

The Link



June 2011

Thornleigh Hillcrest
Uniting Church Newsletter

Pentecost: Harvest Festival with a Difference!

Each year we (and most other Christian churches) celebrate the Day of Pentecost. Often our worship area has added colour and many in the congregation wear something red, all to encourage us to celebrate joyfully.

But why is Pentecost so special that it is often linked with Christmas and Easter as one of the three major events in the Christian calendar? Pentecost has been described as the 'birthday of the Christian church', with good reason.

After the resurrection of Jesus, his early followers were still very frightened: would they be likely to suffer the same fate as Jesus? So, even though Jesus had appeared to them many times in the 40 days after his resurrection, they were still afraid.

And so it was, that at Pentecost, a festival to mark both the beginning of the wheat harvest and the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, all the believers (in Jesus Christ) were gathered together 'in one place' in Jerusalem. As we read in Acts chapter 2, it was then that 'a noise from the sky like a strong wind and what looked like tongues of fire' appeared touching each person 'so that they were all filled with the Holy Spirit'. It's worth noting that wind, fire and ecstatic speech are used throughout the Old Testament to signify God's presence and activity.

To the amazement of the Jews in Jerusalem at that time, they were able to hear what was being said in their own languages. Peter made a passionate speech, fearlessly proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and 'that whoever calls out to the Lord will be saved'. As a result, about 3000 people became followers of Jesus, a truly a magnificent 'harvest', worth celebrating.

As we read Acts 2, we are reminded that the Holy Spirit came when the believers were together; that is they were united, following Jesus' command to wait 'in the city until the power from above comes down upon you' (Luke 24:49).

The Christian message needs to be communicated with conviction and power.

All people, regardless of gender, social status, ethnicity or education, are entitled to hear the good news (but how can they hear without proclamation in some form?).

If we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us, we can be released from a ghetto or locked-door mentality

The possibilities are endless if we allow God's Spirit to so control us that we can become 'people of the resurrection' – an Easter people fully alive with His Spirit.

If we permit the Holy Spirit to sustain and empower us, where might we, as individuals and as a congregation, be led?

David Richardson

Why not consider attending the four-week Bible study series on Pentecost commencing on June 7/8? Details on the next page.

Church Family News

Remember in your prayers:

Bruce Chambers, Wendy Clark, Joan Mathews, Grace Cairns and all the Firth family, our missionaries – the Wakefield family in PNG and Richard & Lindsey Parker in South Africa, Pastor Will and Betty Pearson and our friends in Broken Hill.

Bible Study Series

About 20 people attended the pre-Easter Bible study series on either Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. The series was entitled *Easter – the reason for hope* and we considered the difference between 'ordinary everyday hope' when we might say 'we hope it will be fine tomorrow' or similar sayings, and the Biblical hope, which is something sure and certain. This hope is based firmly on God's word, on the facts of Christ's crucifixion and his resurrection, and the promise and experience of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

A new Bible study series, based on the Lectionary readings for Pentecost, will be held in the crèche room for four weeks as follows:

Tuesdays at 7.30pm on June 7, 14, 21 and 28

Wednesdays at 9.30am on June 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Enquiries to Rev Glen Renton or David Richardson.



Worship Committee

This committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 20 at 7.45pm in the crèche room. At this meeting, there will be an opportunity for members of the congregation to offer positive suggestions about our two (8.45am and 10.15am) morning services. You are encouraged to attend.

David Richardson

Worship Committee Convenor

Birthdays

June

5 Claire Foulis

7 Robyn King
Vivian Parsons

9 Peter Geary

11 Bruce Chambers
Shirley Richardson

12 June McGregor

13 Barbara Rees

14 Ruth Parker

Rachel Wakefield

16 John Vicars

18 Hilda Clark

19 Beverley Dunlop

20 Gregor Newton
Kimberley Davidson

27 Elicia Wakefield



Day Fellowship

A gloomy morning gave way to a glorious day and we were able to enjoy our picnic in the sunshine at the Forestry Commission at West Pennant Hills.

Our June meeting will take the form of a Craft Day.

We plan to make dolls for Richard and Lindsey in South Africa, as well as other craft items.

