

Morialta Vision

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Giving up God for Lent!

Part of the Lenten study "Giving up God for Lent" is a consideration of the writings on religion and God by Karl Marx. This was to have a link with the movie "Brick Mansions". Very briefly, part of the movie has to do with a drug dealer in a poverty stricken neighbourhood. At one point the drug dealer, when challenged about what he's selling to people, says, "I didn't cause this reality. I just help them ease the pain." What he is saying is that he's helping people momentarily get some relief from their dire conditions.

In our Wednesday session we heard an audio piece that dealt with the fact that there are people who make life difficult for others, and then there are people who are willing to offer a drug to numb the pain.

Our study handout on Karl Marx revealed him as stating that religion primarily operates in this latter way. Often with good intent, religious leaders offer people a way of bearing their unpleasant reality. Marx understood why people would want to do that, but he was keen to mobilize people in such a way that they would be able to change their unpleasant reality.

In the movie the drug dealer eventually decides to change from offering a painkiller to

helping his community fight for a less painful life. Instead of helping the system by dulling people, he committed himself to working for a real change in people's material reality.

I think this change can happen in existing churches. Instead of offering a type of hope that causes people to sit back and dream of a different world, the church can speak and sing of a hope that invites us to stand up and work for that different world.

The popular religious notion of hope presents it as something safe and secure—it is a hope in something that will come to pass and thus doesn't require our active involvement. It is a hope that encourages passivity, a hope that allows us to accept our current conditions in the belief that something better is coming.

But real hope is risky. As the Wednesday study group heard about the thinking of John Caputo, it's a type of hope against hope. It's a hope that makes demands on us.

In life we can be the ones who contribute to the ills of society, the ones who offer painkillers, the ones who take the painkillers, or the ones who work for real change.

Rev Bruce Grindlay

The first Easter Liturgies

The earliest Christian observance of Easter consisted of a vigil of watching and waiting, fasting and prayer that lasted through the hours of darkness. The vigil began after evening prayer, when the evening candle was lit. In the Western Church this light ceremony was eventually understood as symbolizing the return of the light of Christ and the beginning of the Easter celebration.

In the earliest forms of Easter Vigil the Old Testament Scriptures were read and reflected upon, until the resurrection was proclaimed in the Eucharist at cockcrow.

Church of England "Easter Liturgies"

How do we prepare for Easter?

A Prayer for our Church

Give us, O Lord

A church that will be more courageous than courteous;

A church that will not merely comfort the afflicted but afflict the comfortable;

A church that will not only love the world but will also judge the world;

A church that will not only pursue peace but will also demand justice;

A church that will not remain silent where people are calling for a voice;

A church that will not pass by on the other side when wounded humanity is waiting to be healed;

A church that not only calls us to worship but also sends us out to witness;

And a church that will follow Christ even when the way points to a cross.

To this end we offer ourselves in the name of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Amen

*Rev Robert Lee Longid EDNP
Philippines, 1994*



From our Chairperson...

I was dramatically reminded how quickly things can change when I had a mishap with a ladder just before Australia Day! We all need to use our talents as we are able, but we also need to recognize that sometimes things happen around us.

Morialta Uniting Church has a long history of excellent Lay Leadership. The creation of the Ministry Teams has involved a significant portion of the congregation in planning and strategic development for many years. Some people have been involved with one or more Ministry Teams for all that time.

As well as the Ministry Teams there are other functional groups that contribute to the Mission. Heading up all this activity is

the Church Council, which is elected by members to lead our Mission.

At this time in particular, members of the congregation are asked to consider how they might be able to support Morialta Uniting Church by thinking about involvement in Ministry Teams, or Church Council.

Late last year the Church Council and congregation took the brave decision to declare all positions on Ministry Teams vacant. Of course, Morialta needs the teams and people to serve on them but we also wanted to give everyone an opportunity to consider where their passions lay.

Information about each of the teams is available on notice boards. I hope that you will challenge yourselves and each other to use your many gifts to enliven the mission that Morialta has been effectively involved in over its 25-year history.

As well as membership of Ministry Teams you are invited to consider friends who have a capacity to serve on Church Council.

As we approach the Annual General Meeting of the congregation, you are asked to consider the gifts and talents that you and other members of the congregation might be able to bring to leadership in one form or another.

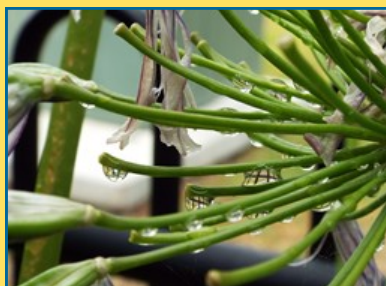
Bruce Ind

Reflecting on Refraction

Rain at last! Through our kitchen window. Raindrops on the old, starting to die off, agapanthus. I wanted to capture the rain and the raindrops. So I took this picture from inside.



After the rain had eased I wanted a better close up and to my delight I got this rather interesting shot.



Through the raindrops I could see an image of our fence, which you can see quite clearly in the first photo.

I understand this to be the phenomenon of refraction, defined in physics as:

the change of direction of a ray of light, sound, heat, or the like, in passing obliquely from one medium into another in which its wave velocity is different.

In ophthalmology refraction is defined as

- * *the ability of the eye to refract light that enters it so as to form an image on the retina.*
- * *the determining of the refractive condition of the eye.*

What I was seeing in the raindrops gave me something to "reflect on the refraction"

How do we see the world? How do we see beyond that which we physically see?

Does our Faith (whether Christian, Muslim, Jewish, or any other) enable us to have (insight?) the ability to see not only with human eyes, but perhaps, as it were, with the eyes of God? And if so, does it not give us cause to marvel at what we see?

