

EASTER EDITION 2022

SALT

The Seasonal Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Uniting Church
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From the Minister

Greetings

Lent draws to a close and the joy of Easter is on the horizon, described generally by me as 'the biggest gig of the church year.' So many people think that Christmas is the biggest gig yet the reality and the truth is that without the Easter event our faith becomes null and void. We all look forward to the celebration of Easter (at least I hope we do!).

... cont'd



A close-up photograph of a yellow flower with several petals, set against a blurred background of more yellow flowers and green stems. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the texture of the petals.

As we journey through the lectionary year, we have a 3 year cycle and we become familiar with the stories, the characters, the miracles, the parables, yet the journey we are on will forever present us with situations that are not familiar, situations that challenge us personally, theologically and as part of community and the world.

As we prepare to celebrate I feel that it is so important for us to reflect on the ministry of Jesus, the crucifixion and the cross and consider that it all means to us as post Easter people. "Here we go..." you may be thinking but we need to be prepared to enter into a space where we are confronted with the core of our faith.

I have made no secret of the fact that I do not believe that Jesus went to the cross for my sins or for anyone's sins for that matter, I'm not a believer of substitutionary atonement. In a recent post I put on Facebook I shared a quote from Saving God from Religion by Robin Meyers, it said:

"In the beginning there was no doctrine of Jesus, only a radical ethic of Jesus...In the Sermon on the Mount, there is not a single word about what to believe, only words about what to do and how to be. By the time the Nicene Creed is written, only three centuries later, there is not a single word in it about what to do or how to be - only words about what to believe."

Jesus did not bring a new way of believing, he brought a new way of being, of living in the world. His teachings didn't employ violence, he doesn't abuse power, manipulate or coerce people into following him, he didn't hide the fact that to live the way he lived had consequences, as we hear he "called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'" (Mark 8:34)

While we may all prefer to skip the events of Good Friday, they lie at the heart of our decision to become disciples, the events of Good Friday invite us into the political and social world of Jesus - the risks of discipleship. John Dominic Crossan reminds us that; "crucifixion was state terrorism..."

its function was to deter resistance or revolt, especially among the lower classes.” Crucifixion was a public and brutal part of life in the ancient Mediterranean region, not a measure of dignity remained for those executed in this way. As we begin to understand this political and social world we begin to understand that Jesus was a threat to the political and social order of his day - he didn't go to the cross because he was a “nice polite man.” He went to the cross because he refused to compromise the values of the kingdom, he refused to remain silent in the face of injustice and he refused to participate in socially acceptable displays of discrimination or oppression.

Jesus' life was subversive, so also was his death, depicting in deed what he taught in word. The resurrection to me is mystery, what exactly happened? I would be lying if I was to say with absolute certainty that I know. I like everyone else have the resurrection accounts and the appearance stories. I could simply believe and change nothing about the way I live but my choice is to allow for the mystery and seek to live an alternative life in the world, that may not be welcomed by some, but intends to do no harm and to be a presence of love, while remembering that I am still human and get it wrong at times.

This Easter let us remember what our call to discipleship means, let us continue to work together as community to be the presence of Jesus in the world. Let's not stress too much about what we are told to believe but be led by the Spirit and by the truth of Jesus' life. Let's journey together recognising the image of God in each other and extend the grace that acknowledges our humanness. Let's celebrate Easter with the knowledge that we still inhabit a broken world and there is work to be done.

Peace & Love
Susan

Church Council Report

Nick Tate

Since my last report, we have welcomed three new church councillors Ralph Collins, Miriam King and Ian Withnall and said goodbye with much thanks to both Max Brand and Rex Niven. I would like to express my very great appreciation to Rex for the absolutely wonderful job that he has done as our Church Treasurer. We are blest that Ralph has agreed to be the new Church Treasurer and doubly blest, that Rex has agreed to take-up the new role of Bookkeeper as we split the two different components of the Treasurer's role.

