

SPRING EDITION 2022

SALT

The Seasonal Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Uniting Church
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Spring
EDITION

From the Minister*

*guest author for this edition: Neil Pembroke

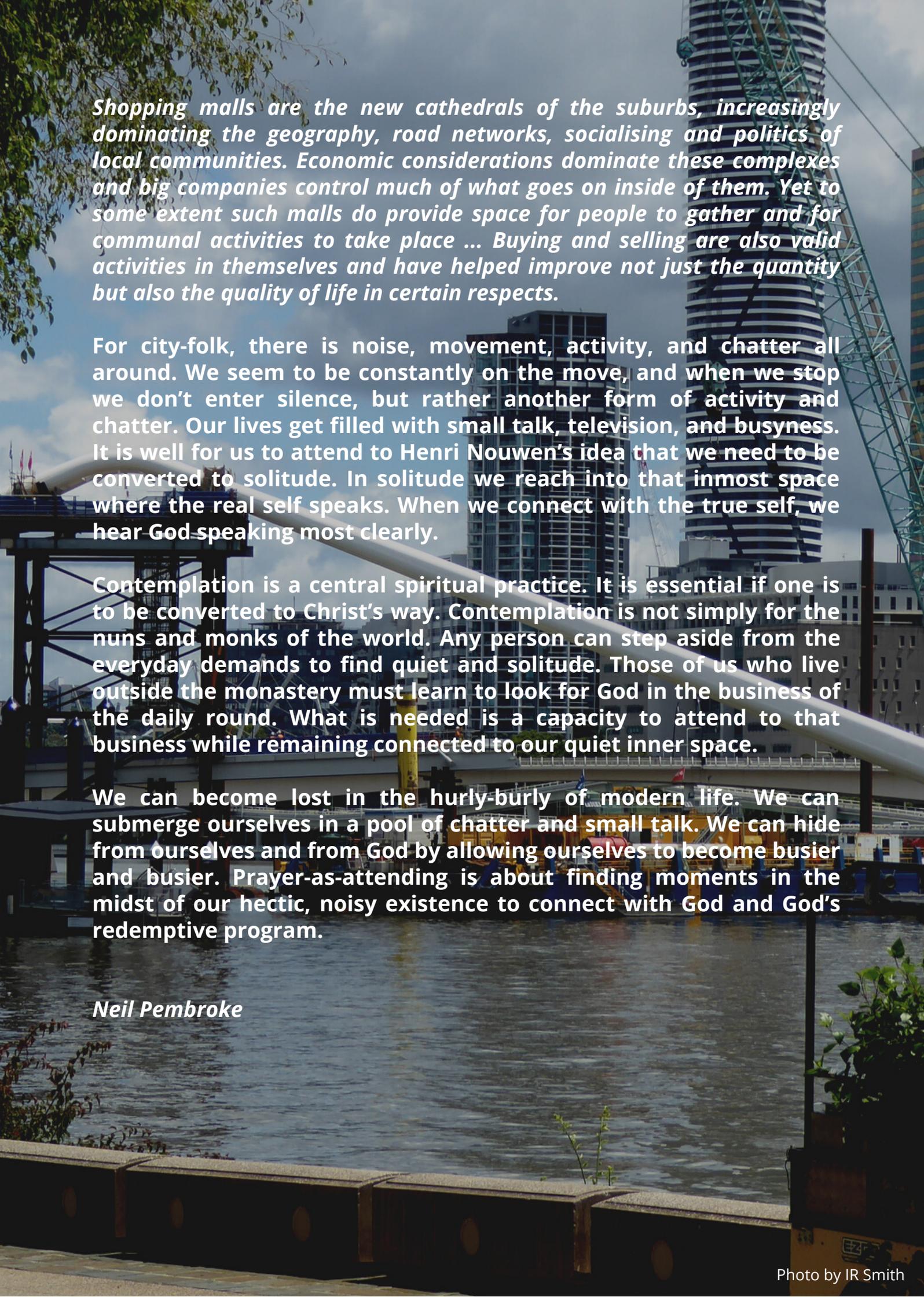
The Spirit of the City

As we walk about our city what do we see? We see, among other things, the isolation of city life. People rush by and little or no contact is made. In the film *Crocodile Dundee*, Australian Paul Hogan makes this fact an opportunity for humour. Hogan's character, Mick Dundee, is accustomed to country life where strangers still greet each other and even stop and have a leisurely chat. Not realizing that the context is altogether different, Mick tries to engage with New Yorkers as they rush to their next commitment. They are, of course, thoroughly bemused.