David Purling

Stromatolites

Don't take that word lightly! Stromatolites are a part of our creation which they began working on four billion (not million) years ago and they are still at it. Go to the Flinders Ranges 600m above Blinman and there you can see their fossils left high and dry when the sea floor rose 600 million years ago. Then go 3000km away to Sharks Bay in Western Australia and there they are, alive. I have seen them there in the still, saline, crystal clear water. I stood in awe at the shore line before a cluster of individual shapes lapped by the sea. No lustre, just black, stone like, medieval masses of something, nothing.

Stromatolites are small algae-like organisms called cynobacteria living on rock-like structures. They are formed by the death of previous generations, from where they capture molecules of carbon

dioxide. With a tad of energy from the sun they split the molecule releasing minute quantities of oxygen into the planet's atmosphere. And starting all those billions of years ago life became possible.

Bill Bryson, in his book, 'A Short History Of Nearly Everything', on seeing the Stromatolites at work, is lost for words to describe them. '*It is not the sight of the Stromatolites which makes them exciting, it's the idea of them!*' To me, that **idea** is an expression of God and through creation is now an idea in me.

Six hundred years ago that belief was expressed more clearly by Meister Eckhart (1260-1327).

"The eye through which I see God is the same eye through which God sees me."

Arthur Tideman



Have a Traffikfree Easter

This Easter, please consider buying **ONLY certified chocolate**, when you purchase your Easter Bilbies and Easter Eggs.

Before you buy, look for one of these certification labels.



These stamps mean that conditions for workers are significantly better, and the risk of child trafficking being involved in the manufacture of the product has been reduced.

You are also encouraged to send postcards to Mondelez and Darrell Lea.

Mondelez International are the largest chocolate company in the world (they own Cadbury, Milka and Toblerone brands). They have an opportunity to influence a vast number of cocoa farmers and take actions to eradicate the use of trafficked child labour from the cocoa supply chain.

Ask *Darrell Lea* to use cocoa that is independently certified, not involved in human trafficking or slave labour in all chocolate products as soon as possible. Tell them you will give preference to purchasing chocolate that is certified to be free of trafficked labour.

Postcards will be available in the Foyer soon.

Help end of human trafficking in the chocolate industry this Easter!

New rules for seniors' travel in NSW

We were disappointed on our recent trip to Sydney to learn that, from 1 January 2016, the rules have changed and the wonderful \$2.50 tickets for all-day travel for seniors are no longer available.

We can still travel for a maximum charge of \$2.50 per day, but accessing the new provisions is not a simple matter for those of us who live out of NSW!

If you hold a S.A. Seniors' Card you need to order a special Gold Opal Card 2 weeks before you want to start travelling in NSW. You do this via a form that you download from the internet – fill it in, attach a photocopy of your Seniors' Card (front and back) and send it off, making sure you provide them with a postal address where you will be to receive the card when they send it.

The card only lasts for 60 days from the date of issue, and you have to add value to the card in order to use it. Here is the internet address with all the information, and the link to download the form:

<https://www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-interstate-seniors/>

Happy travelling!

Margaret Cargill

Reflections on Religious Art by a Traveller

When we lived in Zurich we often visited the Swiss National Museum (The Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum), especially on wet afternoons. One of the exhibits that always fascinated us was a series of paintings of the Madonna and child. These had been painted by various artists during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. The thing that fascinated us most about the paintings was that Mary and the infant Jesus all had swollen thyroid glands, commonly known as goitre. It was obvious that during those centuries almost every Swiss had an enlarged neck and hence that was normality – so it was assumed that Mary and the Christ child would be the same. In fact we learnt that it was one of Napoleon's physicians who first associated goitre with iodine deficiency. He was asked to look into it because Napoleon was concerned that the Swiss Guards did not fit into his regular uniforms. They obviously required uniforms several neck sizes larger than the more refined French necks.

Recently when we were visiting rural Brittany, we observed that many of the paintings of the Madonna and child hanging in churches and abbeys showed Mary breastfeeding the baby Jesus. Why this image has remained so common in Brittany remains hidden in the depths of time. However the image appears to date back to much earlier times; the Nursing Madonna, or Madonna Lactans, is an iconography of the Madonna and Child in which the Virgin Mary is shown breastfeeding the infant Jesus. It was revived by the Cistercian Order in the 12th century, as part of the general upsurge in Marian theology and devotion. The depiction is mentioned by Pope Gregory the Great, and though few examples survive, a mosaic depiction probably from the 12th century is on the facade of Santa Maria Trastevere (Rome). Usage of the depiction is thought to associate milk as "processed blood", and the milk of the Virgin to some extent paralleled the role of the Blood of Christ.

However a view more at home with the current century is that wet-nurses were usually contracted by the middle and upper classes in the Middle Ages through to the Victorian era. So this depiction links the Madonna with humility and the less privileged, as well as showing the Virgin in more ordinary clothes. That was in big contrast to the royal robes in images of the Coronation of the Virgin. Subsequently the appearance of a large number of depictions of Madonna Lactans in Tuscany in the early 14th century was something of a visual revolution for the theology of the time, compared to the Queen of Heaven depictions; they were also popular in Iberia and the Orthodox Churches. After the Council of Trent in the mid-16th century, clerical writers discouraged nudity in religious subjects, and the use of the Madonna Lactans iconography began to fade away, except, it seems, among the Celts of western France.