Also, since my last report our Church Administrator, Luke Cruddas, has moved on. The Church Council has agreed a new Position Description for the Administrator and we will shortly advertise the position on Seek. Members of the Church Council have agreed to take on some of the administrative tasks in the interim as we await the appointment of a new administrator.

Much of the Church Council's energy at present has been focused on managing the changeover of the Church Administrator and on moving the church back to normal as we slowly but surely move out of the COVID restrictions. The relaxation of these restrictions is already starting to make a big difference.

We have also been talking to the Presbytery about the size of the Church's annual contribution to Presbytery and Synod. I am pleased to report that we are making progress.

There is one issue that I must report on; we are somewhat short of volunteers in some of our activities and we will be seeking more helpers in the weeks to come.

If you would like to know more about any of this, then please don't hesitate to ask and I can update you at morning tea after church on a Sunday morning.

Nick Tate, Chair, Church Council



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

From the Editors

Contact SALT via email
saintandrews@saintandrews.org.au

In all that is happening in the world right now; in Australia right now; and in our lives right now: let us hold each other close, let us be kind, let us listen.

As our Minister Susan says in her message to us: *"Let's celebrate Easter with the knowledge that we still inhabit a broken world and there is work to be done."*

SALT this season brings news of the varied ways we outreach from Saint Andrew's Uniting Church in Brisbane to our congregation, community and beyond. But there IS more to be done. Please read Nick's news from the Church Council and especially his request for more volunteers.

We hope you enjoy SALT. Please make sure those around you know how to access our church website: www.saintandrews.org.au