How can we make connections with our fellow city-dwellers? To be sure, we are not as naïve as Mick Dundee. But yet we do want to personalise our city experience. Martin Buber is famous for his poetic exposition of the I-Thou encounter. In this encounter, two people make themselves present to each other. In a world where people are often made into objects, Buber pleads for the establishment of intersubjectivity. He was not only speaking about deep and meaningful conversations, but also about the significant glance exchanged between two strangers. Two commuters, for example, can connect through a smile even though no words are exchanged. Or we can go a step further. I remember Professor Frank Andersen, an Old Testament scholar and an Anglican priest, telling me that he always made use of the nametag supermarket check-out operators use. This was one way he tried to overcome the anonymity of city life.

In the city we also see people who have lost their purpose in life, who are no longer coping, who are existing rather than really living. Perhaps they, like the Son of Man, have nowhere to lay their heads at night. How do we respond? Do we take the time to talk with them? Do we pass on by? Do we allow this immediate contact with others who are suffering deeply to challenge us and to reshape the way that we engage with the world around us?

At the other end of the spectrum, we also find in the city the glittering superstructures where all the latest and greatest goods are available for consumption. Consumerism has become a rival of the more established religions in the modern world. There is much to be lamented about the prominent place shopping malls have in modern life. But this should be balanced with a reference to the benefits they confer. In his book *All the Business of Life*, Robert Banks expresses it this way:



Shopping malls are the new cathedrals of the suburbs, increasingly dominating the geography, road networks, socialising and politics of local communities. Economic considerations dominate these complexes and big companies control much of what goes on inside of them. Yet to some extent such malls do provide space for people to gather and for communal activities to take place ... Buying and selling are also valid activities in themselves and have helped improve not just the quantity but also the quality of life in certain respects.

For city-folk, there is noise, movement, activity, and chatter all around. We seem to be constantly on the move, and when we stop we don't enter silence, but rather another form of activity and chatter. Our lives get filled with small talk, television, and busyness. It is well for us to attend to Henri Nouwen's idea that we need to be converted to solitude. In solitude we reach into that inmost space where the real self speaks. When we connect with the true self, we hear God speaking most clearly.

Contemplation is a central spiritual practice. It is essential if one is to be converted to Christ's way. Contemplation is not simply for the nuns and monks of the world. Any person can step aside from the everyday demands to find quiet and solitude. Those of us who live outside the monastery must learn to look for God in the business of the daily round. What is needed is a capacity to attend to that business while remaining connected to our quiet inner space.