So bring along your needles and join us for a time of fellowship.

Monday June 27 at 1pm at the church.

Shirley Sharpham 94818376

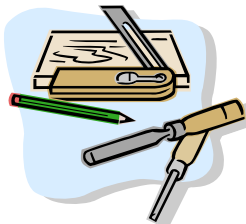
Woodworking Group

The Men's Woodworking Group meets each Monday, starting at 9am, at Jim Stowe's home at 8 Koorungal Avenue, Thornleigh.

All men are welcome to come along and help/learn to make woodcraft items for sale at the annual market day.

Bring your own safety gear (ear muffs, goggles etc) and lunch.

For more info ring Jim on 9484 6064.



Cluster Group

Saturday June 18

This month our group will visit some museums in the city. There are several situated around the Quay but we propose to start at the Museum of Sydney (entry \$10, concession \$5) located on the corner of Bridge & Phillip Streets. There will be three featured exhibits at this venue when we are there:

- Gadigal Place – exploring the traditional lives and early contact experience of the Gadigal people
 - The Enemy at Home – a photographic exhibition showing how the so-called “enemy aliens” were interned in NSW during the war
 - *52 Suburbs* – an exploration of 52 suburbs by Louise Hawson
- These are in addition to the normal displays.

Whether we move to other venues such as The Mint, The Police & Justice Museum, etc will depend on group dynamics and enthusiasm. Our program is:
Meet on Thornleigh Station, Platform 2 at 9:15am to catch the 9:30am train.
Arrive at Wynyard at 10:17am and walk to The Museum of Sydney
Allow say two hours to view exhibits and then lunch at the museum’s cafe at about 12:30pm
Decide whether more time is needed, or move to say, the Police & Justice Museum in Phillip Street, near the Quay (entry \$8, concession \$4) or the Mint (free entry)
Depart by train for Thornleigh to arrive not later than about 5:30pm

It will be a very informal day; we can move around the exhibits at our own pace. If you’re interested, please inform the Kings on 9481 8873 or Richardsons on 9980 8353 (we won’t hold the train, but we’d like to know if you’ve missed it!)
Fred & Robyn King

DON'T FORGET the mid-year dinner for the whole church on **Saturday July 16**.
Details in the July issue of *The Link*.

Mingles

The June activity has been cancelled due to a private birthday function.

We expect to return to our programmed activities on July 22-24, with our annual weekend away at Winda-Woppa. More details will be in *The Link* in July or the weekly notices. Contact Di Thom to reserve your place.



KidsGames

Yes, KidsGames is on again in the July school holidays. We'll be running a five-day program of sports, games, Bible discovery, creative arts, compassion segment, and of course, lots of fun for children in school years 1 to 6.

Monday July 11 – Friday July 15

at TCBC auditorium and Headen Park, 9am–12.30pm,(leaders 8am–1pm)
with the

Family Fun Closing Ceremony

on Friday night July 15

at TCBC auditorium, 6–8.30pm

Would you like to be involved in this exciting outreach ministry to children?

Listed below are many ways, large and small, that you could help:

- Prayer team
- Small group leader/helper for infants (Yrs 1 & 2)
- Small group leader/helper for primary (Yrs 3 – 6)
- Sports group leader/helper
- Storyteller/drama group
- Creative activities leader/helper (eg. craft/drama/dance/photography etc)
- Daily registration/sign-in
- Morning tea (kids) coordinator/helper
- Adult cuppa & chat helper
- First Aid officer (morning sessions and/or Family Fun Night)
- Bbq helper at Family Fun Night
- General helper at Family Fun Night
- Set-up/clean up of auditorium at Family Fun Night

Please pray and think about how you can be a part of this growing, worldwide ministry to children.

Team/Training Meetings

Thornleigh/Normanhurst team meetings: 7.30pm sharp

FULL team (ie.anybody involved in anything) meeting: Wednesday June 22
at St. Stephens Normanhurst; Admin Centre 2 Kenley Rd.