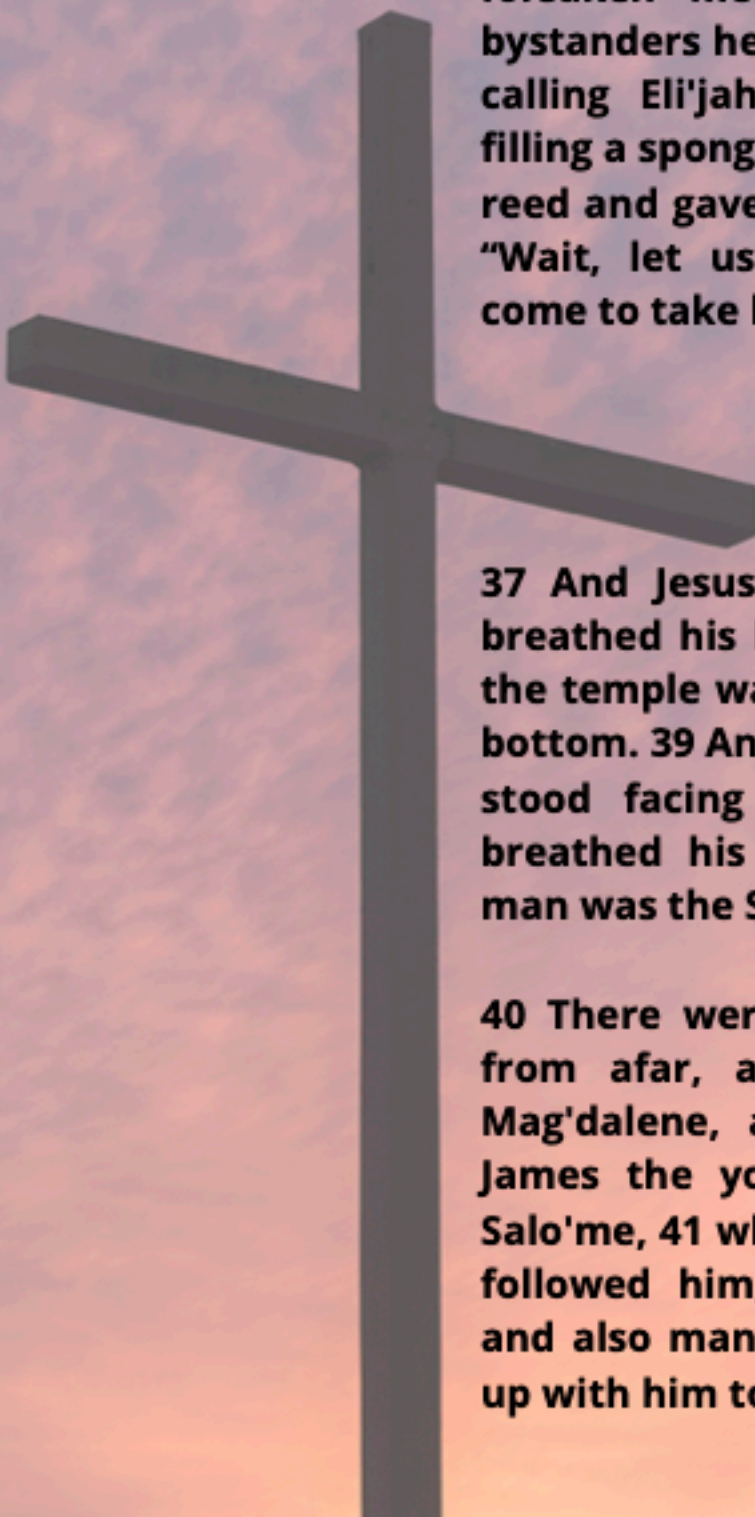
Wendy & Ian Smith

Photos: Ian Smith



Mark: Chapter 15

Verses 33-41



33 And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. **34** And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "E'lo-i, E'lo-i, la'ma sabach-tha'ni?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" **35** And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Eli'jah." **36** And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Eli'jah will come to take him down."

37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. **38** And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. **39** And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

40 There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Mag'dalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salo'me, **41** who, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered to him; and also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

David McBryde 1965-2022
Friend, Community Meal Guest,
Congregation Member, Church Caretaker

by John Foster

I met him in the normal way
When I ask him for a light
At a hostel, I was staying
On a lamp-lit Sunday night

Said his name was David
I said my name was John
We agreed to disagree
And he toddled off along

Little did then I realise
That he would be a friend
And he would save my sanity
In that place called "Round the Bend"

We walked the streets of 'Brizzie'
And David led the way
We sang at the Lord Mayor's party
'Lit up' at Shakespeare's play

We shared our life stories
And Oh what tales we would tell
Said what we needed in our future
Tossed a coin in a wishing well

'Day came: he went his own way
I knew that he was right
And I left his company
On a cold dark winters night

Got word the other day
That he didn't 'ride the wave'
Kept it quietly to himself
That was the man called Dave

You can call yourself privileged
When you've walked side by side
With such a person worth knowing
as that kind soul Dave McBryde



Music News

Barbara Tate

NEWS FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

The Sanctuary Choir returned from their summer break at the beginning of February and it was a delight to welcome back our scholars Jola, Alla, Ji, Kevin and Tom. We also welcomed a new soprano scholar, Caitlin Weal who has been singing with the choir regularly since June 2021.

Scholarship News

Congratulations are due to two of our scholars. Baritone Tom Nicholson is the recipient of the Melba Opera Trust's Joseph Sambrook scholarship. Tom travels regularly to Melbourne to take part in a series of sessions and performances specifically designed to develop the essential skills required to become a well-rounded operatic artist. Recently, our alto scholar Alla Yarosh travelled to USA and successfully auditioned for a place at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia as an incoming Resident Artist (see photo below). We are fortunate to be able to enjoy her contribution to our services for a little time yet.

Two of our former alto scholars, Bronwyn Douglass and Xenia Puskarz-Thomas, who are both Melba Trust Alumni, recently made important debuts: Bronwyn Douglass took to the stage for her soloist debut with Opera Australia as Anna in the concert performance of Maria Stuarda. It was a whirlwind debut for Bronwyn, who received the call on a Sunday and learned the role in 24 hrs. Xenia Puskarz Thomas made her debut in recital for the Julliard Vocal Arts Honours Recital at Alice Tully Hall at the Lincoln Centre, New York.