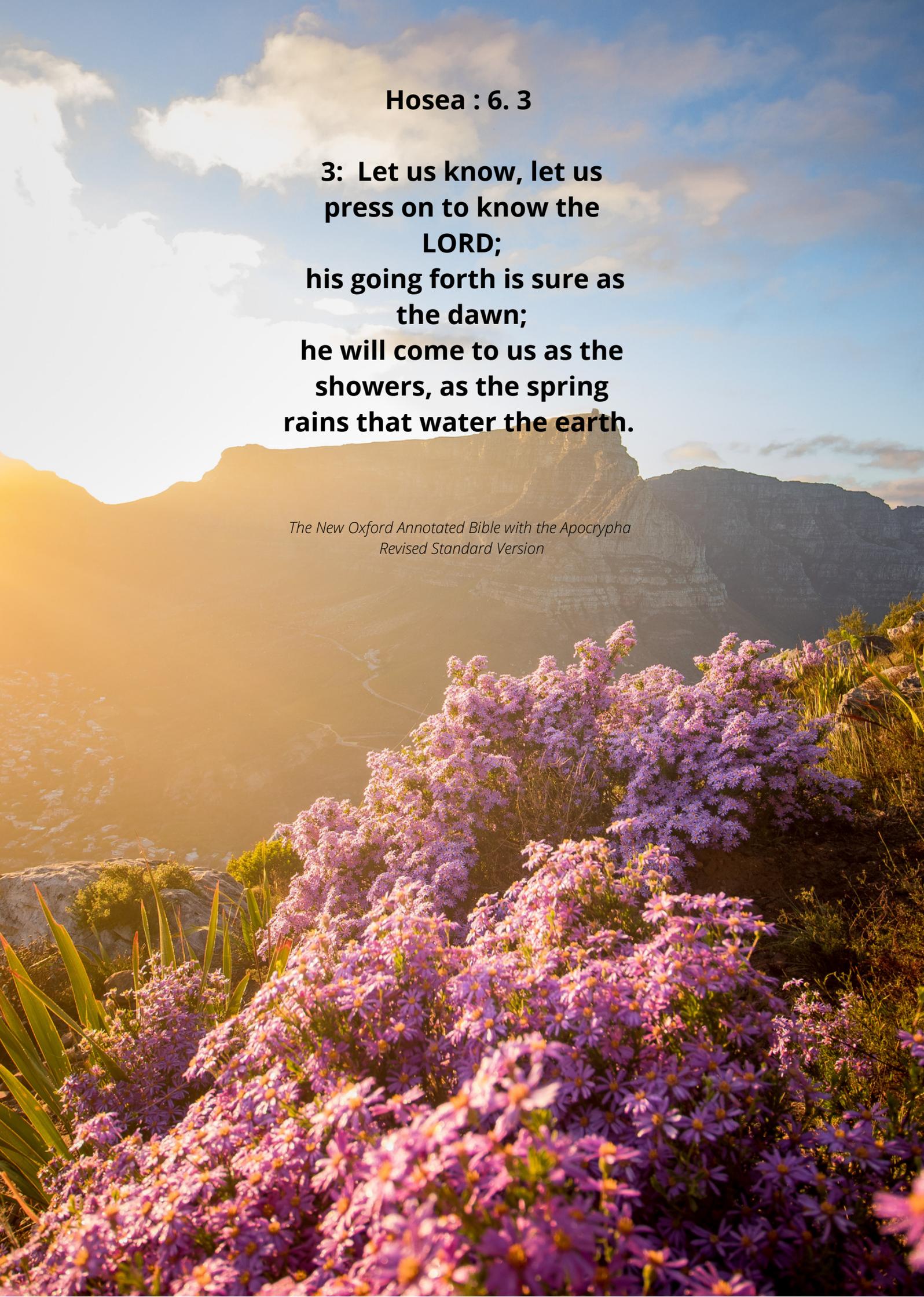
We can become lost in the hurly-burly of modern life. We can submerge ourselves in a pool of chatter and small talk. We can hide from ourselves and from God by allowing ourselves to become busier and busier. Prayer-as-attending is about finding moments in the midst of our hectic, noisy existence to connect with God and God's redemptive program.

Neil Pembroke

Hosea : 6. 3

**3: Let us know, let us
press on to know the
LORD;
his going forth is sure as
the dawn;
he will come to us as the
showers, as the spring
rains that water the earth.**

*The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha
Revised Standard Version*



Church Council Report

The Church Council met after church on 25th September where we worked through a shorter than usual agenda dealing with those urgent items which needed action before our next full council meeting on Wednesday 2nd November.

During the meeting we received confirmation of the formal establishment of the Community Meal as a charity to be known as “Andy’s Place”. The Council recorded its congratulations to all those involved in achieving such a successful outcome.

The Treasurer presented the monthly accounts showing that we are tracking largely to target. He also reported that we have now followed the request of the Presbytery and Synod to convert to a financial year for our accounts as opposed to the calendar year accounting that we have been using until now.