Colin Cargill



The Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum

For prayer and reflection**The Lord's Prayer Revisited**

Our Father ...who always stands with the weak, the powerless, the poor, the abandoned, the sick, the aged, the very young, the unborn, and those who, by victim of circumstance, bear the heat of the day

who is in heaven ...where everything will be reversed, where the first will be last and the last will be first, but where all will be well and every manner of being will be well

hallowed be your name ...may we always acknowledge your holiness, respecting that your ways are not our ways, your standards are not our standards. May the reverence we give your name pull us out of the selfishness that prevents us from seeing the pain of our neighbour

Your kingdom come ...help us to create a world where, beyond our own needs and hurts, we will do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly with you and each other

Your will be done ...open our freedom to let you in so that the complete mutuality that characterises your life might flow through our veins and thus the life that we help generate may radiate your equal love for all and your special love for the poor

on earth as in heaven ...may the work of our hands, the temples and structures we build in this world, reflect the temple and the structure of your glory so that the joy, graciousness, tenderness, and justice of heaven will show forth within all of our structure on earth

Give ...life and love to us and help us to see always everything as gift. Help us to know that nothing comes to us by right and that we must give because we have been given to. Help us realize that we must give to the poor, not because they need it, but because our own health depends upon our giving to them

us ...the truly plural us. Give not just to our own but to everyone, including those who are very different than the narrow us. Give your gifts to all of us equally

this day ...not tomorrow. Do not let us push things off into some indefinite future so that we can continue to live justified lives in the face of injustice because we can make good excuses for our inactivity

our daily bread ...so that each person in the world may have enough food, enough clean water, enough clean air, adequate health care, and sufficient access to education so as to have the sustenance for a healthy life. Teach us to give from our sustenance and not just from our surplus

and forgive us our trespasses ... forgive us our blindness towards our neighbour, our self-preoccupation, our racism, our sexism, and our incurable propensity to worry only about ourselves and our own. Forgive us our capacity to watch the evening news and do nothing about it

as we forgive those who trespass against us ...help us to forgive those who victimize us. Help us to mellow out in spirit, to not grow bitter with age, to forgive the imperfect parents and systems that wounded, cursed, and ignored us

and do not put us to the test ...do not judge us only by whether we have fed the hungry, given clothing to the naked, visited the sick, or tried to mend the systems that victimized the poor. Spare us this test for none of us can stand before your gospel scrutiny. Give us, instead, more days to mend our ways, our selfishness, and our systems

but deliver us from evil ...that is, from the blindness that lets us continue to participate in anonymous systems within which we need not see who gets less as we get more.

Amen.

(Source - unknown)

Eight Verses of Mind Training

By Geshe Langri Thangpa

By thinking of all sentient beings
As more precious than a
wish-fulfilling jewel,
For accomplishing the highest aim,
I will always hold them dear.

Whenever I'm in the company of others,
I will regard myself as
the lowest among all,
And from the depths of my heart
Cherish others as supreme.

In my every action, I will watch my mind,
And the moment destructive emotions arise,
I will confront them strongly and avert them,
Since they will hurt both me and others.

Whenever I see ill-natured beings
Or those overwhelmed by heavy misdeeds or suffering,
I will cherish them as something rare,
As though I'd found a priceless treasure.

Whenever someone out of envy
Does me wrong by attacking or belittling me,
I will take defeat upon myself
And give victory to others.

Even when someone I have helped
Or in whom I have placed great hopes
Mistreats me very unjustly
I will treat that person as a true spiritual teacher.

In brief, directly or indirectly,
I will offer help and happiness to all my mothers
And secretly take upon myself
All their hurt and suffering.

I will learn to keep all these practices
Untainted by thoughts of the eight worldly concerns.
May I recognise all things as like illusions?
And, without attachment, gain freedom from bondage.

Geshe Langri Tangpa (1054–1123) is an important figure in the Kadampa and Gelug schools of Tibetan Buddhism. He was born in Central Tibet, as Dorje Senge and his name derives from *Langtang*, the area in which he is said to have lived. He was a Kadampa master, and disciple of Potowa.

A Message from Kieran Smith

Pastoral Care Worker – Magill Primary School

Hi supporting churches!

What a whirlwind year! It is hard to believe that I have been working at Magill School for five and a half years. So much has changed in that time – I have loved being a part of it all and I can't wait for another year of fun! I have been so blessed with the opportunity to work with kids. I was thinking just this morning about how much a blessing they are and how I have found that 10 minutes with a group of kids can turn a grumpy mood into joy and enthusiasm.

This year has definitely been split down the middle for me in my role. Semester one was very much "business as usual" in that I carried on with a lot of 1-1 support for students, predominantly from the middle primary. This pastoral care has continued to revolve around family life, friendship troubles, social skills, anxiety and anger. I also rebooted my year 5/6 friendship group which has carried on throughout the year. I was lucky enough to have a volunteer from Morialta UC come in to help me with this during term 2. This was a great opportunity for the students to build another positive connection with an adult.

In semester two, my attention was drawn heavily to the Seasons for Growth program. Being my first attempt, I found it quite consuming as I spent a lot of time planning. I completed the training for this grief and loss program late term 2, and worked hard to implement it mid-term 3, but, for various

reasons, it didn't get up and running until term 4. I ran the program for a group of five year 1/2 students (though one withdrew four weeks in) and I really felt it was successful. We completed the program on Monday week 9 with a celebration which was also attended by parents. This was a really great time of reflection for the kids and a chance to celebrate their hard work in and completion of the program.

As usual, the drama group from the Burnside churches came in for both an Easter play and a Christmas play. As usual, they did a sterling job. Most of the students from reception through to year 3 attended and I think they all loved it – as did the teachers!

The other big event for me this year was the annual year 6 camp to Wirraway Homestead in Strathalbyn. Having recently moved to Strathalbyn, I had the utter delight of sleeping in my own bed every night! However, it was still an exhausting experience as the camp was 4 nights this year rather than the usual 2. The kids got to enjoy all sorts of fun activities, like horse riding, archery, whip cracking, hiking and sheep mustering. I found it to be an excellent opportunity to build relationships with next year's year 7s and I look forward to what that means for my work with them in 2016.

That's about it from me, so thank you all for your prayers and support for me in my role at Magill School.



