the Lord have found that giving problems over to God has freed them, and that trying to solve everything themselves has only bound them up to stress and misery.

The trouble is with us - we cannot let go of our mean and hateful thoughts, of our vengeful, angry, envious feelings. Because we cannot let go of the hand of delusion, and that is all these wrong thoughts and feelings are, we are unable to grasp the hand of the divine. We need to remind ourselves of the words of Jesus, "Father forgive them..." and to reflect on His words "...Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy". We need to take shelter in the Lord more, as only He can give us the strength to let

go. Only God is the controller, only God can cope with being the controller and only by God's grace can we let go of past hurts and stop wanting to hurt others.

All of us have hurt someone at some time, either consciously or unconsciously. We should ask anyone we may have hurt to forgive us. If we pray to the Lord He may give us the strength we need to not lift our hand, even in thought, against another living being. When we set out to hurt someone or get revenge, we are the first to suffer because such thinking causes us to lose the inner awareness of God. Because it is not easy to let go of past hurts it requires a constant vigil of prayer, asking God for the strength we need to forgive. By our own strength we are bound to fail, but with God even difficult things can become easy. **So this is the secret of forgiveness** - accept God's forgiveness for yourself and in turn pray to God for the strength to forgive others. The result will be peace of mind. This will enable us to serve the Lord and access His divine love and infinite joy.



OUR NEW PEW CUSHIONS

... there have been lots of good comments about the new pew cushions, installed just in time for the services for Christmas last year. The provider - Marty Teare at Church Pew Cushions and Kneelers of Melbourne - has included some photos of Christ Church on their web page at

<http://churchpewcushionsandkneelers.com/>

The cost of the new cushioning was met for by a donation from a parish family.

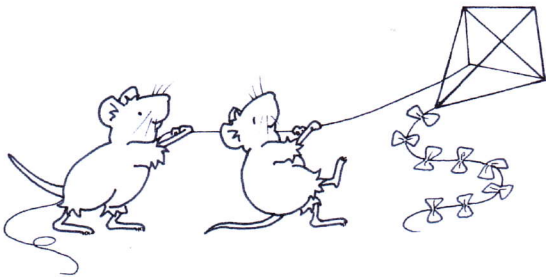


TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR REDUCING STRESS

1. Thou shalt NOT be perfect, nor even try to be.
2. Thou shalt NOT try to be all things to all people.
3. Thou shalt leave things undone that ought to be done on occasion.
4. Thou shalt NOT spread thyself too thinly.
5. Thou shalt learn to say NO when under too much stress.
6. Thou shalt schedule time for thyself and thy supportive network.
7. Thou shalt switch off and do nothing regularly.
8. Thou shalt be boring, untidy, inelegant and unattractive at times.
9. And thou shalt NOT even feel guilty.
10. Especially thou shalt NOT be thine own worst enemy, but rather be thine own friend.

(Author unknown)

(from Michael and Anne-Maree MacRobbie)



Helping with our flowers

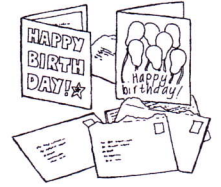
If you would like to help with the flowers why not think about -

- joining the Flower Guild roster;
 - Offering flowers from your garden for the Church;
 - making a donation to purchase flowers for a special occasion, or for some other personal remembrance.
- Speak to **Jan McGowan** if you would like more details!



Have you heard....????

Merle Hamilton - celebrated her 90th on 5th March - see photos on p12



Glenys Cashmore - was in February nominated for the inaugural Women in Community Life Award for her long-standing community volunteer involvement across Geelong

In mid April 2015 **Fr Russell and Syama** celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary.

On Friday 10th April **Geoff Watson** was awarded the Order of Australia medal, for services to the community.

There have been quite a few new grandchildren in recent months! -

- ♦ **Sue and Jack Wong** - new grandson born in February 2014 to daughter Zoe and her husband Simon
- ♦ **Frances and Warwick Romanis** - have a new grandson Theodore, born to their daughter Janet and son-in-law Peter
- ♦ **Shurlee and Phillip Swain** have a new granddaughter Isabella born on 13th April 2015 to son Chris and daughter-in-law Mai.