The Church Council also approved the arrangements for Christmas services. This year, Christmas Day is a Sunday, and we will, of course, hold our traditional Christmas morning service. We have decided to hold it at our normal Sunday time of 9:30am. This is a change from a starting time of 8am in previous years. In light of the Community Meal being held on Christmas Eve, this year, we will not be holding a Christmas Eve service.

As we continue with upgrades to the Church’s IT systems, the next stage will be to restore WiFi services through the church hall and, hopefully, the church itself, using a Mesh WiFi system. I will let you know when we have it up and running.

We are scheduling the next Congregational meeting after church on Sunday 13th November, where we will present a range of reports and answer questions about them. Please put the date in your diaries.

As always, I would ask that you consider volunteering for one of the rosters so that we can spread the load for everyone more evenly. At the moment we are short of volunteers in some rosters and extra help is always much appreciated.

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

Contact SALT via email
saintandrews@saintandrews.org.au

From the Editors

Thank you to Neil Pembroke for being our guest writer for this edition while our Minister Sue is on leave. Neil, apart from being a member of our Saint Andrew's Congregation, is also Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at Trinity College.

As the year rushes to a close the need for us to engage and support our church and wider community never ceases. Our city is physically changing everyday yet the human needs continue. The weekly News & Notes is your go-to guide on worship services, lectionary readings, prayer points, how to help, when help is needed and where to go for help. News & Notes also has all the upcoming events, including the annual Christmas family get-together, the Advent Social Justice Table, *Con Spirito* and other musical performances

Thank you to Ray Herrmann for filling in while Minister Sue was away. There are quite a few others away at present, perhaps making up for time lost from COVID, wherever this newsletter finds you, travel safely.

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

Wendy & Ian

This edition's Cover Photo: flowers and fruit -- a Spring celebration from Malcolm and Andrea.

Ecclesiastes 3:3 A time to tear down and a time to build.

**In Brisbane now, what time is it?
What to tear down? What to build?**



Photo by IR Smith



Photo by IR Smith



This prayer was shared by Peter Burden at our Sunday Service on 18th September.

There is a response for today's prayer – when I pray "Lord in your mercy" please respond "Hear our prayer".

I also want to acknowledge that part of today's prayers have been written by Very Rev Dr Derek Browning and Rev Joanne Hood of the Church of Scotland as part of the services published by that Church for use following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

**As we come to pray let us hear part of Psalm 113 the Psalm for today.
Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.**

**Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore.
From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised
He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.**

In today's gospel we are told that we cannot be the slave of God and of money. Lord we pray that through your Spirit you will give guide us to resist the temptation to pursue material wealth at the expense of our commitment to make your kingdom come on earth.

Lord in your mercy...

In this time when many in our community are finding it a challenge to meet the increasing costs of living, are struggling of providing food and shelter for themselves and their family we pray that you will support and guide our leaders as the pursue strategies to reduce inflation and repair disrupted lines of supply.

We pray for those who experience poverty and injustice in our society, that they will find the help and support they need to care for themselves and for their families. We pray that you will guide us as a community to create the means to provide that help and support.

Lord in your mercy...

Merciful Lord, we look around our world and see so many people who are struggling to recover from natural disasters like the devastating floods in Pakistan or those in many other places who are struggling with a lack of rain and are dealing with a failure of crops because of drought. We grieve with communities suffering from disasters and pray that you give families strength and perseverance while they rebuild their homes and livelihoods. We pray for disaster survivors to find refuge in You.

Lord in your mercy...

Almighty God, we know that people who are poor and have few resources to recover and rebuild are those who are hit hardest by natural disasters . We pray that you will inspire leaders of the world's wealthy nations to be ready to respond to disasters with compassion and generosity. Help governments to find ways to invest in strategies to reduce the impact of severe climate events and develop and pursue steps to reduce the vulnerability of their citizens to natural disasters.

Lord in your mercy...