One of our regular organists, Rachel Tew, has the honour of being our inaugural Organ Scholar under our scholarship program in collaboration with Musica Viva Australia. Congratulations Rachel! We recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Musica Viva to continue the scholarship program in 2022.



Music News continued...



OTHER NEWS

Graham Evans, former manager and founding member of Sinfonia of Saint Andrew's, is a recipient of the 2022 Lord Mayor's Australia Day Award in the cultural/arts category. These awards recognise the work of outstanding individuals and groups to improve the environment, sports, community events and culture and arts. The recipients were recognised at a COVID-Safe ceremony in City Hall in late March. We had the pleasure of listening to Graham Evan's chamber group the Stadler Trio who performed recently in our March Con Spirito Lunchtime concert.

Concerts

Saint Andrew's was honoured to host the first concert of the new Brisbane arts company, Voxalis (see photo above), on 5th March. Our baritone scholar, Tom Nicholson, was one of the soloists together with sopranos Anna Tafani and Rachel Griffiths and they were accompanied by pianist Mark Connors. A sizeable and enthusiastic audience filled the pews and enjoyed music by Schumann, Dvorak and Puccini. Voxalis will be presenting further recitals featuring some of our scholars during the year at the Old Museum and St Mary's Anglican Church, Kangaroo Point.

The first Con Spirito Lunchtime Concert of the year was on 25th March and featured one of our organists, Jonah Patuto on the piano accompanying singers Dallas Tippet and Louisa Nelson who presented songs by Handel, Mozart, Erik Satie, Schubert, Fauré and Finzi together with the Stadler Trio who performed Mozart's Divertimento in B flat major.

Community Meal Support

Rex Niven

Support for our Community Meal program is continuing to expand with several supporters outside the congregation now contributing significantly to our outreach.

Morgans Foundation

In the last two years contributions of \$5,000pa has been provided by the Morgans Foundation in support of the Community Meal. The 2022 donation is subject to our obtaining the appropriate tax deductibility status which is being actively pursued. Information about the Morgans Foundation can be found at www.morgans.com.au - Community Support.



Aspley Uniting Church (ACTS)

Last year the Aspley congregation provided financial support to both the meal and the supply of goods for distribution through the outreach table. The Aspley congregation has established a registered charity ACTS (Aspley Caring Through Service) that provides numerous organizations with financial support. At their board meeting in March this year they approved a 2-year term of financial support for our Community Meal which provides for \$1,000 to be donated quarterly. The funds are available to be used for both the provision of food supplies as well as for items for the outreach table. The first quarter's funds have already been received and put to good use with the advance purchase of some winter clothing. Information about ACTS can be found at www.aspleyacts.org.au.



Foodbank Queensland

Weekly visits to foodbank provide a significant amount of the food items needed for the preparation of the weekly dine-in and takeaway meals. These supplies are supplemented through additional food purchases as needed. Information about Foodbank can be found at www.foodbank.org.au.



Stanbroke Pastoral Company

Is a family-owned Australian integrated beef and cattle company that supports the Community Meal with generous meat deliveries which meet most of the meat needs for the meals. The value of these meat donations is considerable and interesting information about the company can be found at www.stanbroke.com.



Fino Foods

A recent donation of food supplies was donated by Fino Foods. The donation included frozen pasta, pasta sauce, salt, flour, and cheddar cheese. These high-quality food items will assist the cooks in providing some nutritious meals for our guests. More information on Fino can be found at www.finofoods.com.au.



+ Plus One

The congregation's + Plus One program is continuing to provide a supply of basic needs for items for the Outreach Table, this is also being supported with funds from the ACTS donation as well. Regular donations of used clothing are also being received from individual donors.