...you can see photos of these three special arrivals on p12 !

... And during March 2015 **Barbara Peek** had a special birthday, whilst **Rae and Jim Medlock** celebrated their 55th wedding Anniversary - congratulations to you all!

CONGRATULATIONS!

... the next Chronicle....

... is due in early **September 2015** and contributions are welcome - send them to Phillip Swain by email to - spswain@westnet.com.au ...don't wait - do it **NOW !!**

From the Parish Registers - March to May 2015

Baptisms

March 7th - **Alexander Britton** (parents Lukas and Lyndal)

April 18th - **Belle Jane Murden** (parents Andrew and Kayla)

.... and on June 6th Daniel James White (parents Alex and Shenika) will be Baptized at Christ Church

Marriages

21 March 2015 - **Sarah Houghton-Sims & Nicholas Philips**

6 June 2015 - Komal and Jeffrey Norman will be married at Christ Church





THE RADICAL WELCOME OF JESUS

Jesus is the perfect embodiment of kindness, love forgiveness and compassion. There is not one mean or selfish streak in Him, yet there were some who misunderstood Him and saw Him as an enemy. If it was possible for some people to misunderstand Christ, how much more possible is it for people to misunderstand us? We can only try our best, even then sometimes we fail and sometimes people may become angry at us. When one's eyes are habituated to darkness, they cannot stand the light; it becomes blinding. When we become habituated to finding fault, we look for it and forget to see the positive in others. Because this tendency exists in all of us we need to be careful and attentive in our dealings so as not to inflame bad feelings.

Jesus is always approachable, just sit down and be still for a moment and He is there in our hearts, always ready to be present to us. In the time of His incarnation, Jesus was always willing to give time and mercy to those who asked for it. If we are receptive to Jesus in our lives we would find His light always there to brighten all corners of our consciousness. We are people who live in the resurrection of Christ. We know He is among us and so we embrace whatever help and mercy Jesus offers. By finding pleasure in the presence of Christ we grow in His light and are able to give that light or rather to share it with others.

One way we can practically show that we live in the light of Christ is to be welcoming to others new or old who come to our church. If we notice someone attending for the first time or someone who may only attend occasionally we can approach them and extend a welcoming hand. We can show an interest in them, invite them to stay for a cuppa and introduce them to other parishioners. If possible we could note down their name and address, asking if they might like a visit or be put on a mail out list for the *Chronicle*. I remember Fr Barry Smith saying to me that it was important for a parishioner (other than the vicar) to contact a new person within days of their attending the church. The vicar can follow up with a visit later. Sometimes we may miss someone and they slip through the net, but if enough of us are mindful of the need to be welcoming we will have more hits than misses.

Reflecting on the radical welcome of Christ can help us to imbue that quality of welcome. In fact if we meditate on any of the divine qualities of the Lord those qualities can come into our hearts because the

Lord Himself is in our heart. By contemplating the Lord in this way, we will grow in His light, because Christ is always merciful - we just have to give Him the chance and allow an opening for that mercy to penetrate into us. Though sometimes we forget the Lord and are overcome by our weakness, the Lord will carry what we lack and preserve what we have if we are sincere.

The Lord be with you

Fr Russell

Regular Services at Christ Church

Eucharist - Sundays at 8am, 9.30 am (sung)
& 5.15pm (Family Mass)

and during the week— **Eucharist** on **Wednesdays at 7am & 10am.**

Meditation every Tuesday from 7-8 pm
(Chapel)

Morning Prayer at 8.30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays (Chapel)