Sports/Bible/Creative team final meeting: Wednesday July 7
at TCBC (11A Duffy Ave: Red House)

Enquiries: Shirley Sharpham phone 9481 8376 or email
brucesharpham@optusnet.com.au

From the Parkers

As we are sure you have all heard by now, Team Parker is growing! We are pregnant, praise the Lord! Baby's due date is November 26, and baby is developing and growing right on track. Lindsey is well, but struggling with nausea and fatigue most of the time. Please pray for her as she tries to balance the demands of the ministry and resting when she needs to. She is currently writing a manual on the Pre-school Ministry to make the hand over process to local ladies and other ladies on the team as smooth as possible.

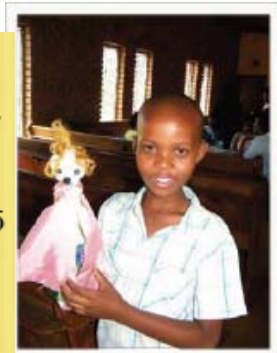
We returned from a 10-day ministry trip to the north of Namibia on May 16. It was a very blessed trip. We were so well received by the people of Ondangwa who were very hungry for the training. God is so faithful – during the time of the training, Lindsey did not experience any nausea and had the strength to train the 35 pre-school and Sunday school teachers for three full days. We also praise God for the help of Sabrina, a young German short-termer, who took on a lot of the training load. God kept Richard in good health too, and he was blessed to be able to participate in the training. It took three days of driving to get there, and the same amount of time to get back. We were given a financial gift which meant that Lindsey could fly into the capital of Namibia, cutting out two days of driving each way. This relieved the concerns about the very bumpy roads, and the strain of so much driving on her and the baby. Please pray that the trainees will use what they have learned and that the pre-schools and churches will work well together. They plan to have regular meetings to encourage and connect with one another.

Richard's health continues to improve, although his headaches have not gone away. Please pray for wisdom as we try to find the cause of the headaches.



RICHARD'S VISA

Richard received his new visa just before leaving for Australia. Thank you for your prayers! After 15 July 2011, he can begin with the application for permanent residency.



From the Wakefields

Hello dear family and friends,

We hope all is well with you all and you are enjoying the change of season wherever you are. Although the only change of season we are enjoying is instead of cleaning our shoes of mud we are now clearing our benches of dust!

As always we have kept ourselves out of trouble over the last little while. We have a few things to report and so we hope you don't mind that this email will not be a short one.

Michael's Adventures:

- I preached in our local church in early April, which is always enjoyable but a challenge
- I went on a two-week trip to various places in PNG (Mt Hagen, Telfomin, Rumginae) helping MAF with a number of different computer-networking problems. It was good to be reminded of all the work MAF do in the remote areas of PNG and to be able to help them so their staff can get their work done a little easier
- I returned from this trip just in time to be part of Norm and Chris Turtle's farewell party
- During Easter we were able to show the Jesus movie in another settlement area of Goroka
- Although Easter was a special time, I unfortunately had to work a bit to try to get prepared for my next trip away
- Early May I went to Port Moresby to have meetings with a number of organisations that CRMF deal with, I had some exciting meetings with the Bible Society and others regarding our new "Learning technologies" ministry. It is also important that we maintain relationships with the government departments that we depend on, which is not always easy
- I then went on to Cairns, where I spent a few days with my parents before attending three days of MAF management training
- Whilst I was away on this trip Norm and Chris Turtle, who have been with CRMF for many years, left PNG to retire in Australia. It will be a challenging time for us all at CRMF now they have gone. We are all having to take on new roles to cover the work that the Turtles did. We feel we are being stretched even further, to the point where ministry will be affected, but the Lord is our strength and is helping us through this tough time.

In between all these trips I have been doing the usual running CRMF things.

One thing I have been spending a lot of time on is our new "Learning Technologies" ministry. It has been very confirming to see how deep the need is

in most areas of PNG for good Bible teaching for pastors who have little to no training, or even just for a simple Bible. The scope of this ministry is huge and the hard part is deciding where to start and what are the priorities with our limited resources.