Containers For Change

Since we started the congregations recycle scheme in 2019, we have raised a total of \$3,897 from recycled containers. This is not only good for the environment but has provided the food for approximately 1,340 meals. The congregation scheme number is **C10161825** and any contributions using this number will go directly into the community meal account. More information can be found at www.containersforchange.com.au.



HINT!! Ask your local container recycler for a reusable bag to help you collect your cans & bottles!

Direct Debit Donations

Numerous regular donations are received from congregation members and others in support of the Community Meal. Donations can be made to the Saint Andrew's bank account **BSB 334 040 A/C 5538 77638 with the reference Community Meal**, these funds are allocated directly to the program.

Support Program Expansion

There is the need to expand the support program to enable additional funds to be sourced to provide the financial resources for the existing services as well as to enable these services to be expanded. This will entail us obtaining a DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status from the Australian Taxation Office. The initial work in preparing the documentation to seek charitable endorsement of the Community Meal as a Public Benevolent Institution has been completed and submitted to Church Council for their review before engaging with the remaining activities necessary. The objective is to be able to obtain the necessary tax-deductible status from the Australian Tax Office and then actively acquire new sources of funding.

The Outreach Table

How does it work?

Jann & Rex Niven

If there are enough volunteers to attend to the Community Meal serving and distribution, then the Outreach Table operates in the foyer by the Office, or sometimes at the hall entrance.

Each week the table in the May Walker Room is set out with a number of toiletry supplies, most in a separate basket, and depending on what has been donated, purchased, or sourced from Foodbank.

The two volunteers use a trolley to take the supplies out to the area of choice and set up.

When our Saturday guests ask for an item, one of the volunteers serves them - guests do not take what they want. A list is kept of what is available, and what is given out. Requests are written on to the tally sheet.

Incidentally, over the past year approximately 10,000 separate items have been given out.

CLOTHING RACKS -

Just a note to remind you that many of our guests do not have places to store their clothing, other than what they carry with them. So, at the end of each season, clothing items are discarded, and they need to source suitable clothing for either summer or winter.

Donated clothing is collected and sorted. Some pieces of clothing need to be washed, zips checked, buttons sewn on, and suitability for our guests assessed. Anything else not needed, nor stored away for another season, is taken to Lifeline.

Each week a selection of size-labelled, ironed when necessary, suitable clothing is put onto hangers on either the men's double rack or women's single rack.

The volunteers wheel these racks out each week and serve the guests. In winter, extra fleece clothing and fleece throws have been purchased with donated money. Also on the Outreach Table is a constant supply of socks, under clothing from time to time, caps in summer, beanies, scarves, and gloves in winter. Re-gifted items are welcome, and footwear is on the table also. Winter sees fleece rugs and blankets added to the table.

The Outreach Table

How can you help?

How can you help?

+Plus One Box - each time you make out a supermarket list please include a single toiletry item for our guests. A single packaged toothbrush, so that our guests can be assured that it hasn't been used, toothpaste, wrapped soap, small pocket tissues, sunscreen, roll-on deodorant, strong band aids, skin creams, single-use razors, shaving cream, toilet rolls (each of which we place in a paper bag, unless it already has a wrapping), disposable hand or face wipes, sanitizer, face masks, a small packet for pain relief, Panadol not Aspirin.

All these can be placed in the labelled **+Plus One Box** on the table in the church foyer.

If you would rather, please donate a sum of money, either into the church accounts labelled 'Outreach Table' or put it in an envelope 'Outreach Table' and hand it to the Treasurer. All gifts are added to the church accounts, and monies spent are supported by receipts. Outreach Table accounts are kept separately to the Community Meal accounts. The Church accounts are audited yearly, but the Treasurer reports to the Church Council during the year.

Clothing+

Clothing items, mainly men's, light-weight blankets and fleece rugs, beanies, shoes and unused gift items can be left in the Committee Room upstairs, or by the door to the May Walker Room.

