

SALT

The Seasonal Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Uniting Church
cnr Creek and Ann Streets, Brisbane City
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From the Minister *Christmas Greetings to One and All*

It's that time of year once again where our faith can easily be distorted, media and social media selling the season of excess with images of the latest must haves, domestic bliss, even images of the advent and incarnation are wrapped up neatly. We, as people of faith, like every other person who celebrates Christmas, get caught up in the festivities, the tinsel, excessive spending and feasting, exchanging of gifts and well wishes that often leave us feeling quite exhausted and stressed. It becomes a problematic and difficult time for anyone who doesn't want to, or is unable to, comply with pressures that this season exerts.

So I invite you to a time of reflection and meditation, I invite you to pause for a moment, to take a breath and to journey with Mary!



**Twas the night before the birth,
A young unmarried, scared teenager felt the first pang of labour,
Eventually her waters break,
She knew the time was nearing.
There was no miracle pain relief,
No sterile environment,
Just rough hay and a stench of animal.
What was she thinking when she said, "yes!"
Her labour progresses,
Her breathing becomes heavier.
Why did she say, "yes?"
The time arrives, the pains, fast and furious.
There's no turning back,
This baby will arrive.
Tears roll, she needs to push!
It takes every ounce of strength within her to wait.
Why did she say "yes?"
Eventually the time comes,
The young girl bears down,
Then, exhausted, the final contraction, the final push,
Placed on her chest a wrinkled newborn,
Not any newborn,
This was the promised one of God.
He fed at her breast, regularly!
He cried, regularly!
He slept, when he was content!
She said 'yes!'
The waiting and the birth were the beginning,
What lay ahead was unknown.
This is the night that an insignificant young girl,
Gave birth to the kingdom of God.**

On that very night this young girl had no idea what that tiny vulnerable child would go on to endure, but she trusted in God, she recognised that the world need to change and she risked everything, even her life to be part of that change.

The heart of our faith is radical, revolutionary strange and to some even a little bit foolish. It is an invite, but not to the version that's sold in the world, it's an invite to participate in the great reversal of the world. It's an invite to all, not just for Christmas, it's an invite into an alternative way of life in the world, today and every day. It's a reminder of the risks, it's a reminder of faith and trust, it's a reminder that God entered into the struggles of humanity.

May this Christmas be a time of reflection, a time of peace, a time of joy, a time to reject the trappings of the world.

**Have a happy and holy Christmas
Susan**



F



*He has made
everything beautiful
in his time.
Ecclesiastes 3:11*

L O W E R S



Photos: Robyn Lulham



Church Council Report

Nick Tate

As we look forward to celebrating Christmas as a church family, I am pleased to be able to report on the most recent church council meeting, which was held on 16th November 2021 and also on the congregational meeting which was held after church on Sunday 21st November.

At the Church Council meeting, we reviewing the options presented to us by Synod related to vaccinations and decided to make no change to our current approach, which is to welcome everyone to worship services but that, in line with advice we have received, community meal volunteers and those receiving remuneration need to be vaccinated. However, this advice appears to change regularly and I will keep everyone updated.

We discussed the IT update. We have now switched telecommunications providers to iiNet and we have a new telephone number, which is 07 3108 4644. We also have improved (and much faster) internet access. The next steps will be to upgrade the WiFi, review and upgrade computers as necessary and review our software arrangements.

We confirmed our approval (by flying minute) of two organ scholarships, to be funded from the Saint Andrews Uniting Church Choral and Organ Scholarship Programme. We reviewed the financial reports from the Treasurer and congratulated him on an excellent outcome.

We looked again at the combined outcomes from the visioning day and decided to prioritise these for action after receiving any feedback from the congregation, noting that the outcomes for the day had been circulated by email. At least one of the suggested outcomes from the visioning day has already started.

We acknowledged with sadness, but with great thanks, that Max Brand would be stepping down from the Council at the forthcoming AGM and that Rex Niven will be stepping back in around March 2022.

We then reviewed arrangements for the Congregational Meeting and AGM on 21st November 2021. This included reviewing an update to the table of initiatives, which were identified at the AGM in 2020. The updated table is shown below:

	Initiative	Status
(1)	Improve the use of the church space for concerts and other rentals	In Progress
(2)	Actively encourage the use of the church for weddings	Complete
(3)	Undertake a stewardship campaign	Yet to start
(4)	Establish specialist worship services	Complete
(5)	Actively seek external grants	Yet to start
(6)	Review and streamline our ICT costs	In Progress
(7)	Discuss our contribution to the CPMF - Common Presbytery Mission Fund with Synod	Complete
(8)	Actively manage our parking arrangements	Complete
(9)	Seek to establish a tax-deductible fund for music/arts and possibly heritage	Complete
(10)	Seek sponsorship for choral scholars and possibly an organ scholar	Complete

At the Congregation meeting and AGM, I am delighted to report that three new church councillors were elected. They are Ralph Collins, Miriam King and Ian Withnall. I would like to welcome them to the council and I look forward to our first meeting early in 2022. 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.