Report from Daniel Del Pilar

- Pastoral Care Worker at Norwood Morialta High School

I'm very thankful to the school and the Magill Inter-Church Council for accepting me into its community and allowing me to be involved in its many activities. It has consistently been a pleasure to work with both staff and students, and council members. The following are some of the highlights and activities that I have had the privilege to participate in.

Excursions:

Year 8 excursions: "The Great Gatsby", "Mid-Summer Night's Dream"
Year 8 sub-school excursion: Morialta Conservation Park
Year 12 Home Economics Excursion: Sister's Cafe
Year 10 Physical Education: BOUNCE
Year 10 Street Smart Excursion: Convention Centre
Year 9 Ambassadors Visit to Primary Schools

Assemblies

Italian Assembly
German Assembly
Chinese and Japanese Assembly
Year 7 Transition Day
Year 12 Graduation



Community Involvement

Our work with the ACH in the community gardening program has been one of the biggest highlights of my year. It was great to see young people engage with their community. We were asked to paint a few panels to be added in to one of the gardens that we helped renovate. These panels were painted by students that opted to help us paint during recess and lunch in term 3.

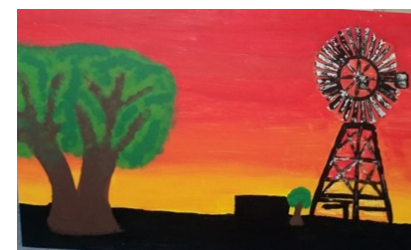


In-Class Support

My background in science and mathematics has proven really helpful in providing support to both staff and students.

Pastoral Care Support

I have been involved in providing pastoral care support to some students and some families as requested/needed. Students are able to make an appointment and can also be referred to me.



Reflections:

There are a lot of students and staff here, and having two campuses makes it feel even bigger. With all the negative news that we hear from the media, God has been good in keeping us safe. I am very thankful to be a part of this community. I hope that, as I continue in this role for next year, we may be able to form a stronger bond between the school, the churches, and the wider community.

MISSION PROJECTS 2016

We are always grateful for the support of the Morialta Congregation for the projects selected for our prayers, love and concern for the wider church. This year we are calling for your support for three projects.

The Irisan project in North Luzon Philippines began with a feeding program the Uniting church in SA has supported with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and Uniting World. It has since developed into a wider health education project – addressing malnutrition, mother's classes on health, hygiene issues and managing household waste. The United Church of Christ has requested our support to extend the project by running seminars aimed at training key community people increasing literacy that will make a direct contribution to transforming lives of hundreds of vulnerable people.

The Parkin Sturt Patrol is the SA Synod's only Frontier Service, which has combined the old Sturt and Parkin Patrols.

Uniting World's Project in Focus of Theological Leadership for Women in the Pacific. "Across the Pacific, women are central to family and community and are active within the local church. Yet they also experience some of the highest rates of violence in the world, holding barely any seats in parliament and earn less than their male counterparts." Uniting World is supporting theological training and supporting women who already play a vital role in the church. It is through them that change will occur. (Information from the Uniting World Connecting Communities)

The Mission Projects team offer these projects for Morialta to support with prayers and financial aid during 2016.

Our fundraising begins on 14th April with another visit by Your Fashions, our usual Muffin Morning teas during congregations meetings and winter Pot Luck Teas beginning the last Sunday in May.

Blessings on you all. Grace and Peace.
Beverley Tredrea for Morialta UCA Mission Projects Team

Square Knitters!

For various reasons our connection with "Rugs for Goodwill" has finished. We are now to become "Rugs to Save the Children". Their premises at Glenside are more than happy to take any rugs we can give them and they have eighteen op shops for distribution.

Many thanks to those who responded to our request for 8 ply wool and to knitters who supply their own wool. In 2015 we finished 20 rugs and two quilts. This year we have already given four rugs to Uniting Communities and have seven ready for Save the Children.

Thank you to our square knitters.

*Kath Cheel and
Margaret Dix*



A Little History from Darling Harbour

We recently stayed at a hotel in Darling Harbour which adjoined the "The Old Pumphouse". In fact, the Pumphouse served as the hotel's bar and restaurant.

As the name suggests, the Pumphouse was originally designed and built as a pumping station in 1890 for the Sydney & Suburban Hydraulic Power Company. This was before electricity provided most of the power needs for Darling Harbour and the city of Sydney. Water was pumped from Sydney's water supply to the pumping station and stored in a large water tank which is now a feature in the historic bar. The water was then pumped across the city to various destinations including the new and grand Queen Victoria Building and inner city banks, which utilised the water under pressure as a source of power. Once electric power replaced water power, the Pumphouse fell into disuse and lay idle for many years. Fortunately the building was saved from demolition by the Heritage Council of NSW and in 1975 was restored to become the Pumphouse Brewery and Tavern. The site was owned and operated by the Tank Stream Brewing Company, selling boutique beer at the tavern made by the company at their Sydney brewery. The Pumphouse continues to play a vital role in Sydney's craft beer movement, but what many people don't know is that the Pumphouse has a rich history cemented in Sydney beer culture that began almost 40 years ago.

Around the internal walls of the modernised Pumphouse we found a number of interesting quotes which one might even call religious quotes!!!. Two that took my fancy were:

Whoever drinks beer is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long does not sin; whoever does not sin enters heaven! Thus let us drink beer! (*Martin Luther*)

From man's sweat and God's love, beer came in to the world. (*St Arnold of Metz, Patron Saint of Brewers*)

Colin Cargill

Morialta Social Justice Team member recognised

Five members of the Uniting Justice reference Committee, which is appointed by the Assembly of the UCA, did not seek reappointment at the last meeting of the Assembly.