**Healing Services - 2nd & 4th
Wednesday** of each month, at 7pm

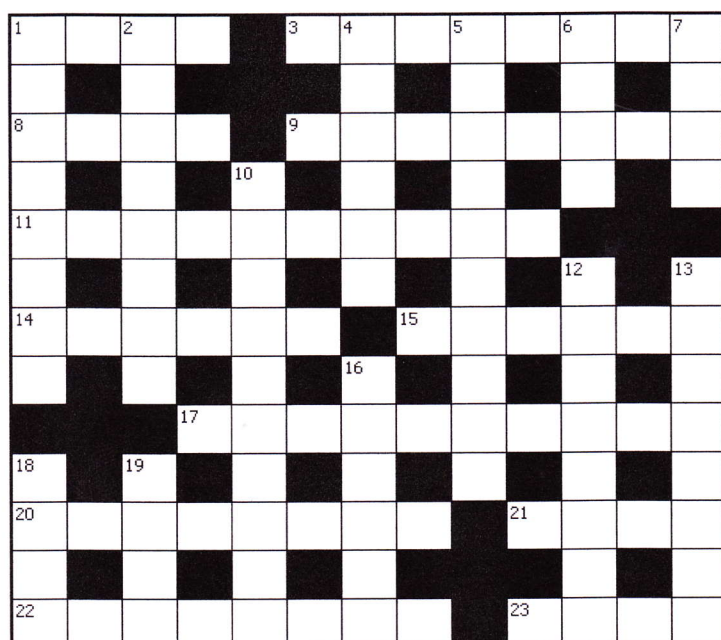
Children's & Families Service (CAFS) - first Sunday of each month, commencing at 11.15am, **NOTE** - these CAFS services are NOT held in January each year.

Christ Church Sudoku!

1	5							
					6	4		
	3	6		2	9	1		
	7			1	2			
8	9						4	1
			3	9			2	
		7	9	4		2	3	
		5	7					
							8	6



Biblical Crossword... see how you go !!!



Across

- 1 See 23 Across
 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
 8 Invalid (4)
 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
 7 Swirling current of water (4)
 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was —, to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)

16 'There is still — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)

18 David Livingstone was one (4)

19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

GOD AND THE ARTS

Editor: Michael Burgess (Parish Pump, UK) continues his look at great works of Christian art - Google the name of the image to see it

Tintoretto's 'Christ at the Sea of Galilee'

In 1833 Mendelssohn composed two overtures inspired by the sea. 'Fingal's Cave' portrays the gentle roll of the waves and the call of the wind on the waters around Staffa. 'Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage' paints a sea journey when the fog lifts, the sky clears, the safety of land beckons and the boat arrives in the harbour.

This edition's painting shows us a very different picture of the sea. It is 'Christ at the Sea of Galilee' by Tintoretto. He was an Italian painter of the Renaissance period who worked in Venice until his death in 1594. All his paintings are marked by intensity and drama, whether it is the Last Supper, the Conversion of St Paul, or this canvas. Tintoretto worked so quickly and so single-mindedly that he was nicknamed 'Il Furi-oso.' And it is the fury of the sea that is captured here, not the lazy waters of Venice or the calm seas of Mendelssohn's music. Now the sea and the sky above are in torment and revolt, and the world is dominated by the violence of this storm.

The Sea of Galilee is like that. One moment, the sky is clear and windless, the next, a gust can whip up the waters into anger. In Scripture the sea is always an element to fear. For the psalmist the sea contains creeping things innumerable and even monsters. For John in the book of Revelation, the sea ceases to exist when the new heaven and the new earth appear. The threat of that element is pervasive in this painting. The sail of the boat bends with the raging of the wind, and the vessel is tossed up and down — so near the shore, and yet so far. Above, the clouds frown.

But enfolding the scene are two signs of hope and life. To one side we see a tall tree in leaf and growing. At the other side is the tall figure of

(Continued on page 7)



CHRIST CHURCH SATURDAY CLUB - Events & Activities



Saturday June 6th	Games Night- in the School Room, from 7.30p,m	Bring your favourite game!
Sat 4th July	Leura Park	Mid Winter Lunch
Saturday 1st August	Singalong, Port and Pudding (7pm)	Bring your voices, instruments and Deserts! - at Merle's place in Geelong!
Sat 5th Sept	Slide Night - New Guinea (7.30pm)	With Catherine and Jim Thyer
Sat 3rd Oct	Brekky at the Peeks (9am)	Catering help appreciated!
Sat 7th Nov	Clyde Park lunch (12 noon)	
Saturday 5th December	Christmas Dinner (6pm onwards)	At Rae and Jim's home in East Geelong (\$15 per head)
Saturday 12th December	Berry Picking at Teesdale	... And remember - the Saturday Club is for the whole Parish - everyone is welcome!!!