Nick Tate, Chair, Church Council

From the Editors

Contact SALT via email
saintandrews@saintandrews.org.au

It seemed last Christmas that we would soon be rid of COVID as we looked forward to the roll out of vaccines. Yet here we are pondering a booster jab and wondering if that is enough.

Yet through all this we have gathered together on most Sundays and some Wednesdays. We have worshipped with prayers and singing. We have been challenged by Susan's sermons. We have continued to serve our Community Meal. We have volunteered for the Open Church. We have enjoyed *Con Spirito* concerts. We have relished morning teas and supported the Social Justice Table. We have done our 'Plus One' shopping. We have provided and arranged flowers. We have met and ministered to friends, new and old. We have held meetings and raised funds and donated our time, talents and money. We have gone bike riding. We have been a community.

Sadly some of our community have passed away this year and in this issue we particularly pay tribute to the life of Alan Norman.

Remember to keep in touch with each other over the coming weeks and we all look forward to being together in the New Year. Have a blessed Christmas.

Wendy & Ian Smith

Photos: Ian Smith





Vale
Alan Norman
1949-2021

Always thinking of others

Sitting in church during a service was probably the only time that any of us remember Alan sitting still. Alan was usually on his feet, helping in whatever capacity was required. Hardly a moment would pass before Alan would find some job to do; someone to assist; something to move/remove/clean/set-up/put-away. When one job was done, then on to the next. It was not only his enthusiasm for the practical tasks that set Alan apart, but his cheerful personality and his witty and friendly conversation.

Alan's capacity for volunteering and helping reached well beyond Saint Andrew's. He loved playing bridge and he was passionate about sport, in particular soccer.

Alan was born in Ely in the UK but orphaned at a young age. He was an original 'ten-pound Pom' arriving in

Australia and proud to be here. Despite whatever difficulties his early upbringing must have caused, Alan was always optimistic and upbeat.

Alan and Sue came to Saint Andrew's over 30 years ago. In retirement, Alan was an enthusiastic member of the congregation cycling group. He always found time to assist with the Community Meal and Merrilyn's cooking team miss him dearly.

Sue, David and Nathan, we hold you in our prayers. As Sue said at Alan's funeral: "How do you sum up someone who filled every space, larger than life, lover of life, such a kind honest, gentleman - gentle man - someone who never had a bad word to say about anyone... What a privilege and honour to have had him in our lives."



SAINT ANDREW'S
Advent
CELEBRATION

Members, friends and family were welcomed at a festive evening of Christmas-themed food and carols. Once again thanks to Malcolm & Andrea for hosting such a wonderful event. Thanks to Robyn Lulham for the photographs.





***Saint Andrew's Uniting Church
(cnr of Creek & Ann Streets, Brisbane City)
welcomes everyone for Christmas Services:***

***11pm on Christmas Eve (24th December)
8am Christmas Morning (25th December)***



*Saint Andrew's
continues its mission to
the Arts in the City*

Music News

Barbara Tate

October and November have been particularly busy with some extra musical activities held at St Andrew's which fulfil part of the church's mission to the arts in the city, particularly in the field of music education for our young people.

RSCM ORGAN WORKSHOPS

On the morning of Saturday 23rd October, the Queensland Chapter of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) of which the church has been a long-time affiliated member, held the first in a series of 3 organ workshops for young organists. The workshop was conducted by well-known Brisbane organist Philip Gearing and attended by young organists from St Laurence's College, Somerville House and others together with one of our own, Jonah Patuto. Two of our other regular organists Lance Hutchinson and Rachel Tew also attended as observers. Subsequent workshops were held at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Woolloongabba and St John's Cathedral. Our thanks go to Adam Hoey, Chairman of RSCM Queensland for organising these workshops for the benefit of our young musicians.

NEXTGEN@ST ANDREW'S

November also proved to be a busy month with two Saturday afternoon concerts given by members of the Next Gen Artists Collective, a mentoring program run by Southern Cross Soloists, a collaborative ensemble based in Brisbane who have a 26 year history of championing chamber music both nationally and globally. The Next Gen academy "provides a bridge between tertiary study and a professional music career, offering quality opportunities to work alongside leading professional musicians and arts workers. Our Next Gen artists are affiliate musicians of the Southern Cross Soloists, who proudly offer a variety of performing and learning opportunities; allowing our artists to gain invaluable professional experience, networking, exposure and skill development." The concerts, entitled Next Gen @ St Andrew's featured music by Mahler, Schumann, Strauss and Beethoven. We are hoping for further collaboration between our Church and Next Gen in 2022. For further information about Next Gen including the names of the current artists please visit the SouthernXSoloists website <https://www.southernxsoloists.com/nextgen>