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;

look with mercy on those who have been affected by war, on those who are fleeing from danger or find themselves homeless. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts, and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;

Lord in your mercy...

Lord as thousands of people file past the coffin of the late Queen Elizabeth as it lies in state in Westminster Hall and as dignitaries arrive in London to the Funeral tomorrow we give thanks for our late Queen,

Blessed by grace, Resolute in service, Modest in person, a person of great faith We thank You for her dedication and for her determination to fulfil her commitment to serve the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

We pray that you will be with the Royal Family as they mourn the loss of a mother and grandmother and friend.

We pray for King Charles III. Bless him in these days as he assumes the responsibilities of the monarchy, imbue him with the strength of character, the openness of heart, the suppleness of mind and the generosity of spirit he needs. We also pray for Queen Consort Camilla as she supports him in this new role.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our country and all members of the Commonwealth who wrestle with the complexities of the monarchy and what it represents today. We pray for those who continue to deal with the legacies of colonialism as we all work towards right relations and reconciliation.

Lord in your mercy...

We also pray for those particularly those in our first nations community who are mourning the loss of Uncle Jack Charles who was a survivor of the Stolen Generations policy of assimilation who experienced sexual abuse as a child while in the care of the state and who overcame an early life of adversity to become one of Australia's most respected and cherished elders. We thank you for his life and his desire to help all he encountered who were experiencing difficult times and for his gift as a storyteller who was able to share painful stories through drama.

Lord in your mercy...

Lord we ask that you will be with the hidden folk throughout the world who are struggling to make peace, longing for healing, grieving the loss of someone they love.

Lord in your mercy...

Gracious God, remind us constantly that your relationship with your people is open and loving and liberating. That it is through knowing you that we discover our real humanity, and

through knowing you that we understand who we are and are set free to live as your people.

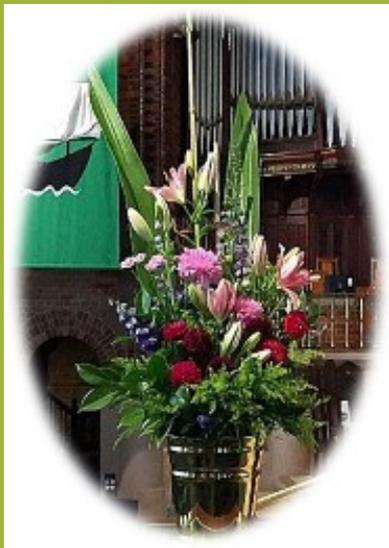
AMEN.

Flowers

For many years the Floristry Team at Saint Andrew's has been sharing their skills, time and enthusiasm to ensure that the church is filled with fresh flowers each week.

These dedicated people have done an excellent job over this time and, in particular during the challenging last couple of years.

As I am stepping aside as Convener of the Team I would like to sincerely thank the wonderful people who make up the team.



*Great team, outstanding effort ...
my heartfelt thanks.*

Miriam King



The most recent members of this amazing bunch (known as the Floristry Team) are

*Andrea Hall-Brown,
Merrilyn Hooper,
Lyn Maurer,
Helen Jackson,
Beth Brand,
Robyn Lulham,
Chris & Jan Withnall,
Fernanda Moffatt,
Sarah Harris,
Ray Herrmann,
& Ken King.*



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Two valued members of the Saint Andrew's Family, Jann and Rex Niven, recently celebrated their combined 80th Birthdays on Saturday September 24th at Sirromet Winery Mt Cotton. Jann's birthday celebration had been postponed due to COVID, but the recent lunch was held on Rex's birthday.

Jann and Rex were surrounded by family and friends who enjoyed a delicious lunch on the Tuscan Terrace. Everyone wishes them good health and many more years of celebrating together.

Congratulations Jann and Rex.



News from the Choir Loft

We farewelled Alla Yarosh at the end of September and thanked her for her contribution to the choir over the last 3 years. The day after Alla finished her final performance as the Fairy Queen in *Iolanthe*, she departed Brisbane and commenced studies at the Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA) in Philadelphia, where she has already impressed them with her artistry. Alla is only one of six students to have gained entry to the AVA, one of America's most distinguished vocal performance programs.