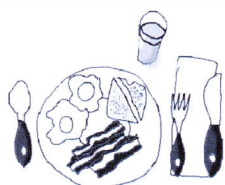
Year Coordinators: Jan/Barbara/David
Meetings: Nominally on the first Saturday of each month.

(Continued from page 6)

Jesus: a sign of safety and hope to the disciples, floundering in the boat. His feet are just vague outlines in the water, but His hand is firm as He beckons to His followers. Peter, brave and headstrong as ever, begins to climb out of the boat with no immediate sense of danger. This month of June ends with his feast day when we celebrate a saint who was so much like us. Wanting to follow Jesus, but finding himself weak; eager to serve, but unable to back words up with deeds. And yet, through all that, God's grace triumphed in Peter's life. We know that he will be saved here as he steps onto the wild water to reach Jesus.

This raging element is a parable of life with its storms and challenges for Peter and for all of us. Just as the sea threatens to swallow the boat and the disciples in it, so we know how the world threatens to swallow us up. Each of us, in our discipleship, faces concerns and challenges, anxieties about the present, even despair about the future. Tintoretto is saying to us from this canvas, Reach out and take hold of the sure hand of our Lord. That will be an anchor for you when the sea of life is calm and when the storm rages. 'Will your anchor hold?' asks the hymn, and we can reply

*'We have an anchor that keeps the soul,
 Steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
 Fastened to the rock which cannot move,
 Grounded firm and deep in the
 Saviour's love.'*



BREKKIES @ CHRIST CHURCH

(from Laurie Christian, & Jenny & Les Harrison)

Parish breakfasts continue monthly, with various cereals and toast, fruit, coffee and tea - It's a great opportunity to get together and enjoy breakfast - come after the 8am or before the 9.30am service !!

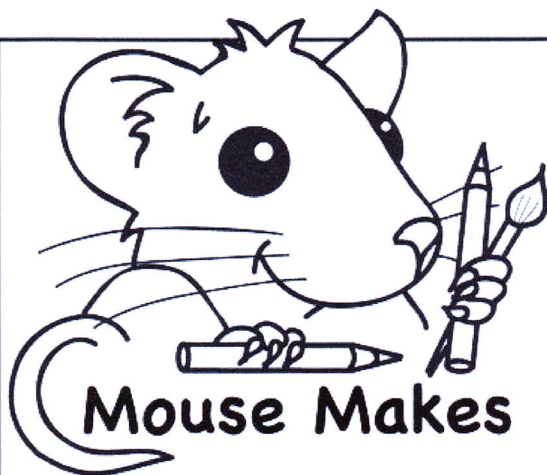
In most months brekky is on the **3rd Sunday**, but watch the Parish Press for details of dates!



The Guarding of the God of Life

The God of life with guarding hold you,
 The loving Christ with guarding fold you,
 The Holy Spirit, guarding, mould you,
 Each night of life to aid, enfold you,
 Each day and night of life uphold you.

Ancient Celtic poem



There was a time when the whole world spoke one language. Everyone used the same words. Then they said to each other, "Let's make some bricks of clay and bake them in the fire."

They used these bricks as stones and they used tar as mortar. Then the people said, "Let's build ourselves a city and a tower that will reach the sky, then we will be famous."