If you live in an apartment block, it entails more work for you, but you could request good used clothing be labelled and left for you to collect. Family members, friends and work colleagues are often happy to donate clothing, and if you belong to a voluntary organisation, this is another source.

Other help - see either Jann or Rex Niven if you have some spare time to help out, occasionally during the week, in the May Walker Room.

Thank you for assisting in whatever way you are able. It makes our tasks easier, and our service to our guests IS appreciated.

Social Justice Table

Beth Brand

We have experienced a great deal of uncertainty since the beginning of the year which has meant that the Social Justice Table has not been held as regularly as usual due to COVID closures and flooding. Still, we have been able to continue our work with fantastic support from the congregation.

The February Table has traditionally raised money to support The Smith Family Back to School Appeal, and we were able to send them \$450 from excess funds raised in 2021.

In February, after the devastating tsunami in Tonga, we started a Virtual Social Justice Table to give members of our congregation and others, the opportunity to offer monetary support to the Tongan Community . After speaking with Rev Maile Molitika from the UCA /Tongan Congregation in Nambour, we sent out donation of \$1,353.40 to The High Commission of The Kingdom of Tonga, Fakalikutonga Relief Fund in Canberra, for distribution where it is most needed. Below is the letter we received in response:



"Thank you so much for your contribution to the Fakalikutonga Relief Fund. I have received your letter and I have forwarded it to the High Commission Office in Canberra. They will respond with all the questions that you asked. Convey our love to Rev. Susan and the congregation for all your sacrifices, enabling this contribution to help Tonga. It is really appreciated.
Best Regards. Rev. Maile Molitika"

Social Justice Table continued...

We were not able to hold our usual Social Justice stalls for the first few months of 2022 because the spread of the Covid pandemic led to some services being held online, so it was not until April that we were able to hold a stall.

In January, the ABC reported that the domestic and family violence crisis had escalated during the COVID pandemic, as the pandemic had created 'perfect conditions' for abusers. Research showed that last year more than one in five women experienced emotionally abusive and controlling behaviour from their live-in partners, as many domestic violence victims were forced to continue to live with their perpetrators and experienced more surveillance and monitoring. Nearly half, 43 per cent, of domestic violence workers said abusers used the pandemic environment to control victims by making threats to the safety of women and their children.

We decided to support BDVS – the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service-offering services, support and advocacy for those experiencing domestic and family violence. The service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is an outreach of Micah Projects. We felt that it was timely to support this service because of the increasing number of domestic violence cases being reported in the media and being dealt with by police and social services.

We were pleased with the support from the congregation to our fundraising efforts, and were able to donate \$250 to BDVS.

Thanks to our team of helpers and the support from you, the congregation at St Andrew's, we are able to continue to raise awareness of and assist many organizations in our local community



BAPTISM at Saint Andrew's

We've seen a few baptisms over the last few weeks; so an opportunity to remind ourselves of our own baptisms.

Baptism offers us the life of Christ through the sign of water. Baptism recalls the story of God's love and embraces us in that love. Baptism signifies God's life-giving renewal given freely and abundantly. In baptism we become members of the one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic church, that is; the body of Christ, the communion of the Holy Spirit, the people of God, we are not baptised into a congregation.

"We are baptised into the life, death and resurrection of Christ." Baptism involves the action of God and in baptism we appropriate the promises of God and trust in those promises. The sign of the cross after baptism symbolises the 'sealing' of God's promises.

In the Uniting Church Baptism is a once for all, we can re-affirm our baptism but we do not offer re-baptism.

As a congregation we make a promise to those baptised, we promise to maintain a life of worship and teaching, witness and service to enable the child baptised to grow to maturity in Christ. While the family may not return to regular worship we make a commitment to stay connected.

Susan

Photos: Ian Smith, Beth Brand, Merrilyn Hooper



Mark: Chapter 16

Verses 9-11

9 Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Mag'dalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. 10 She went out and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