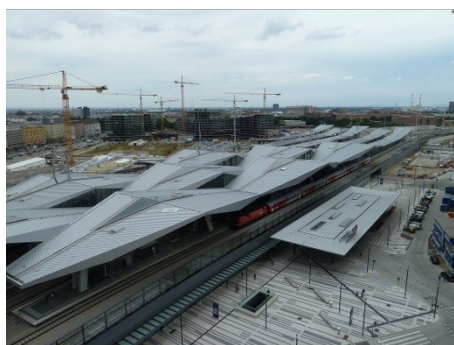
The following minute of appreciation for the five was adopted by the new Uniting Justice Reference Committee at their first meeting in October 2015.

The UnitingJustice Australia Reference Committee expressed its appreciation to the following people for their contribution and commitment to the ministry of UnitingJustice Australia during the years they served as members of the Reference Committee:

Colin Cargill (2004-2015), Andrew Glenn (2012-2015), Liellie McLaughlin (2012-2015), Graham Maddox (2006-2015), and Rosemary Hudson Miller (Synod Representative 2009-2015)

Colin, Andrew, Liellie, Graham and Rosemary made significant contributions to the work of UnitingJustice, out of their own areas of expertise. Passionately committed to living out the Christian call to seek justice, the Reference Committee and the staff benefited greatly from their experience and wisdom, gifts and skills, always so generously offered. It is with grateful hearts that we acknowledge their active participation and engagement in this ministry and offer our prayers for them in their future endeavours.

Signed by Dr Deidre Palmer, Chairperson,
and Rev Elenie Poulos, National Director



Wien Hauptbahnhof and Syrian Refugees

Wien Hauptbahnhof (Vienna Main Railway Station) is a new huge complex which we have been watching develop over the past few years.

Completed in 2014, it is an important European transport hub with 1000 trains daily, along with 8 Vienna fast train lines, 1 underground line, 2 bus lines and 3 tram lines. It is largely financed by income from the high rise office blocks and residential apartments along with 90 shops and restaurants and a Kindergarten which have been built on the huge site of 109 hectares.

A viewing tower was built in the early stages. From here one could see the development progressing along with the many cranes. We have counted up to 15 cranes at one time.

During the excavation an old German army tank was discovered!

There is an urban development initiative for the area around the central station (UrbanitätsoffensiveHauptbahnhofUmfeld) This word is a good example of how in the German language words are joined together to form one long word. Usually there are no capitals within the long word to inform when one part of the word is finishing and the next part starting. We found these words quite challenging when first encountering the language on our arrival in Vienna in 2006.

I want to write about three very different snapshots we witnessed at the Hauptbahnhof.

Scene 1

One day in late August we alighted from a tram at the back of the station. We entered into a huge empty concourse. From this concourse a number of escalators led up to the 12 platforms. The main entrance and shops and busy areas are at the other end of the platforms. We were at the station to check out where we would take the Secombes and Inds to catch the train to Prague after their imminent short visit to us.



Scene 2

After an enjoyable few days showing "our Vienna", we farewelled our visitors. As we were leaving the station from the busy end, we saw a few refugees on chairs in a waiting area. Adjacent to the seating, food and water were available on a long trestle. This was being manned by young people representing Red Cross and Caritas, the charity arm of the Catholic Church. This was encouraging to see. John gave a donation.

Scene 3

We entered the station at the deserted end as in snapshot 1. However it was not deserted this time. What a contrast. The empty concourse was filled with hundreds of refugees. There were hundreds of cots for sleeping, portable shelving of bedding, trestles of food, bottled water and immediate needs. There was a curtained area set up as a first aid station. This was all done with the complete approval of the ÖBB, the national railway line which owned the station. As we walked through the area, heading for the escalators I saw a man with a sign hanging around his neck. It said "Arab American" as he made himself available to whoever would like his

help. We saw mostly young families. I would have liked to take some photos but felt it was inappropriate. I thought I should allow them some privacy and some dignity. I felt like an intruder in their space. Up on the platforms makeshift signs directed refugees to assistance and first aid.

Over the next few weeks up to our departure, a number of buildings in Vienna were being offered for sleeping accommodation as the stations were becoming too cold. There were many stories of people taking refugees home with them to give them a shower and a bed.

We have a friend who was wondering how she could help. She heard about the possibility of driving some from the Hungarian border to the German border as most were heading for Germany. She realised that not only could this be dangerous but in fact it would be "Human Trafficking". Not a good idea. She found a need to sort clothing at Westbahnhof, one of the other major railway stations. Huge amounts of clothing had been donated and was completely disorganised. There were stories that the aid effort at this station was started by a 22 year old man who had felt moved to hop in his car with some bottled water and see what he could do. There were many encouraging stories.

Unfortunately there was also the other side. We knew people who were very opposed to allowing the refugees into Europe and had no empathy for their situation. The Bürgermeister (Lord Mayor) was up for re-election on October 12th. He has been in the position since 1994. There was a strong suggestion that he would not be re-elected because of his pro refugee stance. He was in fact re-elected fairly comfortably but with a significantly smaller majority. Some Greens party members even voted for him to ensure that the far right candidate was defeated.

Although it is currently out of the headlines, the crisis continues.

Helen Drew



WORLD DAY
OF PRAYER - CUBA



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER—CUBA

Jesus said to them "Receive children. Receive me"

Friday 4th March 2016 at 10.00am

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 19 Edward Street, Magill

Guest Speaker Reverend Dawn Colsey
from Saint Edwards Anglican Church, Kensington Gardens

Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action



WORLD DAY
OF PRAYER - CUBA



A NEW ECUMENICAL WAVE

A description of "Receptive Ecumenism" taken from a public lecture at the National Council of Churches Forum, Canberra, 12 July 2010

So what exactly is receptive ecumenism? Paul Murray says that the central idea requires that churches make what he calls a programmatic shift from asking what do our dialogue partners need to learn from us, to asking what do we need to learn and what can we learn from our dialogue partners.³ He contends that the bilateral and multilateral dialogues, if taken in isolation, are not capable of "delivering the self-critical openness to practical conversion, growth and development".³ In other words, the focus in receptive ecumenism is not exactly the same as for traditional dialogues, which are concerned with matters of faith and order. This is not to say that matters of

faith and order might not be relevant, but the focus will be different. The question might now be: given the consensus that has been reached in the theological dialogue, what can my church learn from the other? Framed this way, the question is about a willingness to be self-critical and to be open to grow through learning from others. By and large the theological dialogues have produced important theoretical outcomes. Receptive ecumenism should take churches to the next step, building on these theoretical outcomes and looking for concrete expressions in each church's own life.