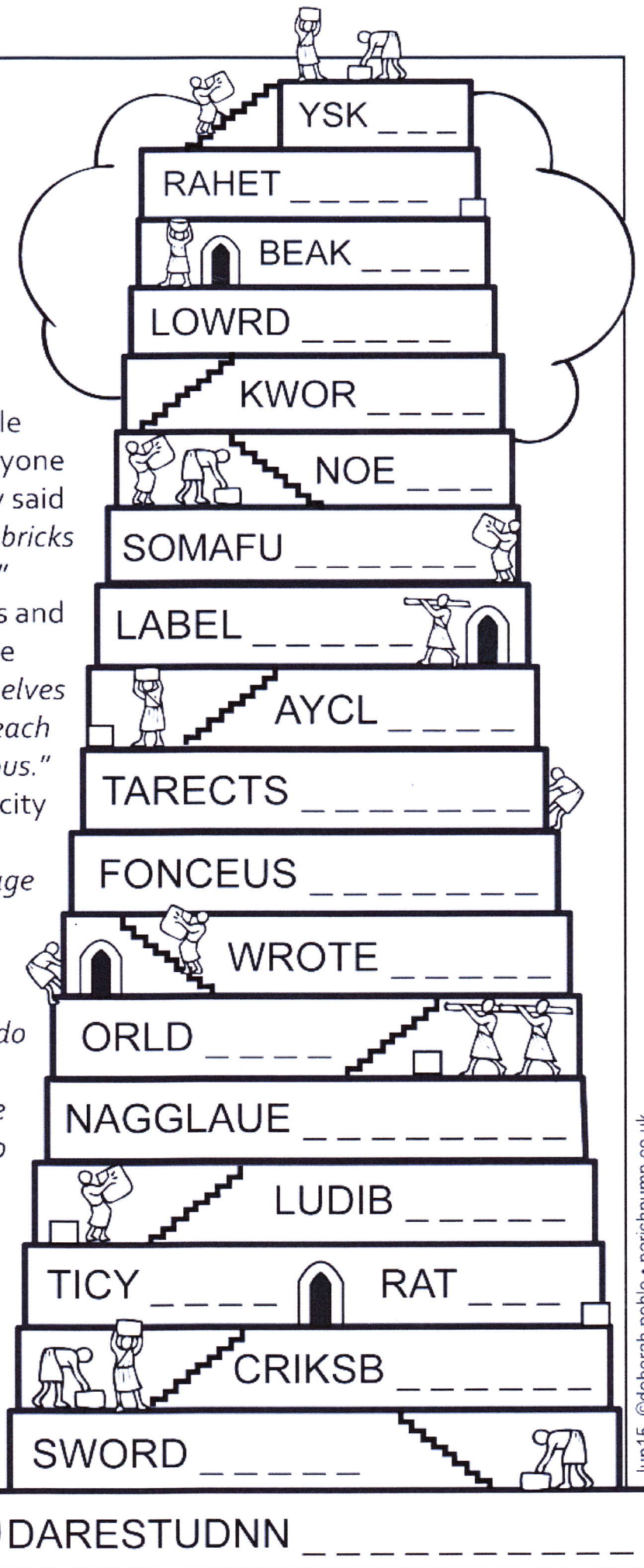
The Lord came down to see the city and the tower and said, "These people all speak the same language and I see that they are joined together to do this work. This is only the beginning of what they can do, soon they will be able to do anything they want. Let's go down and confuse their language then they will not be able to understand each other."

So people stopped building the city and the Lord scattered them all over the earth.

That is the place where the Lord confused the language of the whole world.

That is why it is called **Babel**.

Some words in the story have become jumbled up on the tower, can you unjumble them?



READ Genesis 11:1-9



St James the Least of All

Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness
(Parish Pump, UK) continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...



On what security cameras in church will tell you

From The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Much against my better judgement, after a recent series of small thefts, we have installed security cameras here at St. James the Least. At least the suggestion for trip wires that opened the gate to Mrs Poppleroy's garden next door, thereby setting loose her deranged Pekingese, was narrowly defeated – though I had to use my casting vote.

So now we have a complete record of everything that goes on when no one is about. It makes such interesting viewing that I have cancelled my television licence and spend every evening watching the antics of my parishioners. I wonder if there is some niche television channel which would be interested; it could help the tower restoration fund no end.