Family News

- Josh, Elicia and Jessica continue to do well at school. It is very close to the end of the school year for them (June) and after a busy year, they are definitely looking forward to a long break.
- Josh has enjoyed playing softball after school this term.
- Elicia had a few mishaps while Michael was away on his first trip. She had a bus door slam into her head which ended in four stitches. Then a few days later she jumped off a high wall and the landing didn't go so well and it ended in a broken wrist. We are very grateful for the wonderful clinic at New Tribes Mission, which is where the kids go to school – they did a great job with Elicia. She even got to choose the colour of her cast. She now has the cast off and her wrist is fine.



- Jessica has loved Prep at school and has really flourished. She has made some good friends and learnt a lot. She also had an accident earlier this year that required stitches to her forehead. She enjoyed the doctor sewing her up so much that she wanted to go back the next day! She also has lost a large number of teeth all at once, which has left her grin rather toothless.

- Rachael: I have been kept out of mischief recently as I have taken on a few new roles at CRMF. I am now the work permit, visa, passport person for CRMF. This has meant writing a Training and Localisation plan for CRMF, then applying for work permits for our missionary staff and then applying for visas for us all. This process is nearly completed which is very exciting. I have also applied for a number of new passports for our family and some of our national people. Paperwork up to my ears.



Since Chris has left, I have also taken on a few extra roles, including running the CRMF guesthouses. I look forward to being able to help other missionaries who come for holidays, shopping, business etc.

What's coming up next

- Michael has a Board meeting and AGM coming up at the end of this month (not long away now).
- The kids start their eight-week holiday at the end of this month
- We will go on a holiday to the beach for two weeks in the middle of June.

Prayer requests

- We are aware that we are involved in a constant spiritual battle and without your and our constant prayers, we can sometimes feel as if we are losing the battle. Thanks for your prayers and please continue to pray for the spiritual side of our work.
- Please pray for continued strength and energy to keep up with the fast pace of life we have to lead. The loss of key staff has become more critical now.
- Please pray that, even though we are busy, we will still have the time and energy to spend time with our family and staff.
- Please pray we will all be able to step up to our new roles and that CRMF will become an even a closer team focused on the Lord.
- Please pray for a really relaxing and enjoyable family holiday, and that the others at CRMF will cope whilst we are away.



Thanks so much for taking the time to read this long email. We appreciate your prayers and support.

Grace and Peace

Michael, Rachael, Josh, Elicia, Jessica and Mikaela

P.S. The photos this time are of: the mountains at Telefomin where Michael went to help out MAF, Josh with the shield and sword he made for his class's Medieval festival and the other two are quite self explanatory.



Living God's Way

Four Bible studies, based on the Lectionary Bible readings, will be held for the period following Pentecost Sunday. We shall consider how the Holy Spirit changed the lives of the early followers of Jesus and how the same Holy Spirit changes our relationships with God and with others. As His disciples, God is always with us today – in both easy and difficult times.

You are warmly invited to attend

Studies commence

Tuesday June 7 from 7.30 – 9pm

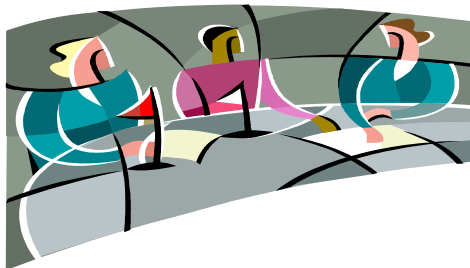
Wednesday June 8 from 9.30 – 11am

We will meet in the crèche room and share over a cuppa after the study.



To accommodate those who are unable to attend at these times, we would like an indication of who would prefer to meet on Wednesday or Thursday evenings.

Please inform David Richardson, Rev Glen, or Claire Foulis of your preference.



Middle East - Then and Now

The Beecroft Forum is a dinner with a speaker, held every three months at Pennant Hills Golf Club. It is organised by the Major Issues and Theology Foundation, originally springing from Beecroft Presbyterian church. MIAT has concern for the plight of the Palestinians and supports projects there. On May 19, Dr. Jennifer Dawson spoke; she is a psychiatrist and founder of TraumAid International, had recently visited Palestine with her son (as a photographer), before returning to the Congo. Robert Newton, currently a consultant and writer on Middle East affairs, is a former Australian career diplomat, retiring in 2005 after 33 years' service, particularly in Baghdad, Teheran and OECD.