We welcome Emma Mueller as our new mezzo scholar.

Tom Nicholson has had a successful year as a scholarship recipient with the 2022 Melba Opera Trust, Australia's most prestigious trainee principal artist program. Tom featured in an Australian Digital Concert Hall series with Melba Opera Trust Young Artists and was a semi-finalist in the Australian Singing Competition where he was awarded the Songmakers Australia Prize, and the Graham Pushee Special Commendation Award. The Songmakers Australia Prize gives Tom the opportunity to participate in a 3-day Master Class presented by Songmakers Australia, co-hosted by the National Liederfest in Melbourne. The Graham Pushee Special Commendation Award gives Tom the opportunity to develop his vocal, linguistic, and dramatic skills and training.

Tom and Alla also had principal roles in a new operatic work by Australian composer Brenton Broadstock, titled *The Nurses of Vung Tao*, which premiered at Somerville House in June. This work was produced by QCGU alumna Elizabeth Lewis who wrote the libretto and starred in the production.



Welcome our new Choral Scholars



Welcome to Caitlin Weal

Caitlin has been a soprano scholar in the Sanctuary Choir since the beginning of 2022. Caitlin has dedicated her life to playing and performing music. First beginning on violin at the age of six, Caitlin competed and placed in many violin eisteddfods, performed in notable youth orchestras such as Queensland Youth Orchestra and Queensland Youth Orchestra 2 and received her AmusA diploma on violin. At sixteen years of age, Caitlin discovered her love of opera after seeing Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Since this moment of inspiration, Caitlin auditioned successfully for the Queensland Conservatorium majoring in Classical Voice. Throughout her time at the Conservatorium, Caitlin has also performed in notable venues such as the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Queensland Conservatorium Theatre, and Queensland Parliament House Senate Chamber.

Caitlin has been trained and mentored by opera professionals. Her opera chorus highlights include, *Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor* by Nicolai (2019) and *La Finta Giardiniera* by Mozart (2019). In 2019 Caitlin debuted her first principal role of 2nd Woman from *Dido and Aeneas* by Purcell presented by the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 2020. Since then, Caitlin has appeared in Queensland Conservatorium productions as Mimi La Boheme (Val Machin opera scenes 2021) and Greta Fiorentino Street Scene (2021) and Phyllis in *Iolanthe* (2022). In 2021 Caitlin was selected as one of the artists in the Lisa Gasteen National Opera Program. Throughout her time at the Conservatorium, Caitlin has been the recipient of university awards such as the Hugh Campbell Award and a joint recipient of the Donald Penman Voices in Combination Award (2019) for her contribution to the *Liebeslieder Quartet*



Introducing our new Mezzo Choral Scholar, Emma Mueller.

Emma has held a passion for singing since the age of four, when she first decided she would be an opera singer. Now a Brisbane-based, performing artist, Emma has completed four years of classical voice training as a Mezzo-Soprano through Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.

During her time at the Conservatorium, she's performed in many of Griffith's opera productions and has had the privilege of being part of Australia's first opera after the COVID-19 pandemic. Her vocal journey has been guided by international soprano and winner of the Cardiff Singer of the World competition, Lisa Gasteen AO, Shelli Hulcombe, the immediate past President of the Australian Association of Teachers of Singing (ANATS) and current Vice President, as well as other acclaimed opera singers.

Emma's other passions include spending time with her family, Auslan (Australian Sign Language), gardening and studying the psychological sciences.



Choral Scholar Alumni

Former mezzo-soprano scholar Xenia Puskarz-Thomas (2017-2019) has been accepted into the Bayerische Staatsoper Young Artis Program, in one of Europe's most prestigious trainee principal artist programs. Xenia graduated with a Master of Music from the Julliard School of Music last June and is the first Queenslander to be admitted to this program.