Miss Margison seems to imagine she is now part of some theatrical performance every time she cleans the church; her body language as she wields a feather duster is of operatic proportions, as is her final bow to the cameras as she leaves.

I have at last found the several hiding places where Mr Prentice secretes his bottle of whisky every week when he comes to wind the tower clock.

Colonel Wainwright, who served for some time in the security services, is now worried that pictures of him cleaning the brass will be circulated in Russia. He fails to appreciate that his disguise as a French onion seller, with striped jersey, beret and waxed moustache does tend to make his presence rather more interesting than he imagines – to us, if not to the KGB.

The flower arrangers seem to imagine that we are recording sound as well as pictures and so whenever they are in church together, all gossip is written down and passed round by hand as they work in total silence. So far, they have remembered to take their pieces of paper home with them. One slip and I shall probably

learn more about my parishioners in five minutes than I have done in the last five years.

The cameras have also solved the mystery of who has been pilfering the items - and even the nest where they have hidden them. If only I could teach the magpies to extract money from pockets and place it on the collection plate.

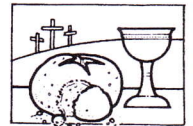
Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Home

Communion

The Parish Clergy are always very happy to bring Holy Communion at home to those unable to come to church for services.



Please speak with Fr Russell or one of the Clergy team to arrange a time.....

Bookings Calendar

Ruth Christian maintains a booking diary for the year covering **ALL** bookings of parish Facilities (Hall, Schoolroom, grounds, & the Church itself), for Parish functions and outside events. Please check with Ruth **before** you plan your activity, to make sure the space you need is free!



VARIOUS COLLECTIONS

you might like to support.....



Thank you to everyone who continues to bring along items for the various collections from Christ Church. There are baskets in the Children's Area for the following -

STAMPS—to support ABM;

GLASSES & GLASSES CASES—which are forwarded for use in Third World countries;

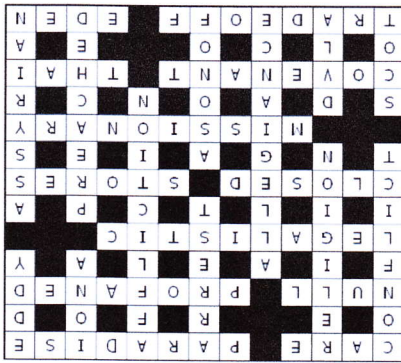
CORKS—to support research into MS;

SHOE BOX GIFTS—gifts are included in the boxes forwarded to OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD through MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

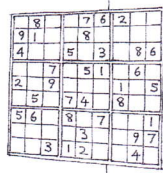
.... and please watch the weekly Parish Press for monthly special donations items that are being sought..



puzzle solutions... (from pp5 & 6)



6	8	7	1	5	2	3	4	9
4	1	9	3	6	7	5	8	2
5	3	2	8	4	9	7	1	6
7	2	8	4	9	3	1	6	5
1	4	3	5	7	6	2	9	8
9	6	5	2	1	8	4	7	3
8	7	1	9	2	5	6	3	4
3	5	4	6	1	8	9	2	7
2	9	6	7	4	3	8	5	1



Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves

God loves me!



The Cardboard Cathedral

We recently went to Christchurch, in NZ, and this time we visited the Cardboard Cathedral, or, more properly, the Transitional Cathedral. (see Photo p11) It is made from cardboard tubes, glass, wood and steel, concrete (floor) and polycarbonate (roof), all locally produced. It is the design of a Japanese "emergency architect", Shigeru Ban. From the vision to completion, it took two years and should last 50 years. The design is simple with the cardboard tubes drawing the eye and attention to the altar and cross. It is built to 130% of the current NZ earthquake code. It is light and bright, seats 700 people and averages 15 services a week. It also hosts concerts and dinners. The original cathedral is a sorry sight in Cathedral Square. The tower collapsed in the biggest earthquake and later, in aftershocks, the rose window was destroyed and the whole cathedral cracked like a plate.