A further characteristic of receptive ecumenism is its potential to help churches look with fresh eyes at their own situation, particularly the challenges and threats they face. It is obvious that at this time many of our churches face critical questions in relation to their internal life. Some have even reached an impasse on important matters of faith and witness.

Think of the struggle many of us face in dealing with matters of authority and power in the church, or of ministry in the church and its adequate provision as the number of clergy decrease. Think too of the demographic change that many of us face as our congregations age, and the challenge we face to retain our young people. Many of us face difficult questions about gender and sexuality. All of us, in some manner or other, are likely to be thinking about how to present the gospel in the postmodern world where indifference has often been replaced by hostility. Receptive ecumenism may offer a way to learn from others in facing up to these challenges. In some cases it could result in breaking through the impasse.

³ Paul D. Murray, "Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesial Learning Receiving Gifts for Our Needs", *Louvain Studies* 33(2008): 33.

More about Labyrinths

In the August 2015 edition of Vision we ran a story about how Nigel Uphill (PCW at Cavan Youth Training Centre) ran a very successful Labyrinth Program for his students last year. Several readers asked for more information on Labyrinths, and as we always strive to please.... here is a little on the history of Labyrinths.

Labyrinths have been found on every inhabited continent at various stages throughout history and it seems the design belongs to all humanity. The essential piece of a labyrinth is that it has only one path leading to the centre. They have been found carved in caves, illustrated in manuscripts, fashioned around mosaic tiles, and installed on the floors of sanctuaries.

The first known Christian labyrinth was installed at the entrance of San Réparatus church in North Africa in the 4th Century. It seems to show an arduous path leading to salvation and the need to take refuge in the *Sancta Ecclesia*, or Holy Church.

One of the earliest labyrinths recorded is found in the Greek Myth of *Theseus and*

the Minotaur. The story goes that Minos, the king of Crete, ordered the architect Daedalus to construct a labyrinth to imprison the Minotaur. This allowed Theseus, the son of the king of Athens, to enter and kill the monster. This mythical story was subsequently reinterpreted by the Fathers of the Church in a theological way. Parallels were drawn between Christ and Theseus, as well as the Church with its sacraments and Ariadne's thread.



One of the most magnificent labyrinths existing today can be found in the Cathedral of Our Lady in Chartres, 80km south west of Paris. The cathedral was completed in 1193 and the labyrinth was subsequently laid in the 13th century. The

path was formed using yellowish-brown stones, set among bluish-black stones. It is one of the largest labyrinths ever located in a cathedral; measuring 129 cm in diameter and 261.5 m in length. Truly the fruit of great vision and advanced geometrical skill, it is a magnificent artistic and scientific monument to the artisans of those times.

Understanding the heritage

It is thought that the path may have served as a type of pilgrimage. That the path and the presence of the Spirit combine to guide the pilgrim's thoughts and prayers, just as if they were on a pilgrimage. Moving along the labyrinth transports the pilgrim, and as one contemplates the magnificent stained glass windows, the invisible shines through the visible. The images of those who have lived according to the Holy Scripture, guide those who are still walking, inviting them to understand that the Creator wants humanity to be able to live in faith and peace.

Colin Cargill



Fellowship enjoyed their annual Christmas Breakup dinner, sharing food and fun together in December.

The Fellowship year began with a very pleasant picnic in Richards Park at Norwood concluding with coffee at McDonalds at Trinity Gardens. Twenty five people enjoyed a beautiful summer evening together.

Next meeting is on Wednesday 16th March at 7.30pm.



Our special Quilt Ministry

One of the wonderful ministries that Morialta provides is a signed quilt for people moving into care. We are very privileged to be able to provide this on-going special ministry through the artistic talents and commitment of Judith Purling. Recently Judith received two personal "thank you letters" from members of the congregation who are the proud owners of a beautiful "Morialta Quilt".

The first was from Maurice Cundy, who has moved to Murray Bridge – Maurice wrote:

Dear Judith

Many thanks for the gift of the quilt. It has been a great thrill to me to receive such a personal gift. I really appreciate it. I have shown the quilt to the local Murray Bridge Minister and she was very interested. So I have lent it to her for a few days, as she wishes to show it to her congregation.

Yours sincerely
Maurice Cundy



Maurice also enclosed a donation which Judith plans to use to buy more material for "quilts in waiting".

The second was a card from Margaret Jenkins, who has moved to Warrina Park, where she joins others who have been part of Morialta's history - Margaret writes:



Dear Judith

A big thank you for the beautiful quilt. With so many of us now reaching the stage of needing more care, we are keeping you very busy. Many people here have admired it and I do value the signatures of people I know. Once again, many, many thanks.

Sincerely
Margaret Jenkins

Sadly we have received news of Margaret's death on February 18th. We hold Margaret's family in our prayers. Her eulogy will be in the next edition of Vision.