A NEW CAROL FOR CHRISTMAS

BARBARA TATE

It has long been a tradition at St Andrew's to introduce a new carol to be sung at our Christmas services by the Sanctuary Choir. When it came to searching for one this year, I took inspiration from an anthem the choir sang recently entitled "Christ has no body now but yours" written by the British composer David Ogden to a text by Teresa of Avila. This beautiful, inspiring and deeply emotional setting of William's text connected both with choir and congregation and, on looking through David Ogden's choral works, I discovered his carol "Advent Calendar", a setting of a poem of the same name by Rowan Williams, now Baron Williams of Oystermouth and former Archbishop of Canterbury 2002-2012. As I listened to this haunting carol, sung by Ogden's choir the Exsultate Singers, my attention was caught by the text.

I was familiar with Rowan Williams in his role as Archbishop of Canterbury but ignorant of his writings and poetry. He revealed in an interview with The Guardian that he "Does not wish to be known as a religious poet but a poet to whom religion matters intensely" and his oeuvre includes poems of both a secular and religious nature. This poem takes the reader on a journey through the Advent period, capturing this season's air of expectation and mystery. Perhaps the title was inspired by the anticipation one feels each morning before opening the door on the Advent Calendar to see what is revealed.

The poem is divided into four verses, each beginning with the phrase "He will come like..." and Williams uses evocative imagery from the seasons of late autumn and early winter in the northern hemisphere with each verse elaborating a different simile:

*He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind has flayed the
trees to bone and earth
Wakes choking on the mould,
The soft shroud's folding.*

The inclusion of the phrases "flayed the trees to bone" and "earth wakes choking on the mould" together with mention of the "soft shroud's folding" fill this verse with images of Christ's Crucifixion with the suggestion that his coming will not be gentle.

*He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
Opens on mist, to find itself
Arrested in the net
Of alien, sword-set beauty.*

A gentler, quieter verse this time, however the word "arrested" takes our thoughts to Christ's arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and the adjective "sword-set" to the image of the cross at Golgotha.

*He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
And penny-masks its eye to yield
The star-snowed fields of sky.*

As we journey towards the solstice, the image of the last bursting red rays of the sun gradually being swallowed up by the encroaching darkness lead us towards the star, much like the last moments of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the imminent birth of the babe.

*He will come, will come.
Will come like crying in the night.
Like blood, like breaking,
As the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.*

The last verse brings the poem to its dramatic conclusion, the fourth week of Advent ending in wondrous surprise and the tearing, painful birth of something new. This Child, who comes in love and peace, is finally revealed as the final door of the Advent Calendar is wrenched open.

David Ogden's setting captures the haunting quality of this poem and the accompaniment with the arpeggiated bass below sustained chords in the treble lend it an aura of mystery and expectant certainty, with the gradual addition of the vocal parts leading to the final verse and the drama of Christ's birth.



The Community Meal



Volunteers prepare &



serve delicious meals every Saturday lunchtime.



*Is there someone
who remembers this church?*

*Second Wickham Terrace Presbyterian Church - Brisbane |
QUT Digital Collections*

<https://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/4255/1/2>

The Lost Church of Creek Street

Ian Smith

Few of us will remember the Wickham Terrace Presbyterian Church building built in 1887 at the then corner of Wickham Terrace and Creek Street, Brisbane City. It was said to be quite an elegant building. Yet only thirteen years after construction it was resumed in 1900 by Queensland Railways for demolition to enable railway expansion purposes.

That demolition for whatever reasons was postponed for some seventy years. Demolition took place around 1970 to enable construction of line expansion between Central and Fortitude Valley Stations.

Construction by our Parish of our current Saint Andrew's Uniting Church building commenced in the early 1900's and it was opened in 1905.

From that time the former and current church buildings were prominent in the Brisbane City skyline for just over sixty years before the demolition of the 1887 church building. Over fifty-five years ago now, do you or do you know someone who still remembers them both still standing?

The vista up Creek Street across Ann Street today has Creek Street splitting off left and right simultaneously as Turbot Street flies over it. That intersection is the approximate site of the 1887 church building.

The remarkable photograph below by Ron Morrison shows the relative location of the 1887 now demolished Wickham Terrace Presbyterian at the top left and at the far right our current Saint Andrew's Uniting Church building.

In the foreground is Central Station and please note the one-way traffic up Ann Street towards Fortitude Valley.

Another fascinating feature in Ron Morrison's photograph is the metal bridge which continued to carry Creek Street across an expanded railway corridor.

Photograph by Ron Morrison showing the Shrine of Remembrance and Central Railway Station Morrison R., 1970 Brisbane in Colour, Rigby Limited, Adelaide.