The following is a summary of the experiences and views they presented at the Forum:

Jennifer did not get into Gaza; a permit from Israel takes as long as 18 months. In mornings and evenings, she met people from Gaza in her three weeks' stay. She observed unresolved trauma, similar to what is rife in Israel, resulting from the Holocaust, producing a cycle of violence. There are checkpoints everywhere, with weapons and yet, next to the slums where Palestinians live, are the designer shops, like Parisian streets. She went to a cancer hospital where patients attend from Gaza, sometimes as for a day; they were traumatised; no supplies are getting through to Gaza. Congo, with its episodes of rape and cannibalism, does not produced trauma such as she saw here. Palestinian houses are being bulldozed to extend the wall that divides the country. She is hoping to return in June to run a management course for 200 workers, to break the generation of trauma.

Robert spent 13 years in the Middle East. It is a fascinating area, and one little known and spoken about in Australia; Australia allows the US to lead the intervention there. A sheet was distributed, showing that our trade there is considerable, particularly with UAE and Saudi Arabia, and to a lesser extent with Israel. From the Arabian peninsula, medieval enlightenment spread into Mesopotamia and then into the Graeco-Roman Europe, stimulating Western revival in the Middle Ages. Robert arrived just before Saddam came to power in Iraq; when he did take over, he had to subjugate the Kurds, the Shi'ites and his own people. In 1980, Iraq was at war with Syria and struck at Iran. This ceased in 1988, and then Saddam made a move on Kuwait and was finally removed in 1993. Australia needs Iraq to be stable to continue access to its oil and gas reserves. The Iranian revolution has failed its people; the Shah's secret police service now works for the theocrats. Iran is now assisting the Hezbollah in Lebanon, causing anxiety for Israel and the US. A commonly used phrase is "Iran and Egypt are the only nation states in the Middle East; the rest are tribes

with flags.” Egypt has benefited from peace. Mubarak was a friend of the US and gained \$2B for arms and \$1B for aid each year; for this, he maintained an accord with Israel, which brought about his downfall. The Muslim Brotherhood is emerging as leaders in the upcoming elections. Gadaffi cannot survive in Libya. Saudi Arabia is under threat also as its economy is being diversified; the Saud family has clung to power, enabling the Wahabi radical Muslims to prevail. Most Arab economies are performing well and Israel watches nervously, towards peace negotiations. Certainly, Palestinian land has to be sorted out. Obama is giving a Middle East address today and Netanyahu is visiting US next week. The winner in the ME has been Iran, with its nuclear program. US has found it is easier to enter conflict than to emerge from it. In questions, Robert referred to the problem Australians have in confusing Middle Eastern people; in 2003, the Christian Hanan Ashrawi visited Sydney and she was condemned as a terrorist. Tony Blair has not been helpful. Arab nations have not helped the Palestinians and are waiting for Western forces to intervene. Egypt is now opening entry to Gaza and allowing Iranian ships to travel through the Suez Canal. Australia is playing a part in negotiations, angling for a seat on the UN Security Council. Coptic Christians are being persecuted in Egypt and the Coptic Pope has reacted. Oil has been the reason for US attack on Iraq and for the imposition of No Fly Zone in Libya. Robert is hopeful of improvement.

Allan West

In the moment that Christ comes to the disciples and says, “Peace be with you,” their defences breached, their guard was let down, and they knew it would be okay. In the same way, with the Holy Spirit given to us by the risen Christ, our doors of fear can be transformed into portals to spiritual adventure. A future we could not have imagined can emerge before us. We are not alone; the Holy Spirit is with us.

Charles T. Rush Jr



Pentecost is a delicious time. A shaft of light has come to pierce the uncertainties of the seeking. We are living now with a torch in our hands, however dark the darkness.