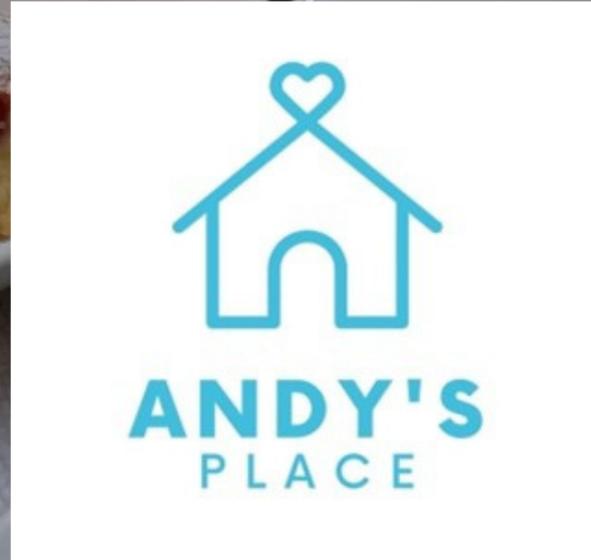
Former baritone scholar Henry Pinder (2018-2019) has been awarded a permanent contact with the ensemble of the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava, Slovakia, commencing September 2022.

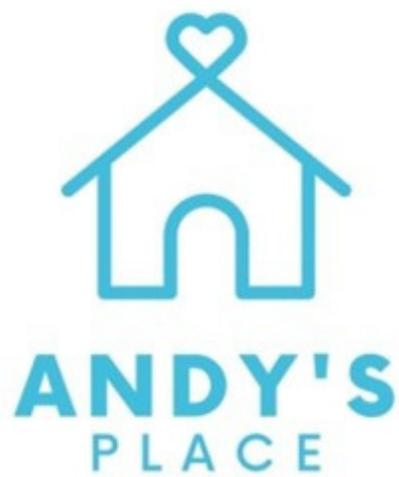
Former soprano scholar Cassandra Wright (2017-2018) has been attending the summer program at the Solti Accademia Bel Canto in June/July 2022. Earlier this year she appeared in recital at the Wigmore Hall, performing a program of Schubert Lieder. Cassandra made her Royal Festival Hall debut in April 2022 performing in a program entitled Songs and a Sea Interlude with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, in a concert dedicated to the composer Oliver Knussen. She will perform Ann Trulove (The Rake's Progress), for the Royal Academy Opera in November 2022, as part of her postgraduate opera studies at the Royal Academy of Music, London, having been awarded the Royal Overseas League Bursary and the Bampton Young Singers Prize.

Former mezzo-soprano scholar Bronwyn Douglass (2014) made her mainstage debut with Opera Australia stepping in to perform the role of Anna in Donizetti's Maria Stuarda. Bronwyn will perform Donna Elvira in David McVicar's production of Don Giovanni for Opera Australia in January 2023.

Barbara Tate
on behalf of the Choir







COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR ANDY'S PLACE

Andy's Place relies on the continued support of the community in order to provide for the needs of our Saturday guests, so it is fantastic when a local business reaches out to us and offers help. Recently, Allan Furall and I were asked to receive a donation from Sandvik Mining Co, who were having a Team Building Day at The Voco Hotel in the city. As part of this activity they accumulated grocery items from a 'shop' as prizes, which were then donated to Andy's Place.

We arrived to find the competition in full swing, and once the winners were announced and the medals presented, Allan and I spoke for 15minutes about the outreach of Saint Andrew's through the Community Meal. It was good to have the opportunity to promote the great work of the team here at Andy's Place and to formally receive their donation of non perishable goods and money. Hopefully Sandvik will continue to support us and encourage a few of their local staff to volunteer with us.

We are grateful for the 3 boxes of groceries we received, which will be added to Rosie's pantry and to our store cupboard.