Communicating better @ Morialta

In March the Communication & Administration Team will be launching a new policy of communication at Morialta. *Watch for the new arrangements for noticeboards and keep informed about events at Morialta and in the community:*

NOTICEBOARDS

- A new **Contact Information Board** will be located between the coffee and tea serving windows. This will help you to find the right person to talk to when you need to contact a member of the Executive and Ministry Teams.
- **3 moveable noticeboards**
 1. A board headed **Morialta Memos** which displays events and activities of interest to members of the Morialta Community + community events which Morialta members may wish to share with the Morialta Community eg. Adelaide Harmony Choir
 2. A noticeboard headed "Wider Church Notices" including news from Assembly, Synod, Urban Mission Network, South Australian Council of Churches and Magill Inter Church Council.
 3. A noticeboard headed "Ministry Team Noticeboard – SOCIAL JUSTICE; MISSION; WORSHIP & FAITH ED; C&AOMT; PASTORAL CARE; PROPERTY etc. This space will be allocated on a monthly basis, and Helena will be the contact person. Ministry Team Leaders are responsible for arranging advertising and publicity of information and events.
- Helena (Our Office Coordinator) is the contact person for all noticeboards.
- The 3 moveable noticeboards are for short easily readable notices. Larger articles will be kept in marked folders in the Library which can be read at your leisure when visiting the Library.

Don't forget that our **WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, and EMAIL**, as well as the **NEWSLETTER, VISION MAGAZINE and PULPIT NOTICES** are other forms of communication which can be used for conveying information and advertising of events.

Lorraine Powers
Leader, Communications & Admin Team

Paws for Thought.....

Well, I don't know about you, but I had a good break over Christmas and the New Year. Most of the time was spent relaxing at home because the weather was too hot for anything else. Wallace was a bit of a handful when Anne and Bruce went out, but he did get used to staying inside most of the time.

I wasn't expecting anything exciting, but one morning they packed the car and we were on our way to Ardrossan. This is one of my favourite places. The beach is really lovely.

This time we went to Pine Point to visit our friend Eiffie. One day we went for a walk on the beach

at Ardrossan. Wallace, as usual, was a bit annoying so I went a little further out to sea than usual. They got a bit worried and Anne thought she had to rescue me. It was okay. I enjoyed the swim.

While I was in the water Eiffie got a bit impatient and went for a big run without telling Christine and John. Of course, Wallace was a goodie goodie and stayed by Bruce.

It just goes to show that one dog is a whole dog; two dogs are a half a dog and three dogs are no dog at all!

Keely



Eiffie (left): "Where are we going?"

Keely (right): "I heard them say we're going to the beach."

Wallace (middle): "Do we have to go for a swim? I don't want to get my toes wet."

Keely; "Please yourself. But, don't get in my way."

Eiffie: "I really like running with you guys here, I might even be able to get away"

Wallace: "I don't know if that's a good idea. You need to be safe and play between the flags."

Keely: "Just stay out of my way."



Morialta Magpie



Congratulations to Mary Tugwell, who was recently recognised with a special award for 40 years of service to Meals on Wheels. According to Mary, she started working at Meals on Wheels in 1976, because she didn't have much to do. She saw it as a way to help others and make a difference. Forty years later, aged 92, Mary is still an active member of the Campbelltown Branch.



Thank you to Craig, Sharon, Matthew, Neville, Jordan, Kenny, Ruth P and Ruth W for providing breakfast on Pancake Day. We raised \$255.85 which will go to Uniting Communities to support their work in the eastern region.

CELEBRATIONS!



Congratulations to Steve Thompson and Lachie White on their engagement!



Happy 50th Birthday to Sandy Barker!



Congratulations to Graham Vincent on being inducted as a Life Member of the SA Uniting Church Netball Association at their recent AGM.

Graham has served the SAUCNA in several capacities and Morialta/Newton Netball Club for more than fifty years and has most recently been heavily involved in mentoring young umpires.

STEPPING THROUGH THE ARCHIVES

What is the history behind the picture of "THE LAST SUPPER TRIPTYCH"



Currently this picture is located in the Eastern Transept Worship Area. I encourage you to go and have a look at it. Next to it you will find further information.

The artist is LISA WALKLEY who in 1960 was appointed to Finchley Park Presbyterian Church from where she retired in 1974. (The church later became part of Morialta Uniting Church) which is how we have this picture to appreciate.

This interesting picture was created in the form of a triptych which was constructed of torn coloured magazine paper mounted on hardboard and styled from Justin O'Brien's painting which won the Blake Prize for religious art. The project took about 6 years to complete.

Lisa Walkley was born in 1909 and baptised in St Giles Presbyterian Church Norwood. She attended church there as did her parents and grand-parents.

Lisa was always interested in youth and their activities. For a time she taught Sunday School at Scots Church Flinders Street and Scots Church North Terrace.

After World War Two a senior group of the Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia was formed as the young men and women missed the fellowship they had formerly enjoyed in the youth group. Later Lisa was secretary and treasurer for many of the 45 years that the group existed.

Lisa's other interests included visiting the Royal Adelaide Hospital, being on the committee of "Friends of Vellore" and the Aborigines' Advancement League Inc until recently when it ceased to exist, and coaching Chinese students in English.

As a young woman Lisa went to Melbourne to train at Roland House Deaconess Training College. At the completion of her training Deaconess Walkley was Appointed to Scots Church Shepparton where she stayed for 5 years.



Welcome to the Morialta Uniting Church Community Library

From the Librarian

Happy New Year!

EXPLORING FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

Easter/Lent traditionally is a time when we look to grow in our faith but how?

Our Library has a variety of resources to help us explore our faith. An array of Lenten resources is on display now for you to browse and borrow.



BOOK REVIEWS

From a search for true identity, journeying through the glorious British countryside, King Henry VIII and his obsession to find a wife who will provide him with a male heir to the throne, to the haunting memories surrounding the characters who lived in Milderhurst Castle and then flirting, dancing and mint juleps, enrapturing excitement and drama at a party in 1928 and coming down to earth in Landed a story about life for a boy with his grandfather on a Welsh farm as the boy grows up to find happiness and love of a sort in adulthood. All of these new resources can hopefully give us a good start to a brilliant year of great reading.