Joan Chittister

Sydney Alliance Harbour District Assembly Meeting

This included regions of the CBD, Eastern Suburbs, Inner West and Northern Suburbs About 45 gathered at Pitt Street Uniting Church on April 27 under the leadership of Michelle Aropia (West Epping UC). Rev. Ian Pearson acknowledged the Eora People as the original owners of the land and welcomed us. These SA groups have taken part in mapping events to evoke concerns for change in the community, with 90 participants from 30 organisations. Tonight's group came from Eastern Suburbs, Marrickville, Waterloo, Morling College, Hunters Hill, Thornleigh, Croydon, Ashfield and West Epping. They represented Community Aged, CFMEU, ASU, Uniting Church, Teachers Federation, Catholic Church, Jewish Board of Deputies, PSA, Cancer Council, Rail, Tram and Bus Union.

We first had 15 minutes with someone unknown previously. I met a 40-year-old mother of two from Hunters Hill. She was brought up an Anglican, became Catholic upon marriage and is on the Social Responsibility Committee of her church, with the parish priest as chairperson. She is concerned that all the community gets access to services provided; she has just made friends with an older neighbour whom she found has just lost his wife and is finding it hard to get about; she has just returned to working three days a week managing a recruitment service where she particularly is keen that the employees adopt inclusive work practices.

We then moved into nine groups to discuss a particular story emerging from the listening campaigns or service needs identified. The report back included most areas identified in previous listening campaigns:

- Education — higher education is very expensive
- Housing — big concern in large public housing estates; homelessness is more obvious in Woolloomooloo where there are more food vans; students living near unis are exploited; hard for mothers with mental illness to obtain housing
- Transport — safety on public transport and need to drive to work because of problems on trains; traffic is becoming more of an issue.
- Health — pregnant woman taken by public transport to Manly Hospital (maternity at Mona Vale closed) and gave birth in waiting room; mental health still is stigmatised and there have been cutbacks in provision.
- Social/community inclusion — Hunters Hill had a Way of the Cross procession at Easter and attracted many Christian denominations; communities are polarised – a child at a holiday camp arrived with her only pair of shoes; youth (some under 15) in gangs at night abusing people and property;

- Child/aged care – child care is very expensive; it is hard for older people to access public transport; Where can grandparents be housed?
- Immigration – migrants are often demonized – parents pulled children away from a Sierra Leone student.
- Work-life balance /cost of living – harder today for couples to buy houses which now cost 10 times an average annual income; with both parents working it is harder to achieve a work-life balance and many more live for themselves, ignoring neighbours and the community.

Environment/climate change was an issue in listening campaigns but not tonight. Sydney Alliance Assembly will be held at Sydney Town Hall on Thursday September 15.

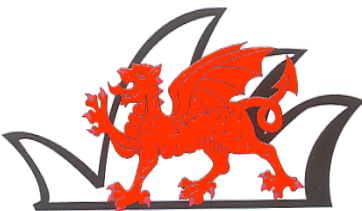
Allan West

What do we want the Church to do? We don't ask for more cathedrals. We don't ask for bigger churches or fine gifts. We ask for its presence with us, beside us, as Christ among us. We ask the Church to sacrifice with the people for social change, for justice, and for love of brother. We don't ask for words. We ask for deeds. We don't ask for paternalism. We ask for servanthood.

Cesar Chavez

For Your Diary

SYDNEY WELSH CHOIR is to perform at Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church on Saturday September 10 at 7.30pm. (Half the profits will go to the Normanhurst-Hornsby and Pennant Hills-Cherrybrook Christian Education Associations)
\$15 adults, \$10 seniors \$5 children



Book of Timothy



Frontier Services

Frontier Services showed its combined strength when it hosted a community day for graziers and community members affected by Cyclone Yasi.

Savannah Regional Health Service organised the *Let's Do Lunch* gathering held at The Lynd Junction, 186km from Georgetown, to provide support to the community which has been largely overlooked by official recovery efforts.

Four Frontier Services programs were present to offer their services to the community, including Savannah Regional Health Service, Nth Qld Remote Area Families Service (RAFS), Dalrymple Rural Family Support Service and Flinders Patrol.

The Frontier Services staff talked to the community about the services they could offer while the RAFS team provided educational activities for the children who attended with their parents.

About 50 people, including children, came along on the day and appreciated the opportunity to get together and talk about their experiences since the cyclone hit two months ago.