Beth Brand



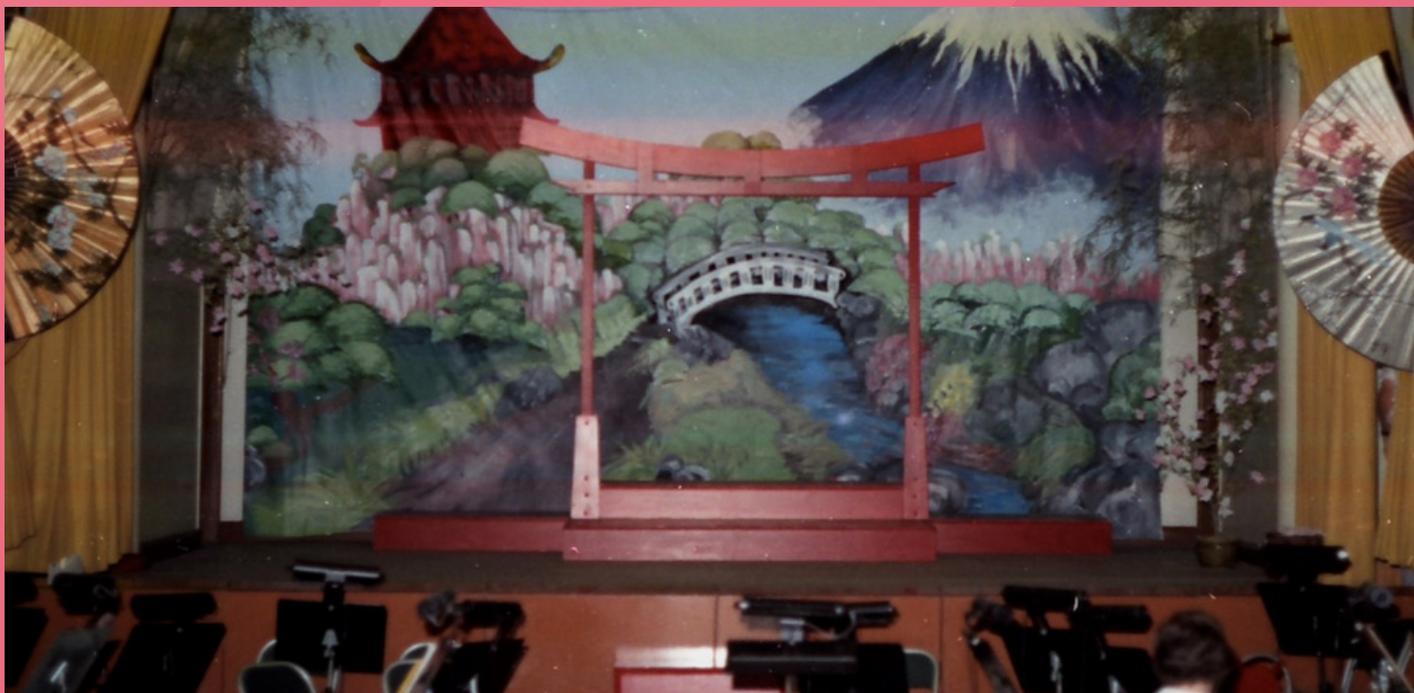
THE G&S CONNECTION



A FABULOUS BRIGHT PRODUCTION BRINGS SOME HAPPY MEMORIES

Some lucky members of our church community were able to attend the Qld Conservatorium Griffith University 2022 annual opera production, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*. Conducted by Johannes Fritzsch, directed by Stuart Maunder and featuring our talented choral scholars, it was a glorious celebration of the topsy-turvy G&S world. (See the GU photo above for the full technicolour delight.) Deliciously fresh and yet true to the original. Among those in the audience were several veterans of earlier G&S productions. Indeed you may recognise some faces in the photos supplied by Robyn Lulham. On this page is *Iolanthe* staged in the Church Hall in 1987.





After the success (and fun) of *Iolanthe* the audience (and players) demanded more and in 1989 the Church Hall was transformed into ancient Japan for *Mikado*. When you share morning tea after church on Sunday morning, take a moment to marvel at the work involved in staging such a production!

In 1996 G&S gave way to Dickens & Bart for an in-church staging of *Oliver*.