As an aside, on a corner block in the city, there are 185 white plastic chairs, representing the number of people killed in the earthquake. The Presbyterian church holds a service there each week in the open air.

(Barbara Peek)

The Pecan Tree

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys who had spied the big tree laden with Pecans, planned a raid, and made their way in through the Cemetery gates to the old tree. They scurried around picking up all the nuts lying on the ground, filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing them up. "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me," said one boy. Several spilled out of the bucket and rolled down toward the boundary fence.

Just then, another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me..." He couldn't see anybody through the fence, but he just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along. "Come here quick," said the boy, 'you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls!' The man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk." When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery.

Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been telling' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord" Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord. At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done..."

.... they say the old man had the lead for a good half-mile before the kid on the bike passed him

(with thanks to Jim Medlock)

Having difficulty hearing the sermon on Sundays.....?

...don't forget there is a Hearing Aid Loop in the Church—tune to "T".



A Thank you from Hser Ku

Parishioners provided a bike, helmet and lock for a year 7 Burmese girl who had lived in a refugee camp in Thailand all her life until she came to Australia a year ago.

From Hser Ku Htoo. Thank you very much. I like to watch television some times and at night pray with my family. I am going to ride my bike in my backyard in the evening in the weekend.

From North Geelong Secondary College. We would sincerely like to thank you for the bike for Hser Ku. It is certainly appreciated by her and is timely as the students are currently learning about bike safety in English Language classes.

your ongoing support to our college assists is to meet the personal and educational needs of many of our refugee students.

(Barbara Peek)



(the Cardboard Cathedral, Christchurch NZ

(see article on p10)

You can read more about the Transitional Cathedral - its correct name! at -

<http://www.cardboardcathedral.org.nz/>



Footy Parking for 2015

... the coming Cats home matches for this season are -

AFL Season 2015

Sunday June 21st (3.20pm) - Melbourne

Saturday July 18th (1.45pm) - Western Bulldogs

Saturday August 1st (1.45pm) - Brisbane Lions

Saturday August 8th (7.20pm) - Sydney Swans

Fri/Sat September 4th/5th - Adelaide Crows



It's not too late to join the Footy parking team for this year - a few extra helpers are always welcome!

Apart from being an important showcase for Christ Church, these matches are the easiest fund raising for the Parish ever - you just have to look sympathetic when fans suggest that their team might win... and for this they pay us a parking fee!

Why not join the Footy Parking Team for 2015 - even just for the odd match? Watch the Parish Press for details or contact Peter Dohnt (52214704) or Phillip Swain (52219956).



Saturday Club picnic,
Anakie Gorge - 11th
April 2015





Saturday Club
Lunch at Jack
Rabbit Winery



"The new vicar is really cool, Dad.
Did you know that God emailed the Ten
Commandments to Moses' Tablet PC?"

Merle Hamilton -
90 years young!



New grandchildren in the Parish

(see announcements on p4)



Baby Theodore!



Grandson Henry



Baby Isabella

Parking at Christ Church

Please remember that most parking spots in the Church grounds are leased out during the week.....

So although there will **usually** be a **small** number of spaces available for parishioners coming to Parish activities on weekdays, the spaces will be limited, and please display -
a copy of a recent 2015 Parish Press or Chronicle

..and please park adjacent to the School Room.

Situations Vacant

here's some volunteer opportunities....

- Church sitting - weekdays 12-2pm
- Sides persons and welcomers for all services
- Readers/Intercessors (Lessons & Intercessions)
- Assisting with **flower arranging** in Church
- help with **maintenance** (.
- collating the weekly **Parish Press**
- Helping with the **Community Meals Program** (breakfast/evening meals)
- Joining the **Parish Council** (or a sub-committees.
- ..talk to the **Parish Clergy** or a **Council member** if any of the above interest you...

17th CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

LORD Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.
AMEN

A 17th Century Nun's Prayer - from the
Convent Gallery, Daylesford