"Some families didn't get off the block for five or six weeks following the cyclone," said Peter Harvey (Flinders Patrol).

Continued rain, felled trees and water-logged land had made it hard for graziers to assess the damage, let alone track down their lost stock. Anna Burley (Savannah Regional Health Services) said the meeting allowed the community to share some of the issues they were experiencing. "Everybody has that much work going on, they do not have the time to stop and just get together and talk. But a problem shared is a problem halved in a way," she said. This event aimed to build resilience among those affected by the cyclone.

"The Savannah Regional Health Service team also organised for a number of other service providers to present, including the Centre Within, Gulf Savannah Development, the DEEDI Rural Financial Counsellor and Northern Gulf Resource Management.

From the Frontier Services newsletter *The Billy* April 2011



l-r: Barb Hawes, Peter Harvey, Di Sherman, Anna Burley, Jeannie Brook

My Life of Crime

This was the title of the address of Detective Superintendent Deborah Wallace at the seniors' luncheon at Thornleigh Community Baptist Church on May 4. She is commander of the Middle Eastern Crime Squad after beginning with the NSW Police in 1983. She is also secretary of St. Jude's Hostel for Homeless Men at Blacktown.

Deborah was born at Westmead and attended Parramatta HS and still lives at Parramatta. She worked as a clerk for a council for three years, then began training at the Redfern Academy. Women had been accepted into the NSW Police since late 1970s. She was posted to Mt. Druitt, which included a rescue squad. In 1986, she joined the inquiry into the murder of Anita Cobby; she had to inform Gary and Grace Lynch of Anita's death. (They later formed the Victims of Homicide Support Group.) DS Graham Rosetta selected Deborah to re-enact Anita's last movements, and from that, information was obtained to convict her murderers. Under the truth in sentencing legislation, these criminals were sentenced to life without parole. On September 10, 1989, she became a detective and served with Bobby Broad at Cabramatta, where she began working amongst Asian gangs. After serving 1998-2001 with Internal Affairs, she joined the Asian Crime Squad at Cabramatta. It was here she met Father Chris Riley who took eight members of a gang to his farm and they all now have university degrees and lead clean lives.

In answer to questions, Deborah felt the new NSW Government was addressing community needs, recognising the influence of alcohol on crime. She explained that some criminals willingly go into gaols as this is an improvement on their previous lives. Her Middle Eastern Squad includes Arabic interpreters and liaison officers but the officers are trained police. The St. Jude's Home contains many from Matthew Talbot Refuge; residents stay for three months and have caseworkers; some residents go to work or TAFE. There is no culture of alcohol at Goulburn Academy or in the police generally. She has not experienced sexual harassment but has encountered some bullying.

Jan Williamson gave Deborah flowers and a donation to St. Jude's.

Following this function, Deborah was to be awarded the Australian Police Medal by the NSW Governor.

Allan West





Important Dates for 2011

Congregational meetings

June 15
September 21
December 7 AGM



Church council

August 17
November 16



Elders' gatherings

July 18
October 17



Working bees

July 30
October 29

Diary Dates

- **KYB** (Know Your Bible) meets at 10.30am each Monday.
- **Ashleigh Lodge Service** is on the third Sunday of the month at 11am.
- **Kids' Time** meets at 4-6pm on Mondays in school terms.
- **Indoor Bowls** meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 1pm.
- **Day Fellowship** normally meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 1pm, and at other times for outings.

June

Sun 5	8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton 10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
Sun 12	8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton 10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
Sun 19	8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton 10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton
Wed 22	<i>THE LINK DEADLINE</i>
Sun 26	8.45am Worship – Rev G Renton 10.15am Worship – Rev G Renton

July

Sun 3	8.45am Worship (HC) – tba 10.15am Worship – tba
Sun 10	8.45am Worship – D Richardson 10.15am Worship – tba
Sun 17	8.45am Worship – J Mein 10.15am Worship – J Mein
Wed 27	<i>THE LINK DEADLINE</i>

Grounds & Gardening

June

4 & 11	F King , B Sharpham
18 & 25	B & S Wilcockson