Lorraine Powers
Librarian

Reckoning

Magda Szubanski

Writing in *The Australian* newspaper, reviewer Peter Craven described this memoir as 'an extraordinary hymn to the tragic heroism at the heart of ordinary life'. Other critics and readers have been equally laudatory, deeming this intimate and often heartbreaking book an instant Australian classic. Szubanski, who is best known for her comedic performances in television shows including *Kath & Kim*, describes her journey of self-discovery from a suburban childhood haunted by the demons of her father's espionage activities in wartime Poland and by her secret awareness of her sexuality, to the complex dramas of adulthood and her need to find out the truth about herself and her family.

The Road to Little Dribbling

Bill Bryson

Twenty years ago, Bill Bryson journeyed around Britain to celebrate the place that had become adopted country. The book that resulted *Notes from a Small Island*, became an international bestseller and established his reputation as one of the most amusing and insightful travel writers on the planet. Now, in his first travel book for 15 years, Bryson once again sets off to explore the small island, journeying from Bognor Regis on the Sussex coast to Cape Wrath in the Scottish Highlands. The result is an acute perceptive and amusing insight into all that is best and worst about Britain today.

Landed

Tim Pears

Brought up in the Anglo-Welsh borders by an affectionate but alcoholic and feckless mother, Owen Ithell's sense of self is rooted in his long, vivid visits to his grandparents' small farm in the hills. There he is deeply impressed by his grandfather's primitive, cruel relationship with his animals and the land. As an adult he moves away from the country of his childhood to an English city where he builds a new life, working as a gardener. He meets Mel and they have children. He believes he has found happiness—and love—of a sort.

The Distant Hours

Kate Moreton

A long lost letter arrives in the post and Edie Burchill finds herself on a journey to Milderhurst Castle, a great but mouldering old house, where the Blythe spinsters live and where her mother was billeted 50 years before as a 13 year old child during World War Two. The elder sisters are twins and have spent most of their lives looking after the youngest sister, Juniper, who hasn't been the same since her fiance jilted her in 1941.

Inside the decaying castle, Edie begins to unravel her mother's past, but there are other secrets hidden in the stones of Milderhurst, and Edie is about to learn more than she expected. The truth of what happened in 'the distant hours' of the past has been waiting a long time for someone to find it. Morton enthral readers with an atmospheric story featuring unforgettable characters beset by love and circumstance and haunted by memory, reminding us of the rich, power of storytelling.

Murder in the Dark

Kerry Greenwood

It's Christmas, and Phryne has an invitation to the Last Best party of 1928, a four-day extravaganza being held at Werribee Manor house and grounds by the Golden Twins, Isabella and Gerald Templar. She knew them in Paris, where they caused a sensation. Phryne is in two minds about going when she starts receiving anonymous threats warning her against attending. She promptly decides to accept the invitation - after all, no one tells Phryne what to do. At the Manor, she is accommodated in the Iris room, and at the party meets two polo-playing women, a Goat lady (and goat), a large number of glamorous young men and a very rude child called Tarquin. The acolytes of the golden twins are smoking hashish and dreaming, and Phryne finds that the jazz is as hot as the drinks are cold and indulges in flirtations, dancing, and mint juleps. Heaven.

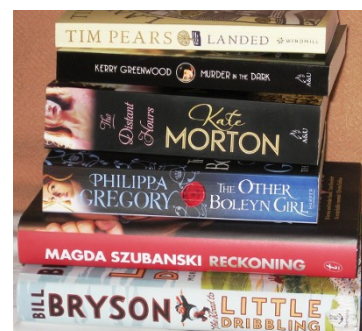
It all seems like good clean fun until three people are kidnapped, one of them the abominable child, and Phryne must puzzle her way through the cryptic clues of the scavenger hunt to retrieve the hostages and save the party from disaster.

The Other Boleyn Girl

Philippa Gregory

The Other Boleyn Girl is a historical novel written by British author Philippa Gregory, loosely based on the life of 15th century aristocrat Mary Boleyn, the sister of Anne Boleyn, of whom little is known. Inspired by the life of Mary, Gregory depicts the annulment of one of the most significant royal marriages in English history and conveys the urgency of the need for a male heir to the throne. Much of the history is highly distorted in her account.

For further book reviews go to
<http://www.morialtauca.org.au/resources/library>



For prayer and reflection...

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with
their flocks...*

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost.

To heal the broken.

To feed the hungry.

To release the prisoner.

To rebuild the nations.

To bring peace among people.

To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman (1899-1981) - an influential African American author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader.

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Editor: Colin Cargill
Publisher: Helena Begg

Diary Dates

Tues 1 March 5.00pm	Property Team meets
Tues 8 March 3.30pm	Pastoral Care Team meets
Fri 11 March 7.30pm	Gateways meets
Mon 14 March 11am—2pm	Family Picnic at Morialta Conservation Park
Tues 15 March 7.30pm	Church Council meets
Weds 16 March 7.30pm	Fellowship—"Days for Girls"
Sun 20 March 9.30am 11.00am	Beyond our Walls AGM of the Congregation
Tues 22 March 7.30pm	Worship & Faith Ed Team meets
Thurs 24 March 11.30am	Communications & Admin Team meets
Thurs 24 March 7.30pm	Tenebrae Service
Fri 25 March 9.30am	Good Friday Worship
Sun 27 March 9.30am	Combined Easter Worship
Weds 30 March 7.30pm	Fellowship—Dancing and Fun
Tues 5 April 3.30pm	Pastoral Care Team meets
Tues 5 April 5.00pm	Property Team meets
Thurs 14 April 1.30pm	Fashion Parade supporting Mission Projects
Tues 19 April 7.30pm	Church Council meets

Living Streams ~ Giving Life



Deadline
for the next Edition
1 April 2016

To discuss ideas for Vision articles
contact the editor, Colin Cargill